

# Enhancing capacity for communicating forecasts & early warning in Nepal

## Background

In April-20, the Government of Nepal, under the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Executive Council Meeting chaired by the Prime Minister made an urgent request to support the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) in improving capacity and collaboration for communication of forecasts and risk prior to onset of the forthcoming monsoon season in mid-June. This was deemed particularly important in light of the COVID-19 pandemic which has the potential to exacerbate impacts of extreme weather during the monsoon season.



## Approach

Noting the travel restrictions linked to COVID-19, the ARRCC Met Office Partnership (MOP) team worked closely with DHM and NDRRMA to assess and identify their needs prior to designing an innovative online training programme to deliver the desired objectives for both organisations. Representatives from the media sector were also included who have a vital role in ensuring early warnings are communicated down to community level.

The course, which commenced in May 2020, has been delivered over a five-

week period using a blended learning approach with a combination of:

1. a series of tailored training modules for the target organisations enabling participants to complete in and around their work commitments;
2. an interactive online forum for participants to discuss learning, ask questions and provide feedback; and
3. group “classroom” sessions led remotely by the Met Office at the beginning and end of each week to ensure common understanding of expectations and to provide feedback to ensure continuous improvement to this new approach over the duration of the course.

## Achievements

The training is currently ongoing and has been well received to date with over 30 participants including forecasters and hydrologists from DHM, disaster risk managers from NDRRMA and representatives from the media sector (television and radio).

This training will also support and inform future capacity building for co-production of IBF with DHM & NDRRMA planned expected later in the year.

## Next steps

The forum will remain live throughout the Monsoon season to gather data from participants. This will enable support to be provided and improvements to be made during the Monsoon season.

The ARRCC MOP team will work closely with DHM to help ensure transferability of learning to other staff and to provide support to test “operationalisation” of new skills to selected hazards and sectors.

Learning from the approach will be used to inform development of other training and capacity building activities planned under the ARRCC MOP – which is particularly important in light of current COVID-19 restrictions.

