

**Government of Nepal**

**Ministry Of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC)**

**Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas (ASHA) Project**

**LOCAL ADAPTATION PLAN FOR ACTION (LAPA) REFRESH PROCEDURE**

1. **Background**

Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas (ASHA) Project is being undertaken by Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) with the financial support of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The total budget of ASHA is estimated at USD 37.6 million, including IFAD PBAS USD 10 million, IFAD ASAP USD 15 million, GoN USD 6.6 million, and USD 6 million in kind beneficiary contribution. The project is being implemented in six districts of Mid-Western Development Region (Kalikot, Dailekh, Salyan, Jajarkot, Rukum and Rolpa) between 2015 and 2021. MoFSC is the Executing Agency with the overall project implementation responsibility. Department of Agriculture and Department of Livestock Service Development, District Forest Office and District Soil Conservation Office are the implementing partners. ASHA aims to improve the livelihood and resilience of smallholders in hilly areas of Nepal by developing capacity to tackle the consequences of climate change. The project has two main technical components including third component as project coordination and management.

Component one refers to strengthen framework for local-level climate adaptation with the objectives of building the capacity of participating institutions for inclusive, scalable, climate change (CC) adaptation within the most climate vulnerable communities in Nepal, in addition to the preparation of enhanced LAPAs. Geographic Information System (GIS) based sub-watershed approach for vulnerability and adaptation assessment with upstream and downstream linkages and participatory scenario development (PSD) are the two key tools, piloted in Salyan and Dailekh in this year. With harnessing lessons from the pilot districts these tools are scaling up into all project districts for enhancing LAPA preparation process and for better addressing the multi-dimensional risks associated with climate vulnerability.

Component two refers to improve climate resilience of vulnerable smallholders with the objectives of climate informed and gender sensitive natural resource management and climate resilient agricultural and forestry practices and technologies implemented at household and community levels on the basis of participatory LAPAs prepared and eligible under IFAD and ASAP investment.

Different line agencies have prepared former VDC level LAPAs in ASHA working districts. These LAPAs have insufficient information on HHs vulnerability ranking, unspecified adaptation options and non-localized intervention sites. Scientific/ spatial information that supplement local perceptions are missing in existing LAPAs. The current state restructuring process now adds challenges to synthesize and integrated LAPAs into Rural Municipality/ Municipality level. In this regard, there is an urgent need of refreshing LAPAs for its enhancement.

1. **Objectives**

The major objective of developing the manual is to enhance the existing LAPAs prepared by various line agencies. However, the manual is developed to meet some specific objectives that are mentioned below.

* Identify/re-identify and rank/re-rank vulnerable HHs
* Update of relevant adaptation options
* Prioritization of adaptation options (considering key performance indicators of ASHA if not well addressed in existing LAPA)
* Incorporation of GIS information in supplementing local perception based adaptation options and interventions prioritization with upstream and downstream inter-linkage.

1. **Scope of Work**

The scopes of LAPA refreshing procedure are:

* Identification and ranking of vulnerable HHs
* Ranking of vulnerable settlements
* Update and prioritization of adaptation options
* Integration of GIS information

1. **Methodology**

The following methodology should be adopted to meet the objectives of the manual.

* 1. **Desk Review** 
     1. **LAPA Review**

Existing LAPAs should be reviewed thoroughly in the desk. The following criteria should be specifically considered during desk review.

* Vulnerability categories of HHs
* Settlement level vulnerability
* Major climate related hazards
* Prioritized adaptation options
* Prioritized adaptation activities completed by other agencies
* Location/site of adaptation interventions

1. **Integration of GIS Information**

GIS information should be used for supplementing information on selection and prioritization of adaptation options. Geospatial team will conduct field visit and collect geo-spatial data, process it and produce readable maps before field visit of vulnerability identification and ranking team. Such data maps should produce the clear information on the below mentioned points.

* Decadal Analysis of Land Use and Land Cover
* Hazard Analysis for Landslides, Soil Erosion and Forest fires (Hazard mapping)
* Land Adjustment Maps and information
* GPS points of each households as far as practicable

The geo-spatial team/ LAPA team will also take written permission letter from ward level local body for refreshing LAPA.

1. **Field Visit preparation**

Taking the information from LAPA review and spatial data outputs field visit should be organized. Required tools like checklists and other relevant participatory tools, instruments (camera, GPS etc.) stationeries etc. should be carried by the visitor.

* 1. **Field visit**

The desk review work should be followed by immediate field visit. Tools and techniques that are described below should be used to identify and rank HHs and settlements, add and prioritize adaptation options in line to key performance indicators of the ASHA project.

* + 1. **Identification and ranking of vulnerable HHs**
* One day settlement level interaction workshop will be conducted in each settlement for HHs level vulnerability ranking.
* One individual participant from each HHs should be involved. In case of unavailability, key informants of that settlements or reference household member should be considered.
* HHs Vulnerability Ranking checklists based on exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity parameters **(Annex 1)** will be used for identification and ranking.
* Update adaptation options that are already in existing LAPA.
* Facilitate to prioritize identified adaptation options in line with ASHA’s Key performance indicators.
* Spatial information achieved from the spatial unit need to be integrated to link upstream and downstream vulnerability parallel during the settlement and ward level consultation process.

**6.1.2 Identification and ranking of vulnerable settlements**

* Two days ward level interaction workshops will be done in each wards for identification of vulnerable settlements and their ranking.
* The participants of ward level workshops should be representatives from settlements and ward level stakeholders.
* Those prioritized adaptation options will be briefed in the ward level workshop for validation/ approval.

1. **Write Up**

Considering all the above guidelines, the LAPA should be refreshed into the form of Report. The refreshed LAPA will be approved (endorsed) by local level body and recommends for further implementation.