Strengthening External and Internal Resilience Capacity

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RESILIENCE CAPACITY IN RESILIENCE PROGRAMMING**

***Notes:***

* ***Internal stakeholders –*** *Staffs, partners and donors*
* ***External stakeholders*** *– Government, private sectors etc.*

1. **Develop common understanding of context, goals and framework**

* Developing common understanding of the context and how the system plays a role in system and how the shocks and stresses plays a role within a system is critical.
* To have a common understanding about the resilience in Nepal, it is recommended to bring in key stakeholders playing a key role in building resilience such as donor, government and implementing partners, develop a standard resilience model/framework while aligning it with the Theory of Change.

1. **The “How”** 
   * Create a culture learning, which is participatory and inclusive.
   * Develop a sense of ownership.
   * Clarify clear rationale for different stakeholders (What’s in for them?)
   * Always keep communities as “customers” and at heart of the program.
   * Build capacity through trainings/TOTs.
   * Create peer-to-peer learning opportunities.
   * Build on what already exists instead of creating entirely new (For instance; Government’s multi-sector nutrition plan).
   * Capitalize partners’ strengths as **“Partners are assets**”.
2. **Measurement and Messaging**
   * Define measures of change and ways to measure in a participatory way.
   * Develop common and simple messaging about resilience and project for all stakeholders to understand and speak the same language. Develop simple visual materials for stakeholders to understand and use it to disseminate information to others.
3. **Meaningful Review and Reflection** 
   * Conduct regular participatory review and reflection meetings to review the progress, qualitative data and qualitative information to reinforce ownership.
   * Based on the review and reflection, consider **adaptive management**.

**“This is a time for great opportunity for partnership in Nepal.”**

**DISCUSSION NOTES**

**Donors**

**What do you appreciate about the groups you work with?**

* Implementors have unique ability to deliver quality programming, with local knowledge and ability to further tap into local knowledge, civil society and government.
* They have high level of technical expertise that can help in the countries.

**What do you need from them?**

* Donors needs results, impact and successes.
* Honest feedback on USAID’s adaptive program management so that it feeds into management as partners and inform what can be done differently.
* More time on design phase so that more time can be spent to collaborate, complement and sequence other stakeholders including government. Design should also be based on consultations with stakeholders and refine the program design.
* ToC takes time, mid-term evaluation etc. can be refined and can be done regularly like yearly.

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

**What do you appreciate about the donors?**

* Donors have shared values with the key stakeholders in the country.
* Theory of change is aligned with the goals and objectives of the project.
* Donor’s strategy to support GoN’s strategy.
* Helps address needs of the communities.
* Flexible in adaptive management.
* Treats implementing partners as partners\*.
* They play a facilitating role in getting technical, expertise and networking of key stakeholders.
* Opportunities for capacity upgradation.

**What do you need for having a successfully program?**

* Financial resources
* Timely approval process
* Flexibility
* More engagement in project implementation.
* Uniformity in what to measure.
* Highlight stories/data in websites/social media/publication.
* Guide/support in understanding target audiences better and what do they value?
* Regular review meetings and technical support.

**RECOOMENDATIONS**

**International Stakeholders –** Internal staffs and Partners

1. Develop standard resilience model aligned with ToC. Clarify what does resilience mean and what role does each player play?
2. Train staffs and partners to develop common understanding, create project ownership, create culture of learning, TOTs.
3. Link community/groups with agri-market system, agrovets, cooperatives, dealers, local government etc.
4. Develop and use standard project messaging and materials, use of social media, technologies, tools etc. to update skills and technologies.
5. Training/workshop/exposure visit to update knowledge and skills about resilience.
6. Develop capacity to joint develop program by implementers and donors. Streamline the DFSA process based on adaptive learning changes in design process, M&E timeline, ToC, approval process (PREP).
7. Internal capacity building in mainstreaming DRR and resilience.

**External –** Government, Private sectors

1. Understanding context (landscape of vulnerability), systems, approach and how shocks and stresses interact with the system. Understand better who benefits, who remains, who are vulnerable and outside of the interventions.
2. Work with external actors from the very beginning so that they are engaged in the process aligned in their thinking and be ready to adopt policies when needed. Bringing assets of all stakeholders and they can start sequencing and layering.
3. Sequencing, layering and integration of interventions between different existing service providers (government, private sector, civil societies).
4. Participatory method (social inclusion) that promote engagement, accurate problem identification, effective solutions. Clarify “what’s in for them” to all partners.
5. Communities are our “customers”. Ensuring their inputs, their experiences, knowledge and vision for change is critical for success.
6. Measuring change
7. Meaningful review and reflection based on the measurement.
8. Conducting performance management on the intervention.