



TAYAR NEPAL – IMPROVED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT (July 1 – September 30, 2020)

This publication was produced by the Tayar Nepal – Improved Disaster Risk Management Project under Contract No. 72036719C00004 at the request of the United States Agency for International Development. This document is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the author or authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the U.S. Government.

Cover photo: With support from Tayar Nepal, the Tulsipur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) mobilized a team of experts and trained volunteers to produce, bottle, and package 1,250 liters of quality hand sanitizer for use in the sub metropolitan city's COVID-19 response. Pictured here, the team produces and bottles the sanitizer in a local science lab. Photo credit: Tayar Nepal for USAID.

TAYAR NEPAL – IMPROVED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT (July 1 – September 30, 2020)

PROGRAM TITLE: TAYAR NEPAL – IMPROVED DISASTER RISK
MANAGEMENT PROJECT

SPONSORING USAID OFFICE: USAID/NEPAL

CONTRACT NUMBER: 72036719C00004

CONTRACTOR: DAI GLOBAL, LLC

DATE OF SUBMISSION: JULY 30, 2020

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	2
INTRODUCTION	3
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS	4
COUNTRY SITUATION	4
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS	6
COMPONENT 1 – IMPROVING NATIONAL-LEVEL SYSTEMS AND INSTITUTIONS	6
ELEMENT 1: NATIONAL-LEVEL KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF GOOD DRRM PRACTICES ENHANCED	6
ELEMENT 2: GRANTS GENERATE UNIQUE SCALABLE APPROACHES AND/OR CULTIVATE CHAMPIONS	11
COMPONENT 2 – BUILDING CAPACITY AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL	14
COMPONENT 3 – SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE	16
INTEGRATION AND CROSS-CUTTING	17
MONITORING EVALUATION AND LEARNING	17
GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION	18
COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH	19
CURRICULUM DESIGN AND TRAINING	19
ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	20
PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT	20
INNOVATIONS	20
OPERATIONS	22
CHALLENGES AND PROPOSED REMEDIES	22
PERSONNEL UPDATES	23
ACTIVITIES, HIGHLIGHTS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS	23
SUBCONTRACTORS – COMPLETED, ONGOING AND IN THE PIPELINE	25
GRANTS – COMPLETED, ONGOING AND IN THE PIPELINE	26
BUDGET INFORMATION	28
ANNEX I: TAYAR NEPAL’S ACTIVITY TARGET VS. ACHIEVEMENT	I

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Annual Program Statement
CE	Chief Executive
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease – 2019
DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
DPNet	Disaster Preparedness Network
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EU	European Union
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GON	Government of Nepal
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MoFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MOHP	Ministry of Health and Population
NDRRMA	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
PEA	Political Economy Analysis
RSLUP	Risk-Sensitive Land Use Plans
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SOW	Scope of Work
STTA	Short-term Technical Assistance
TA	Technical Assistance
Tayar Nepal	USAID/Nepal's Tayar Nepal – Improved Disaster Risk Management project
UN	United Nations
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNHCT	United Nations Humanitarian Country Team
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

INTRODUCTION

Nepal is prone to a range of natural disasters, including floods, landslides, fires, earthquakes, and disease outbreaks. Tayar—which means “prepare”—is USAID’s flagship disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) program for Nepal. It strengthens the capacity of national and sub-national DRRM institutions and supports enhanced systems to better prepare for and respond to disasters contributing to a more prosperous and resilient Nepal.

In order to achieve the Government of Nepal’s (GoN) goal of middle-income status by 2030, a comprehensive disaster risk management system and strengthened capacity of institutions is necessary to safeguard Nepal’s development progress. Recent earthquakes, flooding, and most recently, the COVID-19 global pandemic, expose Nepal’s fragility and the need for increased preparedness to handle large-scale disasters. Losses from disasters reverberate across communities and impact livelihoods, health, education, and food security—all of which hinder Nepal’s capacity to develop. The five-year project, Tayar Nepal, (2019-2024) helps Nepali stakeholders navigate the complex political economy of disaster management, builds capacity throughout its DRRM system, and engages eight urban and semi-urban municipalities in inclusive and sustainable planning to reduce vulnerabilities. The project works with the GoN, selected municipalities, the private sector, and other stakeholders to jointly improve Nepal’s preparedness, response, and recovery actions.

The project applies a two-pronged Stronger Systems + Safer Settlements approach to enhanced disaster resilience that addresses top-down and bottom-up improvements in a complementary way. Tayar Nepal’s three key components contribute towards strengthening DRRM capacity at national and sub-national levels.

Component 1: Improving National-Level Systems and Institutions

Tayar Nepal is building the capacity of national-level DRRM institutions, primarily the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), by promoting a holistic, multi-hazard approach to DRRM, through better linkages among local and federal government authorities, and through institutional strengthening (i.e. development of policies and guidelines, DRRM mainstreaming tools, budgeting and planning tools for local governments, and equipment and communication support). Tayar Nepal provides a combination of technical assistance, disaster simulations, and high-impact grants and subcontracts (Tayar Nepal Action Fund).

Component 2: Building Municipal-Level Capacity

Tayar Nepal focuses on building capacity at the municipal level through safer settlements, supporting eight municipalities to better assess and map their natural hazard risk profiles, preparing municipal preparedness plans, and to utilizing risk-sensitive land use planning (RSLUP) as a tool for urban resilience, in order to recognize and communicate risks, reduce vulnerabilities, and inform economic development plans. Tayar Nepal offers technical assistance to help municipalities identify and address these risks and vulnerabilities through innovative techniques, whether for safer construction, slope stabilization, or by including training for female masons.

Component 3: Strengthening Disaster Preparedness and Response

Tayar Nepal enables faster and more effective disaster response by engaging a rapid emergency response mechanism in the event of a disaster. The project works closely with the GoN and Nepali emergency responders to mobilize technical assistance, commodity support, small-scale infrastructure, and information management. This builds the disaster resilience of local institutions and municipalities by strengthening their emergency operation centers and response capacity.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The O&M that was pending for a long time has finally been approved by the Cabinet. The process of approval had been expedited by the Senior Advisor who had joined Tayar Nepal in mid-July 2020. The Advisor navigated through the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration to get the approval. With the paving of the O&M, NDRRMA can now seek the government approval for the qualified number of staffs and this will also enable NDRRMA to be fully functional and operational. The approved O&M has created 38 permanent positions where two Joint Secretaries will function subordinate to the Chief Executive. The two Joint Secretaries will head the Policy, Planning & Monitoring Division and Risk Reduction & Operation Division. Under these two Division there are various Sections and Units that will be headed by Under Secretaries, officers, and technicians.
-
- During this quarter, Tayar Nepal successfully implemented the project, “Support Tulsipur Municipality on Rapid Response to COVID-19,” through Tulsipur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI). The initiative aimed to increase the capacity of Tulsipur sub metropolitan city in its preparedness and response to COVID-19, and to strengthen the public – private partnership in Tulsipur sub metropolitan, in response to disasters. The project successfully trained 144 health workers on Epidemic Control Volunteer (ECV) and mobilized a team of experts and volunteers to produce 1,250 liters of quality hand sanitizer that was distributed to the municipal health office and quarantine facilities. Next quarter, Tayar Nepal will follow up on outcomes from the ECV trainees’ application of their newly acquired skills. Additionally, the project reached an estimated 100,000 people through public service announcement (PSA) from local radio/FM of Tulsipur and mobilized NPR 747,396 (USD 6,578) in private sector resources towards DRRM activities (production and distribution of sanitizer and disinfection of health facilities).
- With support from Tayar Nepal, Rajapur municipality prepared a COVID-19-Sensitive Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan, which will be instrumental during the monsoon response in the municipality. Rajapur municipality is very prone to flood and has experienced floods almost every year. Given the combined COVID-19 and flood risk, the plan enabled the municipality to start preparatory tasks to better respond in the likely case of a flood disaster in the municipality.
- With support from Tayar Nepal, Tulsipur sub metropolitan prepared a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, outlining priority actions. The municipality was therefore better able to manage quarantine and cash-for-work support to migrant worker returnees.

COUNTRY SITUATION

- Nepal, like other countries, has not been immune to the COVID-19 virus. The first case of COVID-19 was confirmed on January 23, 2020. With the onset of the virus, Nepal took early steps to prevent a widespread outbreak of the disease by procuring essential supplies, equipment, and medicine, upgrading health infrastructure, training medical personnel, and spreading public awareness. The first case of local transmission was confirmed on April 4, 2020 in Kailali District and the first death occurred on May 14, 2020. A country-wide lockdown came into effect on March 24, 2020. As of June 30, 2020, the Ministry of Health and Population

(MoHP) had confirmed a total of 13,564 cases and 29 deaths in the country. The viral disease has been detected in all provinces and districts of the country, with Province No. 2 and Rautahat district being the worst hit province and district, respectively.

- Nepal's economy has been hard hit by COVID-19, owing to its low-income status and high dependency upon its neighbor, India, for essential goods. Nepal faced a strict lockdown from March 24 through July 22, 2020. The lockdown brought Nepal's large and small-scale industries, and tourism industry to a standstill, and also caused barriers to the transportation of essential goods, including food and produce. Likewise, with the continuation of lockdown in India, many Nepali migrant labors lost their jobs and have returned to their homes, thereby increasing the danger of viral spread in Nepal.
- Although the lockdown has eased, some establishments, such as shopping malls and cinemas, are still closed. Many restaurants are open only for take-away orders. Vehicular movement and road traffic is still partially restricted, and regular scheduled international and domestic flights are still suspended until August 17, 2020.
- With the onset of the pandemic, Prime Minister K.P. Oli's government has been implicated in corruption scandals regarding the procurement of testing kits. The government's decision, in March, to award a controversial private firm the procurement contract to import COVID-19 related medical supplies, including rapid-testing kits from China that were later found to be unreliable, received much criticism. After a sustained public outcry, the deal was scrapped. The Oli government's decision to hand over the bid to the army has also come under criticism for a lack of accountability and transparency. Most recently, 28,000 test kits purchased by the army were found to be incompatible with most testing machines in the country¹.
- On June 13, the House of Representatives of the Federal Parliament of Nepal unanimously endorsed the second amendment to the Constitution of Nepal to update the new political map in the national emblem. This came after India's unilateral publication of its political map depicting sovereign territories of Nepal (defined by the 1816 Sugauli Treaty) within its political boundary; and followed by the inauguration of a track road linking to Kailash Manasarovar in the Tibet Autonomous Region of People's Republic of China through the sovereign territory of Nepal. Nepal handed over a diplomatic note to the Indian Ambassador following these unilateral moves from India, which prompted widespread protests in the streets, in the Parliament, and from political establishments in Nepal. Rejecting Nepal's claim of sovereignty in the contested land, India sent a protest note to the Foreign Ministry of Nepal on June 24, 2020. The territorial dispute between Nepal and India has further flamed regional political tensions, also linked to China. The tension has escalated to trading barbs from Indian media and rhetorical political speeches in Nepal. Political tension will likely continue until both the neighboring countries bilaterally resolve this geo-political impasse.
- The Parliamentary State Affairs and Good Governance Committee endorsed an amendment Bill to the Citizenship Act, which would make it compulsory for a foreign woman married to Nepali men to wait for seven years to acquire naturalized citizenship. While this amendment is intended

¹ <https://www.himalmag.com/indias-crossborder-crises-covid-19-corruption-and-more/>

for all foreigners, given the number of marriages that take place between families of Nepal and India, many believe this to be targeted against India.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

This section covers progress on activities under each project component, as per the numbering provided in Tayar Nepal's Year 1 annual work plan.

COMPONENT 1 – IMPROVING NATIONAL-LEVEL SYSTEMS AND INSTITUTIONS

Under this component, Tayar Nepal is helping to establish a brand-new Government of Nepal agency, the NDRRMA, by developing inaugural policies and procedures, providing necessary equipment and infrastructure, and helping to establish the Agency's visibility and presence among key stakeholders through effective communication and outreach support. This quarter, Tayar Nepal assisted NDRRMA in preparing a SOP report for MoHA's approval. The SOP will guide the Agency's key functions vis-à-vis: administration and operations, policies and disaster mitigation and preparedness, disaster response, and recovery and rehabilitation. Similarly, Tayar Nepal helped NDRRMA establish its public-facing identity by assisting with the production of 55 social media messages on common monsoon hazards and providing guidance on 46 messages on NDRRMA's social media platform during this period. These messages helped raise public awareness on the risks and prevention measures associated with lightning, fire, windstorms, floods, landslides, and snakebites. This quarter, Tayar Nepal also provided NDRRMA with IT equipment to improve its working environment to execute regular functions, including implementing a monsoon response through production of a daily bulletin and dissemination and execution of day-to-day functions to lead the response effort.

ELEMENT 1: NATIONAL-LEVEL KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF GOOD DRM PRACTICES ENHANCED

Activity 1.01 – Conduct a Political Economy Analysis (PEA)

Tayar Nepal conducted a Political Economy Assessment (PEA) study and submitted the report to USAID in Q2. This quarter, USAID reviewed the PEA report and shared the feedback with the Tayar Nepal team, who is now reviewing it to address the questions and comments.

Activity 1.02: Prepare Capacity Needs Assessment and Development Plan for NDRRMA

This activity has been postponed based on discussions with NDRRMA and has been moved to the Year 2 work plan.

Activity 1.03: Support organizational development of NDRRMA

Consultation Meeting on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of NDRRMA:

At the request of National Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Authority (NDRRMA), a one-day consultation meeting on the SOP was organized on October 6, 2020. The meeting was participated by Under Secretaries from Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and Joint - Secretaries & Under-Secretaries from NDRRMA and Senior Advisors embedded in NDRRMA. Clause-wise discussion was made on the presentation and opinions and inputs were provided by MoHA and NDRRMA. The consultants will take the feedback and opinions provided and will submit a final draft of the SOP to NDRRMA that will be discussed with representatives from MoHA and NDRRMA and endorsed by the Executive

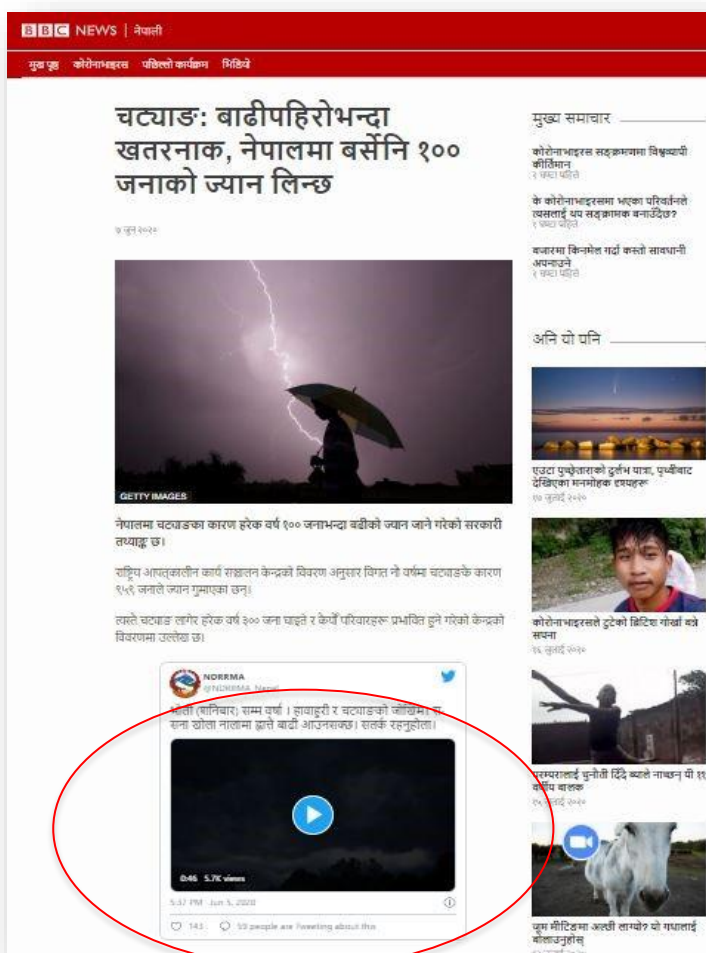
Committee. While updating the SOP, the recently approved O&M will be referred to the relevant sections of the SOP. With the recent approval of the O&M, it is expected that NDRRMA will process the SOP for formal approval through the MoHA.

Phungling fire incident report to serve NDRRMA as learning case for future preparedness on fire risks:

On May 1, 2020, a large-scale fire incident occurred in Phungling municipality, leaving behind devastation in the community. To help Phungling—and other municipalities—learn from the disaster to improve future fire preparedness and response, Tayar Nepal, through Public Affairs and Research Communications (PARC), completed a learning case on the incident. This quarter, Tayar Nepal submitted a draft of the report, which outlines key learnings from the fire incident, such as: 1) *Structural and faulty layout of the Phungling market* – congested houses with faulty wiring and unmanaged settlements contributed to the fire’s devastation; 2) *Social and economic factors* – the use of traditional cooking stoves hoarding of petroleum products in houses, lack of coordination and sufficient resources, and limited or skilled human resources all contributed to the impacts of the fire. The report recommends immediate, mid-term, and long-term plans to manage fire risks, not only in Phungling municipality, but also for similar settings in hilly and mountainous regions of Nepal. NDRRMA will use this report as a reference to make a plan to mitigate fire risks in hilly settlement.

Strategic communication and outreach support to NDRRMA:

As a very new Agency, NDRRMA is still establishing its presence and role among the public, among its key audiences, and internally. With monsoon coinciding this quarter, Tayar Nepal provided NDRRMA with day-to-day communication and outreach support to strengthen its public messaging, information and communication on monsoon-induced disasters. Through PARC, Tayar Nepal assisted NDRRMA with the production of 55 social media messages on common monsoon hazards and provided strategic guidance on 46 messages for NDRRMA’s social media platform during this period. In addition to establishing NDRRMA’s role as a valuable DRRM resource, these messages helped raise awareness on the risks and prevention measures associated with common hazards, such as lightning, fires, windstorms, floods, landslides, and snakebites. Particularly for such a young Agency, the social media content had an extensive reach. The posts prompted 107,976 engagement actions (likes, shares, and comments) on Facebook. Further, the hazard-related videos posted to the platforms were viewed 1.1 million times and the messages reached over 1.5 million people during this period. NDRRMA’s



social media followers re-tweeted posts on Twitter 2,500 times and liked them 5,200 times.

Similarly, PARC assisted NDRRMA in preparing six radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on floods, landslides, lightning, and fire hazards.

An NDRRMA Tweet about lightning safety is featured on the BBC News homepage. NDRRMA's social media presence has gained traction this quarter.

On behalf of NDRRMA, PARC will broadcast the PSAs in July 2020. PARC also drafted six different types of IEC materials on flood, landslides, windstorms, cold waves, lightning, and fire hazards that are under review at NDRRMA. When approved, PARC will print and disseminate the IEC materials in early Q4.

Through all of this communication support, PARC is actively working to build NDRRMA's institutional capacity to develop and disseminate effective communication content on its own. An embedded Communication and Outreach Expert continued to support the CE of NDRRMA with day-to-day communication and media management. The expert also provided partial support to NDRRMA to edit, fine-tune, and proofread key documents, such as monsoon preparedness and responses plans prepared by NDRRMA.

Amplifying disaster risk mitigation messages through social media

Even in Nepal's most remote corners, where roads end and mountains separate villages, smart phones and social media have helped people connect with each other and with information that impacts their lives. Rural farmers use their phones to get market data; students follow political happenings in Kathmandu via Twitter; and families enjoy virtual celebrations via Facebook or WhatsApp. So why not use social media to help communities better protect themselves from hazards and disasters?

Tayar Nepal, through Public Affairs Research and Communications (PARC), has been producing and disseminating social media messages about DRR and common hazards on NDRRMA's new social media channels since May 1. Through these strategic messages, Tayar Nepal helps strengthen NDRRMA's public presence and communication capacity, while also getting critical information out to communities who can use it to stay safe.

From May 1 through June 30, PARC helped develop and share around 50 social media messages across social media platforms, like Facebook and Twitter. PARC also created short informational videos on common hazards Nepali communities are likely to face. So far, 46 social media messages on wildfire, lightning, landslide, flood, windstorm and snakebites were created and posted to NDRRMA's Facebook and Twitter accounts to raise public awareness. For wider reach, nine videos were translated to local languages, like Doteli, Maithali and Tharu, and the National Federation of the Deaf Nepal (NFDN) adapted some videos for deaf people by adding sign language.

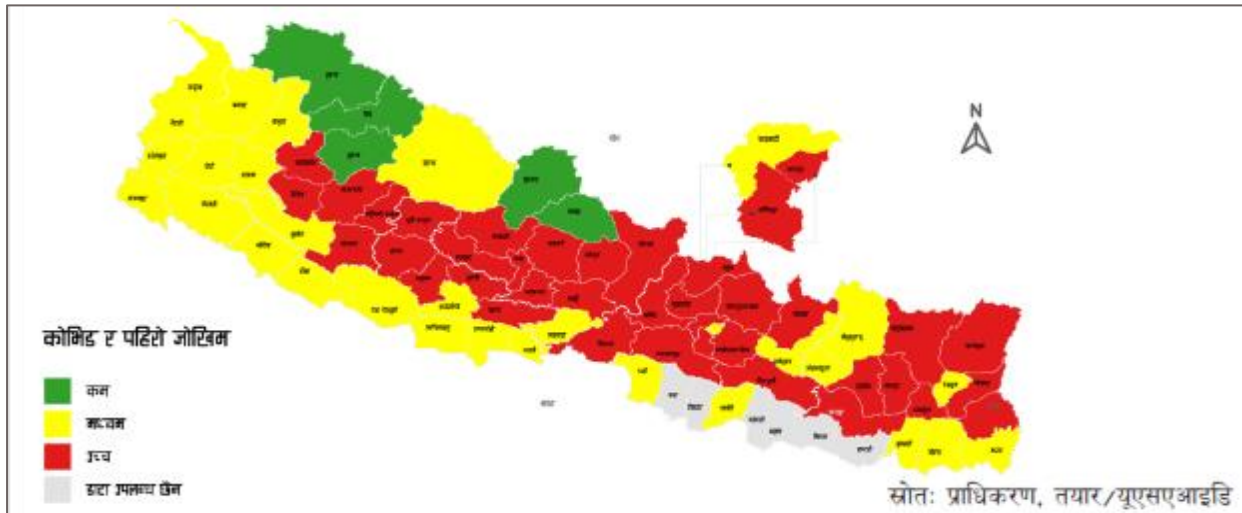
NDRRMA may be newly established, but their messages are far-reaching. The posts have already reached 1.5 million people, generating nearly **108,000 engagements** (likes, shares, etc.). The videos alone had 1.1 million views. People are listening, learning, and consuming the DRR messages, and gaining knowledge which better equips them to stay safe when disasters strike. Local government is also promoting the messages. For example, the Ward 6 office of Galkot municipality shared NDRRMA's video about lightning risks on their own Facebook page. The same video was re-Tweeted by 96 people and watched 5.9K times.

Well known DRR actors have also taken notice. Climate change analyst, Ngamindra Dahal, commented on NDRRMA's lightning safety video, stating, "*[This] is a great start. Let us also invest a little bit in a research to understand where exactly people are more vulnerable to lightning strikes.*" In response to NDRRMA's May 2 video on the Phungling fire, DRR professional, Gaurav Panthi, wrote, "*Fire disasters can be avoided with a little awareness and preparedness.*"

Based on the volume of engagements and attention NDRRMA's social media content has generated in the past two months alone, it is clear this can be an effective tool for disseminating critical DRR messages. Tayar Nepal will continue to build NDRRMA's capacity to use this tool to keep communities aware, engaged, and as safe as they can be in the face of disasters.

Using Geographic Information System (GIS) to support flood response:

Each year, around 1.7 million people are affected by flooding in Nepal, with severe impacts on communities living in high-risk areas, their food security, and the environment. NDRRMA is keeping track of the districts which are most vulnerable to flooding. Tayar Nepal, with support from an international public health epidemiologist (STTA), provided technical guidance to NDRRMA this monsoon season, to help them produce GIS maps showing the simultaneous impact of flood, landslide, and COVID 19 by comparing data trends from the past 10 years. The GIS maps present risks impact scenarios, demonstrating potential caseload likely to be impacted by this monsoon by district. NDRMMA published the GIS maps in their 'Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan - Part 1,' which will help prepare local disaster response teams and provide early warnings to settlements around these danger zones.



An example of a GIS flood risk map produced by NDRRMA, with technical support from a Tayar Nepal STTA epidemiologist. NDRRMA will use these maps to help local disaster response teams prepare for and manage response to flood-risk communities.

In-kind grant support facilitates NDRRMA’s daily operations:

Tayar Nepal procured IT equipment for NDRRMA’s daily operations, including laptops, printers, and other essential items to help facilitate the work from its new office building at Babarmahal, outside Singh Durbar. Before this initiative, NDRRMA’s office was lagging in terms of proper equipment, which was proving to be an obstacle in delivering quick response and in coordinating with districts and municipalities during times of crisis. Based on this need, Tayar Nepal provided in-kind grant support, and as a result, NDRRMA now has a technically sound team on standby to execute decisions on crucial risk mitigation and preparedness actions, and to disseminate information on time. The new well-equipped office set up provides an upgraded work environment from which NDRRMA can easily coordinate with various municipalities across Nepal.

COVID-19 sensitive monsoon disaster preparedness and response guideline:

Tayar Nepal and NDRRMA jointly developed a COVID-19 sensitive disaster preparedness and response guideline to enhance safety measures against COVID-19, given the likelihood of monsoon-induced disasters, such as floods and landslides. NDRRMA intends to use the guideline to support those working from the ground level up in DRRM and infection prevention and control in Nepal, especially at the sub-national level, such as Local, District, and Provincial Disaster Management Committees and community volunteers and first responders. The guideline, available in both English and Nepali, offers a COVID-19 sensitive preparedness and response framework to strengthen the capacity of DRRM actors and stakeholders. The guideline has been shared with Tayar Nepal’s partner municipalities.

Activity 1.04: Complete Stock-taking of DRRM Laws and Policies and Initiate work on DRRM Policy Toolkit

A Law and Policy Specialist was hired from June 1, 2020. However, this activity has been postponed and forwarded to the Year 2 work plan.

Activity 1.06: Build GoN Capacity in DRRM

During this quarter, Tayar Nepal provided in-kind grant support to the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA). The remaining activity has been postponed for Year 2 after

having discussion with NDRRMA. As GoN has not approved NDRRMA's organizational structure, Tayar Nepal will delay this activity until the approved structure is in place.

Equipment grant to MoFAGA to improve coordination:

As a part of building national-level capacity to entities other than NDRRMA, Tayar Nepal provided an in-kind grant of two laptops and two hard drives to MoFAGA, upon formal request from MoFAGA to USAID and Tayar Nepal. The support will help improve their coordination capacity to guide local governments on the COVID-19 response and for upcoming annual planning coordination. The equipment provided by this in-kind grant will be used by the Disaster and Environment Section of MoFAGA responsible for providing support to all municipalities, including Tayar Nepal's partner municipalities, on their preparedness, response to, and recovery from disasters, including rapid response to COVID-19. During this quarter, MoFAGA's Disaster and Environment Section circulated guidelines to municipalities related to the COVID-19 response.

Activity 1.07: Develop standard playbook for civilian-led national disaster simulations

Supported by InterWorks, Tayar Nepal developed a facilitators' guide, simulation master sheet to conduct Monsoon Flood/Landslide Emergency Preparedness Exercise (MFEPX) in Birendranagar in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was done in close consultation with NDRRMA. The MFEPX Facilitators (SIMCON) Guide is translated into Nepali language. InterWorks also provided a series of virtual orientations to the NDRRMA team on the simulation and scenario visioning, which will help them to understand and prepare for the Monsoon Preparedness Table-Top Exercises, an activity that was initiated upon request from NDRRMA. Due to the COVID-19 situation in Surkhet, MFEPX has been postponed.

Activity 1.08: Initiate and improve DRRM Data and information platforms

Localization of 'Building Information Platform against Disaster' system:

Tayar Nepal has selected and mobilized a grantee, Youth Innovation Lab, to build local level technical capacity for localization of the national Disaster Information Management System (DIMS) known as Building Information Platform against Disaster (BIPAD) in 14 municipalities, including Tayar Nepal's eight partner municipalities. BIPAD was adapted by NDRRMA as a one-stop DRRM information hub. Localization will help transfer technical capacity to local levels and will serve as a unified government system. The BIPAD system will enhance the capacities of municipalities to collect, manage, and use DRRM information for disaster risks and will inform decision-making at local levels.

ELEMENT 2: GRANTS GENERATE UNIQUE SCALABLE APPROACHES AND/OR CULTIVATE CHAMPIONS

Activity 1.08: Launch grants program

Tayar Nepal's Annual Program Statement (APS) is a mechanism for providing grants to organizations and programs through a participatory design approach. The goal of APS grants is to build Nepal's resilience to multiple disasters through rapid impact, innovative, and scalable activities.

Annual Program Statement (APS):

Tayar Nepal launched its first APS grant on January 22, 2020 (during Earthquake Safety Week). The grant call requested applicants to present a strong concept paper that provides a long-term plan or solution to work collaboratively with national and municipal stakeholders to build resilience towards multiple disasters through rapid response and scalable activities. The first round of APS selection saw 210 applications, which the team reviewed thoroughly in consultation with USAID. Out of the 210 applications, Tayar Nepal selected 23 proposals with the most potential. The grants team conducted the pre-award assessment of potential grantee virtually, given the pandemic situation. This quarter, despite the lockdown, Tayar Nepal managed to design a thorough grant design after reviewing full

proposals from grantees and conducted a pre-award assessment. Tayar Nepal completed the grant design process and received approval for three projects. All three agreements have been signed and activities are underway. The remaining grants are currently undergoing the participatory design process. The details of three grants are provided below, with additional details in the Operations Section:

1. Youth Innovation Lab (YI-Lab), DRR Young Scientists Fellowship Program 2020:

Youth Innovation Lab (YI-Lab) will support localization of the National Disaster Information Management System, BIPAD, in 14 municipalities, including Tayar Nepal's eight partner municipalities. Through this grant, technical capacity will be expanded and transferred at the local level through a unified disaster information system.

2. National Society for Earthquake Technology Nepal (NSET):

Under this grant, National Society of Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET) will develop and pilot an institutional mechanism to promote and implement seismic retrofitting of residential buildings through the local government regulatory system. NSET will raise public awareness (homeowners); build capacity of municipal personnel, local engineers, construction business sector, masons and laborers; develop a municipal regulatory system to promote and implement retrofitting; and facilitate collaboration between municipality and key stakeholders on the retrofitting process. This grant will pilot and implement activities in Ghorahi and Tulsipur sub-metropolitan cities of Dang District in Province 5.

3. Fire and Emergency Services Management Institute (FESMI):

Under the Nepal Community Risk Reduction (CRR) grant, the Fire and Emergency Services Management Institute (FESMI) Ltd will implement the Community Fire Risk Reduction (CFRR) Program in seven urban municipalities of Nepal, to reduce fire risk in municipalities.

With the successful completion of the first round of APS grant selection, Tayar Nepal has further received 43 new concept papers for the second round of selection, due on May 31. The concept papers will undergo review and assessment from Tayar Nepal during the next quarter.

Participatory Design Approach:

On an ongoing basis, Tayar Nepal's technical team will generate concepts for potential activities through meetings with various stakeholders and with participation from USAID. The team designed six grants through participatory approach during this reporting period.

1. Grant to Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA):

Through this grant, MoFAGA is now equipped with two laptops and two hard drives, currently in use at the Disaster and Environment Section of MoFAGA. This support has enabled MoFAGA to implement a rapid response to COVID-19 and to better coordinate with all municipalities, including Tayar Nepal's working areas. MoFAGA is now able to provide a quick response to affected municipalities during times of disaster. This activity has been completed under this grant.

2. Grant to NDRRMA:

Through this grant, NDRRMA will receive IT equipment to strengthen its operational capacity in a new office building. The equipment provided under this grant will enable NDRRMA to function efficiently to manage DRRM activities at federal and local levels.

3. Grant to Birendranagar Municipality:

Under this grant, Birendranagar Municipality will receive IT and multimedia equipment, including laptops, large screen, video conferencing camera, power backup, VHF Digital Mobile Radio Repeater, and handsets. The equipment support through this grant will help establish and strengthen a local Emergency Operation Center in Birendranagar municipality. This program is still under implementation.

4. Grant to Rajapur Municipality:

This grant supports an enabling Municipal Emergency Operation Center in Rajapur municipality, for better preparedness and response to floods through equipment support. This grant will provide equipment, including a laptop, a large video screen, video conferencing camera, power backup, generator, and internet connectivity and accessories to be used for teleconferencing purposes. This program is still under implementation.

5. Grant to Tulsipur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI):

Through this grant, TCCI provided rapid response support on the COVID-19 outbreak in Tulsipur municipality, a high-risk area due to the number of migrant returnees. TCCI produced and distributed the hand sanitizer and disinfectants to health care facilities and offices for disinfection of the working spaces in Tulsipur sub metropolitan city. Under this grant, TCCI was able to prepare and train local volunteers, mostly women, on production techniques and quality assurance of these amenities. This program has been completed successfully.

6. Grant to Federation of Woman Entrepreneurs' Association of Nepal (FWEAN):

The project aims to strengthen micro, small, and medium women-owned/led enterprises' resilience to cope with economic shocks due to disasters such as COVID-19 and beyond. The grant will help ease the disrupted supply chain and cash flow of women owned/led enterprises, enhance the skills and confidence of women entrepreneurs to cope with disasters, and to implement and lobby for evidence-based gender responsive DRRM policies and programs. This program has begun its implementation.

Revitalizing Women's Businesses Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

This four-month pilot project with the Federation of Women Entrepreneurs' Association of Nepal (FWEAN) was designed to support micro, small, and medium-sized women owned enterprises cope with the impact of COVID-19 by providing a digital marketplace. In partnership with its knowledge partner, EMERGE, and technical partner, Thulo.com, FWEAN selected 17 women entrepreneurs and connected them to Thulo.com's e-commerce platform for digital sales and delivery of their products directly to consumers.

Thulo.com promotes 200+ essential food, health, and hygiene products, including soaps, sanitary pads, and face masks. Thulo organized an orientation for the selected women on digital marketing and readied their products for online marketing and sales. A dedicated promotion campaign, MA-Udhayami (MAhila-Udhayami – Woman Entrepreneur), set to launch in July 2020, will further promote the products and businesses.



7. BBC Media Action: Tayar Nepal identified two specific kinds of support needed from BBC Media Action: day-to-day communication and outreach support, and communication

and outreach strategies support for NDRRMA. Tayar Nepal prepared and sourced a subcontract and nationality waiver, which was submitted to USAID for approval.

- 8. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS):** During the Year 1 work plan process, NRCS was identified as a potential grantee to prepare a roster of first responders that can be mobilized in the event of a disaster. Due to challenges with NRCS's registration review, Tayar Nepal will delay this activity until Year 2.

Element 3: Project Advisory Committee

Activity 1.09: Establish and Convene Project Advisory Committee

Tayar Nepal discussed the formulation of a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) with NDRRMA's CE and with MoFAGA. The CE agreed to establish the PAC and propose tentative members. Once formed, the CE will lead the PAC and convene the meetings. The first PAC meeting was scheduled for the last week of June 2020 but could not take place due to the COVID-19 lockdown. In a recent meeting with the CE, the parties agreed to establish the PAC and convene its first meeting in August 2020.

COMPONENT 2 – BUILDING CAPACITY AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL

Under Component 2, Tayar Nepal builds municipal level capacity by supporting eight partner municipalities with technical assistance to better assess and map their natural hazard risk profiles, prepare municipal preparedness plans, and utilize risk-sensitive land use planning (RSLUP) as a tool for urban resilience. This helps each municipality recognize and communicate risks, reduce vulnerabilities, and inform economic development plans. Tayar Nepal is currently in the initial stages of this process with its partner municipalities, having conducted co-design workshop and discussions with only one (Bhimishwor) of eight municipalities before the COVID-19 lockdown began, thus halting the process for the remaining seven. However, in June 2020, Tayar Nepal held virtual meetings with Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Chief Administrative Officers, and DRR focal persons of five Tayar Nepal partner municipalities, including Lamkichuha, Neelakantha, Tulsipur, Birendranagar, and Rajapur. Three municipalities could not attend due to other urgent priorities in the field, in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The purpose of the virtual meetings was to introduce the Tayar Nepal field team to the municipalities, get inputs on the COVID-19 Supplementary Tasks (Component 3), and secure Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the municipalities for Component 2 work. All participating municipalities appreciated the design of the COVID-19 Supplementary Tasks and conveyed that all three objectives and the activities were well designed. Municipalities provided their inputs and agreed on the next steps leading to the signing of their MoU.

Tayar Nepal accomplished the following Component 2 tasks this period:

Activity 2.01: Select Eight Urban Municipalities

Tayar Nepal completed the task of selecting eight municipalities in close coordination with MoFAGA, MoHA, and USAID during the second quarter of Year 1. A decision paper outlining the selection of those eight municipalities was signed by MoFAGA. The selected municipalities include: Bhimeshwor and Neelakantha municipalities in Bagmati Province, Tulsipur sub-metropolitan and Rajapur municipality in Province 5, Birendranagar and Dullu municipalities in Karnali Province; and Lamkichuha and Godawari municipalities in Sudurpaschim Province.

Activity 2.02: Adapt and localize national DRRM policy and strategic plan of action:

Tayar Nepal supported Rajapur municipality to prepare its COVID-19 Sensitive Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan. Tayar Nepal provided support to prepare the plan upon the request by the municipality, considering the pre-monsoon flooding situation in May-June and potential flooding by Karnali (Kauriala and Geruwa Rivers) and Budhi Khola during the monsoon months. The plan was prepared in close consultation and with information provided by Rajapur municipality with technical support from the Tayar Nepal team. The COVID-19 Sensitive Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan will guide the response to water-induced disasters in Rajapur municipality. At the request of Tulsipur sub-metro, Tayar Nepal assisted with the development of a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, outlining priority actions on preparedness and response.

Activity 2.03: Form or activate Municipal DRRM Committee

This activity was delayed due to the COVID-19 situation.

Activity 2.04: Support to establish and functionalize Municipal DRRM Section/Unit

As a part of its support to municipal DRRM sections, Tayar Nepal signed in-kind grant agreements with Birendranagar and Rajapur municipalities to support the strengthening of Local Emergency Operation Centers (LEOC) by procuring and delivering emergency communications and IT equipment. The equipment, including a generator, laptop, large screen TV, mounted conference camera, radio sets, and inverter will be handed over to both municipalities next quarter.

Activity 2.05: Conduct multi-hazard and vulnerability assessment (RSLUP, link to activity 2.08 below)

This activity is delayed due to the COVID-19 situation.

Activity 2.06: Implement prioritized activities identified in the Strategic Action Plan

Due to delays supporting municipalities in the development of their strategic action plans, this activity was delayed and will be shifted to Year 2.

Risk Sensitive Land Use Planning (RSLUP)**Activity 2.07: Convene/engage local governance bodies**

This activity is delayed due to COVID-19.

Activity 2.08: Adapt the methodology and conduct the RSLUP

Tayar Nepal initiated the process of compiling and reviewing RSLUP methods and processes previously used in Nepal. The review included methods used by Risk Sensitive Land Use of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Risk Sensitive Land Use Plan and Building By-Law of Kathmandu Valley, Risk Sensitive Land Use Plan of Chautara Municipality, Risk Sensitive Land Use Plan of Changunarayan Municipality. Tayar Nepal will draft a technical guideline for the development of Risk Sensitive Land Use Plan based on learning from earlier RSLUP in Nepal. The team will develop the methodology in the next quarter.

Rapid support to assess and equip municipal quarantine centers:

At the peak of the COVID-19 crisis, when municipalities saw a huge influx of migrant workers coming in from India, Tayar Nepal's eight municipalities requested ongoing support from the project ensuring a basic standard of quality, sanitation, and safety at their respective quarantine centers. Due to the urgency of these requests, Tayar Nepal's team stepped into action and developed a quarantine assessment form, which includes the latest data from all quarantine centers of each municipality, including: the number of beds available, number of toilets for each center, separate toilet facilities based on gender (keeping women and children's safety in mind), and additional requirements for sanitation materials, such as sanitizers, disinfectants, bed sheets, mosquito nets, mattresses, etc. The data was collected with the support of municipal healthcare workers and

information officers. This data facilitated support to municipal quarantine centers and healthcare centers, in partnership with local NGOs and in coordination with the municipal offices. Tayar Nepal has been able to prepare a grant to support all requested items, in order to improve the current standard of the quarantine centers.

COMPONENT 3 – SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Tayar Nepal enables faster and more effective disaster response by engaging a rapid emergency response mechanism in the event of a disaster. When COVID-19 hit, USAID Nepal activated Tayar Nepal's Component 3 to address the impact of COVID-19 in Nepal and to mobilize technical assistance, commodity support, small-scale infrastructure, and information management in response to COVID-19. The project will do this by working closely with the GoN and Nepali emergency responders to build the disaster resilience of local institutions and municipalities by strengthening their emergency operation centers and response capacity. Component 3 is currently in the activation stage, and the team is finalizing selection criteria for an additional four municipalities and recruiting staff to carry out supplemental tasks. This quarter, in addition to completing preparatory and activation tasks under this component, the team also progressed on developing local COVID-19 preparedness plans, assessing crisis response equipment needs and quarantine centers, surveying field directors on data collection protocols, and engaging with potential partners in each municipality.

Activation of C3: Economic Recovery

When USAID Nepal activated Tayar Nepal's Component 3 to address the impact of COVID-19 in Nepal, DAI developed a cost proposal in close consultation with MoFAGA and NDRRMA, and Tayar Nepal's current eight municipalities, which was then submitted to USAID. The GoN formally requested that donor organizations prioritize programming that responds to both the immediate health impacts as well as the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. USAID Nepal has committed to addressing the second-order impacts (i.e. those impacts not caused directly by the disease, but the economic and other effects felt due to efforts, such as the lockdown, to combat the virus) through a combination of USD3M in new funding, while also adjusting existing programs to address the crisis. Thus, USAID Nepal has opted to activate Component 3 of the activity to partner with municipal governments to assess and quickly mobilize resources to respond to the second-order socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. For these supplemental activities, Tayar Nepal will work in a total of 12 municipalities: eight existing partner municipalities and four additional municipalities.

USAID Nepal released the RFTOP on June 17, 2020 and Tayar Nepal submitted the budget narrative, proposed organization chart, and other documents required by the RFTOP to USAID on June 29, 2020. Following submission, the Tayar Nepal team has been engaged in preparatory work and has conducted interviews for the following positions: Economic Response Planning Specialist, Livelihoods and Social Support Specialist, Private Sector Financing and Partnerships Specialist, Economic Recovery Managers, Communications Officer, Cash and Voucher Finance Officer, Compliance Officer, GESI and Livelihoods Support Specialist, and Action Fund Managers. Tayar Nepal also started the process of identifying and finalizing local partners for the current eight municipalities, while simultaneously mapping cash-for-work interventions for each municipality and engaging with potential organizations on technical supervision and partnership.

Simultaneously, Tayar Nepal prepared a list of criteria for the selection of additional municipalities. Based on discussions and feedback from USAID and MoFAGA, Tayar Nepal finalized the criteria and came up with a preliminary list of the top 15 municipalities. The preliminary list was shared with

USAID and MoFAGA, and the municipalities will be selected in the next quarter, together with MoFAGA and USAID.

Activity 3.01: Rapid Assessment of Municipal Readiness:

Preliminary information has been collected by phone from the DRR focal persons of eight municipalities to assess their present readiness and to identify preparedness gaps for disaster response. Based on information provided by the DRR focal persons, Tayar Nepal identified a list of activities to support the municipalities for capacity building on disaster preparedness and response. Tayar Nepal also prepared a checklist on 'DAI Connect' to conduct a detailed assessment to identify the capacity, gaps, and needs of each municipality. Due to COVID-19, the assessment has been postponed and it will be done in the next quarter. Based on the assessment report, Tayar Nepal will prepare action plans to support each municipality to strengthen their readiness capacity in any kind of disaster.

Tayar Nepal prepared weekly municipal COVID-19 updates and shared them with USAID throughout this quarter.

Activity 3.02: Inventory of Humanitarian Disaster Response Capability:

Tayar Nepal prepared a list of critical inventory items with detailed specifications covering different sectors, such as shelter; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); education; dignity items; and non-food items. Based on cluster-specific guidelines, the project identified vendors, negotiated price lists with vendors for relief items, fixed the delivery location and mechanisms, and established standing agreements. A blanket purchase agreement (BPA) has been completed to address the humanitarian response.

INTEGRATION AND CROSS-CUTTING

MONITORING EVALUATION AND LEARNING

- **MEL plan update:** Tayar Nepal submitted an updated MEL plan in February 2020 incorporating USAID's feedback. The team added one indicator (T02) embedded in T01 and one indicator related to RSLUP implementation (T12). In addition, the MEL team revised evaluation questions and developed a matrix aligning related indicators.
- **Baseline assessment:** Tayar Nepal postponed the baseline assessment due to the nationwide lockdown amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The team finalized the tools for the baseline assessment and the project team is ready to initiate the assessment as soon as lockdown is lifted and movement from one district to other is possible. Tayar Nepal's MEL team also drafted a questionnaire on household-level DRRM behavior change to use as a tool for baseline surveys.
- **Municipal DRRM Index:** Tayar Nepal finalized a Municipal DRRM Index, to be piloted during the baseline assessment of municipalities. The tool measures indicator T16: "*Number of municipalities that increase score in Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Index/Scorecard.*" Tayar Nepal requested that MoFAGA take the lead for owning and nationalizing the Municipal DRRM Index. Mr. Rishi Acharya, Undersecretary at MoFAGA, and the focal person for Tayar Nepal, suggested the project send a formal request letter to MoFAGA mentioning the background and objectives, and requesting further support from the ministry to own the tool and replicate it throughout the municipalities. Then, MoFAGA will form a task force to work further on this tool in addition to preparing a Nepali version.
- **Grantee MEL plan development:** Tayar Nepal's MEL team supported grantees, such as FWEAN, Youth Innovation Lab, NSET, FESMI, CDMS, and DPNet in developing and finalizing their MEL plans.

- **Data collection tools update:** Tayar Nepal’s MEL team reviewed and updated data collection tools based on the revised MEL plan and feedback received from the technical team during the MEL plan orientation. The updated tools were transferred into ‘DAI Connect,’ a digital data collection platform.

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

- **GESI consideration in COVID-19 preparation, response, and recovery:** Tayar Nepal prepared a report, GESI Consideration in COVID-19 Preparation, Response, and Recovery, based on secondary data and observations from virtual meetings. The GESI team shared the document with USAID and it was finalized, incorporating their inputs on April 23, 2020.
- **Revitalizing women’s businesses amidst COVID-19:** Due to the inability to produce and sell goods due to supply chain disruptions caused by the COVID-19 lockdown, women entrepreneurs were facing hardships managing their cash flow, loan repayments, and payment of rent, taxes, and wages to workers. Considering the context, Tayar Nepal awarded a grant, “Revitalizing Women’s Business Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic” in the amount USD 38,045 (NPR 4,396,155) to FWEAN to address these problems. The objectives of the grant were to ease the disrupted supply chain and cash flow of women owned or led enterprises, enhancing the skills and confidence of women entrepreneurs to cope with disasters, and to support FWEAN in implementing and lobbying for evidence-based gender responsive DRRM policies and programs. The designed and approved project is being implemented in Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur district) from June 2020.
- **Grantee GESI plan and success story development:** The Tayar Nepal GESI Specialist supported grantees, such as FWEAN, Youth Innovation Lab, NSET, FESMICDMS, and DPNet in developing and finalizing their GESI plans.
- **Tayar Nepal GESI working group formed:** Tayar Nepal formed a GESI working group, including a GESI focal person assigned from each grantee organization (YIL, FESMI and NSET), led by the Tayar Nepal GESI Specialist. Additional GESI focal persons will be added to the group as new grantees are engaged with the project.

Box – I: Women Volunteers Rise up to Fight COVID-19 in Tulsipur

Given the opportunity, women can play lead roles in disaster risk response. Under Tayar Nepal’s grant support provided to TCCI to raise mass awareness about COVID-19 and to organize a training and produce sanitizer locally for all health centers of Tulsipur, TCCI ensured its actions are gender responsive. Radio messages inviting participants to join the sanitizer production training encouraged women volunteers to participate and benefit from the new skill. In total, 23 of the 49 volunteers (47%) who attended the training were women, and they were directly engaged to produce 1,250 liters of Tulsipur hand sanitizer for the sub-metropolis.

“Leaving behind my 18-month old son in the lap of my mother-in-law, I walked for two hours to attend the training and produce sanitizer. Learning the new skill and being able to help the community means a lot to me, especially when sanitizer has vanished from the market. I hope to start an online sale of sanitizer and other health products, now that I can train more youth, like me, to produce it and do online marketing.”

– , volunteer from Belwa, Tulsipur

- **Discussion on ‘periods in pandemics’:** Tayar Nepal commemorated Global Menstrual Hygiene (MH) Day on May 28, 2020 by organizing a one-hour virtual sharing session among the female staff of Tayar Nepal on “Periods in Pandemics.” The GESI Specialist led the meeting and oriented the team on the meaning of celebrating MH Day, and this year’s theme. The session participants shared their challenges and experiences managing menstruation during the lockdown and provided recommendations to each other on homemade and natural practices. The GESI Specialist also offered an orientation on various alternative menstrual products. The participants also discussed the challenges of maintaining healthy and hygienic menstruation practices and how problems are exacerbated during a disaster. The session ended with the action item of ensuring the needs of menstrual health are addressed in the Tayar Nepal main office, its field offices, and in Tayar Nepal’s interventions.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

- **Communications and outreach plan:** The communications and outreach team is in the final drafting stage of the Tayar Nepal Communications and Outreach Plan. The team will submit the plan to USAID in the next quarter.
- **Communication support to grantees:** As an important part of the APS grant signing process, the communications team provided support to the Action Fund Managers by reviewing and providing feedback on the ‘Branding and Marking plans’ for the five selected APS grantees. Similarly, the communication team provided orientations to the selected grantees on requirements for activity reports, social media write-ups, event photos, and infographics.
- **Municipal reporting on COVID-19:** Tayar Nepal gathered data from municipalities, with the support of the field team directors, and prepared weekly COVID-19 updates for eight partner municipalities through June.

CURRICULUM DESIGN AND TRAINING

- **Staff orientation on MEL:** Tayar Nepal’s MEL team organized and conducted two virtual sessions to orient new project staff on the MEL plan and indicator performance reference sheets.
- **Sessions on wellbeing:** Based on findings and recommendations of a wellness survey conducted on April 14, 2020 to better understand how project staff are coping amidst the COVID-19 lockdown and work/life balance, Tayar Nepal conducted a two-day session on self-care for all staff on May 6 and 8, 2020. The GESI Specialist, together with other members of the Tayar Nepal’s Anti-Harassment Action Group (AHAG), led the organizing sessions.

Drafted template for curriculum design and TNA: Tayar Nepal’s technical team drafted a template for curriculum design to develop a uniform curriculum within Tayar Nepal, as well as a training need assessment form to assess the training needs of Tayar municipalities. The template is currently under review.

- **Drafted training assessment tools:** Tayar Nepal’s technical team drafted a training assessment tool to improve its training course. The assessment tool is currently under review.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Organizational Performance Assessment:** Tayar Nepal’s technical team carried out an Organizational Performance Assessment (OPA) of FWEAN in this quarter using an OPA tool drafted in the previous quarter, to measure indicator T08: “Number of USG-assisted organizations with increased performance improvement (CBLD-8).”

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

- **Tulsipur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI):** TCCI implemented “Support Tulsipur Municipality on Rapid Response to COVID-19,” with USD 33,333 (NPR 3,787,297) under an APS grant in this reporting period. The objectives were to increase the capacity of Tulsipur sub metropolitan city in its preparedness and response to COVID-19, and to strengthen the public – private partnership in Tulsipur sub metropolitan, in response to disasters. To achieve the objectives, TCCI accomplished the following:
 - Trained 144 health workers (64% female) in Epidemic Control Volunteer (ECV) and sanitizer production training (47% female).
 - Trained 61 women health facilitators out of 95 participants (64% female) in ECV training, and 23 women volunteers out of 49 participants (47% female) on sanitizer production.
 - Reached 102,363 people² through public service announcements (PSA) on COVID-19 related information from local radio/FM of Tulsipur SMC.
 - Produced 1,250 liters of quality hand sanitizer and procured 200 liters of disinfectant solutions; Distributed both sanitizer and solutions to the SMC health office, quarantines, and 19 ward offices within Tulsipur SMC.
 - Mobilized NPR 747,396 (USD 6,578) in private sector resources for DRRM activities (production and distribution of sanitizer and disinfectant to health facilities and city areas).

INNOVATIONS

Local organization fights COVID-19 through public-private-partnership model

According to [redacted], the president of the Tulsipur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) in Nepal, "Helping others in crisis has always been part of TCCI's culture and we need to support each other and our communities now more than ever."

During the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, government and donors have been collaborating to play a critical role managing the response. The Tayar Nepal project has also found a way to bring in a partner linked



Sanitizer handover to Tulsipur municipality mayor, [redacted] (R) on May 28, 2020 as part of Tayar Nepal’s grant support to TCCI. Photo credit: Tayar Nepal for USAID.

² Based on radio listenership survey conducted by previous project for program during the same time slot.

to the private sector—TCCI—to join in the urgent response effort. With support from Tayar Nepal, TCCI rapidly responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by producing and distributing critical health and safety supplies, including hand sanitizer and disinfectants, to health personnel and front-line workers in Tulsipur sub-metropolitan city—an area particularly at risk for COVID-19 due to the influx of migrant returnees there.

TCCI also utilized the media to raise public awareness on preventative measures, and to curb any misinformation on the COVID-19 pandemic. By responding to an urgent need for hand sanitizer from 19 wards in Tulsipur, TCCI not only fought against the spread of the virus at local level, but also built the community’s self-reliance and capacity to cope with future disasters.



Trained volunteers work together to produce high quality hand sanitizer at a local school science lab. Photo credit: Tayar Nepal for USAID

Aligned with their goal of fostering socio-economic cooperation between government and non-government organizations, and to do their part as a trusted private sector partner and leader in the community, TCCI undertook a project to meet local demand for sanitizer by rapidly producing its own formula and providing it at no cost to the city of Tulsipur.

The initiative kicked off on April 25, 2020, while the country was under strict lockdown and movement was heavily restricted. In less than one week, TCCI had

mobilized a cross-functional team of 10 support staff and members, a multi-stakeholder committee comprised of local government, health and security, and civil society organizations, and trained 50 volunteers to produce 1,250 litres of hand sanitizer, ready for distribution within one month of the project’s inception.

According to Bir Bahadur Rawat, President of TCCI, “Our team designed and built new filling equipment, printed labels, produced bottles, and procured raw materials on a war-footing to make this happen so quickly, and they’ve done it with tremendous enthusiasm, which doesn’t surprise me one bit.”

The production team followed WHO guidelines to develop a sanitizer formula and mix instructions, and the health promotion division of the local municipality oversaw production to verify quality assurance protocols were met. The mixing process began on May 16 and completed on May 22. From start to finish -- mixing, filling, coding, labeling and packaging -- the project was completed at science lab of local Gorkha School. To expedite production and distribute on time, bottles and labels were immediately produced in a production facility and multiple pieces of lab equipment were moved in from local Jaljala Distillery.

The team assessed demand for the sanitizer based on inputs from the municipality and distributed accordingly in 19 wards from May 24 to May 28.

“Support from USAID’s Improved Disaster Risk Management Program, Tayar Nepal, has helped us take early actions on preparedness and rapid response to COVID-19,” said Ghanshyam Pandey, Mayor of Tulsipur sub-metropolitan City.

OPERATIONS

The current global COVID-19 pandemic has had significant implications for project operations, especially after receiving USAID's blanket stop work order on March 22, 2020 and the subsequent lockdown announced by the Government of Nepal from March 24, through July 22, 2020. Tayar Nepal has adjusted its operations with the following key actions:

- Implemented Tayar Nepal Telework / Remote Work Policy;
- Implemented a project COVID-19 Impact and Continuity Analysis Plan;
- Submitted, received USAID approval and implemented Tayar Nepal Project Continuity and Risk Mitigation Plan; and
- Submitted, received USAID approval and implemented Tayar Nepal – Case Specific Stop Work Order Exception.

Some key operations activities during this reporting period include:

- Completed recruitment process for core team by onboarding 19 LTТА staff in this quarter, bringing the total LTТА staff to 42 and identified 17 LTТА staff to join in the next quarter, which will bring the total LTТА staff to 59;
- Selection of 23 APS Concept Papers from the first round of Year I APS for full applications;
- Established Blanket Purchase Agreement with vendors for emergency relief items as well as designed grant with World Vision International for emergency relief support to be ready for approval submission whenever it is required;
- Provided equipment support as well as technical assistance through subcontractors to NDRRMA to strengthen its capacity;
- Logistics preparation to support upcoming simulation in Birendranagar and Rajapur Municipalities;
- Established project's Nepalgunj office; and
- Component 3 preparation includes recruitment and identification of potential grantees and subcontractors.

CHALLENGES AND PROPOSED REMEDIES

- a. GoN's nationwide lockdown and USAID's blanket Stop-Work Order.** The main challenge Tayar Nepal faced last quarter was the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic on project operations, especially after USAID's Blanket Stop-Work Order and the GoN's nationwide lockdown. The project responded to this situation by establishing and implementing a COVID-19 Continuity Plan, implementing a telework/work-from-home policy for project staff, and establishing system support to staff to facilitate teleworking, including ensuring individual internet access, database setup, and access to VPN and project server.
- b. Technical program expectations and organization restructuring.** The program design included a Year I Annual Work Plan and MEL Plan, and a proposed structure and staffing for Tayar Nepal. These reflected a vision from the original project proposal and early stages of project start-up. However, after the Year I Co-Design Workshop, development of the Annual Work Plan and MEL Plan, and after eight months of project implementation, the project, in consultation with USAID, realized that the program design (especially Component 2) as well as staffing and organization structure need to be adjusted to address actual project needs. Therefore, the project, in consultation with USAID, adjusted its program design and hired a DRRM Specialist and Director of Technical Integration. The team also adjusted reporting lines to strengthen project capacity for more robust program implementation.
- c. Component 3 activation challenges.** Tayar Nepal's project team initially had a main objective of strengthening the capacity of Nepal's national and sub-national institutions responsible for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response. COVID-19 brought a new

objective into play for the project. Component 3 is Tayar Nepal’s rapid response mechanism designed for rapid activation and mobilization in the event of a disaster. While originally conceptualized for use in the event of a large natural disaster, such as an earthquake or flood, USAID decided to activate Component 3 to enable the project to support NDRRMA in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first task order focuses on the following: (a) prepare municipalities for the socio-economic impacts of the Covid-19 crisis, (b) pilot replicable livelihood and economic support activities, and (c) mobilize financial resources to address urgent recovery needs. Implementing activities during a pandemic with many imposed restrictions and associated risks is challenging enough. However, doing so in an area of intervention (early economic recovery) which may be less familiar to Tayar Nepal’s robust team, presents even bigger challenges. To address this, Tayar Nepal’s team engaged with DAI Home Office and quickly mobilized internal resources to assist in the preparation of project design and recruitment of qualified team members under Component 3 to implement this project.

- d. **NDRRMA branding and marking exception.** This project has been engaging closely with NDRRMA to strengthen their capacity and to support their needs. NDRRMA requested a full branding and marking exception for materials and products generated by all support from Tayar to NDRRMA, to retain full ownership and GoN visibility on all materials associated with the Agency. To address this challenge, the project team had several discussions with NDRRMA’s Chief Executive about USAID’s Branding and Marking requirements. Tayar Nepal and NDRRMA came to an agreement on a list of reasonable branding and marking exceptions. On June 17, the project submitted an approval request to USAID for a Branding and Marking Exception for support to NDRRMA. The branding and marking exemption approval was provided by USAID on July 17.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

ACTIVITIES, HIGHLIGHTS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

This quarter, Tayar Nepal continued the recruitment process for remaining positions. The following 19 LTTA staff joined the project during this reporting period, bringing the total LTTA staff to 42. During this reporting period, the project also recruited 2 STTAs.

TAYAR PERSONNEL UPDATE		
Name	Date Joined	Role
LTTA		
	04/01/20	MEL Officer
	04/01/20	Communications Officer
	04/14/20	Organizational Development Specialist
	04/20/20	Curriculum Design and Training Specialist
	04/27/20	Program Associate
	05/15/20	Eastern Field Team Director (under Habitat for Humanity Subcontractor)
	06/01/20	Driver-1 (Kathmandu)
	06/01/20	Driver-2 (Kathmandu)
	06/01/20	Western Field Team Director (under Habitat for Humanity Subcontractor)
	06/01/20	Field Office Manager (Nepalgunj)

06/01/20	Field Support Staff (Nepalgunj)
06/01/20	Driver-3 (Nepalgunj)
06/01/20	Driver-4 (Nepalgunj)
06/01/20	Field Front Office Associate (Nepalgunj)
06/01/20	Law and Policy Specialist
06/15/20	Director of Technical Integration.
06/22/20	MEL Manager
06/22/20	Filed Officer – Dullu (under Habitat for Humanity Subcontractor)
06/22/20	Filed Officer – Birendranagar (under Habitat for Humanity Subcontractor)

STTA

03/30/20	Senior Communications Specialist
04/20/20	Epidemiologist – STTA

The project has identified and received approval for the following 15 candidates to join Tayar Nepal in July and August:

TAYAR PERSONNEL UPDATES

NAME	ROLE
LTTA	
	Field Finance Officer (Nepalgunj)
	Field Officer – Bhimeshwor (under Habitat for Humanity Subk)
	Field Officer - Rajapur (under Habitat for Humanity Subk)
	Filed Officer – Godawari (under Habitat for Humanity Subk)
	Filed Officer – Tulsipur (under Habitat for Humanity Subk)
	Filed Officer – Lamkichuha (under Habitat for Humanity Subk)
	Filed Officer – Neelakantha (under Habitat for Humanity Subk)
	Action Fund Manager
	Procurement Officer
	Field Office Support Staff (Nepalgunj)
	DRRM Specialist
	Field Engineer (under Habitat for Humanity Subk)
	Field Engineer (under Habitat for Humanity Subk)
	Field Engineer (under Habitat for Humanity Subk)
	Field Operations Associate (Nepalgunj)

The project identified candidates for the following positions and is in the process of finalizing recruitment and approvals:

TAYAR PERSONNEL UPDATES

NAME	ROLE
LTTA	
	Action Fund Manager
STTA	
	Senior Advisor to NDRRMA
	Senior Coordinator Advisor to NDRRMA

The project is continuing recruitment for the following positions:

- STTAs for RSLUP process under Genesis Consultancy
- Various LTTA positions under Component 3

SUBCONTRACTORS – COMPLETED, ONGOING AND IN THE PIPELINE

SUBCONTRACTS (TECHNICAL) – Q3 2020			
Status in Q3	Subcontractors	Title	Award Amount (USD)
Completed	Fixed Price Subcontract to Organization Development Center (ODC)	Tayar Nepal Project Political Economic Analysis	
Ongoing	Fixed Price Subcontract to Public Affairs Research and Communications (PARC)	Strategic Communication and Outreach support for NDRRMA	
	Fixed Price Subcontract to Organization Development Center (ODC)	Develop a Practical Guideline on COVID-19 Perspectives into Upcoming Monsoon Disasters Preparedness and Response for NDRRMA	
	2 nd Fixed Price Subcontract to InterWorks	Support Tayar Nepal Project to Conduct Flood Simulation Planning and Implementation in Birendranagar	
	Fixed Price Subcontract to Plexus Creation	Support NDRRMA to Prepare Bi-weekly Report in Graphic Design, Color and in Standard Format	
	Fixed Price Subcontract to Public Affairs Research and Communications (PARC)	Preparation of in-depth Incident Report on Phungling Fire - Phungling Municipality, Taplejung District for NDRRMA	
Submitted to USAID for approval	Fixed Price Subcontracts to BBC Media Action (USAID provided feedback, DAI is working with BBC MA to provide response).	Support the NDRRMA strategic Communication and Outreach Activity and Develop Strategic Communication Plan	
Postponed	Fixed Price Subcontract to S.W. Nepal	Tayar Nepal Project Baseline Survey	
Procurement Process	Fixed Price Subcontract. Subcontractor: TBD (Under bid evaluations stage)	Municipal Social and Economic Impact Assessment and Recovery Plan (Under Objective I – Component 3)	

The project also conducted preparation and assessment of potential subcontracts under the upcoming Component 3 – Early Economic Recovery Program including money remittance institutions and private sector and access to financing technical assistances.

GRANTS – COMPLETED, ONGOING AND IN THE PIPELINE

GRANTS – YEAR I / Q3		
Approved		
Grant No.	Grantee	Grant Title
G-KAT-001	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA)	Enabling MoFAGA for Rapid Response to COVID-19 through Equipment Support
G-KAT002	Tulsipur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI)	Support Tulsipur Municipality on Rapid Response to COVID-19
G-KAT-004	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA)	Organizational Development of NDRRMA by enhancing its operational Capacity through IT tool and equipment supports.
G-KAT-005	Birendranagar Municipality	Enabling Birendranagar Municipality to attend tabletop simulation for better preparedness and response for floods through Equipment Support
G-KAT-006	Rajapur Municipality, Office of Municipal Executive	Enabling Municipal Emergency Operation Center of Rajapur Municipality for better preparedness and response for floods through Equipment Support
G-KAT-007	Federation of Woman Entrepreneurs' Association of Nepal (FWEAN)	Revitalizing Women's Business Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic
G-KAT-008	Youth Innovation Lab (YIL)	DRR Young Scientists Fellowship Program -2020
G-KAT-009	National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET)	Scaling up Seismic Retrofitting of Residential Buildings through the Local Government Regulatory System
G-KAT-011	Fire and Emergency Services Management Institute (FESMI)	Nepal Community Risk Reduction (CRR) program
Total Grants Approved and Disbursed		
Grant No.	Organization	Grant Title
G-KAT-010	Centre for Disaster Management Studies (CDMS)	Strengthening women leadership at local level for improved disaster risk management
TBD	DPNet	Chhemata Avibridhhi (Capacity enhancement for DRRM)
TBD	Institute of Engineering (IOE)	Develop and Conduct Professional and Academic Courses, Training Courses and Action Researches in DRRM
TBD	Everest Club (EC), Dailekh	Support Municipalities on Rapid Preparedness and Response to COVID-19 Outbreak
TBD	TRACE Nepal	Support Municipalities on Rapid Preparedness and

		Response to COVID-19 Outbreak
TBD	Sahara Nepal	Strengthening the disaster resilience capacity of housing solution
TBD	Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj Nepal (KMJS Nepal)	System adaptive model for most vulnerable groups of Thakurbaba municipality, Bardia through promoting equality, inclusion and indigenous practices in DRRM activities
TBD	Environment and Child Concern Organization-Nepal (ECO-Nepal)	Engaging Private Sector in Promotion of Risk Sensitive Eco-tourism in Nepal
TBD	Atullya Foundation Pvt. Ltd	Public Safety for All Including for People with Disabilities and the Elderly [PSFA]
TBD	Consortium for Land Research and Policy Dialogue (COLARP)	Public-Private Partnership for Risk Transfer Mechanism of Hydro-met Induced Disaster through Index based Agriculture Insurance System in Nepal
TBD	Geo Engineering Consult Private Limited	Establishing the Innovative Method for Seismic Hazard and Risk Assessment Through Seismic Micro zonation Study
TBD	Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), Nepal	Strengthening DRR and CCA Mainstreaming into Local Government and Community Forestry User Groups Project
TBD	World Vision International Nepal	Household Disaster Preparedness Project (HDPP)
TBD	National Rehabilitation Center of the Disabled Nepal –NRCD Nepal	Empowering Disabled for Disaster Resilience
TBD	Panchashakti Seed Company Pvt. Ltd	Building Resilient Communities through Creating Capacities and Securing Capital
TBD	Everest Club (EC), Dailekh	Create Safer Community: Community DRR Project in Dullu Municipality, Dailekh
TBD	Nepal Association for the Welfare of the Blind	Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Program
TBD	Centre for Integrated Urban Development (CIUD)	Enhancing Resiliency of the Local Community through Low-cost Bio-engineering Interventions for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (PRAYATNA)
TBD	Public Affairs Research and Communications (PARC)	Dhukka: a reality show-like web series on disaster preparedness
TBD	Community Development and Advocacy Forum Nepal (CDAFN) and Center for Disaster Management Studies (CDMS)	Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction by Enhancing Livelihood of Riverbed Farmers through Economic Empowerment
TBD	WindPower Nepal Pvt. Ltd.	Developing Early Warning System (EWS) mechanism to enhance response strategy against climate induced disasters and extreme weather events and to build

		resilience of the local communities in Varagung Mukhtichetra Rural Municipality, Kagbeni, Mustang
TBD	Urja Developers Pvt. Ltd	Development of a Disaster Risk Reduction Mechanism for Hydropower in Nepal: A pilot project in Mai Beni Hydropower Project (9.51 MW), Ilam
TBD	National Federation of Irrigation Water Users' Association, Nepal (NFIWUAN)	Capacity building of water users association to strengthen the resilience to natural disasters at local level
TBD	Environment Development Society (EDS), Surkhet	Innovative and low-cost indigenous practices for social and economic transformation of vulnerable communities towards disaster preparedness and response
Est. Total Budget for Grants in Pipeline		
Total Approved Grants and Budgeted in Pipeline		

The project also conducted preparation and assessment of potential grants under the upcoming Component 3 – Early Economic Recovery Program including local organization in each municipality to administer cash-for-work and cash and voucher programs and to manage support to micro – small business enterprise to access to financing.

BUDGET INFORMATION

Current Obligation per Mod 2: \$

Funds Disbursed: \$

Remaining Obligation: \$

ANNEX I: TAYAR NEPAL'S ACTIVITY TARGET VS. ACHIEVEMENT

The following matrix illustrates quarterly progress made in third quarter (April to June 2020) of FY2020 against the annual targets for each of activities³ in line with project LOA targets and year one work plan.

Sn.	Tasks/Activities	Annual target (10/2019 to 09/2020)	Cumulative through last quarter (03/2020)	Progress on this quarter (4 to 6/2020)	Cumulative progress of this year (FY 2020) as of this quarter	Performance status and explanation in deviation
Component I: Improving national-level systems and institutions						
Element I: National-level knowledge and understanding of good DRM practices enhanced						
1.01	Conduct a Political Economy Analysis (PEA)	1	1	0	1	Completed
1.02	Capacity Needs Assessment and Development Plan for NDRRMA	CAN – 1 Develop plan -1	0	0	0	This activity will shift in year 2

³ The year one updated work plan (in COVID-19 context) was submitted to USAID in May 2020. This report is developed with reference to the latest work plan.

Sn.	Tasks/Activities	Annual target (10/2019 to 09/2020)	Cumulative through last quarter (03/2020)	Progress on this quarter (4 to 6/2020)	Cumulative progress of this year (FY 2020) as of this quarter	Performance status and explanation in deviation
1.03	Support organizational development of NDRRMA	NA				Provided IT equipment to the NDRRMA and MOFAGA under grant program.
1.04	Complete stocktaking of DRRM laws and policies and initiate work on model DRRM policy toolkit	I	0	0	0	Will be done at the time of baseline assessment planned to conduct in Q4.
1.05	Build GoN Capacity in DRRM	NA	0	0	0	
1.06	Develop standard playbook for civilian-led national disaster simulations	I	0	0	0	Interworks will start this task in Q4.
1.07	Initiate and improve DRRM data and information platforms	I	0	0	0	Move to next year.
Element 2: Grants generate unique scalable approaches and/or cultivate champions						
1.08	Launch grants program	NA	0	II	II	List of approved grantees????
Element 3: Project Advisory Committee						
1.09	Establish and Convene Project Advisory Committee	I PAC meeting	0	0	0	Rescheduled in Q4.
Component 2: Building capacity at the Municipal Level						

Sn.	Tasks/Activities	Annual target (10/2019 to 09/2020)	Cumulative through last quarter (03/2020)	Progress on this quarter (4 to 6/2020)	Cumulative progress of this year (FY 2020) as of this quarter	Performance status and explanation in deviation
2.01	Select Urban Municipalities	8	8	0	8	Completed
2.02	Adapt and localize the national level DRRM policy and Strategic Plan of Action to the municipalities DRRM committee	2 municipalities	1	0	1	Support provided to Bhimeswor municipality in their DRRM policy and DRRM Act in Q2.
2.03	Form or activate Municipal DRRM Committee	2 municipalities	0	0	0	
2.04	Support to establish and functionalize Municipal DRRM Section/Unit	2 municipalities	0	0	0	
2.05	Conduct multi-hazard and vulnerability assessment:	2 municipalities	0	0	0	
2.06	Implement prioritized activities identified in the Strategic Action Plan	2 activities	0	0	0	
2.07	Develop municipal risk sensitive land use plan, policy and bylaws	2	0	0	0	No target in year one.
2.08	Support municipalities in preparation of COVID-19 preparedness, response and recovery plan	8 municipalities	0	2	2	Support provided to two Municipalities (Nilkantha and Tulsipur) in preparation of COVID-19 preparedness, response and recovery plan. Both were drafted by Tayar

Sn.	Tasks/Activities	Annual target (10/2019 to 09/2020)	Cumulative through last quarter (03/2020)	Progress on this quarter (4 to 6/2020)	Cumulative progress of this year (FY 2020) as of this quarter	Performance status and explanation in deviation
						Nepal technical support and submitted to the respective municipalities.
Component 3: Strengthening Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery						
3.01	Conduct Rapid Assessment of Municipal Readiness	8 municipalities	0	0	0	Baseline assessment planned for next quarter will cover this activity.
3.02	Conduct inventory of Humanitarian Disaster Response Capability	8 municipalities	0	0	0	

