

GLOF Awareness Report
(Punakha & Wangdiphodrang, 21st April – 2nd May 2010)

As part of Output 3.3 under the “Glacial Lake Outburst Floods in Punakha-Wangdue and Chamkhar Valleys” supported by the LDC Fund through UNDP/GEF, the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) in coordination with the Department of Energy and the Department of Geology and Mines under the Ministry of Economic Affairs conducted awareness programme on GIOF for communities along ‘Punatshang Chhu’ under Punakha and Wangdiphodrang Dzongkhags that are vulnerable to the risk of GLOF.

The profile of the GLOF awareness programmes are as follows: Overview of Disaster Management in Bhutan;

1. Existing Early Warning System and the up-coming plan of Automated Early Warning System by Department of Energy;
2. Mitigation work at Thorthormi Lake by Department of Geology and Mines; and
3. Red Zones Areas and Evacuation sites along ‘Punakhatshang Chhu’ in Punakha and Wangdi Dzongkhags by DDM.

Further, the team also carried out the following activities:

1. Handed over the points of Red Zone Areas and Evacuation sites to the Punakha and Wangdi Dzongkhag Administrations; and
2. Distributed Mobile vouchers to the community focal person.

A copy of the presentations is attached.

Methodology

The team made power point presentation in Dzongkhags, Schools, and institutes wherever there is an electricity line. In the communities where there is no provision to connect computer and LDC projector, we used EWS Charts and Hard copies of Maps for presentation. At the end of every presentation, we had question and answer session. (Queries and suggestions by participants are attached as annexure). We had two sessions for every day. Morning session began from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and the afternoon session started from 2:30pm till 5Pm in the evening. Refreshment was served at the end of the programme. Representatives from Dzongkhags accompanied the team during our awareness programme.

The records of the awareness programme for the whole duration are as follows:

Day I (21st April 2010)

The team left for Punakha at 9 am and reached Punakha at 12:30 Pm. We had first awareness programme session with the Dzongkhag officials and the regional heads including Police, RSTA, and Bhutan Telecom in Dzongkhag DYT hall. The awareness programme was chaired by Dasho Dzongda.

Vouchers worth of Nu 300 was given to two 'Drangsang Lopens' who are disaster focal persons on behalf of the Punakha Dratshang.

We gave 120 numbers of vouchers worth of Nu 12,000/- to the Dzongkhag Environment Officer for further distribution to the focal person of eight communities in the Punakha Dzongkhag.

Day II (22nd April, 2010)

The team went to Punakha Higher Secondary school and presentation for its staff and students on GLOF awareness. The team was accompanied by two Dzongkhag representatives who gave introductory speech before our presentation. We distributed voucher worth of Nu 300 to the Principal of the School who is the Disaster focal person.

In the afternoon, we went to Khuruthang Vocational Training Institute to do the same presentation for the Staff, Student and the public of Khuruthang Town. Vouchers worth of Nu. 300 each was handed over to the two community focal person.

Day III (23rd April 2010)

We went to Changyeul, Lekithang and nearby community. Oral presentation was made following a brief introduction from Dzongkhag Election officer. Vouchers were distributed to focal person of Lekithang and Changyeul villages. In the afternoon we went to Samdingkhag.

Day IV (24th April 2010)

The team walked from Samdingkhag to Wolathang and met with the local community, teachers and students of Wolathang Community Primary School. Apart from the presentation, brief discussion on school disaster management planning was also carried out. At the end of the meeting the focal persons were distributed vouchers.

Day V (25th April 2010)

In the morning we walked back to Samdingkhag. In the afternoon we had meeting with the communities of Samdingkhag and nearby places. Vouchers worth of Nu.300 was distributed to the focal person.

Day VI (26th April 2010)

On the morning of 26th April, 2010 we moved toward Wangdi Dzongkhag where we had appointment with Dasho Dzongda and other Sector heads. Prior to the presentation the team was briefed by the Dasho Dzongda. After the briefing, we started our usual presentation in the DYT hall which was chaired by the Dasho Dzongrab. Different sector heads and other officials from Dzongkhag administration attended the meeting. At the end of the meeting, we had questions and answer session followed by tea and snack session. Remaining recharge Vouchers for community focal person (Nu 1500 for next 10 months for each focal person) was handed over to Dzongkhag focal person. 90 Vouchers worth of Nu 9000 was distributed to 6 community Disaster focal persons of Wandiphodrang Dzongkhag.

In the afternoon we met with the staff and trainees of Samthang Vocational Training Institute in Samthang VTI Hall. We made the presentation and followed by questions and answer session and refreshment.

Day VII (27th April, 2010)

The team met with the Teachers and Students of Bajo Higher Secondary School and representatives from Geog Administration in the morning sessions. The same program done for the people of Bajothanju village in the evening. The Geog Administration Officer had also participated the awareness programme. Recharge Vouchers were also distributed to two community focal persons.

Day VIII (28th April, 2010)

The team conducted the awareness programme for officials from the regional workshops and local communities of Hesothangkhag. In the afternoon we meet with the officials from the Basachu Hydro project Authority and Punatshangchu Hydro project Authority at the DYT hall in Wangdi Dzong.

Day IX (29th April, 2010)

We started our journey at around 7a.m. in the morning as we had to travel more than 30 km to reach at Kamichu. We gave the oral presentation on GLOF awareness to the Kamichu community at Gup's Office. Daga Gup also attended the awareness programme. We moved back towards Rurichu where the team met with Rurichu and nearby communities and did the same awareness programme. At around 5 pm we moved back towards Wangdi.

Day X (30th April, 2010)

We traveled from Wangdi to Hesothangkha and from Hesothangkha we walked to Changchey. After our awareness programme we walked back to Hesothangkha and drove back to Wangdi.

Day XI (1st May, 2010)

The team felt the need for awareness in Tsekha, Meldagang, Gubji and Tshokhana which were inadvertently not included in our tour program schedule. On 1st May 2010 morning we met with the communities of Tsekha, Gubji and Meldagang and representatives from Geog administration in Tsekha. Since these places did not have the Community Disaster Focal Person, we nominated two focal persons who would be provided with Mobile with Sim card and recharge vouchers later.

In the afternoon session the team met with the people of Tshokhana and the Geog Administration Officer. Tshokhana, till then, did not have Disaster focal person. The team nominated one focal person and handed over the mobile phone with Sim card and vouchers. Day XII (2nd May, 2010)

Wangdi to Thimphu

Team members:

1. Mr. Karma Chopel (Specialist), DoE
2. Mr. Sangay Tenzin (Dy. Engineer), DoE
3. Mr. K.S. Ghalley (Sr. Geologist), DGM
4. Mr. Jigme Chogyel (Asst. Program Officer), DDM
5. Mr. Keshap Moktan (Asst. Program Officer), DDM
6. Two representatives each from Punakha and Wangdue Dzongkhag Administration accompanied the team during the GLOF Awareness Programme.