

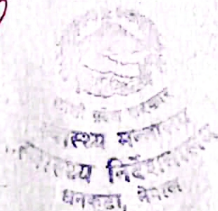
2024

RAPID RESPONSE COMMITTEE ADVOCACY WORKSHOP REPORT



Panchthar District

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कार्यालय प्रमुख

FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to present this comprehensive report on Municipal Level Rapid Response Committee & Rapid Response Team Advocacy Workshop conducted in Panchthar District, Koshi Province, in 2024. This workshop signifies an important step forward in strengthening our collective capacity to prevent, detect, and respond effectively to public health emergencies and disasters at the district level.



Mr. Sagar Prasai
Act. Director, Health Directorate
Koshi Province

Panchthar, being disaster disaster-prone district, has underscored the urgent need for preparedness, coordination, and rapid response to health emergencies. In line with the National Guidelines for Rapid Response Team, this workshop was designed to update the Municipal Level Rapid Response Committee/Team, clarify roles and responsibilities, and reinforce coordination mechanisms among local governments and health institutions.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Health, Koshi Province, WHO Nepal, USAID, Health Office Panchthar, and municipalities of Panchthar for their valuable contributions to the success of this workshop. Through active participation and dialogue, the workshop successfully established a shared understanding of emergency response structures, bottlenecks and promoted a culture of readiness at the district and local level through proactive strategies.

The discussions and presentations during the sessions provided valuable insights into strengthening health system resilience, improving intersectoral collaboration, and ensuring timely and coordinated responses to future health emergencies. The collective commitment and enthusiasm of all stakeholders demonstrated throughout the workshop are commendable and reflect our shared vision of safeguarding public health and community well-being. As we move forward, the lessons and recommendations outlined in this report will serve as a practical guide for enhancing preparedness and response systems across the Panchthar district.

It is my firm belief that the continued implementation of the RRT and RRC frameworks, coupled with strong local ownership and multisectoral engagement, will significantly strengthen our capacity to respond timely and effectively to any public health emergency.



Mr. Sagar Prasai
Act. Director
Health Directorate, Koshi Province

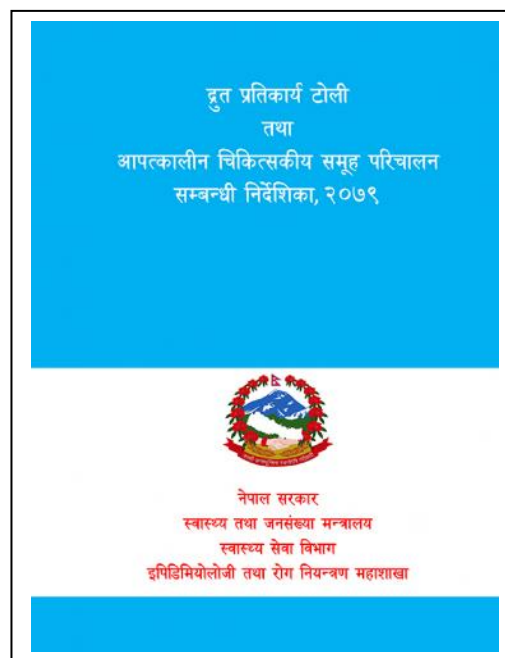
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Rapid Response Committee Advocacy workshop

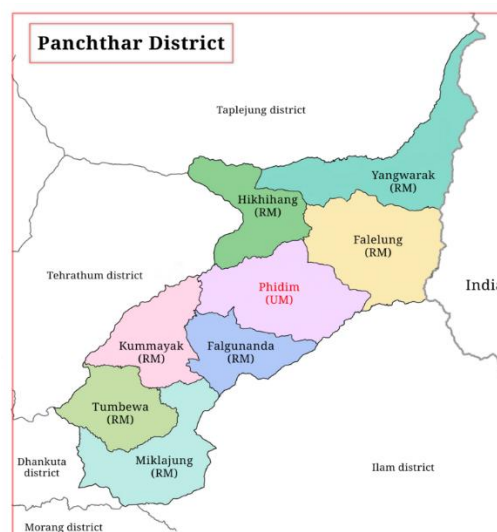
Panchthar District

Background: In Nepal, the Rapid Response Team (RRT) and the Rapid Response Committee (RRC) play crucial roles in managing and mitigating the impacts of emergencies and disasters. The RRT, composed of health workers and technical experts, provides immediate response and investigation during crises like natural disasters or public health emergencies, including medical aid, shelter, and food distribution. It operates at the central, provincial, district and local level, coordinating with various stakeholders and conducting rapid assessments. The RRC, a higher-level body, oversees strategic and operational aspects of emergency responses at the central, provincial or municipality level. It ensures coordination among response units, manages resources, and makes critical decisions to address the crisis effectively. Together, these entities enhance Nepal's capacity to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies.



The guidelines for the Rapid Response Team (RRT) and Rapid Response Committee (RRC) in Nepal were endorsed in **2022 AD**. These guidelines were developed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency responses by providing a structured approach to managing and coordinating efforts during crises and disasters.

Context: Panchthar District, located in the Koshi Province of eastern Nepal, is a picturesque hilly region with its administrative center in Phidim. It shares borders with Taplejung to the north, Tehrathum to the west, Ilam to the south, and India (Sikkim and West Bengal) to the east. The district is home to diverse ethnic groups, including Limbu, Rai, Brahmin, Chhetri, and others, with Nepali and Limbu being the predominant languages. Panchthar's economy is primarily based on agriculture, with tea, ginger, cardamom, and organic vegetables as major products. It also has significant tourism potential, featuring attractions like Phalelung (Pathibhara area), Sumbe Peak, and the scenic Mechi Highway. Despite its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty, the district faces challenges such as



inadequate infrastructure, youth migration, and market access for agricultural products.

Objective of the workshop:

- **To Form and or update the Municipal-Level Rapid Response Committee/Team:** If the committee/team has not been formed according to the guidelines, it should be reorganized.
- **To Discuss the Roles, Duties, and TOR:** Discuss the roles, duties, and powers of the municipal rapid response committee and team.
- **To encourage the Formation of a Health sector preparedness and response plan:** Motivate the municipality to develop an emergency action plan for the health sector.

The Ministry of Health, Koshi Province, organized the workshop with financial assistance from USAID and technical support from WHO. The WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE) team, including the Field Medical Officer and Emergency Surveillance Associate stationed at the Provincial Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC), Koshi Province, coordinated with the Health Office Panchthar and the Health Section Chief of Phidim Municipality to plan and schedule the workshop on the designated date. Additionally, the team played a key role in ensuring the successful execution of the program and the achievement of its objectives.

Provincial Presentation:

The program commenced with a formal introduction session, setting the stage for an informative and engaging discussion. Following the introductions, a detailed presentation was conducted, focusing on the composition, structure, and operational framework of the teams involved in Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) and Rapid Response Team (RRT). The presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the members included in these teams, outlining their specific roles and responsibilities in managing health emergencies effectively.

A key highlight of the session was the presentation delivered by Mr. Prakash Chandra Karki, a resource person from the Ministry of Health (MOH). His presentation emphasized the critical significance of Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) in emergency health management, underscoring its vital role in ensuring a swift, organized, and efficient response to public health crises. He elaborated on the essential responsibilities of RRC and RRT members, detailing their involvement in outbreak investigation, disease surveillance, risk communication, case management, and overall coordination with various stakeholders.

Mr. Karki also highlighted the importance of an integrated and well-structured response mechanism, explaining how a timely and coordinated effort can mitigate the impact of health emergencies. His presentation further stressed the necessity of capacity building, resource mobilization, and inter-agency collaboration to strengthen emergency preparedness and



Pic : Resource person from MOH facilitating RRC workshop at Phidim Municipality

response. The session provided valuable insights, equipping the participants with a clearer understanding of their roles in safeguarding public health during crises.

Phidim Municipality

Venue: Phidim Municipality Hall, Panchthar, District

Date: 29th July 2024

Participants: Mayor, Vice mayor, CAO, Ward chairpersons, Doctor, Nurses, Sr AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, Disaster focal person, IT officials, and FCHVs

District Presentation

The presentation session featured insightful discussions from key resource persons, providing a deeper understanding of emergency response mechanisms in the health sector. Mr. Labrenj Shah, a representative from the District Health Office (DHO), Panchthar elaborated on the fundamental roles and responsibilities of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) team in effectively handling health emergencies. He emphasized the importance of a well-coordinated and timely response system, highlighting how RRC plays a pivotal role in detecting, assessing, and managing outbreaks and other public health threats.



Pic : Resource person from HO Panchthar facilitating RRC workshop at Phidim Municipality

Mr. Shah also discussed the significance of inter-agency collaboration and resource mobilization in ensuring a swift and efficient emergency response. He provided example of Covid 19 and illustrated how a structured approach within RRC could mitigate the impact of health emergencies. Additionally, he stressed the need for continuous capacity building and training of response teams to enhance preparedness at the district and community levels. His presentation served as a crucial reminder of the collective responsibility in safeguarding public health during emergencies.

Similarly, Dr. Sagar Poudel, a representative from the World Health Organization (WHO), delivered an insightful presentation focusing on the role of the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) in disaster preparedness and response. He outlined the critical function of PHEOC as a centralized coordination hub that facilitates efficient decision-making, data management, and communication during public health emergencies.

Dr. Poudel elaborated on how PHEOC operates as a command-and-control center, integrating various response mechanisms to ensure a well-coordinated and evidence-based approach in

disaster management. He emphasized the importance of real-time surveillance, rapid information sharing, and effective deployment of resources to minimize the impact of health crises. Additionally, he discussed the need for strong partnerships between government agencies, international organizations, and local health authorities to enhance disaster resilience and preparedness. Both presentations provided valuable insights into emergency response strategies, equipping participants with a comprehensive understanding of their roles in public health crisis management. The discussions reinforced the need for proactive planning, effective coordination, and continuous capacity building to strengthen health emergency response systems at both the district and national levels.

Main Bottlenecks

- Prevention and control measures for disease have been a challenge
- No appropriate budgeting
- Coordination among different tiers of government

Lessons Learnt

- Regular collaboration with health organizations guarantees a continuous flow of resources, training, and information, progressively enhancing the municipality's capacity for disaster management.
- Emphasizing the significance of preparedness and readiness, the Chairperson highlighted the necessity of proactive strategies. The municipality must consistently evaluate and improve its disaster preparedness plans to efficiently respond to unexpected emergencies.

Recommendations

- Increase in risk communication activities
- Capacity building and regular trainings of RRT members
- Support in logistic items from province and central government

Overall comments and conclusion

The Chairman of Phidim Municipality acknowledged the ongoing challenges posed by dengue outbreaks in the region, emphasizing that Phidim has remained a hotspot for dengue transmission over the past few years. He highlighted that despite continuous efforts, the prevention and control of the disease have been a significant challenge for local authorities. Expressing optimism, he stated that with increased support and coordination from the provincial and central government, the Rapid Response Team (RRT) would become more sensitized and better equipped to handle dengue control measures effectively.

Furthermore, he extended his appreciation to the World Health Organization (WHO) for its crucial role during the COVID-19 pandemic. He acknowledged WHO's support in managing the crisis and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration. He expressed his expectation that WHO would establish direct partnerships with the local government, enabling more effective implementation of public health interventions at the grassroots level.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
22	11	33

Hilihang Rural Municipality

Venue: Hilihang Rural Hall, Panthar District

Date: 30th July 2024

Participants: Chairperson, Vice chairperson, CAO, Ward chairpersons, Sr AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, Disaster focal person, IT officials, and FCHVs

District Presentation

The presentation session included insightful discussions led by key resource persons, offering a comprehensive understanding of emergency response mechanisms in the health sector. Mr. Labrenj Shah, a representative from the District Health Office (DHO), Panchthar, provided an in-depth explanation of the essential roles and responsibilities of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) team in managing health emergencies effectively. He underscored the importance of a well-coordinated and timely response system, emphasizing RRC's critical role in detecting, assessing, and controlling disease outbreaks and other public health threats.



Pic: Resource person from Health office Panchthar presenting his presentation

Mr. Shah also highlighted the necessity of inter-agency collaboration and resource mobilization for a swift and efficient emergency response. Citing the example of the COVID-19 pandemic, he illustrated how a structured and organized approach within RRC can significantly reduce the impact of health crises. Additionally, he emphasized the ongoing need for capacity building and continuous training of response teams to strengthen preparedness at both district and community levels. His presentation reinforced the shared responsibility of all stakeholders in ensuring public health protection during emergencies.

Main Bottlenecks

- Geographical difficulties
- Lack of trained human resources
- Budgeting constraints
- Difficulty in logistic arrangements

Lessons Learned

- The Mayor/ Chairman emphasized the need for rapid response and effective coordination, underscoring the significance of timely and well-organized actions in minimizing the impact of crises. A swift and coordinated approach enables the municipality to manage disasters or outbreaks more efficiently, reducing their overall consequences.
- Clearly structured guidelines and protocols are essential to ensure that all stakeholders, including health workers, the RRC, and the RRT, fully understand their roles and responsibilities. Standardized procedures promote a cohesive response, preventing confusion and enhancing efficiency during emergencies.

Recommendations

- Regular workshops and sensitization of RRT team
- Support in logistic items from province and central government
- Support in surge human resources during response of emergencies

Overall comments and conclusion

The Chairman of the Hilihang Rural Municipality expressed gratitude to the Provincial Government and the WHO team for organizing such a unique program, emphasizing that this initiative on health emergency preparedness and RRT team formation was a new experience for them. He affirmed his commitment, along with his team, to strengthening health emergency preparedness and response in the future, hoping that the newly formed RRT team would receive regular updates and training to enhance their capabilities.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
13	7	20



Pic: Chairman of Hilihang RM providing his remarks on RRC

Falelung Rural Municipality

Venue: Falelung Rural Municipality Hall, Panchthar District

Date: 31st July 2024

Participants: Chairperson, Vice chairperson, CAO, Ward chairpersons, Nurses, Sr AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, Disaster focal person, IT officials, and FCHVs

District Presentation

The presentation session featured key discussions on emergency response mechanisms in the health sector. Mr. Labrenj Shah from the District Health Office (DHO), Panchthar, explained the vital roles of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) team in managing health emergencies, emphasizing the importance of timely, coordinated actions in controlling outbreaks. He highlighted the need for inter-agency collaboration and resource mobilization, citing the COVID-19 pandemic as an example of how structured RRC approaches can mitigate health crises. Mr. Shah also stressed the importance of ongoing capacity building and training for response teams to ensure preparedness at all levels, reinforcing the shared responsibility for public health protection.



Pic : FMO- WHE, Dr Sagar Poudel providing his remarks on RRC and RRT

Dr. Sagar Poudel, a representative from the World Health Organization (WHO), gave an insightful presentation on the role of the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) in disaster preparedness and response. He described PHEOC as a crucial coordination hub that streamlines decision-making, data management, and communication during public health emergencies. Dr. Poudel explained how PHEOC functions as a command-and-control center, integrating various response strategies to ensure a coordinated, evidence-based approach to disaster management. He stressed the importance of real-time surveillance, quick information sharing, and efficient resource deployment to minimize the effects of health crises. Additionally, he highlighted the need for strong collaboration between government bodies, international organizations, and local health authorities to strengthen disaster resilience and preparedness.

Main Bottlenecks

- Resource Allocation
- Appropriate budgeting
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Coordination among different tiers of government

Lessons Learned

- The Chairperson's focus on the preparedness of committees and teams underscores the need for flexibility in disaster response. Disaster management requires a tailored approach, as it is not a one-size-fits-all solution. The ability of teams to quickly adapt to the unique challenges of each situation is crucial for effective management.

Recommendations

- Capacity building and regular trainings of RRT members
- Support in logistic items from province and central government

Overall comments and conclusion

The Chairman of the Rural Municipality expressed that health has often been a low priority for the government, but the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the critical need for effective preparedness to ensure a prompt response during emergencies or disasters. He described this program as a significant milestone in improving their preparedness and response mechanisms. He extended gratitude to the federal, provincial, and district stakeholders, WHO, and other supporters for organizing this important event.



Pic: Ward Chairperson providing his speech on RRT and RRT

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
15	9	24

Kummayak Rural Municipality

Venue: Kummayak Rural Municipality, Hall, Panchthar District

Date: 1st Aug 2024

Participants: Chairperson, Vice chairperson, CAO, Ward chairpersons, Doctor, Nurses, Sr AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, Disaster focal person, IT officials, and FCHVs

District Presentation

The presentation session featured thought-provoking discussions led by expert resource persons, providing an in-depth understanding of emergency response strategies within the health sector. Mr. Labrenj Shah, a representative from the District Health Office (DHO) in Panchthar, delivered a thorough presentation on the critical roles and responsibilities of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) team in effectively managing health emergencies. He stressed the importance of having a well-organized and prompt response system in place, highlighting that the RRC plays a vital role in the early detection, evaluation, and control of disease outbreaks and other public health threats.



Pic: Resource person from HO Panchthar facilitating RRC workshop

Mr. Shah further emphasized the need for strong inter-agency collaboration and the efficient mobilization of resources to ensure a quick and coordinated response to emergencies. Using the COVID-19 pandemic as an example, he demonstrated how an organized, structured approach within the RRC framework can significantly mitigate the impact of public health crises. He also highlighted the importance of continuous capacity building, underlining that regular training and development of response teams are essential to improving preparedness and ensuring effective intervention at both the district and community levels.

Through his presentation, Mr. Shah reinforced the idea that ensuring public health safety during emergencies is a collective responsibility, requiring the active participation and coordination of all stakeholders, from local health teams to national and international bodies. His message emphasized the need for a unified approach in addressing health emergencies to minimize their impact and safeguard the well-being of the community.

Main Bottlenecks

- Budget constraints
- Lack of trained human resource
- Regular turnover of human resources

Lessons Learned

- The Chairperson's recognition of the gap in health-focused disaster management highlights the importance of prioritizing health-related preparedness. The discussion between the Chairperson and the Ward Chief reinforced that effective disaster management relies on strong collaboration and collective efforts.

Recommendations

- Advocacy for support in logistic items from province and central government
- Updating the local bodies with newer guidelines and techniques

Overall comments and conclusion

The Chairman of the Rural Municipality expressed that if this program had taken place before the fiscal year planning and budgeting process, they would have been able to allocate a portion of the budget towards strengthening the Rapid Response Team (RRT). He acknowledged the importance of having a dedicated budget for the team to ensure their preparedness and effectiveness in responding to health emergencies.



Pic : Member of RRC team providing his remarks at the end of workshop

However, recognizing the current situation, he assured that the municipality would make it a priority in the next fiscal year's planning and budgeting cycle. This forward-thinking approach highlights the municipality's commitment to improving its disaster management capabilities and ensuring that the RRT is well-equipped and ready to handle any public health crises that may arise in the future.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
15	6	21

Falgunanda Rural Municipality

Venue: Falgunanda Rural Municipality, Hall, Panchthar District

Date: 2nd Aug 2024

Participants: Chairperson, Vice chairperson, CAO, Ward chairpersons, Nurses, Sr AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, Disaster focal person, IT officials, and FCHVs

District Presentation

The presentation session featured insightful discussions led by expert resource persons, with Mr. Labrenj Shah from the District Health Office (DHO) in Panchthar providing an overview of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) team's essential roles in managing health emergencies. He emphasized the importance of a well-organized and timely response system for detecting and controlling disease outbreaks. Mr. Shah also highlighted the need for inter-agency collaboration, resource mobilization, and continuous capacity building to enhance the preparedness of response teams at both district and community levels. Using the COVID-19 pandemic as an example, he showed how a structured RRC approach addresses health crises.



Pic: Resource person from Health office Panchthar presenting his presentation on RRC

Main Bottlenecks

- Lack of human resources
- Geographical constraints
- Insufficient budgeting
- Coordination among different tiers of government

Lessons Learned

- The Chairperson's recognition of the gap in health-centered disaster management highlights the importance of prioritizing health-related preparedness.

Recommendations

- Logistic support to RM
- Budget to be allocated from the central government for emergencies.
- Support in logistic items from province and central government

Overall comments and conclusion

The Chairman of Falgunanda Rural Municipality expressed gratitude for the program, stating that it had provided valuable insights into the significance of health emergencies and the crucial role of the Rapid Response Team (RRT) in managing future crises. He acknowledged that the program had brought positive perspectives to the municipality, particularly regarding emergency response preparedness. However, he also noted that it would have been even more beneficial if higher government authorities, WHO, or other partners had provided logistical support to further strengthen their response capabilities.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
19	9	28

Tumbewa Rural Municipality

Venue: Tumbewa Rural Municipality, Hall, Panthar District

Date: 4th Aug2024

Participants: Act Chairperson, Vice chairperson, CAO, Ward chairpersons, Nurses, Sr AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, Disaster focal person, IT officials, and FCHVs

District Presentation

The presentation session featured detailed and insightful discussions led by expert resource persons, offering a deeper understanding of the key strategies in managing health emergencies. One of the main speakers, Mr. Labrenj Shah from the District Health Office (DHO) in Panchthar, provided a comprehensive overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) team, emphasizing how their organized efforts are critical in responding to health crises effectively. He stressed that a well-coordinated, timely, and systematic approach is essential for detecting, assessing, and controlling disease outbreaks. Mr. Shah highlighted the importance of ensuring that response teams are not only well-prepared but also able to act quickly and efficiently to mitigate the impact of health emergencies.

In addition, he discussed the necessity of strong collaboration between various agencies and organizations to enable a swift and effective emergency response. He pointed out that the mobilization of resources is crucial in ensuring that response teams have the necessary tools, equipment, and support to carry out their tasks effectively. Mr. Shah also emphasized the importance of continuous capacity building, which includes regular training and development of response teams. This ongoing education helps ensure that teams are always prepared to respond



Pic: Resource person from HO, Panthar district facilitating RRC workshop

Main Bottlenecks

- Due to various other priorities, increase in budget in health has become a challenge
- Geographical constraints during emergencies
- Logistic back up has always been a challenge

Lessons Learned

- The Chairperson pointed out the existing gap in health-focused disaster management and stressed the need to prioritize health preparedness to improve emergency handling. In a conversation with the Ward Chief, it was emphasized that successful disaster management

requires collaborative efforts. Both leaders concurred that a coordinated approach, involving a variety of stakeholders, is crucial for managing disasters effectively and ensuring a well-organized response to public health emergencies.

Recommendations

- Capacity building and regular trainings of RRT members
- Support in logistic items from province and central government
- Strong coordination and communication channel to be established during emergencies and disasters

Overall comments and conclusion

The Chairman of the Rural Municipality expressed appreciation for the joint efforts of the provincial government, district stakeholders, and the WHO team in reaching the local level to form the Rapid Response Team (RRT). He noted that such collaboration had been rare in the past and expressed hope for similar partnerships in the future. Additionally, he mentioned that they would welcome regular monitoring of their activities by higher authorities to ensure continued progress and support.



Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
14	8	22

Miklajung Rural Municipality

Venue: Miklajung Rural Municipality, Hall, Panchthar District

Date: 5th Aug 2024

Participants: Vice chairperson, CAO, Ward chairpersons, Doctor, Nurses, Sr AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, Disaster focal person, IT officials, and FCHVs

District Presentation

The presentation session was a comprehensive and engaging discussion on the critical aspects of managing health emergencies, facilitated by expert resource persons. One of the key speakers, Mr. Labrenj Shah from the District Health Office (DHO) in Panchthar, provided a detailed analysis of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) team's essential roles and responsibilities in the context of health crisis management. He began by stressing the importance of a well-coordinated and timely response system, emphasizing that health



emergencies, such as disease outbreaks, require swift detection, thorough assessment, and effective control measures to mitigate their impact. Mr. Shah explained how the RRC team is responsible for ensuring that the response to any public health threat is initiated promptly, coordinated across relevant sectors, and executed in a manner that prevents the spread of the crisis and protects the public's health.

In his presentation, Mr. Shah elaborated on the need for strong collaboration between various agencies involved in the health emergency response process. He highlighted that health crises often require the input and cooperation of multiple stakeholders, including government health authorities, non-governmental organizations, and international partners like the WHO. He pointed out that such collaboration is vital for pooling resources, sharing information, and ensuring that all efforts are aligned toward a common goal—reducing the impact of health emergencies on communities. He further emphasized that effective resource mobilization is essential to ensure that response teams have the necessary tools, supplies, and logistical support to carry out their responsibilities efficiently.

Furthermore, Mr. Shah discussed the ongoing need for capacity building within response teams, stressing that regular training and continuous professional development are key to maintaining a high level of preparedness. He explained that health emergency response is a dynamic field, and response teams must stay up to date with new techniques, protocols, and health threats. Continuous learning through training sessions ensures that the teams are always ready to respond effectively when emergencies arise, adapting to new challenges and improving their response strategies.

Main Bottlenecks

- Logistic back up has always been a challenge.
- Low budget in health sector
- Shortage and unavailability of skilled human resources
- Coordination and communication challenge

Lessons Learned

The Chairperson recognized the existing gap in health-focused disaster management and highlighted the importance of prioritizing health preparedness to improve emergency responses. During a discussion with the Ward Chief, both agreed that successful disaster management relies on collaboration. They emphasized that a unified approach, involving multiple stakeholders, is crucial for efficiently managing disasters and ensuring a well-organized response to public health emergencies.

Recommendations

- Capacity building and regular trainings of RRT members
- Support in logistic items from province and central government

Overall comments and conclusion

The Vice Chairman of the Rural Municipality stated that the COVID-19 pandemic taught a valuable lesson on the importance of prioritizing health and public health activities. He expressed that the program had been a successful platform for gaining insights into the significance of preparedness and response in health emergencies. The Vice Chairman emphasized his commitment to strengthening the Rapid Response Team (RRT) in every possible way and expressed hope for continued learning and improvement in the future.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
20	8	28

Yangwarak Rural Municipality

Venue: Yangwarak Rural Municipality, Hall, Panchthar District

Date: 6th August 2024

Participants: Vice chairperson, CAO, Ward chairpersons, Nurses, Sr AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, Disaster focal person, IT officials, and FCHVs

District Presentation

The presentation session featured insightful discussions on managing health emergencies, with Mr. Labrenj Shah from the District Health Office (DHO) in Panchthar highlighting the crucial roles of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) team. He emphasized the need for a well-coordinated and timely approach to detecting, assessing, and controlling disease outbreaks. Mr. Shah also stressed the importance of collaboration between agencies, resource mobilization, and



continuous capacity building through regular training to ensure response teams are prepared for health emergencies. His presentation reinforced the need for effective coordination and ongoing development to improve emergency preparedness and response.

Main Bottlenecks

- Resource Allocation
- Appropriate budgeting
- Coordination among different tiers of government

Lessons Learned

The Chairperson acknowledged the gap in health-centered disaster management and emphasized the need to prioritize health preparedness for better emergency response. In a conversation with the Ward Chief, they agreed that effective disaster management depends on collaborative efforts. Both leaders stressed that a coordinated approach, involving various stakeholders, is essential for managing disasters efficiently and ensuring a well-organized response to public health crises.

Recommendations

- Capacity building and regular trainings of RRT members
- Support in logistic items from province and central government

Overall comments and conclusion

The Vice Chairman of Yangwarak Rural Municipality highlighted the challenges posed by geographical constraints, particularly in the transportation of sick patients during emergencies. He expressed the municipality's intention to allocate a budget in the next fiscal year to strengthen the Rapid Response Team (RRT). Additionally, he hoped that the province government and WHO would provide technical support if any training or orientation sessions are organized for the RRT members in the future.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
14	11	25