Photo stories from the exposure visit

The following photo stories were prepared by the participants upon their return from the exposure visit organized as part of Module 7 of the training workshop

1. SIMILAR DISASTERS IN DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS

Abdul Ahmad Zazay

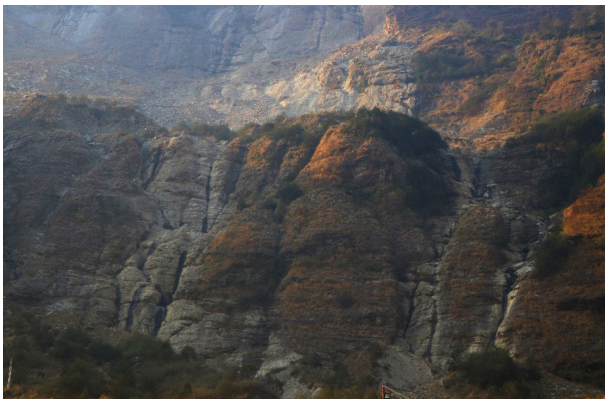
In August 2014, a hillside near the river collapsed and buried dozens of homes in the village of Jure, Nepal, killing 156 people. It is tragic that although villagers had seen cracks forming in the hill quite some time before the collapse, few mitigation measure were taken to prevent disaster. Photo 1 shows the disaster in Jure; photo 2 shows a similar disaster in the Khawahan district of Badakhshan province of Afghanistan that killed 52 people. In Khawahan, cracks had been observed before the major event in May 2015. In addition, there had been a number of small landslides three days before the major event. Here, too, minimal erorts had been made to mitigate the situation, which led to the catastrophic event.

Personally, I believe the following things need serious attention: 1) human settlements should be far from river channels. The vulnerability of locations should be considered before they are allocated as settlement areas. 2) The concerened government or disaster management authority should be alert and take immediate action to save people's life.

The photos show that the houses are fully covered by sediment deposition, and similar incident happened in Nepal and Afghanistan with no advance action or preparedness taken in both countries.

The Community Base Flood Early Warning System (CBFEWS) in Bardibas was interesting for me because it helps local people to be prepared for evacuation, and hence saves life and property from probable flood disasters. The actions of the designated caretaker and the community members involved could save thousands of lives downstream. I believe similar technology can be applied in Afghanistan as we have many seasonal rivers with high peak discharge during the monsoon.

AFTERMATH OF THE JURE LANDSLIDE AS SEEN IN THE FIELD IN NEPAL



LANDSLIDE IN BADAKHSHAN PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN

CBFEWS DEMONSTRATION AT NEPAL

2. EFFICIENT USE OF SUBSURFACE WATER

Farangis Rassouly

The water flowing in the sub-surface could be efficiently to fulfill water requirements. This was experienced in Bahunmara village of Bardibas municipality, Nepal. It could be good to implement such a project in seasonal rivers in Afghanistan.

This would be useful and applicable if local and other stakeholders were involved in a collaborative approach for better river basin-level water management. It was inspiring for us to see that the communities in Bahunmara harnessed sub-surface water from the riverbed targeting the irrigation of lowlands. Likewise, I believe the subsurface water could be used for other purposes after refining.

SNAPSHOTS OF A FIELD VISIT TO WITNESS EXTRACTION OF SUBSURFACE WATER AND STORAGE FOR DISTRIBUTION FOR DIFFERENT PURPOSES.

3. COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION

Ezatullah Badar

Nepal's Koshi barrage, located close to the Nepal-India border along the Koshi River basin, is the biggest project that I have visited so far. The visit was integral to understanding the main concept of this project. The upstream region islocated in Nepal, with the water is flowing downstream to India and supporting irrigation systems. The most interesting aspect is the good relationship between India and Nepal in the area of economic development. This reflects respect. Likewise, coordination among the communities has enabled the setting up a community-based project in Bahunmara village of Bardibas municipality, which has fulfilled the water demand of the area. This reflects the need for greater coordination and collaboration among different stakeholders even in Afghanistan for sustainable development.

THE KOSHI BARRAGE IN NEPAL

FIELD VISIT TO WITNESS EFFICIENT USE OF SUBSURFACE WATER IN BARDIBAS, NEPAL

4. LANDSLIDE, FLOODS, AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS

Milad Dildar

The numbers of earthquake-induced geo-hazards are unprecedented. The potential frequency of landslides, along with secondary effects such as river damming and subsequent floods, damage infrastructures and lead to loss of life and settlements, and need more attention. The picture taken near Bardibas of Nepal, worries me as the small village photographed is situated in the foothills of a steep slope and features rugged topography, pointing towrads high vulnerability.

In Afghanistan, we have faced a similar disaster. On 2 May 2014, in Argo district of Badakhshan province, 350 people died and 300 houses were buried by a landslide.

People are not only living in landslide-prone areas, but also in flood and other disaster-prone areass. In Afghanistan, we witness floods, which take humans life, and destroy villages and infrastructures. There are many communities living near flood-prone areas, which presents a big challenge and calls for special attention to reduce flood risk and save lives.

It will be difficult to stop these disasters but we can save people's lives by promoting awareness about upstream-downstream linkages, and the significance early warning and disaster risk reduction.

A VILLAGE NEAR SINDHULI, NEPAL

A VILLAGE IN AFGHANISTAN

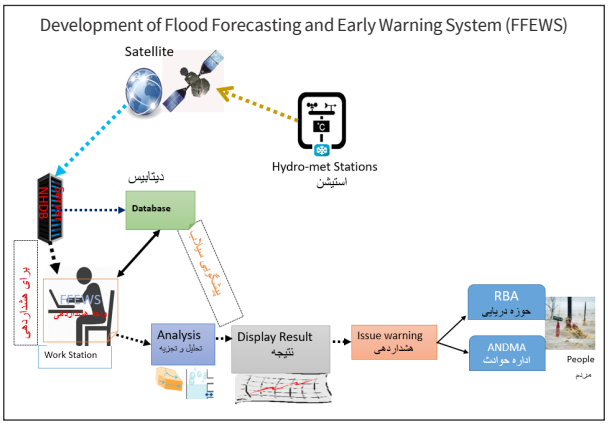
A VILLAGE AS SEEN DURING THE FIELD VISIT IN NEPAL NEAR THE SUNKOSHI RIVER

5. SIGNIFICANCE OF EARLY WARNING AND RAIN WATER HARVESTING

Najibullah Jamal

Flood early warning is important, and flooding is a big challenge and disaster. People have been suffering from loss of life, damages to houses, infrastructure, and to natural beauty every year. The Community Based Flood Early Warning System is an integrated system of tools and plans, which enable communities to perceive flood risk and respond to flood hazards. The installation of the system in Nepal's Ratu River was very useful in making communities aware of flood risk. In the past, men used to monitor river flow, even during the night. Now the system can inform people when they are sleeping at night. The system has an important role in reducing the damage caised bu transboundary floods in Nepal and India, where there is good collaboration on information-sharing systems. The system provides real-time data and can be stored in a national database. In Afghanistan, three flood early-warning sensors have been installed and two others will be installed in the Kabul River basin for flood and GLOF early warning.

Likewise, an interesting part during the field visits was the demonstration of a rainwater harvesting system which can store water from both rainfall and snowfall to be used for different purposes, including drinking. Using a similar system can be very efficient in the southern and eastern parts of Afghanistan, where communities do not have access to safe drinking water and are unable to use groundwater for drinking. Rooftop rainwater harvesting is economically efficient and affordable for people living in rural areas.



AN ILLUSTRATION OF FLOOD FORECASTING AND EARLY WARNING TAILORED TO AFGHANISTAN.

AN EARLY WARNING SENSOR IN RATU BRIDGE, BARDIBAS, NEPAL.

RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEM AT THE ICIMOD KNOWLEDGE PARK IN GODAVARI, NEPAL.