

UNFCCC's Award Winning Activity

Community-Based Flood Early Warning System: Reaching the Most Vulnerable



A community based flood early warning system (CBFEWS) is a system of tools and plans to detect and respond to flood risks by the communities. The CBFEWS, developed by ICIMOD, is based on a simple instrument installed upstream to detect flood automatically, and provides the real time flood warning to the vulnerable communities downstream. In Nepal, CBFEWS is jointly implemented by the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology / Community Based Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Risk Reduction Project and ICIMOD.



Community Based Flood Early Warning System in Ratu River, Koshi Basin

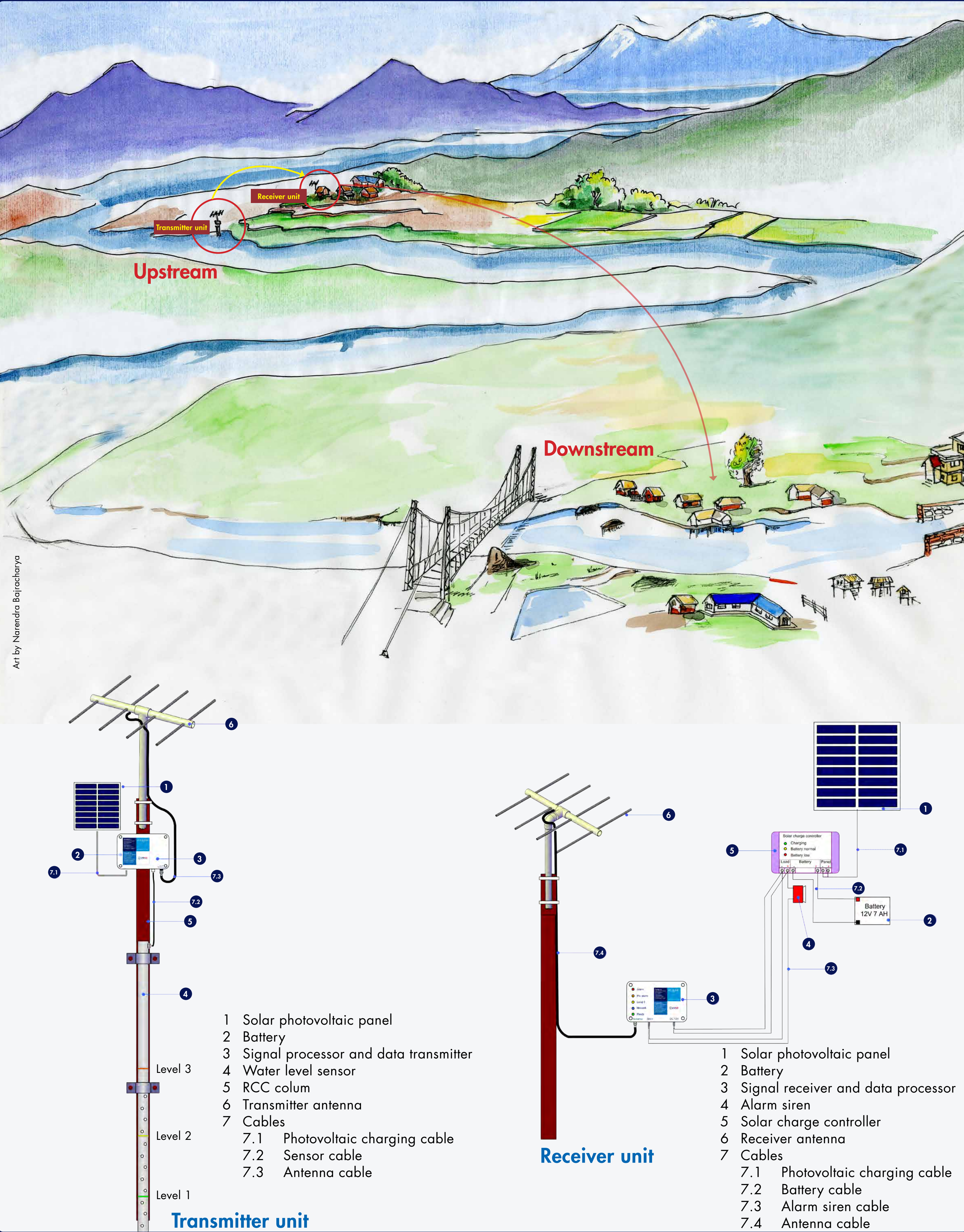


Four Elements of CBFEWS: More than just a prediction...



Source: Based on UNISDR, 2006, <http://www.unisdr.org/2006/ppew/whats-ew/basics-ew.htm>

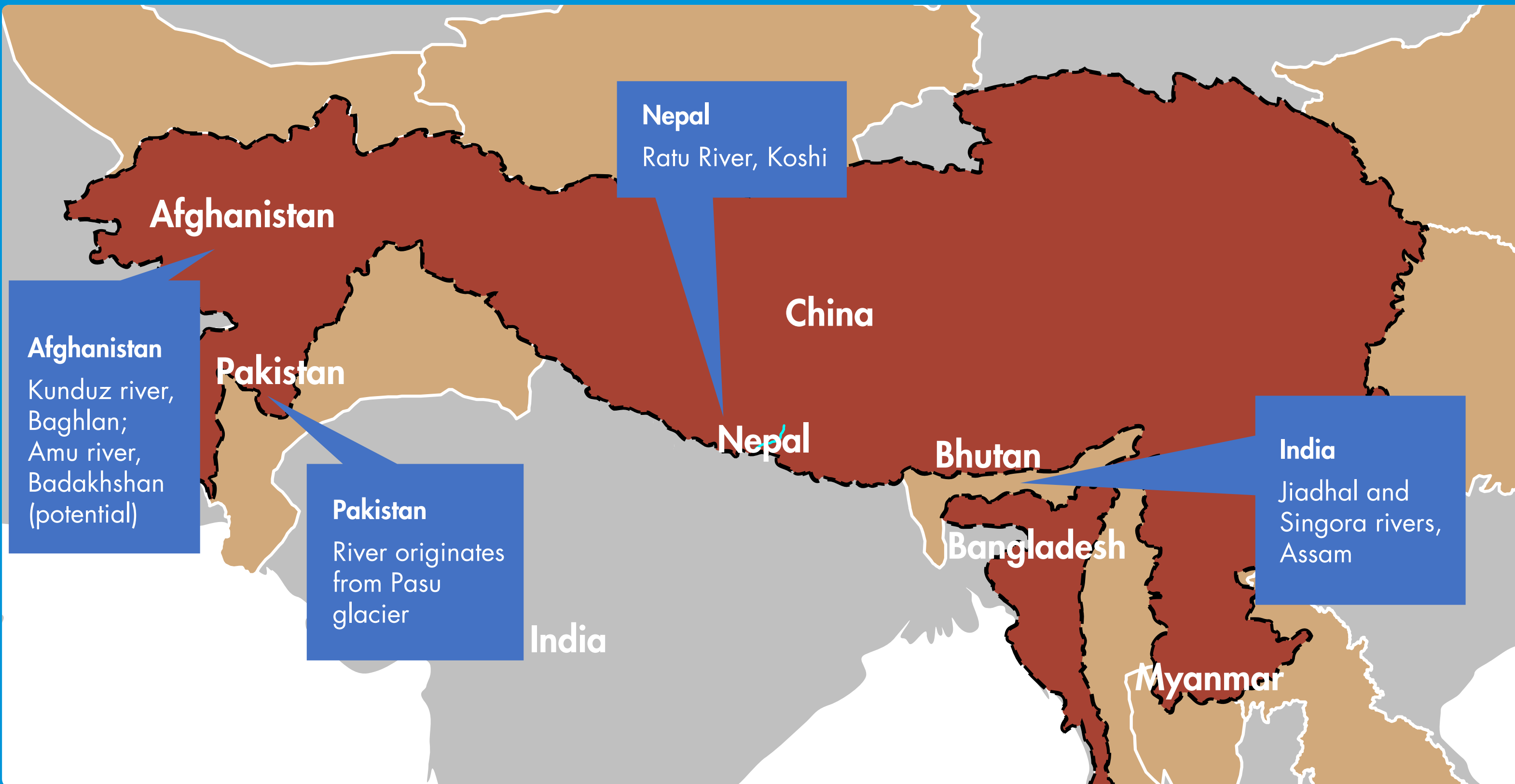
System Schematics



Impact on the ground

With over 1,000 households, Sarpallo VDC has a close-knit community where a large number of women bear responsibility for disaster preparedness. A heavy flood reached Sarpallo in July 2016, but the early warning system enabled all the villagers to relocate to higher ground with their children, elderly, important documents, and livestock. The success of the flood information system has made quite an impact for some local communities. For them, the system has become a source of relief. "Floods have become part of our lives and most female residents have gained much knowledge on how to be better prepared for the flood disasters through this project," said a 30-year old local woman farmer who has first-hand experience guiding villagers to rescue.

CBFEWS in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH)



CBFEWS activity is supported by the governments of Norway and Sweden in India under the Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme; the Australian government through the Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio for South Asia in Nepal under the Koshi Basin Programme and Indus Basin Initiative; and the US Government through USAID and ICIMOD's core donors in Afghanistan.