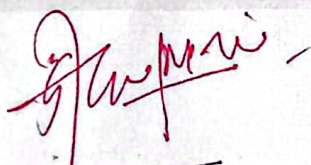


2026



RAPID RESPONSE COMMITTEE ADVOCACY WORKSHOP REPORT

Udaypur District


निर्देशक





स्वास्थ्य 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 Udaypur District, Koshi Province on 2024-26. 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

Udaypur, 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, Pandemic Fund, Health Office Udaypur, and municipalities of Udaypur 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 Udaypur 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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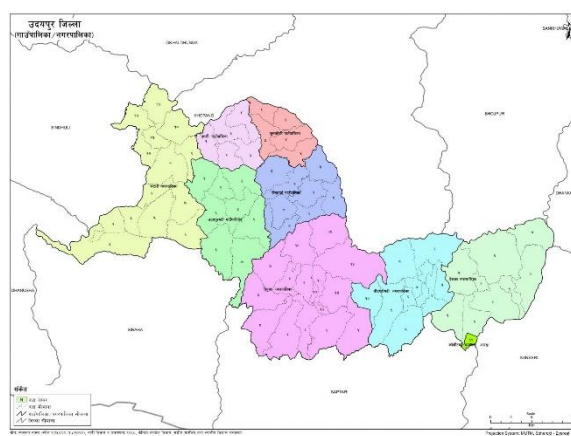
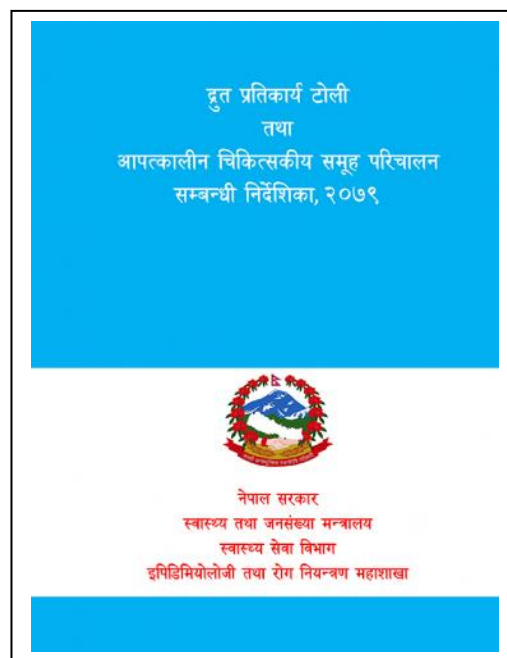
Rapid Response Committee Advocacy workshop

Udaypur 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: Udayapur is a district in Koshi Province, southeastern Nepal, covering 2,063 square kilometers with diverse topography ranging from the Terai plains to the Siwalik hills. Gaighat serves as its headquarters, and the landscape includes fertile plains, river valleys, and forested hills, with the Koshi River forming its eastern boundary. The district has a multi-ethnic population, including Rai, Limbu, Magar, Tharu, Chhetri, Brahmin, and Dalit communities, with Nepali, Maithili, Tharu, and Bantawa as major languages. Its economy is primarily based on agriculture, with rice, maize, wheat, vegetables, citrus fruits, and mustard as key crops, alongside cattle rearing, poultry farming, and fishing. Udayapur is home to one of Nepal's largest cement plants, Udayapur Cement Factory. It also has significant tourism potential,



featuring historical sites like Udayapur Gadhi, natural attractions like Rautaha Cave, and the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, known for rare birds and endangered wild water buffalo (Arna). While road connectivity is improving through the Sagarmatha Highway, remote hilly areas still face infrastructure challenges. Education and healthcare services are expanding, making Udayapur a region with rich cultural heritage, economic potential, and natural beauty in Koshi Province.

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 along with Pandemic Fund 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 Udayapur and the Health Coordinators of respective municipalities 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 formal introductions, allowing participants to familiarize themselves with one another and establish a collaborative environment. Following this, a detailed presentation was conducted, focusing on the composition of the teams involved in Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) and Rapid Response Teams (RRT), along with a comprehensive explanation of their respective roles and responsibilities.



Pic: Snapshot during RRC workshop

The presentation was delivered by Mrs. Anupama Bhusal, a resource person from the Provincial Health Emergency Operation Center. She provided an in-depth overview of the significance of Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) in effectively managing health emergencies. Her presentation emphasized the crucial roles played by RRC teams in emergency preparedness, outbreak response, and public health crisis management. She elaborated on the specific responsibilities assigned to different members of the RRC and RRT teams, highlighting how their coordinated efforts contribute to timely and efficient emergency

response operations. Through her detailed insights, the participants gained a deeper understanding of the structured approach required to mitigate health emergencies and enhance public health resilience.

Chaudandigadi Municipality

Venue: Chaudandigadi Municipality Hall, Udaypur, District

Date: 12th Sep 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

Resource person Umesh Luitel from the District Health Office, Udayapur, delivered a presentation outlining key public health initiatives undertaken in the district. He highlighted that the Rapid Response Team (RRT) has been formed and is actively operational, holding regular meetings and developing action plans to ensure preparedness for epidemic response. To support epidemic prevention and management, emergency medicines have been adequately stocked.



Pic: Vice mayor of Chaudandigadi Municipality providing her opening remarks

Additionally, regular case detection and surveillance of Kala-azar, Malaria, Dengue, Leprosy, and Tuberculosis patients have been conducted to monitor and control the spread of these diseases. In efforts to manage Dengue outbreaks, coordination with local governments has been established, leading to the implementation of various preventive activities, including the effective execution of the "Search and Destroy" strategy. Routine surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) is being carried out to strengthen immunization programs. Furthermore, to control vector-borne diseases, Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) has been conducted Chaudandigadi Municipality, aiming to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne infections.

Main Bottlenecks

- Limited budget at local level and many tasks to be performed.
- Less priority given for preparedness activities

Lessons Learnt

- Consistent collaboration with health organizations ensures a steady supply of resources, training, and information, thereby strengthening the municipality's disaster management abilities over time
- The Chairperson stressed the importance of preparedness and readiness, underscoring the need for proactive strategies. The municipality should regularly assess and enhance its disaster preparedness plans to effectively address unforeseen situations.

Recommendations

- Support in logistic items from province and central government
- Training and capacity building for RRT members in future
- Budget allocation and advocacy meeting at district and local level.

Overall comments and conclusion

The Mayor of Chaudandigadi Municipality thanked province government and WHO for sensitizing them on health emergency preparedness and response. He said, we usually don't give proper attention for preparedness activities and preventive measures. This programme will be a learning lesson for us to focus on preparedness activities in the future"

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
27	10	37

Triyuga Municipality

Venue: Triyuga Municipality Hall, Udaypur District

Date: 13th Sep 2024

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

District Presentation

Mr. Umesh Luitel, a representative from the District Health Office, Udayapur, delivered a comprehensive presentation highlighting key public health initiatives in the district. He emphasized the critical roles and responsibilities of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) in managing health emergencies. He shared that the Rapid Response Team (RRT) has been established and is actively operating, holding regular meetings and developing action plans to ensure preparedness for epidemic responses.



Pic: Health Coordinator facilitating RRC workshop at Triyuga Municipality

Surveillance and case detection for diseases such as Kala-azar, Malaria, Dengue, Leprosy, and Tuberculosis are regularly conducted to control their spread. In response to Dengue outbreaks, coordination with local governments has been strengthened, leading to the effective implementation of preventive measures, including the "Search and Destroy" strategy. Ongoing surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) further supports the enhancement of immunization programs.

Main Bottlenecks

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

Lessons Learned

- The Deputy Mayor's focus on swift responses and coordination highlights the importance of prompt, organized action in reducing the impact of crises. The quicker and more coordinated the response, the more effectively the municipality can manage and lessen the consequences of disasters or outbreaks.
- Well-defined and organized guidelines and protocols are crucial to ensure that everyone involved, from health workers to the RRC and RRT, is clear about their roles and responsibilities. Standardized procedures guarantee a unified response and help avoid confusion in emergency situations.

Recommendations

- Support in logistic items from province and central government
- Regular sensitization by central and provincial government at local level for preparedness and response of health-related events/outbreaks

Overall comments and conclusion

Narrative from Deputy mayor of Triyuga Municipality “Our municipality had formed almost similar committees/teams in the past for COVID 19 and other emergencies too. But we did not have appropriate guidelines, responsibilities allocated to the teams we formed in the past. Now we have national guideline which will guide us to mobilize our RRC/RRT in the future” “Had the programme been before budgeting for this fiscal year, we would have allocated budget for RRC/RRT. We will allocate budget in the next fiscal year”.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
16	8	24

Rautamai Rural Municipality

Venue: Rautamai Rural Municipality Hall, Udaypur District

Date: 15th September 2024

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

Province Presentation

Mrs. Anupama Bhusal, a resource person from the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC), delivered an insightful presentation emphasizing the crucial role of Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) in managing health emergencies. She outlined the key responsibilities of the RRC, underscoring its significance in ensuring a well-organized and timely response to health crises. The presentation detailed the critical roles played by the RRC in coordinating various stakeholders, including health workers, local authorities, and emergency response teams, to effectively mitigate the impact of outbreaks and other public health threats. Mrs. Bhusal explained how the RRC serves as the central hub for communication, resource management, and strategic decision-making, ensuring that all necessary actions are taken swiftly and efficiently. By highlighting the importance of a structured and coordinated approach, she stressed that the RRC is instrumental in reducing the confusion and delays that often arise during health emergencies, ultimately improving the overall response and minimizing harm to communities.

Dr. Sagar Poudel from the World Health Organization (WHO) provided an insightful overview of the pivotal role played by the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) in disaster preparedness and response. He emphasized that the PHEOC serves as a crucial framework for coordinating and managing public health emergencies, ensuring that all necessary actions are implemented swiftly and efficiently. Dr. Poudel discussed how the PHEOC facilitates the rapid mobilization of resources, streamlines communication between various agencies, and supports the establishment of response strategies during disasters. He highlighted the importance of its proactive approach in disaster preparedness, including continuous risk assessments, capacity building, and preparedness planning. Dr. Poudel further noted that the PHEOC's role in disaster response is indispensable, as it helps to minimize the impact of crises on public health by ensuring a timely, well-coordinated, and effective response to emergencies.

Main Bottlenecks

- Road transportation due to rural area
- Coordination among different tiers of government

Lessons Learned

- The mayor's emphasis on the preparedness of committees and teams highlights the importance of flexibility in disaster response. Disaster management isn't a one-size-fits-all approach; it demands the ability to adapt to the specific challenges of each situation.

Ensuring that teams can swiftly adjust to different disaster scenarios is essential for effective management

Recommendations

- Capacity building for newly formed team members
- Support in logistic items from province and central government

Overall comments and conclusion

The Chairman of the Rural Municipality shared a narrative about the challenges faced by Rautamai, a rural area in Udayapur, particularly during emergencies. He explained that road transportation is often difficult, making the transportation of logistics and essential equipment a significant challenge in their municipality. Despite these limitations, the community made strong efforts in battling COVID-19 and other disease outbreaks. The Chairman highlighted the formation of committees and teams in the past, which played a crucial role in responding to emergencies and contributed to effective management during crises. He further noted that new committees, established in accordance with guidelines, are expected to provide valuable guidance for future preparedness and response to health emergencies, ensuring better management moving forward.



Pic: Mayor of Rautamai Rural Municipality providing his remarks during closing of RRC

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
13	8	21

Udaypurgadi Rural Municipality

Venue: Udaypurgadi Rural Municipality, Hall, Udaypur District

Date: 16th Sep 2024

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

District Presentation

Mr. Umesh Luitel, a representative from the District Health Office in Udayapur, gave an in-depth presentation on the key public health initiatives in the district. He highlighted the essential roles and duties of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) in handling health emergencies. He informed the audience that the Rapid Response Team (RRT) has been set up and is actively functioning, with regular meetings and action plans in place to ensure preparedness for epidemic responses.



Pic: Resource person from HO Udaypur facilitating RRC workshop at Udaypurgadi RM

He also discussed the ongoing surveillance and case detection efforts for diseases such as Kala-azar, Malaria, Dengue, Leprosy, and Tuberculosis, aimed at controlling their spread. In the face of Dengue outbreaks, he mentioned that stronger coordination with local governments has led to the successful implementation of various preventive measures, including the "Search and Destroy" strategy.

Main Bottlenecks

- Limited budget and resources at local level
- Coordination among different tiers of government is challenge
- Timely updates are not being received form central government for disease control

Lessons Learned

- The Chairperson's acknowledgment of the gap in health-focused disaster management emphasizes the need to prioritize health-related preparedness. The conversation between the Chairperson and the Ward Chief emphasized that the success of disaster management depends on collaborative efforts.

Recommendations

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

Overall comments and conclusion

The Chairman of the Rural Municipality expressed his gratitude to the provincial government and WHO for organizing the program. He mentioned, however, that it would have been more beneficial if some logistical support or kits had been provided for the newly appointed teams to enhance their readiness. Additionally, he expressed his hope for future training opportunities for their Rapid Response Team (RRT), emphasizing the importance of continuous capacity building to strengthen their preparedness and response capabilities.



Pic: Chairperson of Udaypurgadi RM providing his remarks during closing of RRC workshop

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
15	13	28

Katari Municipality

Venue: Katari Municipality, Hall, Udaypur District

Date: 18th Sep 2024

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

District Presentation

Mr. Umesh Luitel, a representative from the District Health Office in Udayapur, gave an in-depth presentation on key public health initiatives in the district. He highlighted the essential roles and responsibilities of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) in managing health emergencies. Mr. Luitel shared that the Rapid Response Team (RRT) has been established and is actively engaged, holding regular meetings and developing action plans to ensure preparedness for epidemic outbreaks.

He also discussed the ongoing efforts in surveillance and case detection for diseases such as Kala-azar, Malaria, Dengue, Leprosy, and Tuberculosis, all aimed at curbing their spread. In response to Dengue outbreaks, he emphasized the importance of strengthened coordination with local governments, which has led to the successful implementation of various preventive measures, including the "Search and Destroy" strategy.

Main Bottlenecks

- Prevention and control measures for disease have been a challenge
- No appropriate 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

- 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 the Municipality shared that Katari is highly prone to dengue, with many cases reported annually in the area. Despite knowing that dengue will affect the municipality each year, he admitted that they have not been able to take significant preventive actions. He acknowledged that this is a weakness on their part, as they have not focused enough on cost-effective preventive measures. However, he mentioned that the program has provided valuable insights into preparedness activities. Moving forward, the Chairman stated that they will mobilize the Rapid Response Team (RRT) for dengue control and other health-related events in the future, ensuring better preparedness and response.



Pic: Mayor of Katari providing his remarks during closing of RRC workshop

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
23	11	34

Tapli Rural Municipality

Venue: Tapli Rural Municipality, Hall, Udaypur District

Date: 20th Sep 2024

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

Province Presentation

Mrs. Anupama Bhusal, a resource person from the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC), delivered an insightful presentation highlighting the vital role of Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) in managing health emergencies. She explained the key responsibilities of the RRC, emphasizing its importance in ensuring a timely and organized response to health crises. The presentation detailed how the RRC coordinates various stakeholders, including health workers,



Pic: Resource person from Province facilitating RRC workshop at Tapli RM

local authorities, and emergency response teams, to effectively address outbreaks and other public health threats. Mrs. Bhusal described how the RRC functions as the central point for communication, resource management, and strategic decision-making, ensuring prompt and efficient action. She stressed that a structured and coordinated approach is essential for reducing confusion and delays during health emergencies, ultimately improving response efforts and minimizing harm to communities.

Dr. Sagar Poudel from the World Health Organization (WHO) provided a comprehensive overview of the key role played by the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) in disaster preparedness and response. He highlighted that the PHEOC is a critical framework for managing public health emergencies, ensuring that actions are swiftly and effectively implemented. Dr. Poudel explained how the PHEOC facilitates rapid resource mobilization, streamlines communication between various agencies, and aids in developing response strategies during disasters. He underscored the importance of a proactive approach in disaster preparedness, which includes continuous risk assessments, capacity building, and preparedness planning. Dr. Poudel further noted that the PHEOC's role in disaster response is crucial, as it helps minimize the impact of crises on public health by ensuring a coordinated and efficient response.

Main Bottlenecks

- Limited budget and large number of priorities
- Coordination among different tiers of government
- Geographical difficulties due to remote part of province

Lessons Learned

The Chairperson's acknowledgment of the gap in health-centered disaster management emphasized the need to prioritize health-related preparedness to better handle emergencies. During a discussion with the Ward Chief, it was highlighted that successful disaster management depends on collaborative efforts. Both leaders agreed that a coordinated approach, involving various stakeholders, is essential to effectively address and manage disasters, ensuring a more organized and efficient response to public health crises.

Recommendations

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

Overall comments and conclusion

The Chairman of the Rural Municipality expressed his sincere gratitude to the provincial government and WHO for visiting the municipality and organizing such a valuable program. He acknowledged that this initiative was something the municipality should have started, but he appreciated the support it received from the province.

The Chairman mentioned that the program allowed the province government to be present at the local level, which was significant for the municipality. He also noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, they had heard a lot about WHO, and it was a privilege to have WHO personnel at the palika level. He further shared that the program had sensitized them on preventive measures, and moving forward, they would focus more on these measures and seek continued support from the provincial government for their implementation.



Pic: Chairperson of Tapli RM providing his remarks during closing of RRC workshop

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
17	11	28

Belaka Municipality

Venue: Belaka Municipality, Hall, Udaypur District

Date: 22nd Sep 2024

Participants: Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer, Ward chairpersons, Doctor, Nurses, Sr AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, Disaster focal person, IT officials, and FCHVs

District Presentation

Mr. Umesh Luitel, a representative from the District Health Office in Udayapur, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the key public health initiatives in the district. He emphasized the crucial roles and responsibilities of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) in addressing health emergencies. Mr. Luitel mentioned that the Rapid Response Team (RRT) has been formed and is actively involved, holding regular meetings and creating action plans to ensure preparedness for potential epidemic outbreaks.

He also highlighted the ongoing surveillance and case detection efforts for diseases such as Kala-azar, Malaria, Dengue, Leprosy, and Tuberculosis, aimed at controlling their spread. Regarding Dengue outbreaks, he stressed the importance of improved coordination with local governments, which has enabled the effective implementation of various preventive measures, including the "Search and Destroy" strategy.

Main Bottlenecks

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

Lessons Learned

The Chairperson recognized the gap in health-focused disaster management, stressing the importance of prioritizing health-related preparedness to improve emergency response. In a discussion with the Ward Chief, it was noted that effective disaster management relies on collective collaboration. Both leaders agreed that a coordinated approach, involving multiple stakeholders, is crucial for addressing and managing disasters, ensuring a more organized and efficient response to public health 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 Belka Municipality highlighted that the area is particularly vulnerable to flooding due to its proximity to the Koshi River, especially during the rainy season. He expressed concern that such floods could lead to significant health and public health issues in the future. Therefore, he emphasized the need for support from all levels of government and partners to help Belka Municipality effectively address and mitigate the hazardous consequences of floods in the years ahead.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
19	9	28



Pic: Mayor of Belaka Municipality providing his remarks during closing of RRC workshop

Limchungbung Rural Municipality

Venue: Limchungbung Rural Municipality, Hall, Udaypur District

Date: 17 April 2026

Participants: Acting Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer, Ward chairpersons, Doctor, Nurses, Sr AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personnel, Disaster focal person, and FCHVs

District Presentation

Mr. Laukaji Rai, RRT focal person from the District Health Office Udayapur, delivered a comprehensive presentation focusing on the crucial role of the Rapid Response Team in the context of public health emergencies. His session shed light on the fundamental responsibilities of the RRT, emphasizing its importance as a frontline unit tasked with the early detection, investigation, and response to disease outbreaks and other health threats. Mr. Rai elaborated on the key functions of the RRT, which include prompt field-level assessments, case investigation, contact tracing, risk communication, and coordination with relevant stakeholders to contain the spread of infectious diseases. He also discussed the importance of maintaining readiness through regular training, simulation exercises, and inter-agency collaboration. Drawing from practical experiences and examples from Morang district, he illustrated how the timely deployment and coordination of RRTs have significantly contributed to controlling outbreaks and minimizing public health risks. Furthermore, Mr. Rai emphasized the need to equip RRTs with adequate tools, technical knowledge, and logistic support to ensure rapid and effective responses. His presentation underscored the pivotal role that RRTs play not only in emergency response but also in strengthening the overall surveillance and health system resilience at the local and provincial levels.



Pic: RRT focal person from District Health Office Udayapur delivering his presentation on RRC/RRT

Main Bottlenecks

A limited budget at the local level continues to be a major challenge, as local authorities are often tasked with numerous responsibilities while operating under significant financial constraints. This financial limitation has a direct impact on public health preparedness efforts, which are frequently sidelined in favor of more immediate or visible needs. As a result, crucial activities such as capacity building, stockpiling of emergency supplies, regular training for health personnel, and the development of response plans often receive inadequate attention or remain

underfunded. This neglect of preparedness measures leaves the health system vulnerable, leading to slow or ineffective responses when emergencies such as disease outbreaks, natural disasters, or other health crises occur. The consequences of this under-prioritization are far-reaching interventions may be delayed, resources may be insufficient or poorly distributed, and communities may face heightened risk due to the lack of timely and organized action.

To overcome these barriers, it is imperative to recognize preparedness as a core component of public health planning at the local level. By doing so, local governments can ensure the establishment of well-trained rapid response teams, functioning health emergency operation centers, reliable supply chains for essential medicines and equipment, and efficient communication networks. Ultimately, strengthening financial commitment and prioritizing preparedness will lead to more resilient health systems, better protected communities, and reduced impacts of future public health threats.

Lessons Learned

- Regular sensitization by central and provincial government at local level for preparedness and response of health-related events/outbreaks
- Clearly defined guidelines and structured protocols are crucial for ensuring all stakeholders understand their roles.
- Health workers, RRCs, and RRTs must have a clear understanding of responsibilities to act efficiently.

Recommendations

- Regular sensitization by central and provincial government at local level for preparedness and response of health-related events/outbreaks
- Conduct regular training, simulations, and refresher courses.
- Build technical skills in outbreak investigation, risk communication, and emergency logistics.

Overall comments and conclusion

The Ward 2 Chief of Limchungbung Rural Municipality highlighted key challenges faced by the region, particularly during emergencies. A major concern is the logistical barriers that limit the municipality's ability to respond quickly and effectively. These challenges are compounded by weak communication networks, limited access to emergency supplies, and a shortage of skilled personnel. The Chief noted that such constraints not only slow immediate responses but also reduce the



Pic: Ward 2 Chief of Limchungbung Rural Municipality providing his remarks during closing of RRC workshop

effectiveness of ongoing relief efforts, increasing health risks and prolonging recovery for vulnerable populations. He emphasized that addressing these issues requires coordinated support from provincial and federal governments, as well as development partners, to invest in infrastructure, enhance local capacity, and establish contingency systems that can be swiftly activated during crises.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
17	8	25