



Paro Dzongkhag Simulation – Process and Lessons



1. Background

- Paro – pilot district for ECHO-Save consecutive actions
 - Community-based DRM Planning process
 - Paro DM Planning team training; Risk Assessment; Awareness programs
 - Formulation and endorsement of the Paro Dzongkhag DM and Contingency Plan 2016
 - Dzongkhag and Gewog Response Mechanisms (as per ICS – Incident Management Teams; Community groups; Reporting Procedures)
 - Simulation exercise



2. Simulation objectives and design

- **Objectives**

- To test and refine the disaster management plan and procedures (response, communication and coordination mechanism (ICS))
- Preparedness level of decision makers and duty bearers responsible for disaster/emergency management
- Demonstrative - Part of learning and building capacities

- Mix of Table-top and actual drill
 - Table-top for DDMC and GDMC (Incident Management Team) members
 - Drill in one school, and one Gewog
- Each actor played their designated role as per Dzongkhag/ Gewog DM Plan and ICS
- Activation of first responders – RBP (fire services); Dzongkhag Hospital
- Scenario is moved forward by interjects to test preparedness procedures and capacities
- Debrief and lessons learned session

3. Scenario and Interjects

- A M6.7 earthquake, with its epicenter somewhere between Thimphu and Paro, with a shallow depth of 7 kms occurs at (13 June 2018; 9:30 a.m.). Tremors are felt across the country.
- Thimphu, Paro, Haa and parts of Chukhha are the worst affected. Buildings have collapsed, with vulnerable traditional houses suffering some of the worst damage.
- Roads have been badly damaged by the earthquake and massive landslides have buried roads in multiple locations. Communication and power lines, especially in the affected Dzongkhags are disrupted with several towers damaged.

Example of Individual Scenarios/ Interjects

10:10 A.M. (2)

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- Information is received from Wangchang Gewog:
 - “Many houses severely damaged, 14 people injured, 4 people dead;
 - Fire outbreak in the BOD near the Gewog office and spreading rapidly;
 - - Old NIE bridge collapsed ”
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**Interject 2 – Wangchang Gup; DDMC; RBP (fire); Hospital
Facilitator – Tshering Penjor**

- Interjects were designed to test:
 - Readiness of the DDMC at Dzongkhag level and GDMCs at Gewog level
 - Readiness of the Dzongkhag and Gewog IMTs
 - Reporting and communication mechanisms as per the ICS
 - Knowledge on procedures, mandates, authority as per the DM Act and rules and regulations
 - Linkages within Dzongkhag, with other sectors/ agencies
 - Overall preparedness and capacities for response and relief

4. Lessons

What Went Well

- 1. Planning and facilitation team
- 2. Linkage with Police (human resource, communication, search and rescue)
- 3. Police and IC knew what they were supposed to do
- 4. Seriousness of IC and also of the other actors
- 5. Decision-making was swift and decisive
- 6. Reporting (lateral and vertical)
- 7. Willingness to Learn and good cooperation

Where can we Improve

- 1. Communication and transportation (road blocks, traffic congestion, alternate communications)
- 2. Rapid Assessment – Standard reporting formats
- 3. Information collection, management and analysis – EoC and field teams; situation documentation and analysis; Incident Action Plan
- 4. Disaster declaration
- 5. Linkage with other sectors and regional actors
- 6. Clarity on roles and responsibilities as per ICS
- 7. Importance of response agencies (police, hospital, school)
- 8. Formation and training of community based SAR and first aid teams

- 9. Hospital – insufficient beds in the ER; triage system; surge capacities (2 RRTS, staff call back procedures); transportation difficulties (3 ambulances); crowd management
- 10. School – Linkage with the community (especially for SAR); Child-release policy; few teachers stressed; importance of carrying out regular drills; traffic control
- 11. Police - 2 fire trucks (one old); Capacities (manpower, equipment); willingness to provide capacity building on fire safety
- 12. Gewogs – Communication difficulties; Putting the GDMP into action; Realization of the importance for community level preparedness; Mainstreaming DRM; Importance of drills
- 13. Overall – Being thorough with the ICS and the Paro DM and Contingency Plan procedures – BY ALL ACTORS

5. Taking the lessons forward

- Thimphu city simulation exercise – November 2017
 - Realistic scenarios
 - Better planning
 - More stakeholders (DDM, DGM, Thromde, RBP, Hospital, Education, 7 Wards, MoIC, Bhutan Telecom, Tashi Cell, MoWHS – DoR, DES, Human Settlement)