



# SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (NCDRR)

Kathmandu, Nepal  
June 29-30, 2023



## CONFERENCE PROCEEDING

Organized by: Ministry of Home Affairs

In Partnership with: DPNepal & USAID



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## Executive Summary

*The Second NCDRR, held on 29–30 June 2023 at Hyatt Place, Kathmandu, gathered 319 participants from every sphere of Nepali society—federal, provincial and local governments; security forces; development partners; the private sector; civil society; academia; media; and representatives of persons with disabilities—to assess Nepal’s progress on the Sendai Framework and shape a collective path “Towards a Disaster-Resilient Nepal.” Led by the Ministry of Home Affairs with DPNet-Nepal and USAID’s Tayar Nepal, the conference wove twenty research papers and two mayors’ panels into four tightly-sequenced technical themes: understanding risk, strengthening governance, investing for resilience, and enhancing preparedness, response and “build-back-better.”*

*Presentations charted Nepal’s expanding risk-mapping, early-warning networks and post-earthquake reconstruction while exposing gaps in fire safety, urban preparedness, inclusive decision-making and sustainable road building. Debate revealed that disaster financing is still ad hoc; business-continuity planning remains patchy among micro, small and medium enterprises; and Indigenous knowledge, though valued, is rarely mainstreamed. Encouragingly, home-grown technologies—low-cost flood sirens, landslide sensors, agro-meteorological stations and a Nepali thermographic camera exported to Japan—proved that local innovation can address local hazards affordably. Municipal leaders shared practical steps: relocating settlements from riverbanks, enforcing the National Building Code for small houses and allocating dedicated disaster funds. Women’s and disability networks pressed for early-warning messages in accessible formats, gender-neutral shelters and the routine inclusion of GEDSI indicators in every policy and drill.*

*Across the two days the gathering forged a consensus on what must happen next. First, risk-informed development budgeting and a national disaster-risk-financing facility should anchor future investments, with compulsory insurance incentives for households and firms. Second, the still-draft GEDSI policy must be finalised and operationalised so that every stage of the disaster cycle assessment, planning, simulation, relief and recovery actively involves and benefits women, non-binary individuals and persons with disabilities. Third, scientific and Indigenous data must feed a publicly accessible multi-hazard portal to guide planners and journalists alike, while annual simulation exercises endorsed by a new national manual test readiness down to ward level. Finally, the National Platform for DRR secretariat, will monitor uptake of these recommendations ensuring that lessons migrate from conference halls to communities. The NCDRR thus closed with renewed political will, a shared action agenda and the conviction that Nepal can indeed convert past tragedies into a safer, more adaptive future provided all actors keep working in concert, act early and leave no one behind.*



## Acknowledgment

It gives me great pleasure to present the conference proceedings of the 'Second National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (NCDRR).' This conference, led by the Ministry of Home Affairs in partnership with DPNet-Nepal and USAID aimed to enhance Nepal's ability to tackle the diverse range of disasters it faces by promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders involved in DRR.



The technical sessions of the conference focused on the four priority themes of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and provided a platform for sharing knowledge and expertise. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Dinesh Bhattarai, Secretary of MoHA, and Mr. Mahadev Panth, Joint Secretary, of MoHA for their exceptional leadership and guidance. I am grateful to the various government agencies, including the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), Nepal Army, Nepal Police, and Armed Police Force, Nepal for their active participation. I also want to acknowledge the valuable engagement of the private sector, development partners, civil society organizations, I/NGOs, academia, and the media during the event. I would like to sincerely thank all the presenters who delivered twenty papers, showcasing their work on various aspects of DRR. I acknowledge the commitment made by the high-level government representatives to incorporate the recommendations as policy feedback, ensuring the integration of lessons learned from DRR into future actions.

I extend profound gratitude to Dr. Meen Bahadur Poudyal Chhetri for his outstanding professionalism and unwavering efforts in writing the conference proceedings, and to Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Dr. Raju Thapa, Mr. Kshitiz Paudel, Mr. Nishan Kumar Aryal, and all others who contributed to the conference proceedings and also to all who dedicated their time, expertise, and efforts to make the NCDRR a grand success. I firmly believe that this document will serve as an important resource material for relevant agencies and individuals to explore ways to address potential hazards in our country.

Tulsi Prasad Dahal

Under Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

## Forewords

The Second National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (NCDRR) was organized under the leadership of the Ministry of Home Affairs in partnership with DPNet and USAID on 29-30 June 2023 at Kathmandu, Nepal. NCDRR has become a common platform for stakeholders from diverse sectors and various structural levels to deliberate and address critical issues related to DRR.



With overwhelming support from various institutions and individuals, the conference was a great success with the in-person participation of more than 319 individuals from various institutions such as the Government of Nepal, Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, Nepal, municipalities, local government, donor agencies, I/NGOs, CSOs, private organizations, research institutes, academics, and researchers.

I would like to express my kind gratitude to the Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Dinesh Bhattarai, Joint Secretary Mr. Mahadev Panth and Under Secretary Mr. Tulsi Prasad Dahal for making this conference a grand success. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to USAID's Tayar Nepal for providing additional financial support to make the conference possible. I highly praise and appreciate the high professionalism and technical standards of the conference proceedings led by Dr. Meen B. Poudyal Chhetri. I extend my thanks to Dr. Raju Thapa, Mr. Kshitiz Paudel, and Mr. Nishan Kumar Aryal for their invaluable assistance in supporting Dr. Chhetri throughout the report-writing process. Similarly, I must thank various private sectors, development partners, civil society organizations, I/NGOs, academia, the media, and Dr. Raju Thapa along with the whole DPNet-Nepal family and conference participants.

Lastly, I would like to request to visit <https://dpnet.org.np/ncdrr2> for details of the conference. I hope that all concerned stakeholders will help DPNet-Nepal organize NCDRR on an annual basis to share our achievements and find a way forward.

Thank you!

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa

Chairperson, DPNet-Nepal

## Convener's Message

It is with deep gratitude, I reflect on the Second NCDRR, held on 29–30 June 2023 in Kathmandu under the leadership of the Ministry of Home Affairs and in partnership with DPNep and USAID. As Convener and Vice Chairperson of DPNep-Nepal, I was inspired by the commitment, candour and creativity that more than 300 participants from federal ministries to municipal leaders, from civil-society champions to private-sector innovators, from academia, media and the security forces to persons with disabilities brought to this common platform.

Over two intensive days we examined the Sendai Framework's four priorities through focused technical sessions on risk understanding, governance, investment and preparedness, complemented by a vibrant marketplace of ideas and technologies. Insights ranged from home-grown early-warning systems and inclusive cash programming to the pivotal role of gender equality, disability and social inclusion in every stage of the disaster cycle. Municipal mayors reminded us that strong local institutions and risk-sensitive planning turn policy into protection. Private-sector leaders showed that resilient businesses are essential to resilient communities. Researchers and journalists highlighted the power of evidence and trusted information to move hearts, minds and budgets. The conference also launched Nepal's Voluntary National Report for the Sendai Mid-Term Review an honest stock-take that recognises our progress while highlighting gaps in fire safety, urban preparedness, climate-induced hazards and multihazard early-warning coverage. Participants endorsed clear, actionable recommendations: scale up disaster financing and insurance; retrofit vulnerable schools and health posts; institutionalise simulation exercises; mainstream GEDSI across all instruments; and nurture indigenous knowledge alongside cutting-edge science.

Our task now is to convert these commitments into measurable results. DPNep-Nepal, through the National Platform for DRR Secretariat, will steward an inclusive monitoring mechanism so that the lessons documented in these proceedings guide budgets, bylaws and behaviour throughout Nepal's federal, provincial and local spheres. We will foster partnerships that match ideas with investment, expertise with authority and community priorities with national strategy. I thank the Ministry of Home Affairs, NDRRMA, USAID's Tayar Nepal, our dedicated volunteers and every delegate who helped to make this conference grand success. Your energy affirms that a safer, adaptive and prosperous Nepal is within reach provided we act together, act early and leave no one behind. Let this conference be the catalyst for a decade of accelerated resilience-building that truly embodies our collective vision: "Towards a Disaster-Resilient Nepal."

Dr. Raju Thapa

Vice Chairperson, DPNep-Nepal

Convener, Second NCDRR

## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADCCN	Association of District Coordination Committees of Nepal
APF	Armed Police Force
BBB	Build Back Better
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
CDES	Central Department of Environmental Science
DCC	District Coordination Committee
DEOC	District Emergency Operation Centre
DHM	Department of Hydrology and Meteorology
DMG	Department of Mines and Geology
DOF	Department of Forest
DOHS	Department of Health Service
DPNet	Disaster Preparedness Network-Nepal
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction & Management
DUDBC	Department of Urban Development and Building Construction
EWS	Early Warning System
FY	Fiscal Year
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
GIS	Geographic Information System
GoN	Government of Nepal
GPDRR	Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
INGO	International Non-Government Organization
IRA	Initial Rapid Assessment
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LDRC	Local Disaster Relief Committee
LGOA	Local Government Operation Act
MoALD	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development



MoCIT	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
MoEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoFAGA	Ministry Federal Affairs and General Administration
MoFE	Ministry of Forest and Environment
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population
MoICS	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supplies
MoUD	Ministry of Urban Development
MoWCSC	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen
MoWS	Ministry of Water Supply
MuAN	Municipal Association of Nepal
NA	Nepal Army
NARMIN	National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal
NAST	Nepal Academy of Science and Technology
NBC	National Building Code
NDRRMA	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
NDRRMA	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
NEOC	National Emergency Operating Centre
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NP	Nepal Police
NPDRR	National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
NRA	National Reconstruction Authority
NRCS	Nepal Red Cross Society
NRs.	Nepalese Rupees
PWDs	Person(s)with disabilities
RSLUP	Risk Sensitive Land Use Planning
SAR	Search and Rescue
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TU	Tribhuvan University
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization

## Preparation of this Document

This is the proceedings of the “Second NCDRR” held in The Hyatt Place Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal on 29-30 June 2023. This conference was led by the Ministry of Home Affairs in partnership with DPNet-Nepal and in support of USAID's Tayar Nepal. This document was written by Dr. Meen B. Poudyal Chhetri with the support of Dr. Raju Thapa, Mr. Kshitiz Paudel and Mr. Nishan Kumar Aryal. The contributed papers for the workshop are reproduced as submitted by the authors as well as the material included in their respective annexes.

The aim of this document is to make a substantial contribution to identifying the current state of disaster management systems in Nepal, including identifying gaps, shortcomings, and a pathway towards a common/shared vision, information base, and analysis platform. Such a system will enable DRR stakeholders to be better informed and prepared, ultimately aiding in the prevention of future disaster losses.

## Background

Nepal, with its unique geographical and topographical features, faces considerable challenges due to high seismic activity, making it highly susceptible to disasters. The nation grapples with frequent floods, landslides, earthquakes, and avalanches, causing severe social, economic, and environmental repercussions. While commendable progress has been made in formulating and implementing disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies, there remains a need for more effective monitoring and execution of DRR activities.

The predominantly agrarian economy of Nepal has been disrupted by factors like population growth, fertile topsoil erosion, deforestation, and environmental degradation, necessitating alternative livelihood options and prompting migration to the Tarai region and urban centers. However, this unplanned urbanization has resulted in haphazard development and insufficient infrastructure, exacerbating the vulnerabilities of the less privileged population. Settlements in flood and landslide-prone areas have become a necessity for those without access to better options, further increasing their exposure to climate-related hazards.

The effects of climate change and global warming have further heightened the vulnerability of these regions to disasters. The increasing frequency and intensity of floods, landslides, and other climate-related events pose significant risks to lives and livelihoods, particularly affecting the agriculture and tourism sectors, which are essential to Nepal's economy.

Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach. Sustainable land management practices like terracing, reforestation, and soil conservation should be promoted to mitigate topsoil erosion and environmental degradation. Encouraging sustainable farming techniques and diversification of livelihoods can reduce reliance on traditional agriculture and increase resilience to climate change. Comprehensive urban planning is vital to ensure that urban centers' development adheres to effective land use and settlement regulations, minimizing vulnerability to natural hazards and promoting safer and more sustainable urban environments.

By adopting a holistic approach that combines sustainable land management, urban planning, education, and disaster preparedness, Nepal can enhance its resilience to climate change and reduce the susceptibility of its economy to climate unpredictability.

## **The Context**

The Second NCDRR held on June 29-30, 2023, in Kathmandu, Nepal, marked an important milestone in the country's efforts towards disaster risk reduction. Building upon the positive outcomes and recommendations of the first conference held in February 2022, this event aimed to share progress, promote learning, and chart a way forward in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the second national conference was organized in partnership with DPNep Nepal and USAID's Tayar Nepal. The involvement of diverse stakeholders, including three tiers of government, development partners, civil society, private sectors, field-level practitioners, academics, researchers, and media, ensured a comprehensive and inclusive dialogue on DRR.

The conference focused on aligning its theme with the four priority areas of the SFDRR, which is the global framework for disaster risk reduction. This alignment reflects Nepal's commitment to the international agenda and its efforts to contribute to global progress in reducing disaster risks.

In line with the principles of inclusivity and effectiveness, the conference emphasized the meaningful participation of women, people with disabilities (PWDs) and vulnerable communities in DRR-related dialogues. By prioritizing their involvement, the conference aimed to ensure that the perspectives and needs of these marginalized groups are incorporated in DRR.

The event served as a platform to showcase research, share best practices, and present field-level learnings, all aimed at promoting successful disaster risk reduction and building a more disaster-resilient Nepal. By disseminating knowledge and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, the conference aimed to streamline DRR initiatives and enhance their impact across the country.



Overall, the Second NCDRR was a significant step in Nepal's ongoing efforts to reduce disaster risks. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, promoting inclusivity, and aligning with global frameworks, the conference contributed to the advancement of disaster risk reduction in the country and facilitated progress towards building a more resilient Nepal.

## **Program Design**

The Second NCDRR was held as a follow-up to the first conference that took place on February 24-25, 2022. The main objective of this event was to facilitate collaboration among different stakeholders, including government agencies, ministries, civil society organizations, and private entities. The conference aimed to enhance the understanding of the current status of vulnerability, risk, and governance in the field of DRR.

By bringing together diverse perspectives and experiences, their research findings, best practices, lessons learned, the conference sought to establish a common ground for sharing knowledge and fostering cooperation in DRR efforts. The event aimed to promote the development of cohesive plans, policies, and laws that would contribute to facilitate meaningful discussions, encourage collaboration, and strengthen the collective efforts of stakeholders in Nepal to mitigate the impact of disasters and build a more resilient future.

At the preparation phase of the national conference on Disaster Risk Reduction following steps were taken:

1. **Concept Note Development:** USAID's Tayar Nepal and DPNep Nepal collaborated to prepare a concept note for the conference which outlined the objectives, themes, and proposed sessions of the conference.
2. **Input from MoHA:** The concept note was shared with the Government of Nepal's MoHA to seek their input and suggestions. MoHA actively engaged in providing feedback and guidance to ensure the conference's alignment with the government's priorities and policies.

3. Discussions: MoHA, USAID's Tayar Nepal, and DPNet Nepal engaged in trilateral and bilateral discussions to finalize the concept note and session plan to incorporate different perspectives and expertise to shape the conference's agenda.
4. Participation of Government Agencies: MoHA reached out to various government agencies to ensure their active participation and involvement in the conference.
5. Stakeholder Engagement: DPNet-Nepal conducted discussions with a wide range of stakeholders from civil society, private organizations, and other relevant sectors to gather diverse perspectives, incorporate stakeholder inputs, and make the conference more inclusive and participatory.

The national conference organized by USAID's Tayar Nepal and grantee DPNet-Nepal, in the leadership of Government of Nepal's MoHA, had the following features:

1. Inaugural Session: This session aimed to highlight key remarks and commitments on DRR from prominent government officials and DRR stakeholders. It provided an opportunity for key stakeholders to express their support and commitment to DRR efforts.
2. Technical Sessions: These sessions were designed for the exchange of views, experiences, lessons learned, and challenges in the field of DRR. They included presentations and panel discussions where experts and practitioners shared their knowledge and insights.
3. Language Accessibility: To ensure inclusivity, the conference incorporated various measures to enhance language accessibility. This included sign language interpretation, close captioning for the hearing impaired, as well as language interpretation services between English and Nepali to cater to participants with different language preferences.
4. Report Launch: The conference provided a platform for MoHA to officially launch an initiative supported by USAID. Specifically, it involved the launch of a hardcopy version of Nepal's Voluntary National Report for the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. This report contained an assessment of Nepal's progress in achieving the targets set by the Sendai Framework.
5. Market Place: This segment aimed to showcase the work and products of various stakeholders involved in DRR. It provided an opportunity for organizations, institutions,

and individuals to exhibit their initiatives, research findings, technological advancements, and other relevant contributions to the field of disaster risk reduction.

6. Closing Session: The closing session focused on capturing the outcomes of the conference. It involved summarizing the key discussions, presentations, and outcomes from the technical sessions. Additionally, high-level participants, such as government officials and experts, shared their concluding remarks, emphasizing the significance of the conference and its outcomes.

### **Day 1: June 29, 2023**

On June 29, 2023 (Day 1) of the NCDRR, the schedule included an opening ceremony followed by two thematic areas that focused on technical presentations and a panel discussion. The attendance for Day 1 had been a total of 281 participants, including government officials, representatives from non-governmental organizations, researchers, academics, practitioners, community leaders, and individuals with expertise or interest in the field of disaster risk reduction.

The opening ceremony consisted of welcoming remarks, keynote speeches, and official inauguration of the conference. This session aimed to set the tone for the conference and highlight the importance of disaster risk reduction.

The two theme areas that followed the opening ceremony would have focused on specific topics related to disaster risk reduction. These areas might have included presentations by experts and practitioners who shared their knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned in their respective fields. The presentations could have covered a wide range of topics such as disaster preparedness, risk assessment, community resilience, early warning systems, infrastructure development, or any other relevant areas.

After the technical presentations, a panel discussion took place. This session allowed for interactive discussions among panelists and participants, enabling the exchange of diverse perspectives and insights on the theme areas discussed earlier.

## Opening Ceremony

The opening session of the national conference was attended by several dignitaries, including high-ranking government officials and representatives from various organizations. Here is a list of the notable guests who were present:

1. Mr. Dinesh Bhattarai: Secretary of the MoHA and Chief Guest of the event.
2. Mr. Dipesh Tharu: Mayor of Rajapur Municipality.
3. Mr. Ishwor Narayan Manandhar: Mayor of Bhimeshwor Municipality.
4. Ms. Sushila Shahi: Mayor of Lamkichuha Municipality.
5. Mr. Nilakantha Khanal: Deputy Mayor of Birendranagar Municipality.
6. Ms. Manakala Chaudary: Deputy Mayor of Rajapur Municipality.
7. Mr. Kedar Nath Sharma: Joint Secretary of Administration Division of MoHA.
8. Mr. Tulsi Bahadur Shrestha: Joint Secretary of Internal Management Division of MoHA.
9. Mr. Rudra Singh Tamang: Joint Secretary of NDRRMA.
10. Mr. Pratap Kumar Pathak: Former Secretary of the GoN..
11. Mr. Kedar Neupane: Former Secretary of GoN.
12. Representatives from Tulsipur Sub Metropolitan.
13. Representatives from Dullu Municipality.
14. Mr. Sanat Kumar Basnet: Former Inspector General of Armed Police Force, Nepal.
15. Mr. Thule Rai: Former Additional Inspector General of Nepal Police.
16. Mr. Hem Raj Dhakal: Vice Chair of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI).
17. Mr. Kush Kumar Joshi: Nepal Business Initiative.
18. Mr. Krishna Chandra Neupane: Director General of Association of District Coordination Committees of Nepal.
19. Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa: Chair of DPNet-Nepal.
20. Ms. Kalpana Aryal: Disaster Risk Management Specialist of USAID.
21. Ms. Tammie Harris: Chief of Party of USAID's Tayar Nepal.
22. Mr. Mahadev Panth: Joint Secretary of MoHA, Chief of Disaster and Conflict Management Division and Chair of the opening session.
23. Ms. Ranjana Rai: Section Officer of MoHA EMCEE of Opening session.



The session started by National Anthem, inducing a sense of national pride and unity among the attendees. Following that, Mr. Dinesh Bhattarai, the Chief Guest, formally inaugurated the conference by lighting a traditional lamp representing a commitment to illuminating knowledge and wisdom through the NCDRR. The guests then delivered their remarks, emphasizing the importance of the event and expressing their expectations for the success of the NCDRR.



## Welcome Remarks and Program Highlights by Mr. Tulsi Prasad Dahal, Under Secretary, MoHA

During his welcome remarks, Mr. Dahal highlighted the global involvement in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. He emphasized that 187 nations, including Nepal, participated in this framework, indicating the widespread recognition of the importance of disaster risk reduction at the international level.



Mr. Dahal further emphasized that Nepal has developed a National Strategy based on the Sendai Framework, showcasing the country's commitment to aligning its efforts with the global agenda for disaster risk reduction.

The importance of learning and sharing experiences was also emphasized by Mr. Dahal. Recognizing the complexity of disaster risk reduction, he stressed the value of exchanging knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices among stakeholders which enables countries like Nepal to benefit from the experiences of others and adapt effective strategies to their unique contexts.

The conference provided a forum for MoHA to launch an initiative undertaken with financial support from USAID: A hardcopy version of **Nepal's Voluntary National Report for the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**. The book marked a



significant milestone in Nepal's commitment to disaster risk reduction by bringing together key stakeholders and showcased the country's efforts, achievements, and recommendations for further strengthening disaster resilience in Nepal.

## Special Remarks on Opening Ceremony

### Ms. Kalpana Aryal, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, USAID

Ms. Aryal highlighted several important points related to disaster risk reduction and development cooperation in Nepal. Ms. Aryal emphasized the significance of the 2020-2025 CDCS, specifically in the areas of health and education. The CDCS serves as a framework for development cooperation, focusing on key sectors and priorities for Nepal's development. Ms. Aryal stressed the importance of localization, which involves empowering local communities and institutions in disaster risk reduction efforts. She also emphasized the need for diversifying partnerships to effectively address disaster risks. Additionally, engaging the private sector in disaster risk management was highlighted as a decisive aspect of comprehensive and sustainable approaches. Ms. Aryal highlighted that the CDCS was developed through a consultative and inclusive process, ensuring the involvement of various stakeholders. This approach aimed to reflect the diverse perspectives and needs of different groups within Nepalese society. Ms. Aryal emphasized the importance of learning from both successes and failures in achieving disaster risk reduction goals. This learning process helps refine strategies, approaches, and policies to be more effective and impactful. The importance of inclusive decision-making processes was emphasized, indicating the significance of incorporating diverse perspectives and voices. Ms. Aryal also highlighted the role of the conference in providing valuable input to the ongoing planning process related to disaster risk reduction in Nepal. Ms. Aryal encouraged the implementation and promotion of the concept of disaster insurance/financing as a means to enhance financial resilience. Additionally, she emphasized the development of disaster-related products for disaster risk management by project grantees, indicating the importance of innovative approaches to address disaster risks. Ms. Aryal expressed gratitude to the local government, MoHA, DPNet, and USAID's Tayar for organizing the program.



**Mr. Hemraj Dhakal, Vice Chair, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI)**

Mr. Dhakal emphasized that FNCCI has included DRR as a subcommittee within its organizational structure. Mr. Dhakal underscored the significance of private sector involvement in DRRM efforts. Due to FNCCI's extensive network and representation of various industries, the private sector has an important role to play in disaster risk reduction. Collaborating with the private sector can leverage resources, expertise, and innovation to strengthen resilience and response capabilities. Mr. Dhakal highlighted the impact of Nepal's diverse topography on vulnerable communities, particularly emphasizing the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in unmanaged settlements. He advocated for prioritizing managed settlements to ensure the safety and well-being of these communities in the face of disasters. Mr. Dhakal discussed the adverse effects of disasters on the agricultural sector. Recognizing the importance of agriculture in Nepal's economy and livelihoods, he emphasized the need to integrate DRR measures into agricultural practices to mitigate the impact of disasters on this sector. Mr. Dhakal expressed FNCCI's commitment to actively work on DRRM.



In the end of his remarks, Mr. Dhakal highlighted the importance of private sector engagement, the impact of topography on vulnerable communities, the adverse effects on agriculture, and FNCCI's commitment to DRRM. These points underscore the role of the private sector in building resilience and addressing the challenges posed by disasters in Nepal.

### **Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson, DPNet-Nepal**

Mr. Thapa emphasized the significance of the current conference, particularly in relation to the previous year's event and various consultation meetings. The workshop aimed to bring together experts, organizations, and stakeholders to collaborate on DRR efforts, building upon the learnings from previous events. Mr. Thapa emphasized the need for equal initiation and efforts in addressing disasters. Understanding the importance of DRR is one thing, but taking action and implementing effective measures is a different challenge. He stressed the importance of translating



awareness into concrete actions and outcomes. Mr. Thapa highlighted the necessity of developing capacity at the local level. Empowering local communities, institutions, and stakeholders is important for effective disaster risk reduction and management. He acknowledged the efforts made by DPNet in raising awareness by providing memorandums to every Prime Minister, drawing attention to the prevailing disaster scenario. Mr. Thapa recognized the establishment of the NDRRMA under the leadership of the Ministry of Home Affairs. This step was seen as a significant move towards building dedicated laws and institutions for disaster management in Nepal. Mr. Thapa stressed the importance of proper implementation of guidelines and policies related to disaster risk reduction. He emphasized the need for a collaborative approach involving all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation and enforcement. Mr. Thapa called for the translation of the slogan "Samriddha Nepal Sukhi Nepali" (Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali) into action, emphasizing the need for concrete steps and outcomes rather than mere words. Mr. Thapa also highlighted Nepal's inclusion of the term "disaster" in its constitution, showcasing the country's commitment to addressing this issue at a constitutional level. Mr. Thapa emphasized the importance of collective efforts, feedback, and suggestions in driving progress in disaster risk reduction. Collaboration, learning, and incorporating diverse perspectives are important for continuous improvement and effective implementation.

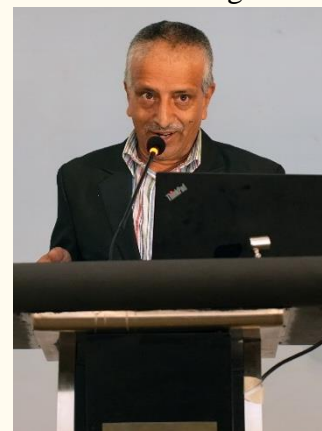
### **Mr. Rudra Singh Tamang, Joint Secretary, NDRRMA**

Mr. Tamang highlighted the significance of the program being aligned with the four pillars of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Sendai Framework provides a comprehensive framework for DRR efforts globally, and aligning with its pillars ensures that the program is in line with international best practices and standards. Mr. Tamang emphasized the importance of collaboration in understanding and taking action in the field of disaster management. Collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, organizations, experts, and communities, is important for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to DRR. Mr. Tamang announced the upcoming conduct of an international workshop through the NDRRMA. This workshop is expected to take place in either the month of Ashoj or Kartik (corresponding to the Nepali calendar) of the current year. The workshop would serve as a platform for bringing together stakeholders to discuss and incorporate a comprehensive understanding of disasters and implement effective strategies at both the national and international levels.



### **Mr. Krishna Chandra Neupane, Director General, ADCCN**

Mr. Neupane raised the need for organizations to have diversified roles in disaster management, highlighting that everyone's efforts, no matter how small, are vital during a disaster. Recognizing the collective responsibility, he stressed that individual actions and contributions can make a significant difference in mitigating and responding to disasters. Mr. Neupane raised the question of how to effectively maintain disaster levels which refers to ensuring appropriate preparedness, response, and recovery measures to minimize the impact of disasters. It reflects the importance of continuous monitoring, evaluation, and improvement of disaster management practices. Mr. Neupane highlighted the prevalence of social disasters in Nepal,





acknowledging that disasters extend beyond physical events and encompass social and community-level challenges. He also emphasized the impact of climate change on agriculture and indigenous technology, underscoring the need for comprehensive approaches that address both natural and social aspects of disasters. Mr. Neupane stressed the importance of coordination and responsibility among stakeholders involved in DRR efforts. Mr. Neupane emphasized the need to invest in resource management for effective DRR referring to the proper allocation and utilization of resources to support disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. He also highlighted the significance of implementing good management practices to enhance overall disaster resilience. Mr. Neupane expressed hope that the government would develop effective policies based on the discussions and outcomes of the conference. He looked forward to receiving proper policy feedback and guidance from the conference, indicating the importance of translating discussions into actionable policies and strategies.

**Mr. Dinesh Bhattarai, Secretary, MoHA (Chief Guest of the Opening Session of Conference)**

Mr. Dinesh Bhattarai, Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, highlighted several important points related to DRR and management: Mr. Bhattarai emphasized that the event's itinerary aligns with the four themes of the Sendai Framework. This alignment ensures that the conference discussions and activities are in line with the global framework for DRR. He also stressed the relevance of the conference in providing policy feedback and identifying a way forward in DRR efforts. Mr. Bhattarai stressed the importance of initiating efforts



to reduce human losses by understanding disaster risks which indicates the significance of proactive measures and risk-informed risk transfer approaches to minimize the impact of disasters on human lives and well-being. Mr. Bhattarai highlighted the need for effective representation and presence from all entities involved in disaster management at all stages. He emphasized the importance of coordinated presence and collaboration among stakeholders, starting from pre-disaster planning and extending to post-disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts. Mr. Bhattarai emphasized the importance of distributing relief to all areas of the country, not just easily

accessible ones which underscores the need for ensuring equitable access to resources and assistance, particularly in remote and marginalized regions.

Mr. Bhattarai called for a focus on leadership and the active engagement of all stakeholders in DRR. He stressed the importance of inclusive decision-making processes and the collective efforts of various entities involved in disaster management. Mr. Bhattarai acknowledged the ongoing efforts of the MoHA and the federal, provincial, district, and local administrations in disaster management. However, he emphasized the need to shift the focus towards building resilience. While planning and implementation may be strong, efforts to enhance resilience need to be strengthened to ensure long-term effectiveness in reducing disaster risks.

Mr. Bhattarai expressed hope that the conference would bring together all stakeholders for collaborative and collective efforts in DRR which highlights the importance of partnerships, knowledge sharing, and coordinated actions in addressing the complex challenges of disaster risk reduction.

**Mr. Mahadev Panth, Joint Secretary, MoHA (Chair of the Opening Session)**

During the closing remarks of the opening session, Mr. Mahadev Panth expressed gratitude to the distinguished speakers for their insightful contributions. He highlighted the key focus of the conference, which is aligned with the four themes of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Mr. Panth emphasized that the constitution and laws of Nepal have recognized disaster risk reduction as the responsibility of all three tiers of government which signifies the importance and commitment of the government in addressing disaster risks and promoting resilience at all levels. Furthermore, Mr. Panth stressed the important role of effective coordination among the government, civil society organizations, and the private sector. Recognizing that comprehensive and sustainable disaster risk



reduction requires collective efforts, he emphasized the importance of collaboration and partnership among these key stakeholders.

With these points, Mr. Panth concluded the opening session, setting the stage for further discussions and activities during the conference. His closing remarks reinforced the significance of the conference in addressing disaster risk reduction in Nepal, and highlighted the importance of coordination and collaboration among stakeholders for effective and sustainable outcomes.

## Technical Session

During the technical session of the conference, the focus was on four themes that align with the priority themes of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) at its midterm review phase in 2023. The goal of these sessions was to assess achievements, challenges, and lessons learned, and to exchange information and best practices through presentations and panel discussions. The technical sessions were organized around the following four themes:

- A. **Understanding Disaster Risk:** This theme aimed to deepen the understanding of disaster risk, including the identification of hazards, vulnerability, and exposure. The sessions focused on methods of risk assessment, data collection and analysis, early warning systems, and the integration of scientific knowledge and local knowledge for effective risk understanding.
- B. **Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance at All Levels:** This theme emphasized the importance of governance in disaster risk reduction. The sessions explored topics such as policy frameworks, legal and institutional arrangements, multi-stakeholder engagement, community participation, and capacity-building for effective governance at all levels, including local, national, and regional levels.
- C. **Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience:** This theme highlighted the significance of investing in disaster risk reduction to build resilience. The sessions might have covered topics such as risk-sensitive development planning, infrastructure resilience, financial mechanisms for DRR, public-private partnerships, and innovative financing models to support DRR initiatives.
- D. **Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and "Build Back Better":** This theme focused on disaster preparedness and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts. The sessions addressed topics such as emergency response planning, early warning systems, community resilience, inclusive recovery, livelihood restoration, and the integration of DRR considerations in reconstruction and development processes.

Through presentations and panel discussions, the technical sessions provided a platform for participants to share experiences, exchange knowledge, and identify strategies and best practices in each of these four priority areas of the Sendai Framework.



## Theme A: Understanding Disaster Risk

Ms. Ranjana Rai, a Section Officer of the Ministry of Home Affairs, assumed the role of Master of Ceremony for the Technical Session. Ms. Rai emphasized the importance of safety protocols and provided essential information to the audience including how to respond to emergencies, the location of emergency exits, evacuation procedures, First Aid Facilities and Sanitizers. Ms. Rai gave brief highlight and information on the two sessions to be held on 29 June 2023. After providing the necessary safety information, and session highlight, Ms. Rai called upon Mr. Mahadev Panth, the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, to chair the session.



During the first technical session chaired by Mr. Mahadev Panth, the following five presentations were delivered:

1. DRR Initiatives and its Effectiveness: Mr. Rudra Singh Tamang, Joint Secretary of the NDRRMA.
2. Understanding Disaster Risk through the Lens of SFDRR Mid-Term Review: Mr. Tulsi Prasad Dahal, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. Technology, Innovation, and Science in DRR: Ms. Kabita Pandey, a Technical Officer and Architect from the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST).
4. Scoping Media Landscape: DRR and Information Systems: Mr. Om Prakash Ghimire, a Media Representative from Netizen Media.
5. Ecosystem and Community Resilience Towards Climate-Induced Disaster: "A Study of Panchase Protected Forest Ecoregion": Ms. Shakti Gurung, a PhD Scholar from the Center for Disaster Studies (CDES) at Tribhuvan University (TU).

## **Presentation 1: DRR Initiatives and its Effectiveness**

### **Mr. Rudra Singh Tamang, Joint Secretary, NDRRMA**

In course of his presentation, Mr. Rudra Singh Tamang highlighted various aspects related to the comprehensive disaster framework and initiatives in Nepal. Mr. Tamang mentioned key legislations and policies related to disaster risk reduction and management in Nepal. These include the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2074, Local Government Operation Act of 2074, National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy of 2075, and the Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Plan of Action 2018-2030. He also mentioned other relevant acts and strategies such as the Soil and Water Resource Conservation Act of 2039, Local Self-Governance Act of 2055, National Agriculture Policy of 2061, Disaster Rescue and Relief (Seventh Amendment) Criteria of 2077, National Urban Development Strategy (NUDS) of 2017, Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Mr. Tamang discussed the establishment of a disaster management fund, which includes a Central Management Fund of 50 crores and a District Management Fund. The District Management Fund is further divided based on geographical regions: Himalayan, Hill, and Terai. Each district in the respective region receives a specific amount from the District Management Fund for disaster management purposes.



Mr. Tamang highlighted various ongoing initiatives in Nepal, including the procurement of emergency management materials, installation of early warning systems in 34 districts, conducting drills and simulations, providing shelters for monsoon-related disasters and forest fires, ensuring accessibility of homes for people with disabilities, and the development of an e-learning platform.

The presentation also identified several challenges in disaster risk reduction and management in Nepal. These challenges include the need to achieve action plan goals within defined timeframes, building national capacity to respond to major disasters, regional and international information exchange, financial management of disaster risk reduction, weak revenue capacity, slow risk

mapping, lack of harmony in the governance system, coordination challenges in multi-agency work, rapid urbanization and weak infrastructure, delays in reconstruction and rehabilitation, limited time and resources, difficulties in integrating disaster preparedness into development, and lack of unity and coordination.

Mr. Tamang put forth several suggestions to address the challenges mentioned. These suggestions include addressing challenges in disaster financing, integrating disaster risk management into all aspects of development, changing the concept of solo ownership in relief distribution, increasing investment in preparedness, promoting collaboration among the three tiers of government, conducting multi-hazard impact assessments, implementing disaster insurance, investing in research and development, prioritizing the volunteer management system, assessing the amount of disaster materials, conducting research mapping, enhancing knowledge and information on disaster risk, conducting studies on geological activities, developing comprehensive policies and plans for disaster risk management, prioritizing awareness, investment, and management, adopting new knowledge and technology, and considering disaster risk reduction in development projects while regulating natural resource exploitation.

## **Presentation 2: Understanding Disaster Risk through the Lens of SFDRR -- Mid-Term Review**

### **Mr. Tulsi Prasad Dahal, Under Secretary of Disaster Study Risk Reduction and Recovery Section, MoHA**

In his presentation on Understanding Disaster Risk Through the Lens of the SFDRR -- Mid-Term Review, Mr. Tulsi Prasad Dahal covered several key points. Mr. Dahal discussed the vision, goal, and priority areas of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). He emphasized Nepal's commitment to the framework and its adaptation process. The vision highlighted was to build a safer, adaptive, and resilient nation for sustainable development, with the expected outcome of reducing disaster mortality and the number of affected people. The goal is to prevent new risks and reduce existing risks. Mr. Dahal referred the 2015 earthquake as a catalyst for realizing the need for disaster-resilient nations. This event served as a wake-up call for Nepal to prioritize disaster risk reduction and resilience-building efforts.



Mr. Dahal also highlighted the need for nationwide risk assessment to have a comprehensive understanding of the country's vulnerabilities and risks. Mr. Dahal explained funding mechanisms, updated laws for fund utilization, and the establishment of the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) for rapid reconstruction.

Mr. Dahal discussed about the establishment of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) for recovery and other types of disasters. He highlighted the importance of partnerships, investment, and insurance concepts in disaster risk reduction. Collaboration with various stakeholders, financial investments in DRR initiatives, and the integration of insurance mechanisms were emphasized. The challenges discussed in the presentation included national capacity, risk information management, localization of DRR efforts, financing, fire management, and meeting targets.

Mr. Dahal stressed the need for collaboration, data management, research, early warning systems, urban risk management, inclusive DRR, reframing responsibilities, and demarcation at all levels of government. Gaps identified included partnership, multi-hazard risk assessment, fire management, institutional capacity enhancement, and integrating DRR and climate change adaptation programs.

Mr. Dahal emphasized the importance of outlining DRR policies, developing a common understanding, harmonizing DRR and climate change adaptation efforts, data management, conducting multi-hazard risk assessments, research-based development planning, inclusive DRR, investment and partnerships, and adopting a holistic approach to society.

### **Presentation 3: Technology Innovation and Science in DRR**

#### **Ar. Kabita Pandey, Technical Officer, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)**

In her presentation on “Technology, Innovation, and Science in DRR,” Ar. Kabita Pandey highlighted the significant role of science, technology, and innovation in DRRM. Ar. Pandey mentioned that the NAST has been actively implementing activities and programs focused on climate change and DRR. These initiatives encompass various aspects of the DRR cycle, including early warning systems, drone mapping, information dissemination, and emergency communication. Ar. Pandey highlighted the importance of addressing the vulnerabilities of women, vulnerable communities, persons with



disabilities, and marginalized groups throughout all phases of DRR. Ar. Pandey showcased specific projects and initiatives undertaken by NAST in the field of disaster mitigation and resilience. These included earthquake monitoring with 62 sensors installed across Nepal, landslide early warning systems in Khani Gaun, and inventory mapping of landslides in Gulmi. NAST has also conducted awareness campaigns on fire resilience, lightning protection, and community-based DRM approaches. Ar. Pandey highlighted that NAST has provided innovation grants for various initiatives in the field of DRR which demonstrates their support for innovative approaches and

solutions to address disaster risks and enhance resilience. Ar. Pandey mentioned projects such as earthquake damming, installation of GPS stations, and other infrastructure development efforts undertaken by NAST.

**Presentation 4: Scoping Media Landscape: DRR and Information System**  
**Mr. Om Prakash Ghimire, Editor, Netizen Media Pvt. Ltd.**

In his presentation, Mr. Om Prakash Ghimire highlighted the important role of media in DRR and the importance of effective communication. Mr. Ghimire emphasized the significance of communication in DRR, quoting Martin Luther King, to underscore the importance of addressing gaps in understanding and information. He recognized media as a major stakeholder and actor in disaster communication, emphasizing its cross-cutting role that should be integrated into every aspect of DRR. Mr. Ghimire highlighted the role of media in raising awareness, providing accurate information, and serving as a source of early information during disasters. Media was recognized as essential in saving lives, disseminating public information, enhancing disaster literacy, advocating for effective policies, and building local capacity. Collaboration between media and authorities was emphasized for effective reporting from disaster-affected areas. Mr. Ghimire emphasized the importance of information access, use, and trust in effective disaster response. Partnership between intergovernmental organizations and agencies was highlighted as vital for ensuring effective public information during disasters. The role of social media platforms, such as Facebook, in providing information to a large portion of the population was recognized, particularly in Karnali province.



Mr. Ghimire in his presentation assessed the performance of media in different stages of disaster management. Weaknesses in preparedness, proactive response, recovery, risk reduction, and resilience Mr. Ghimire in his presentation identified various expectations from the media included focusing on infrastructure development, highlighting urban disaster risks, emphasizing the



connection between economic development and disaster resilience, and raising awareness about climate change and its impact on disasters.

Mr. Ghimre identified various issues for the media to address, such as prioritizing safety during disasters, promoting inclusion and diversity in reporting, highlighting policy issues, advocating for international commitments, contributing to risk reduction, enhancing disaster literacy, fostering partnerships, addressing inclusion issues, revising mass communication policies, integrating media into disaster and development plans, documenting and sharing best practices, and providing accurate and reliable information while countering misinformation.

Mr. Ghimire highlighted the need for proper collaboration between media and disaster management in policy documents. Content and impact analysis of disaster communication strategies were suggested for effective communication. Ensuring the safety of journalists and media personnel, recognizing the importance of disaster communication, engaging multiple stakeholders, documenting best practices, and establishing a DRR communication mechanism were among the recommendations proposed.

In the end of his presentation, Mr. Ghimire highlighted that by implementing the suggestions mentioned throughout his presentation, the collaboration between media and disaster management can be strengthened. This, in turn, will lead to more efficient and impactful communication during disasters. Strengthening the collaboration between media and disaster management is important for ensuring timely and accurate information dissemination, raising awareness, promoting inclusivity, and advocating for effective policies. By working together, media and disaster management can effectively communicate with the public, address gaps in understanding, and contribute to building resilient communities.

## **Presentation 5: Ecosystem and Community Resilience towards Climate-Induced Disaster- A Study of Panchase Protected Forest Ecoregion**

**Ms. Shakti Gurung, PhD Scholar CDES, TU**

The presentation by Ms. Shakti Gurung highlights the importance of understanding the impact of human-caused climate change on weather and climate extremes globally. It emphasizes that a significant portion of the global population lives in highly vulnerable contexts to climate change. The planning phase of disaster risk reduction should consider the cascading hazards and their multi-sectoral impacts on development.



The focus of the study in the Panchase forest eco-region is on tree species diversity and soil conditions to understand the effects of climate change variability. It acknowledges that least developed nations are particularly vulnerable to climate change, and the occurrence of cascading hazards, such as landslides triggering floods, is increasing. Nepal ranks as the 10th most vulnerable country in the Global Climate Risk Index.

The research methodology adopts the UNDRR Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities, conducting a 5-point score analysis. The presentation emphasizes that social parameters alone are not sufficient and calls for considering overall community parameters, ecological parameters, and the overall landscape to achieve sustainability. Natural resource system management and the harmonious relationship between the community and the ecosystem (Socio-Ecological Production Landscape) are deemed essential for resilience.

The findings of the study indicate that plant diversity enhances forest resilience, resulting in fewer forest fires, landslides, and other disasters compared to monoculture forests. The soil quality in the inner core forest area is better due to the presence of more organic nutrients, faster vegetation regeneration, and increased precipitation. The measurement of community resilience using a community scorecard highlights the importance of incorporating ecological resilience. It is

recommended to avoid homogenous plantations and raise community awareness about their resilience capacity to plan accordingly. Panchase, as a protected forest ecoregion, exhibits better resilience due to soil quality and biodiversity, emphasizing the need for continued protection measures to maintain biodiversity and soil quality. Viewing the resilience of communities from a social-ecological perspective is important, and support for strategy adaptation and planning is necessary.

In conclusion, the study carried out in the Panchase Protected Forest Eco-region in Nepal highlights the importance of a comprehensive approach that considers both community and ecosystem factors in resilience building. The findings emphasize the significance of plant diversity, soil quality, and the interdependence of human and ecological systems. Continued protection measures and policy recommendations are essential to maintain biodiversity, soil quality, and ecosystem services. Collaboration between communities, governments, and researchers is necessary to address the challenges posed by climate change and build resilience effectively.

### **Questions and Answer Session**

The participants in the session “A” raised several questions and provided feedback on the topics discussed. Main highlights are given below:

#### **Mr. Krishna Chandra Neupane, Director General, ADCCN**

Mr. Krishna Chandra Neupane's inquiry focused on enhancing institutions, the District Coordination Committee's involvement in disaster management, and the implementation mechanism from the HomeMinistry's standpoint. The deficiencies in the implementation process and the necessity for localization are vital aspects to be taken into account. Addressing sustainability concerns is important in the realm of disaster mitigation. Moreover, proper attention should be given to the social dimensions of disaster



mitigation. These factors hold significant importance in guaranteeing the efficacy and durability of disaster management solutions.

### **Mr. Deepak Poudel, Technical Advisor DPNep**

Mr. Poudel raised concerns regarding the availability of physical resources, specifically ambulances, to address mass casualties as mentioned in the presentation. He questioned the condition and functionality of these resources in the context of a large-scale disaster. The maintenance and immediate deployment of the ambulances, as well as the existence of a dedicated budget for their upkeep, were also points of inquiry. The government's strategies for ensuring the maintenance and monitoring of these resources were unclear.



Additionally, Mr. Poudel emphasized the importance of involving the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in such events. Their participation would contribute to a more comprehensive and holistic approach to disaster risk reduction and management.

### **Ms. Sarita Thulung, Paralympian**

Ms. Thulung raised concerns about the limited practicality of prioritizing persons with disabilities in disaster response and the urgent need for specific measures to address their unique needs. The focus is on ensuring accessibility and inclusivity during disasters. Practical steps, such as providing lifts or disability-friendly equipment, are currently limited, highlighting a significant gap that needs to be addressed.



During floods or other disaster situations, it is essential to consider how the specific needs and challenges of individuals with physical disabilities can be effectively addressed to ensure their

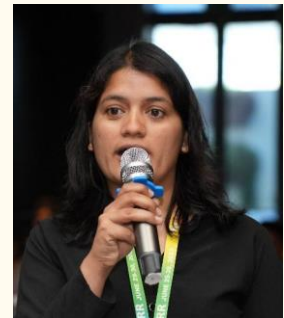
rescue and safeguard their lives. What measures and protocols can be implemented to facilitate their safe evacuation and provide appropriate assistance during such emergencies?

Furthermore, there are opportunities to empower and support persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and management efforts. How can their unique skills, knowledge, and perspectives be leveraged to contribute to community resilience and response?

In disaster-related communication, it is important to include GEDSI-friendly language to promote an inclusive and respectful approach to addressing the needs of different individuals and communities. Additionally, prioritizing the construction of disaster-friendly infrastructure that is accessible and inclusive for all individuals, including persons with disabilities, should be a key focus area.

**Ms. Luna Khadka, World Vision Nepal**

Ms. Luna Khadka said that during the presentation, it was mentioned that 43 EWS have been installed across all provinces. However, there is a specific concern regarding the vulnerability of the Far Western region to earthquakes. To gain more clarity on this matter, Ms. Khadka inquired about the number of EWS installations specifically implemented in the Far Western region.



Ms. Khadka also inquired about the delivery of EWS messages to the community. Understanding the communication channels and methods used to disseminate early warning messages is important for ensuring effective response and preparedness. By inquiring about the delivery mechanisms employed for EWS messages.

### **Mr. Jay Prasad Paudel, Forum for Protection of Consumer Right Nepal**

Mr. Jay Prasad Paudel expressed his view points and said that the incorporation of legal rights within the Sphere Handbook during disaster situations is a significant consideration. However, it has been observed that the current version of the Sphere Guidebook does not sufficiently address the legal rights of individuals affected by disasters. Additionally, the aspect of consumer rights appears to be overlooked during such circumstances. Recent flood incidents, such as the Sabha Pokhari and Tinau floods, have brought to light several concerns and challenges. Delays in response due to inadequate information dissemination have resulted in significant impacts, including 28 reported missing individuals. It is important to address these deficiencies and enhance the efficiency of response efforts.



There is a pressing need to emphasize geospatial-related research in the field of disaster management. This entails exploring the utilization of Geographic Information System (GIS) and other spatial technologies to enhance disaster response and preparedness. Furthermore, conducting proper research on landslide mapping and disseminating relevant information is essential to mitigate risks associated with such hazards.

At the international level, it is vital to examine how the legal system addresses the treatment of disaster victims. Understanding the existing legal framework and evaluating its effectiveness in providing support and protection to individuals affected by disasters is important for enhancing future disaster response and recovery efforts. Adequate attention must be given to ensuring that the rights and well-being of disaster victims are prioritized within the legal framework.



**Mr. Pitambar Aryal, Former Chairperson / Advisor, DPNep and Former General Secretary, Nepal Red Cross Society**

Mr. Aryal raised significant points and said that the effective coordination among the three tiers of government (Federal, Provincial, and Local) is of utmost importance for ensuring preparedness in the face of disasters in Nepal. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) serves as the central authority, facilitating coordination and collaboration between the different levels of government. Each province has also established its own Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC), working closely with local governments to oversee disaster management activities. However, challenges such as limited resources and coordination gaps still persist and need to be addressed.



In order to tackle hydro-meteorological disasters, Nepal has integrated disaster risk reduction measures within the banking sector. This involves providing loans and financial support for initiatives aimed at building resilience in flood-prone areas. Efforts include the construction of flood-resistant buildings, implementation of early warning systems, improvement of drainage systems, and adoption of sustainable land use practices.

Non-earthquake and non-pandemic disasters such as floods, landslides, fires, and droughts are addressed through community-based risk management, capacity-building programs, infrastructure resilience, and awareness campaigns.

Nepal places a strong emphasis on green financing to promote sustainable and resilient development. The country encourages investments in green energy technologies and environmentally friendly projects, offering incentives for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and green funds that support climate resilience initiatives.

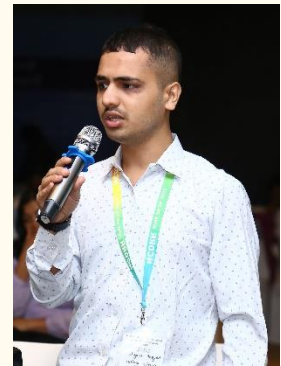
Landslide early warning systems in Nepal rely on real-time data and the assessment of geo-structural conditions. These systems incorporate rainfall sensors and geotechnical instruments to

provide timely warnings. Dissemination of warnings is done through various means such as sirens, text messages, and community radio stations. Regular maintenance, adequate funding, and community awareness are important for the success of these systems.

Eco-tourism has emerged as a valuable contributor to disaster risk reduction and resilience-building efforts. By promoting responsible travel practices in tourist destinations, the environmental impact can be minimized while engaging local communities and generating income. Eco-tourism initiatives also enhance community capacity, diversify livelihoods, and raise awareness about natural hazards, thereby strengthening disaster preparedness and resilience in areas that heavily rely on tourism.

### **Mr. Saugat Wagle raised questions from Ms. Agni Shikha and himself**

Alternative alarm options such as visual alarms, vibrating devices, and tactile systems play a vital role in ensuring that EWS address the specific needs of persons with disabilities. These options enable timely and effective warnings for individuals with hearing impairments. Additionally, the provision of a toll-free number with SMS capability is essential to accommodate persons with disabilities, allowing them to access emergency services through text messages and promoting inclusivity in emergency response systems.



Inclusive mechanisms that involve persons with disabilities in pre-disaster preparations are of great importance. It is important to ensure their active participation in risk assessments, evacuation drills, and emergency planning. Special provisions such as accessible evacuation routes, shelters, and trained personnel must be in place to cater to their specific needs during disasters.

Comprehensive legislation and policies should be established to protect the rights of individuals across all ten categories of disabilities. These measures are essential to promote equal opportunities and prevent discrimination, both in normal circumstances and during emergencies.

Effective communication during disasters is paramount. Clear and accessible communication channels, culturally appropriate messaging, and the use of various mediums such as TV, radio, social media, and community networks are vital for information dissemination. It is important to reach all segments of society, including persons with disabilities, in order to enhance preparedness, response, and overall effectiveness in disaster management.

**Ms. Rashina Maharjan, Federation of Women with Disability Nepal**

The practice of sending SMS alerts only to the Ward Chairman raises concerns regarding the accessibility of important information for persons with disabilities and the illiterate population during emergency situations. To address this issue, it is suggested to include animated and easy-to-understand videos in the Early Warning System (EWS). These videos can provide visual and audio information that is accessible to individuals with disabilities and those who may have difficulties reading or understanding written messages. It is also important to create disability-friendly videos that specifically outline the actions persons with disabilities can take after receiving the information, ensuring their inclusion in the emergency response process. By incorporating these measures, the EWS can improve its accessibility and effectiveness, reaching a wider range of individuals and ensuring that everyone is informed and included during emergencies.



**Mr. Kiran Shilpakar, President, National Association of Physical Disabled Nepal**

In accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, it is important to incorporate GEDSI friendly language in all aspects of disaster management. This includes providing accessible homes and EWS for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, there is a suggestion to change GESI to GEDSI and modify the term DRR to Disability DRR to better reflect the inclusive nature of these efforts. Inquiries have also been made about the availability of EWS for all individuals, including those with disabilities, and these questions have been directed to the



National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST). By addressing these suggestions and ensuring inclusivity, Nepal can work towards disaster management practices that are responsive to diverse needs and promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

**Mr. Jagarnath Kurmi, NPDRR- Disaster Affected Community**

To effectively disseminate laws and policies related to disaster management, a proactive approach is needed that goes beyond discussions. Concrete actions must be taken to address the specific needs of persons with disabilities. One way to achieve this is by incorporating the experiences and perspectives of disaster victims into programs and initiatives, ensuring their voices are heard. Community involvement is also important, as it allows for the identification of local problems and the development of relevant solutions. Instead of solely enforcing international trends, it is important to engage with communities and tailor strategies to their unique contexts. Suggestions have been made to include disaster victims in these processes, allowing them to contribute their firsthand experiences and knowledge.



**Mr. Rajendra Aryal, Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FEDWASUN)**

In line with the previous speaker's emphasis on effective dissemination of laws and policies to disaster victims, it is important for presenters to concentrate on addressing all relevant issues and clearly define the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved. Queries have been raised regarding post-disaster relief efforts, specifically regarding the availability of essential supplies like drinking water and toiletries. The management of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in disaster situations is also highlighted, emphasizing the need for proper facilities to promote health and hygiene. The significance of well-managed local governments and trained volunteers is emphasized, recognizing the importance of capable institutions and personnel in responding to and managing disasters. By addressing these concerns



and adopting comprehensive approaches, Nepal can strengthen its disaster management efforts and provide better support to affected communities.

**Ms. Shyna Karki, Change Action Nepal**

The level of preparedness in Nepal is being questioned, highlighting concerns about the increasing frequency of disasters. It is alarming that project approvals are granted without considering the potential risks, which could further endanger communities. This raises the need to assess whether proper risk assessments are being conducted and if disaster resilience is being prioritized in the approval process. The usability and effectiveness of EWS sirens are also being scrutinized, along with the level of community training to recognize emergency signals. Evaluating the awareness and preparedness of community members to respond to EWS signals is important. Furthermore, specific projects such as Chandragiri Hill and Mystic Hotel lack comprehensive risk assessments, leading to concerns about the potential consequences. It is vital to investigate whether appropriate precautions and mitigation measures have been taken to minimize the projects' impact on the environment, communities, and overall disaster resilience.



**Mr. Govinda Rimal, Technical Advisor, DPNet**

Mr. Govinda Rimal highlighted the importance of understanding risks and integrating Climate Change Adaptation with DRR efforts. He expressed concerns about the lack of a common understanding among the different tiers of government in Nepal. There is a tendency to prioritize discussions and actions at the federal level, which can result in weaker implementation of policies and initiatives at the provincial and local level. Mr. Rimal underscores the need for effective coordination and collaboration among all levels of government to ensure a unified approach in addressing risks, climate change, and disaster resilience throughout Nepal.





### **Mr. Dipak Karki, National Federation of Youth NGO Nepal**

Mr. Karki advocated for the compulsory involvement of Civil Society Organizations in DRRM. He recognized the potential of CSOs to contribute effectively to resilience-building efforts and emphasized their engagement in planning, implementation, and monitoring activities to ensure a holistic approach in DRRM. Mr. Karki also highlighted the challenges faced by vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, particularly in the context of resettlement. He emphasized the need to prioritize their concerns and well-being during the resettlement process, ensuring that their rights, access to services, and overall livelihoods are safeguarded. Another important question raised by Mr. Karki focused on the weak communication mechanisms at the local level in disaster preparedness. He stressed the importance of robust communication systems that enable timely and effective dissemination of information to communities, allowing them to respond promptly during emergencies. Furthermore, Mr. Karki inquired about the organizational structure and development processes within the context of DRRM. Understanding the framework and functioning of organizations involved in DRRM is important for ensuring efficient coordination, resource utilization, and accountability. These questions raised by Mr. Dipak Karki shed light on vital aspects of DRRM, such as the involvement of CSOs, addressing the needs of vulnerable communities, improving communication mechanisms, and understanding organizational dynamics. Addressing these concerns can contribute to more inclusive, effective, and sustainable disaster preparedness and response efforts in Nepal.





### **Mr. Birkha Bahadur Shahi, Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)**

Mr. Birkha Bahadur Shahi emphasized the importance of coordination and preparedness in DRR efforts. He recognized the critical role of civil society in enhancing DRR initiatives and stressed the need for their active involvement and coordination. Mr. Shahi also raised concerns about the impact of forest encroachment on emergency shelters, highlighting the necessity of protecting forest areas to ensure the availability of safe refuge during disasters. He further inquired about the preparedness and response plans of various organizations, emphasizing the significance of understanding their strategies and capabilities to facilitate effective coordination and collaboration in disaster management. Additionally, Mr. Shahi highlighted the importance of community forests in water conservation, emphasizing the need to prioritize their preservation and sustainable management to mitigate the impact of disasters and promote environmental resilience. Overall, his contributions shed light on the significance of coordination, civil society involvement, forest management, and water conservation in disaster risk reduction efforts.



### **Ms. Kriti Shrestha, Practical Action**

Ms. Kriti Shrestha raised an important question regarding the quantification of landslide hazards. She emphasized the need to understand and assess the magnitude and impact of landslide hazards to facilitate effective planning and implementation of measures for landslide risk reduction. Quantifying landslide hazards involves analyzing various factors such as slope stability, geological conditions, rainfall patterns, and land use practices. By obtaining quantitative data and conducting assessments, decision-makers can make informed decisions and allocate resources for targeted interventions and the establishment of early warning systems.



### **Ms. Sabitra Ghimire, Rastriya Apanga Mahasangh**

Ms. Sabitra Ghimire, representing Rastriya Apanga Mahasangh, raised significant questions during the session, focusing on inclusivity and respectful language towards persons with disabilities. She expressed concerns about the use of derogatory language and emphasized the importance of using appropriate and respectful terminology when referring to individuals with disabilities. Ms. Ghimire also highlighted the need for inter-sectionality in addressing the needs of disabled populations, emphasizing the unique challenges faced by disabled women, pregnant women, lactating mothers, senior citizens, and individuals with severe disabilities. By addressing these concerns and considering the diverse needs of disabled individuals, Nepal can work towards creating an inclusive society that respects the rights and dignity of all persons with disabilities.



### **Mr. Sumsher Bahadur Shahi, Dullu Municipality**

Mr. Sumsher Bahadur Shahi questioned why we are focusing on the floods and landslide disasters only while there are several other major disasters like: crop destruction by the monkeys and wild bores, animal attack and so on. He emphasized the need to address other significant challenges, including wildlife conflict and forest fires, which also pose threats to communities and the environment. Mr. Shahi expressed disappointment with the lack of government and policymaker participation in addressing these issues. By highlighting the importance of recognizing and addressing a wider range of disasters, he advocates for a more comprehensive approach to disaster management. Mr. Shahi urges increased government involvement to effectively mitigate and respond to these diverse challenges, ensuring the protection and well-being of communities.



### **The presenters responded to the questions and concerns as follows:**

In response to the questions raised, **Mr. Rudra Singh Tamang** acknowledged the lack of general understanding regarding universal jargon, recognizing it as an issue that needs to be addressed for effective communication. He expressed a strong commitment to collaborative efforts in enhancing policies and their implementation. Mr. Tamang emphasized the importance of working together with various stakeholders to improve existing policies, making them more accessible and comprehensible to a wider audience. By acknowledging the need for improved understanding and committing to address the issue, Mr. Tamang demonstrated a dedication to fostering effective communication and shared understanding among stakeholders.



In response to the questions, **Ms. Shakti Gurung** acknowledged the importance of considering various parameters, such as rainfall and temperature patterns, in quantifying landslide hazards. She emphasized the need for a comprehensive understanding of the risks associated with landslides by incorporating these factors into hazard assessments. By including these parameters, the assessment can provide more accurate and reliable information for effective risk mitigation strategies. Additionally, Ms. Gurung highlighted the significance of managing the Panchase ecosystem for eco-tourism. She emphasized the need to balance tourism activities with conservation efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem. Proper management practices are essential to preserve the ecological integrity of the area while attracting tourists. Furthermore, Ms. Gurung emphasized the importance of accurate data in understanding and mitigating landslide risks. Reliable data play a important role in assessing the vulnerability of landslide-prone areas and developing effective mitigation strategies. By leveraging precise data, stakeholders can make informed decisions and implement appropriate measures to minimize the impacts of landslides and slope failures. Ms. Gurung's insights underscore the importance of considering multiple parameters in hazard quantification, ensuring



proper management of eco-tourism areas, and utilizing accurate data for a comprehensive understanding of landslide risks.

Answering the questions raised from the floor, **Ms. Kabita Pandey** provided a comprehensive overview of the Landslide Early Warning System (EWS). She highlighted the ongoing pilot projects in Gorkha and specifically discussed the SMS alert system implemented in Khanigaun. The system targets specific individuals such as teachers, ward chairpersons, and women's groups, ensuring that relevant stakeholders receive timely notifications to respond to landslide threats effectively. In addition to the SMS alert system, Ms. Pandey mentioned the use of various sensors, receivers, and siren systems designed to accommodate individuals with different abilities. This includes sound-based alerts for hearing-impaired individuals and visual alerts through TV programs. The multi-modal approach enables diverse community members to receive and understand warning messages, enhancing their ability to respond to landslide risks. Ms. Pandey also emphasized the importance of inclusion in the development of landslide EWS. She highlighted the creation of animated and easy-to-understand videos as educational resources to improve understanding and preparedness.



**Mr. Tulsi Prasad Dahal** responded to audience queries by emphasizing the importance of engaging all relevant stakeholders in disaster risk reduction and response efforts. He highlighted the need for collaboration and cooperation among the three tiers of government to achieve effective outcomes in disaster management. Mr. Dahal also emphasized the availability of resources, including mass ambulances, to facilitate emergency response during disasters. He discussed specific measures such as establishing health clinics to provide essential medical services and developing disaster-friendly handbooks in Braille for individuals with visual impairments. Furthermore, he mentioned the expansion of the Early Warning System's coverage to include six districts, allowing for a wider reach and more timely alerts. Mr. Dahal highlighted the interconnectedness of disaster risk reduction and climate change, emphasizing that the increase in hydro-meteorological disasters is closely related to climate



change. He called for integrated approaches to address these challenges effectively. In addition, Mr. Dahal proposed an innovative solution to mitigate wildlife conflicts in agricultural lands, suggesting the use of sound emitted from drones to deter monkey movement.

Answering the questions, **Mr. Om Prakash Ghimire** addressed the importance of using appropriate and respectful language when discussing persons with disabilities. He highlighted the need for discussions and initiatives focused on promoting disability-friendly language in media communications. By using inclusive language, a broader audience can be reached and included in conversations about disability issues. Mr. Ghimire emphasized the important role of the media in effective information dissemination, particularly in the context of disaster risk reduction and response efforts. He highlighted the importance of building trust in media communication to ensure the successful delivery of information. Trustworthy and reliable media sources are essential for inspiring action and mobilizing communities to address and mitigate the risks associated with disasters. By prioritizing the use of proper language and promoting trustworthy media communication, Mr. Ghimire emphasized the potential to create a more inclusive society that respects and addresses the needs of persons with disabilities.



### **Concluding Remarks by the Session Chair Mr. Mahadev Panth**

In his concluding remarks, **Mr. Mahadev Panth**, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, emphasized the significance of a coordinated approach in disaster management. He stressed the importance of understanding disaster risks and financing, highlighting the need for comprehensive strategies that incorporate both indigenous and scientific knowledge. Mr. Panth also underscored the critical role of providing accurate and timely information, recognizing its importance in effective disaster response. Additionally, Mr. Panth expressed gratitude to all the stakeholders for their active participation in the program session. He acknowledged their valuable contributions and





engagement in the discussions, which played a important role in addressing key concerns and setting the direction for robust disaster risk reduction and management efforts in Nepal. Mr. Panth's remarks reinforced the importance of collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and effective communication in enhancing preparedness, response, and overall resilience to disasters.

**Key Take Away Messages from session “A” are as follows:**

The key take-away messages from the session are as follows:

1. Enhance the implementation of SFDRR and DRR policies by focusing on disaster financing, integrating risk management into development, investing in preparedness, fostering collaboration among government tiers, conducting risk and multi-hazard assessments, implementing disaster insurance, prioritizing research and development, enhancing volunteer management, assessing disaster materials, disseminating knowledge, developing policies, and prioritizing resilience in development projects.
2. Strengthen the role of science, technology, and innovation in DRR, with a greater emphasis on implementing GEDSI in these technologies.
3. Media should not only report on disaster incidents but also prioritize pre-disaster preparation and resilience-building efforts. This can be achieved by enhancing disaster management knowledge, ensuring journalist safety, conducting regular policy content and impact analysis, recognizing the importance of disaster communication, engaging multiple stakeholders, and establishing a validation mechanism for DRR messages.
4. Adopt a comprehensive approach to building resilience to climate-induced disasters, considering both community and ecosystem factors. Focus on plant diversity, soil quality, and the interdependence of human and ecological systems.



## **Theme B: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance at all Levels**

In this session on “Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance at all Levels Building Sectors),” Mr. Tulsi Bahadur Shrestha, Joint Secretary of the Internal Management Division of MoHA, chaired the session.

The session included four presentations and a panel discussion on various topics related to disaster risk governance.

The presentations covered the following topics:

1. Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance at all levels in the building sectors: Er. Madhav Katuwal, Engineer of MoUD.
2. Enhancing Coordination for Effective Implementation of DRR Policies: Dr. Raju Thapa, Vice Chair of DPNet-Nepal.
3. Inclusive Leadership for All: Fostering GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion) in DRR: Ms. Indu Pant Ghimire, Advisor of WHDRRP.
4. DRR Governance and Human Rights: Mr. Bishnu Prasad Timilsina, General Secretary of DiMANN.

Following the presentations, there was a panel discussion on sharing local government DRR practices. The panel discussion provided an opportunity for the panelists to share their experiences and insights on DRR practices at the local government level. The panelists included:

1. Mr. Lekhnath Pokharel, Advisor of NARMIN.
2. Mr. Dipesh Tharu, Mayor of Rajapur Municipality.
3. Ms. Sushila Shahi, Mayor of Lamkichuha Municipality.
4. Mr. Nilkantha Khanal, Deputy Mayor of Birendranagar Municipality.

## **Presentation 1: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance at all levels (Building Sector)**

### **Er. Madhav Katuwal, MoUD**

Er. Madhav Katuwal's presentation highlighted the estimated risks of disasters and their impact on building loss in Nepal. He highlighted on the existing legislation in Nepal, including building classification, implementation of building codes, construction supervision, and punishment for code violations, was emphasized. Building disaster-resilient houses was identified as a major challenge requiring strengthened disaster risk governance in the building sector. Major challenges include a lack of technical manpower and inadequate resource allocation for resilience building, issues with information dissemination and the absence of incentive mechanisms.



Other challenges mentioned were construction of buildings without municipal permits, non-compliance with construction designs and drawings, and addition of extra floors without authorization. Unsafe or poor-quality construction materials, shortage of technically skilled human resources, lack of stakeholder awareness, and insufficient earthquake resistance-building skills were identified as significant challenges.

According to Er. Katuwal, The Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) has undertaken initiatives to address these challenges. Initiatives include promoting retrofitting of private housing for enhanced resilience, maintenance of government buildings, and formulating a plan for retrofitting hospital buildings for safety. Under the technical support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the MoUD has launched the "Project for Promotion of National Building Code (NBC) Compliance for Safer Building Construction" through the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC).

## **Presentation 2: Enhancing Coordination for effective implementation of DRR Policies**

### **Dr. Raju Thapa, Vice Chairperson, DPNet-Nepal**

During his presentation, Dr. Raju Thapa emphasized viewing disasters as opportunities to build capacity and achieve new milestones. He cited examples, such as the floods in Bangladesh, to illustrate how disasters can lead to innovations in agricultural practices and increased productivity.



Dr. Thapa referred to the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake in Nepal as a wake-up call, underscoring the need to revisit and reinforce existing disaster preparedness and response plans. He highlighted the challenges in implementing flood policies and stressed the importance of policy reinforcement to mitigate future disaster impacts.

He also pointed out that inadequate adherence to codes and regulations in infrastructure development contributes to disasters such as landslides and road accidents. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of community awareness about the utilization of available local resources in disaster risk reduction.

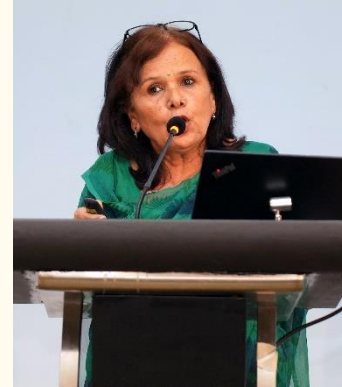
Dr. Thapa called for stronger collaboration and coordination among various stakeholders, including the government, private sector, development partners, and communities. He emphasized that comprehensive interventions and the effective implementation of disaster risk reduction policies are crucial. These policies must be regularly updated and revised based on lessons learned from recent disasters. He stressed that merely drafting policies is not enough while their practical and sustained execution is essential.

In conclusion, Dr. Thapa restated the need to revisit and revise existing DRR plans and policies to enhance their effectiveness in reducing disaster risks and improving response mechanisms.

### **Presentation 3: Inclusive Leadership for All: Fostering GEDSI in DRRM**

#### **Ms. Indu Panta Ghimire, Advisor, Women Humanitarian in DRR Platform**

During the presentation, Ms. Indu Panta discussed about of the concern of certain populations during disasters, including women, children, people with disabilities, the elderly, and other excluded communities. Lack of participation of these groups in leadership and decision-making processes, contributing to gender, disability, and social inclusion gaps in disaster management. Ms. Ghimire gave emphasis on inclusive leadership and the importance of women-led organizations, with a focus on intersectionality and capacity building for women in leadership roles. Successful interventions, such as the Disability Inclusive Get Ready Guidebook and the Bachau app, were highlighted as good practices.



The presentation also identified gaps and challenges in disaster risk reduction and management, including the treatment of women, excluded groups, and persons with disabilities as aid recipients rather than recognizing their diverse needs and leadership potential.

Ms, Ghimire highlighted resource gaps and capacity limitations in mainstreaming gender, disability, and social inclusion in DRRM.

She Criticized the lack of priority given to disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and the generalized approach to disability in existing national policies and frameworks.

Ms, Ghimire recommended a GEDSI-responsive DRRM governance approach, advocating for gender-transformative and disability-inclusive strategies to reduce disaster risk. and stressed the meaningful participation of women in decision-making roles and emphasized the use of intersectional data for prioritization.

## **Presentation 4: Disaster Governance and Human Rights**

### **Mr. Bishnu Prasad Timilsina, General Secretary, National Disaster Management Network in Nepal (DiMANN)**

During his presentation, Mr. Bishnu Prasad Timilsina addressed the need of viewing disasters as human rights issues due to their impact on social life and threats to human lives mentioning international conventions, acts, commitments, and guidelines that play a role in ensuring human rights during emergencies.



By highlighting the endorsement of disaster as a human rights issue by the National Human Rights Commission and their efforts in forming policies and guidelines, Mr. Timilsina discussed on the structure of disaster risk reduction and management and the responsibilities of stakeholders by emphasizing the rights of disaster-affected individuals, including safety, information, fair hearing, education, compensation, access to basic needs, and representation.

Mr. Timilsena highlighted good governance in disaster management as important for ensuring human rights through an inclusive approach. and by providing recommendations for promoting mutual understanding, accountability, effective policy implementation, resource and technology management, coordination, and orientation on disaster and consumer rights guidelines for the government. Mr. Timilsena emphasized the importance of monitoring, stakeholders' commitment to human rights, and advocacy for coordination, partnership, facilitation, and participation among stakeholders and the importance of prioritizing human rights in disaster governance to address challenges such as black marketing and the improper distribution of aid to disaster affected community.

## **Panel Discussion: Sharing Local Government DRR Practices**

### **Mr. Lekhnath Pokheral, Advisor, NARMIN**

Mr. Lekhnath Pokheral from NARMIN emphasized the importance of simplifying and localizing interventions for effective disaster risk reduction. He highlighted that local governments are at the forefront of disaster response and emphasized the need for skilled human resources who are knowledgeable about guidelines. Mr. Pokheral also draw the attention to the interconnection between disaster impacts on the environment and biodiversity. By recognizing the conference as providing a clear vision and guidelines for local governments in disaster planning, He emphasized the need to address questions about the capacity of local governments through structured learning and planning processes to ensure effective implementation at the local level.



### **Mr. Dipesh Tharu, Mayor, Rajapur Municipality**

During his deliberation, Mr. Dipesh Tharu stressed the need to shift the focus of disaster management from response to preparation. He emphasized the importance of coordination and addressing information gaps between different levels of government. Mr. Tharu stressed the enforcement of building codes for small structures to ensure the safety of low-income households. He also discussed the provision of safe places for disaster-affected individuals and the prioritization of rescue operations during emergencies. Mr. Tharu mentioned the discontinuation of allocating land near rivers to mitigate the risks associated with floods. By sharing the challenges faced in terms of lost lives and delayed compensation, Mr Tharu highlighted the municipality's implementation of an early warning system, relief distribution, and immediate response to provide food and clean drinking water to those affected by disasters.





### **Ms. Sushila Shahi, Mayor, Lamkichuha Municipality**

Ms. Sushila Shahi highlighted the need for comprehensive local projects and initiatives, as well as seminars, to meet the needs of the community. She emphasized the impact of disasters on vulnerable and excluded groups, citing an example of gender violation during the COVID-19 crisis in relation to gender-neutral quarantine centers. Ms. Shahi emphasized the importance of managing disaster situations while ensuring the protection and well-being of all affected individuals, particularly women, children, and excluded groups. She stressed the lack of coordination among the three tiers of government in disaster management and the importance of need-based relief distribution that considers the diverse health needs of individuals. Ms. Shahi also emphasized the significance of capacity building for women and empowering them with decision-making power and leadership roles in communities, and giving them a voice in disaster management initiatives so that their unique perspectives, knowledge, and skills can contribute to more comprehensive and effective strategies.



### **Mr. Nilkantha Khanal, Deputy Mayor, Birendranagar Municipality**

Mr. Nilkantha Khanal stressed on the flood-prone nature of the monsoon season and the importance of being prepared for such disasters. He explains the significance of fire preparedness and the need for disaster management training. Mr. Khanal emphasized the need for proactive measures and sincere efforts from the government in addressing disaster-related issues by focusing on preparedness, training, and clear policies to better equip communities in responding to disasters and minimizing their impact.



## Questions and Answer Session

The session witnessed active participation from the participants who raised insightful questions and provided valuable feedback on the topics discussed. Here are some key highlights from their contributions:

### **Mr. Nirajan Pokharel, RRN**

Mr. Nirajan Pokharel raised a question regarding the implementation responsibility and current status of various DRR laws and policies in Nepal. He expressed interest in understanding how these regulations are being put into practice and whether there are any challenges or gaps in their implementation.

### **Mr. Shushil Raut, Himalayan Institute of Fire and Emergency Services**

Mr. Shushil Raut raised a valid concern regarding the absence of fire incidents in the presentation. He emphasized the importance of including fire disasters as part of the discussion and highlighting the current status of fire outbreaks in Nepal. Mr. Raut questioned whether the government's approach to fire disaster management was adequate and suggested the need for proactive policies that can be effectively implemented.



### **Mr. Dinesh Baral, CBM Global Nepal**

Recognizing the importance of meaningful participation and leadership of persons with disabilities in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM), Mr. Dinesh Baral emphasized the need for their inclusion in the discourse. In light of this, he asked if the paper presenter could provide insights into the efforts being made to ensure the active involvement and leadership of persons with disabilities in DRRM initiatives. He further questioned, how are their perspectives, experiences, and expertise being incorporated to foster inclusive and effective strategies for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery?

### **Mr. Biraj Pokharel, Technical Officer for Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction, UNDP**

Mr. Biraj Pokharel questioned the exclusion of the electrical map in building codes and the absence of mandatory clauses for fire extinguishers in buildings. He called for a broader perspective on inclusion, encompassing non-binary individuals and groups. Mr. Pokharel also highlighted monitoring gaps and inquired about the government's oversight of the management of government buildings in disaster-prone areas. Additionally, Mr. Pokharel expressed his concern about the lack of gender-neutral toilets. He emphasized the importance of providing inclusive restroom facilities that cater to the needs of individuals of all genders, including those who identify outside of the traditional binary categories.



### **Mr. Shamsheer Bahadur Shahi, Dullu Municipality**

Mr. Shamsheer Bahadur Shahi raised concerns regarding the absence of provisions for protection from lightning strikes in building codes. He emphasized the need for policies and measures to ensure that existing buildings are resilient against various hazards, including earthquakes, fires, and lightning strikes. Mr. Shahi also highlighted the importance of localizing relief materials to ensure easy access for individuals and communities affected by disasters.



### **Mr. Jay Prasad Paudel, Forum for Protection of Consumer Rights Nepal**

Mr. Jay Prasad Paudel emphasized the importance of reforming disaster-centered legislations based on the perspective of disaster-affected people. He highlighted the need for an efficient disaster management mechanism in Nepal, taking into account the country's complex geographical features and the most vulnerable populations while the marginal and economically weak people are hard hit during disasters. Mr. Paudel stressed the significance of incorporating the



voices and experiences of those directly affected by disasters to ensure that policies and mechanisms are effective and responsive to their needs.

**Ms. Lisa Garu, ActionAid in Nepal**

Ms. Garu suggested that to address the unique issues and vulnerabilities experienced by the Mukta Kamaiya communities during the monsoon season, Rajapur Municipality could potentially implement a range of measures such as: risk assessment and preparedness; developing early warning systems; infrastructure and shelter improvements; community engagement and capacity building; and fostering partnerships and collaboration.



**Mr. Pitambar Aryal, Former Chairperson / Advisor, DPNet and Former General Secretary, Nepal Red Cross Society**

Mr. Pitambar Aryal shared a case where strong regulatory frameworks oblige property owners to compensate affected people in case of disasters. He inquired whether the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) had considered exploring this perspective. Mr. Aryal also raised concerns about the preparedness of local governments for disaster risk reduction and management, urging the MoUD to be accountable in implementing the building code and other regulatory frameworks.



**Mr. Kiran Silpakar, National Association of Physical Disabled Nepal**

Mr. Kiran Silpakar raised important concerns regarding the punishment for noncompliance with building codes in private buildings. He questioned how the building code itself addressed this issue, highlighting the need for effective measures to ensure adherence to building codes and regulations.



Mr. Silpakar also suggested that the presentation on inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) should be delivered by a person with a disability to provide a disability-inclusive perspective.

**Dr. Basanta Raj Adhikari, NPDRR-Academia**

Dr. Basanta Raj Adhikari recommended reconsidering the term "natural" in relation to disasters, emphasizing the need to justify or potentially alter its usage. He posed a question to the paper presenter, seeking insights into the discussions and deliberations surrounding the term "natural" in the context of disasters. Dr. Adhikari inquired about how experts and stakeholders are exploring the potential implications and consequences of this term and what alternative approaches or frameworks are being considered to better reflect the complex interplay between natural phenomena and human vulnerabilities in disaster situations.



**Ms. Laxmi Devkota, Nepal Disabled Women Association**

Ms. Laxmi Devkota drew attention to the challenges faced by people with disabilities during disasters, shedding light on several key issues. She highlighted their exclusion from relief distribution, emphasizing the need for inclusive practices to ensure that they receive the necessary support and assistance. Ms. Devkota also raised concerns about the lack of accessible information and emergency alerts for individuals with hearing impairments, stressing the importance of incorporating diverse communication methods to ensure their safety and well-being.



Additionally, she addressed the impact of disasters on the employment and survival of people with disabilities, highlighting the need for targeted interventions and support systems to address their unique vulnerabilities during emergencies.



### **Mr. Krishna Chandra Neupane, ADCCN**

With the goal of streamlining disaster risk governance, Mr. Krishna Chandra Neupane provided a recommendation for adopting concise approaches. He further proposed incorporating this recommendation precisely into the report to conclude the session on Disaster Risk Governance. Insights were sought regarding the discussions and considerations surrounding the concise structuring of disaster risk governance. Additionally, guidance was sought on effectively concluding the session on DRR governance while integrating Mr. Neupane's precise recommendations. Understanding strategies and best practices for synthesizing and summarizing the key elements of DRR governance in a concise manner, ensuring clarity and actionable outcomes in the final report, would be greatly appreciated.



### **The presenters responded to the questions and concerns as follows:**

**Mr. Bishnu Timilsina** clarified the evolving terminology associated with different types of disasters. He underscored the importance of good governance in effectively managing and mitigating these disasters. Mr. Timilsina emphasized the need for mechanisms that facilitate the localization of funds, ensuring that resources are allocated at the local level to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of affected communities.



In addition, Mr. Timilsina highlighted the significance of assigning responsible individuals who can efficiently implement policies and guidelines related to disaster management. By ensuring capable leadership, the chances of successful implementation and positive outcomes in disaster response and recovery efforts are increased.

Furthermore, Mr. Timilsina stressed the importance of establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at various levels. These mechanisms play a critical role in assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of disaster management initiatives. By monitoring and evaluating progress and



impact, areas in need of improvement can be identified, overall capacity can be enhanced, and individuals and organizations can be held accountable for their actions.

**Mr. Lekhnath Pokharel** highlighted the successful creation of a comprehensive disaster management and response plan by his organization. This plan is designed to effectively handle and respond to various disastrous events.



Emphasizing the importance of preparedness, Mr. Pokharel stressed that all local governments should have their own disaster management plans in place before the monsoon season. Being prepared with strategies and protocols specific to natural disasters that occur during this season is important.

Regarding their organization's disaster management plan, Mr. Pokharel discussed key aspects. One of them is the establishment of a separate disaster fund by diverting a portion of relief funds which ensures dedicated resources for disaster management and response activities.

Adhering to standard operating procedures (SOPs) was also highlighted as essential. These SOPs serve as protocols and guidelines for different phases of a disaster, maintaining a structured and efficient response.

Additionally, Mr. Pokharel mentioned that their organization ensures easy access to policies by making them available on their website which allows relevant stakeholders, including government officials, emergency responders, and the general public, to refer to and stay informed about their disaster management approach.

**Dr. Raju Thapa** expressed that the presentations given by various speakers complemented each other, providing different perspectives and insights that contributed to a comprehensive understanding of the topic. He also highlighted the challenge of policy implementation, specifically pointing



out negligence as a hindrance to effective implementation. He expressed that overcoming this challenge is important to ensure the utilization of existing policies.

Dr. Thapa encouraged all participants to attend all sessions of the conference to gain a holistic understanding of the subject matter. He expressed that the conference was designed in a way that avoided unnecessary repetition and duplication of content, ensuring that each session offered unique and valuable information.

**Ms. Indu Pant Ghimire** emphasizes the importance of prioritizing the meaningful participation of specific groups, including women, people with disabilities, and marginalized individuals, in disaster management mechanisms. She highlights the concern that their perspectives and needs are often overlooked or disregarded in current disaster management efforts.



To address this, she calls for greater efforts to address gender and social inclusion issues within the context of disaster management practices.

The core message conveyed by Ms. Ghimire is the need to involve these groups in decision-making processes, planning, and implementation to ensure comprehensive and effective disaster management. Meaningful participation goes beyond token representation and involves actively engaging and involving these individuals, respecting their perspectives, expertise, and rights. This may include creating spaces for their voices to be heard, incorporating their experiences and insights into decision-making, and providing equal access to resources and opportunities.

By advocating for gender and social inclusion in disaster management practices, Ms. Ghimire emphasizes the importance of shifting towards a more equitable and inclusive approach. Consideration of factors such as gender roles, power dynamics, socioeconomic disparities, cultural norms, and accessibility issues is essential in creating a more inclusive and responsive disaster management framework.

**Ms. Sushila Shahi** mentioned about her municipality's remarkable efforts in various areas of disaster management. Firstly, she emphasized the municipality's commitment to developing skilled human resources through training and education programs, particularly focusing on fire preparedness and management.



Ms. Shahi also emphasized the municipality's dedication to conducting regular fire preparedness and management drills. These drills serve as important training exercises, simulating emergency situations to ensure that individuals and communities are well-prepared to respond effectively in case of a fire outbreak.

Furthermore, Ms. Shahi mentioned the establishment of dedicated committees focused on fire mitigation and prevention. These committees work towards identifying potential fire hazards, implementing preventive measures, and raising awareness among the public about fire safety practices. Their aim is to minimize the occurrence and impact of fires within the municipality.

Additionally, Ms. Shahi highlighted the municipality's efforts in providing relief mechanisms and initiatives, with a specific focus on prioritizing vulnerable groups. The municipality recognizes the unique challenges faced by individuals with disabilities, those living with HIV, and impoverished families during disasters. Therefore, specific measures are implemented to ensure that these groups receive appropriate support and assistance during fire emergencies and other disasters.

**Mr. Dipesh Tharu** shared the initiatives undertaken by his organization, focusing on key aspects of disaster management. These initiatives included the relocation of settlements in vulnerable river basins to mitigate risks associated with such locations. Mr. Tharu emphasized the need for appropriate laws and guidelines to effectively guide the relocation process.



In addition, he highlighted the importance of conducting comprehensive analyses of multi-hazard risks to better understand the potential threats faced by communities. These analyses inform decision-making and help prioritize disaster risk reduction measures.

Mr. Tharu discussed the establishment of disaster response committees as part of their organization's initiatives. These committees play a vital role in coordinating and implementing response efforts during and after disasters, ensuring a prompt and efficient response to emergency situations.

Furthermore, he emphasized the provision of relief and disaster funds as a important aspect of their organization's initiatives. By providing financial support and resources, they aim to assist affected communities in their recovery and rebuilding efforts.

To prevent settlements from being established in high-risk areas, Mr. Tharu stressed the importance of coordination with the Department of Land Management. Through collaboration, they aim to implement regulations and guidelines that discourage settlement in locations prone to hazards. This proactive approach aims to reduce community vulnerability and minimize risks associated with settlement in high-risk areas.

**Er. Madhav Katuwal** emphasizes the importance of resilient building design and compliance with building codes in disaster management. He acknowledges the role of the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction in monitoring construction activities for code adherence. Katuwal highlights the need for engineers to stay updated with the latest technical knowledge, emphasizing the dynamic nature of building technologies and the importance of continuous skills upgrading.



Retrofitting existing buildings is also emphasized as a way to enhance resilience. By promoting retrofitting, Katuwal emphasizes the importance of improving the resilience of both new and existing constructions. He also highlights the role of local contractors in complying with regulations, stressing their responsibility in ensuring safe construction practices. The consequences of non-compliance with building codes are mentioned, emphasizing the potential risks and loss associated with inadequate adherence.

**The key takeaway messages from the session “B” are as follows:**

1. Resilient building design and compliance with building codes are important elements in disaster management and risk reduction. It is essential to prioritize the safety and resilience of structures to minimize the impact of disasters.
2. The Department of Urban Development and Building Construction plays a vital role in monitoring construction activities and enforcing building codes. Their oversight ensures that buildings are constructed according to the required standards and regulations.
3. Continuous professional development is necessary for engineers to stay updated with the latest technical knowledge and advancements in building technologies which enables them to incorporate innovative solutions and best practices in their designs, leading to more resilient structures.
4. Retrofitting the existing buildings is an important strategy for enhancing resilience. By reinforcing and modifying older structures, their ability to withstand hazards can be improved, reducing vulnerability and potential damage during disasters.
5. Local contractors have a significant responsibility in complying with regulations and implementing proper construction techniques. Their adherence to building codes is important for ensuring the safety and resilience of buildings.
6. Non-compliance with building codes can have serious consequences, including increased vulnerability to disasters and potential loss of life. It is imperative to strictly adhere to regulations to prevent such risks.
7. Strengthening disaster risk governance in the building sector, promoting resilient housing, and addressing challenges like manpower, resource allocation, compliance, and awareness are important for effective implementation of disaster risk reduction.
8. Effective implementation of disaster risk reduction policies requires coordination, policy reinforcement, community sensitization, and collaboration among stakeholders.
9. Meeting the diverse needs of vulnerable populations and addressing gender, disability, and social inclusion gaps are essential for effective disaster risk reduction. Meaningful participation, inclusive leadership, and GEDSI-responsive governance are key to reducing risk and promoting inclusivity in decision-making.

10. Recognizing disasters as human rights issues and prioritizing human rights and dignity in disaster management through inclusive governance, accountability, effective policies, and stakeholder coordination is essential.

**Take away messages from the panel discussion of session “B” include:**

1. Emphasize the importance of localizing interventions and providing clear guidelines for local government planning to enhance disaster response and management.
2. Prioritize disaster preparedness by improving coordination and information sharing among government levels, enforcing building codes for small structures, and giving priority to rescue operations during disasters.
3. Address issues related to negligence and compensation claims, enact laws for disaster management, and ensure the inclusion and protection of vulnerable and excluded groups, including addressing gender violations.
4. Implement local projects and initiatives beyond seminars, addressing the diverse needs of affected individuals and empowering capable women in leadership roles.

In the end of the session on “Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance at all Levels Building Sectors),” the chairperson of the session provided a summary of the key points discussed and officially closed the session, acknowledging the valuable insights shared by the speakers and participants.



## **Day 2: June 30, 2023**

On June 30, 2023 (Day 2) of the NCDRR, there were two theme areas featuring technical presentations. In the end of the conference a closing session was held.

A total of 216 participants attended the Day 2 of the program including government officials, representatives from non-governmental organizations, researchers, academics, practitioners, community leaders, and individuals with expertise or interest in the field of disaster risk reduction.

### **Theme C: Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience**

Ms. Saloni Pradhan Singh, Former Member of the National Planning Commission, chaired this session, during which four presentations were delivered on the following topics:

1. Enhancing Private Investment and Corporate Social Responsibility: Mr. Somnath Gautam, Under Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies (MoICS).
2. Engagement of Private Sector in DRR: Mr. Suman Shakya, Advisor, Private Sector Engagement, USAID's Tayar Nepal.
3. Ensuring Resilience: Disaster Risk Transfer/Financing: Mr. Bhakta Bahadur Hamal, Executive Committee Member and Chair of Health and Disaster Subcommittee, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI).
4. Municipalities in DRR Investments & Role of MuAN: Mr. Kalanidhi Devkota, Executive Director, Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN).

## **Opening Remarks: Ms. Saloni Pradhan Singh, Former Member, National Planning Commission and Advisor, DPNet-Nepal**

Chair of the session Ms. Saloni Pradhan Singh delivered the opening remarks. She extended a warm welcome to the presenters, audience, and coordinating partners, including DPNet-Nepal, USAID's Tayar, and the Ministry of Home Affairs. She emphasized the importance of investing in disaster risk reduction to enhance the nation's resilience at all levels. Ms. Pradhan underscored the need for a collaborative approach in addressing disaster risks, emphasizing that it requires the collective efforts of government agencies, development partners, private sectors, and communities.



## **Presentation 1: Enhancing Private Investment and Corporate Social Responsibility**

### **Mr. Somnath Gautam, Under Secretary, MoICS**

Mr. Somnath Gautam emphasized the importance of including provisions in business-related policy documents that support different types of businesses, provide services for new businesses, and address the needs of women entrepreneurs. He highlighted the significance of collaboration with various ministries to address cross-cutting issues and create a comprehensive strategy.



Additionally, Mr. Gautam stressed the need to motivate individuals to start their own businesses. He provided detailed information on the Business Logistics Policy 2079 and the Mines and Minerals Policy during his presentation. Furthermore, he discussed the requirements of Corporate Social Responsibility, specifically the allocation of 1% of resources by businesses towards CSR activities.

## **Presentation 2: Engagement of the Private Sector in DRR**

### **Mr. Suman Shakya, Advisor, Private Sector Engagement, USAID's Tayar Nepal**

Mr. Suman Shakya highlighted the important role of the private sector in disaster risk reduction and resilience, emphasizing the need to connect their involvement with overall development. He shared a real-life story illustrating the challenges faced by the private sector during disruptions, emphasizing the need to recognize their contributions beyond relief distribution.



Mr. Shakya explains that the impacts of disasters on the private sector, particularly Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), often go unnoticed, and their own business resilience is a significant concern.

He further explains that Private sector investments in resilience not only save lives but also result in cost savings in disaster response. USAID's Tayar Nepal focuses on promoting entrepreneurial opportunities, partnerships, disaster risk financing, and enhancing the private sector's resilience. Key steps to encourage private sector involvement in disaster resilience include changing the perception of the private sector, improving media coverage, promoting business continuity management, and encouraging the development of disaster-resilient products and services. Advocacy, awareness building, and incorporating business management courses in educational institutions are important measures to enhance private sector engagement in DRR.

Mr. Shakya seeks the recognition and encouragement of successful initiatives in disaster resilience by the private sector are essential and It is important to appreciate and recognize the private sector's efforts and achievements in building a resilient future.

### **Presentation 3: Ensuring Resilience Disaster Risk Transfer/Financing**

#### **Mr. Bhakta Bahadur Hamal, Chairperson, Health and Disaster Committee, FNCCI**

Mr. Bhakta Bahadur Hamal presented on the role of FNCCI in DRR and their understanding of DRR as a private sector federation. FNCCI actively engages in DRR response measures, including the distribution of relief materials and promoting climate change mitigation and energy efficiency.



Mr. Hamal explained the private sector engagement in DRR involves insurance companies offering disaster insurance coverage, financial institutions providing resilience-focused financial products, and infrastructure development for resilient infrastructure. The benefits of private sector engagement in DRR include financial resilience, expertise and innovation, and a collaborative approach.

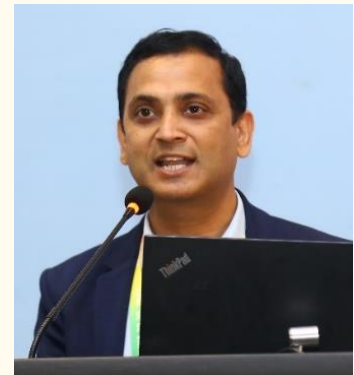
He explains the challenges in private sector engagement include the need for proactive roles from insurance companies and financial institutions, clearer policies for utilizing resources, and improving collaboration and coordination between the public and private sectors. Private sector involvement is important in minimizing the impact of disasters on society and the economy, with key components of DRR being risk assessment, preparedness and response, and mitigation and prevention.

He stressed that the issues to address include the oversight of disaster preparedness, ensuring proactive involvement from insurance companies and financial institutions, and clarifying policies for utilizing resources for DRR. Collaboration and coordination between the public and private sectors are challenging, and there is a lack of comprehensive studies, data, and information on disasters. Overcoming challenges and improving private sector engagement in DRR will require concerted efforts and effective policies.

## **Presentation 4: Role of Local Government in DRR Investment**

### **Mr. Kalanidhi Devkota, Executive Director, MuAN**

Mr. Kalanidhi Devkota presented on the role of local government in DRR investment and highlighted the need for institutional arrangements, capacity building, and policy support. Mr. Devkota emphasized the importance of coordination between federal, provincial, and local governments is important for strengthening the operational mechanisms of local governments and achieving sustainable development.



Mr. Devkota explains MuAN's interventions in DRR investment focus on institutional arrangements, capacity building, and policy support to effectively address DRR challenges. He also focused on The DRR and GEDSI Strategic Plan of MuAN includes an implementation action plan, with a focus on the execution of national power by all levels of government.

He shared that the conflicts can arise between concurrent and exclusive powers, with exclusive power prevailing in disaster preparedness at the municipal level. Collaboration and clear understanding among the three tiers of government are necessary for effective DRR implementation. Protecting vulnerable populations and establishing committees and learning centers at the provincial level are important considerations.

The way forward involves prioritizing DRRM governance mechanisms at the municipal level, risk-sensitive planning and budgeting, and capacity development for elected and non-elected officials. Increased mobilization of grants and collaboration with organizations such as USAID's Tayar Nepal and Local Government are essential for supporting DRR efforts. Training mayors and municipal representatives in risk-sensitive planning is important for effective DRR implementation.

## Questions and Answer Session

### Dr. Shrijan Bahadur Malla, SIMEX Hub

Dr. Shrijan Bahadur Malla raised several important questions regarding provincial and local government acts and policies. Firstly, he inquired about the situation where the province has not introduced its act, but the local level has its own act or policy. He sought clarification on how such cases would be addressed and whether conflicts or inconsistencies may arise due to the lack of alignment between different levels of government.



Additionally, Dr. Malla questioned what would be done in case of duplication or intersection of policies between the federal and local governments. This raises concerns about potential conflicts or confusion that may arise when different levels of government have overlapping policies or regulations. Clarity on the steps to be taken in such cases is necessary to ensure effective coordination and avoid any discrepancies or contradictory implementation.

In terms of private sector involvement within policies, Dr. Malla specifically asked about the compulsion of Business Continuity Plans (BCPs). BCPs are essential tools for ensuring the resilience of businesses during disasters. Dr. Malla sought to understand whether there are mandatory requirements for businesses to develop and implement BCPs, and what expectations the Ministry has from the corporate sector in terms of disaster resilience.



### **Mr. Deepak Poudel, Advisor, DPNet Nepal**

Mr. Poudel raised important questions related to private sector investments and contributions, with a specific focus on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) investments. Firstly, Mr. Paudel inquired about the availability of data regarding where and how much the private sector invests. This highlights the importance of having comprehensive and up-to-date information on private sector investments in various sectors and their contributions to disaster risk reduction and management.



Additionally, Mr. Paudel asked about the mobilization and guidelines followed in the Prime Minister Fund. This fund plays a important role in supporting disaster response and recovery efforts. By inquiring about the transparency and effectiveness of fund utilization, Mr. Paudel seeks to understand the mechanisms in place to ensure that the funds are utilized efficiently and for their intended purposes.

Furthermore, Mr. Paudel addressed the inclusion of the agriculture sector in the disaster framework. He emphasized the significant impact of hydro-meteorological disasters on agriculture and highlighted the need for coordination and progress in this area.

### **Dr. Amod Mani Dixit, NSET-Nepal / Advisor, DPNet**

Dr. Amod Mani Dixit made valuable suggestions during the session, particularly regarding the involvement of the FNCCI in discussions on private sector challenges. Recognizing the significance of FNCCI's perspective, Mr. Dixit emphasized the importance of including FNCCI as a member of DPNet to facilitate detailed conversations on the challenges faced by the private sector.



Dr. Dixit raised pertinent questions about the utilization of Corporate Social Responsibility funds through NGOs established by the private sector. He inquired about how FNCCI addresses this matter and sought insights into the extent to which CSR funds are invested through these NGOs.

Furthermore, Dr. Dixit expressed concerns about the benefits received by the private sector in the context of relief and reconstruction efforts following the Gorkha Earthquake. He sought insights into the extent of these benefits, highlighting the importance of understanding the impact and outcomes of private sector involvement in post-disaster recovery efforts.

Dr. Dixit also raised questions about the lessons learned by the private sector from the Gorkha Earthquake and the potential long-term impact of establishing NGOs by the private sector.

#### **Ms. Ashmi Duwadi, DEPROSC Nepal**

Ms. Ashmi Dawadi raised an important question regarding the meaning and effectiveness of CSR programs at the community level. CSR programs are initiatives undertaken by private sector organizations to contribute to the social, economic, and environmental well-being of the communities in which they operate. When implemented effectively, CSR programs can have significant positive impacts on communities, addressing social needs, supporting local development, and fostering sustainable practices.



Introducing a rating system to assess the impact of CSR initiatives can enhance accountability and recognition for the private sector's contributions to community welfare. Such a system can provide a framework for evaluating the effectiveness and outcomes of CSR programs, measuring their social impact, and assessing their alignment with sustainable development goals. A rating system would enable stakeholders, including communities, to evaluate the performance of private sector organizations in fulfilling their social responsibilities and making positive contributions. It would also promote transparency and facilitate benchmarking, allowing organizations to learn from best practices and improve their CSR strategies.

Ms. Duwadi further said that by implementing a rating system, the private sector's accountability and commitment to community welfare would be strengthened. It would provide a mechanism to measure the tangible benefits and outcomes of CSR initiatives, enabling organizations to identify areas for improvement and maximize their positive impact. Additionally, a rating system can enhance recognition and reputation for organizations that demonstrate exceptional CSR performance, encouraging others to follow suit and contributing to a culture of corporate citizenship and responsible business practices.

**Mr. Om Prakash Ghimire, Netizen Media**

Mr. Om Prakash Ghimire raised concerns about the outdated map of Nepal used in a presentation, emphasizing the need for accurate and updated representations. He also highlighted the necessity of conducting comprehensive research on the private sector's involvement in DRR and the mapping of their contributions. Additionally, he inquired about the percentage of investment in DRR through CSR funds and whether there are separate procedures and regulations in place for such investments.



**Mr. Shyam Sundar Jnavaly, Advisor, DPNet-Nepal**

Mr. Shyam Sundar Jnavaly raised an important point regarding the distinction between working on climate change and disaster risk reduction. While climate change and DRR are interconnected, they involve different approaches and strategies.



Mr. Jnavaly also highlighted the need for research demonstrating the private sector's contribution to DRR. Understanding the private sector's involvement, investments, and initiatives in DRR is essential for assessing their impact and identifying opportunities for collaboration and improvement. Research plays a important role

in providing evidence-based insights and recommendations to enhance the private sector's engagement in DRR efforts.

Additionally, Mr. Jnavaly suggested that MuAN should not only focus on enacting a DRR act but also prioritize its implementation. He proposed the hiring of DRR officers in local governments for a longer period to ensure sustained commitment and capacity in DRR.

**Mr. Pitambar Aryal, Former Chairperson / Advisor, DPNet and Former General Secretary, Nepal Red Cross Society**

Mr. Pitambar Aryal raised an important concern regarding the inclusion of carbon emissions in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and the provision of a climate change management fund. He highlighted the significance of recognizing carbon emissions as a critical aspect of CSR and ensuring that CSR activities contribute to addressing climate change challenges.



Including carbon emissions in CSR allows businesses to take responsibility for their environmental impact and actively work towards reducing their carbon footprint. By incorporating carbon emissions reduction strategies and initiatives into CSR programs, businesses can contribute to mitigating climate change and promoting sustainability. Additionally, Mr. Aryal emphasized the need for a dedicated climate change management fund.

**Ms. Sabitra Ghimire, NFDN**

Ms. Sabitra Ghimire raised questions regarding the provisions for people with disabilities in disaster response efforts. She also expressed concerns about biases in private sector recruitment processes that adversely impact individuals with disabilities. She asked for insights into the specific measures and provisions in place to ensure the inclusion and effective participation of people with disabilities in disaster response activities. Additionally, she



further asked about the initiatives or strategies being implemented to address biases and promote equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities during private sector recruitment processes.

### **Mr. Krishna Chandra Neupane, ADCCN**

Mr. Krishna Chandra Neupane emphasized the importance of trust-building between the government and the private sector. He highlighted the misconception among the public that collaboration between the two entities is solely focused on profit generation, stressing the need to address and clarify this perception. Mr. Neupane suggested that presenters include solutions along with the issues discussed and emphasized the significance of transparency in the private sector.



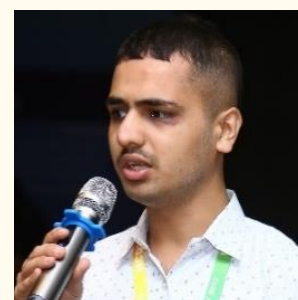
### **Mr. Chakra Bahadur Bom, Practical Action**

Mr. Chakra Bahadur Bom shared an example of insurance coverage for landslides provided to farmers in five municipalities in Karnali. He emphasized the significance of incorporating insurance into policy-making and supporting local governments. Additionally, he suggested revising the premium rates for agricultural insurance to enhance the coverage and grant amount, thereby improving the effectiveness and reach of the insurance scheme.



### **Mr. Saugat Wagle**

Mr. Saugat Wagle raised questions about cross-cutting issues in CSR and the inclusion of people with disabilities. He also inquired about what other municipalities can learn from Dharan, a municipality that has implemented successful DRR initiatives.





### **Mr. Govinda Rimal, Technical Advisor, DPNet-Nepal**

Mr. Govinda Rimal inquired about the status of Business Continuity Plans in Nepal and stressed the importance of investing in preparedness rather than solely focusing on response mechanisms. He also raised questions regarding the plans in place for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) funds and their allocation.



### **Ms. Amika Rajthala, Disaster Journalism Network**

Ms. Amika Rajthala emphasized the necessity of discussing the inclusion of media in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) efforts and also highlighted the significance of effective media performance in disaster reporting. She asked for insights into the discussions and considerations surrounding the involvement of media in DRM initiatives. Furthermore, she questioned the measures being taken to ensure that the media plays a constructive role in disaster reporting, contributing to accurate information dissemination and public awareness during and after disasters.



### **Mr. Nirmal Adhikari, Nepal Insurance Authority**

Mr. Nirmal Adhikari clarified the relationship between reinsurance companies and the pricing of insurance premiums, specifically addressing concerns about the affordability of insurance premiums. He emphasized the need to understand how the involvement of reinsurance companies can impact the costliness of insurance coverage. By shedding light on this connection, Mr. Adhikari aimed to provide insights into the factors that influence insurance premiums and the role reinsurance companies play in determining the affordability of insurance for individuals and businesses.





### **Ms. Sushila Shahi, Mayor, Lamkichuha Municipality**

Ms. Sushila Shahi signaled the use of old map of Nepal in various presentation and publications. Hence, she advocated for the use of the new political map of Nepal, which includes the regions of Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura. She emphasized the importance of adopting this updated map to accurately represent the territorial boundaries of Nepal. By advocating for its use, Ms. Shahi aimed to ensure that the map reflects Nepal's sovereign rights and territorial integrity, particularly in relation to the regions of Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura.



### **Mr. Rijan Gajural, HRRP**

Mr. Rijan Gajurel inquired about the future action plans and initiatives of the private sector, specifically regarding housing insurance. He sought information on the upcoming projects and strategies of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI). Furthermore, he questioned how populations, particularly vulnerable groups, can be included in disaster risk transfer and financing schemes.



**The presenters addressed the raised questions and concerns in the following manner:**

In response, **Mr. Somnath Gautam** acknowledged the importance of incorporating a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) perspective in the industry and commerce sectors. He assured that guidelines addressing GEDSI concerns would be made available for public review. Mr. Gautam expressed the readiness of the concerned ministry to collaborate and engage with stakeholders, including individuals with disabilities, to ensure their participation and inclusion in policy formulation. He emphasized that upcoming policies would be comprehensive, well-informed, and responsive to the diverse needs of the population.



In course of his response, **Mr. Bhakta Bahadur Hamal** emphasized the need for clearer policies and categorization of CSR funds, specifically for disaster investments. Additionally, Mr. Hamal addressed the issue of high insurance premiums, which pose challenges for private sectors seeking comprehensive insurance coverage. He explained that the high costs associated with insurance premiums deter private sectors from obtaining adequate coverage, leading to limited protection or no insurance at all. By raising this concern, Mr. Hamal emphasizes the necessity of implementing measures that can reduce the financial burden on private sectors and encourage them to invest more in disaster-related initiatives. One possible solution could be the development of clearer policies and categorization of CSR funds specifically designated for disaster investments. These policies would provide guidance on how CSR funds should be allocated and utilized, ensuring their effective utilization for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.



Answering the questions, **Mr. Suman Shakya** highlighted the need for private sector awareness and compliance with DRR policies. He emphasized the important role that the private sector plays in disaster management and stressed the significance of collaboration and coordination between private sector entities and DRR initiatives. Mr. Shakya acknowledged that the private sector, with its resources, expertise, and influence, has the potential to make a significant impact on disaster resilience and response efforts. He emphasized the importance of businesses and organizations being aware of DRR policies and regulations in order to effectively integrate disaster risk reduction measures into their operations and strategies. Furthermore, Mr. Shakya underscored the value of private sector engagement and partnerships with DRR initiatives. He emphasized that collaboration and coordination between the private sector and DRR stakeholders, such as government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations, are important for maximizing the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction efforts. Through working together, the private sector can leverage its unique capabilities, including financial resources, innovation, and technological expertise, to enhance disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

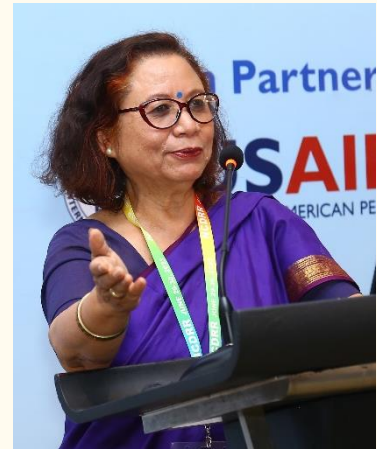


In response to raised questions, **Mr. Kalanidhi Devkota** emphasized the need for coordination among different levels of government to ensure effective policy implementation. He discussed the complexities and challenges that arise from overlapping jurisdictions and the importance of clear communication channels to avoid conflicts and ensure a streamlined implementation process. Furthermore, Mr. Devkota highlighted the significance of equalization grants, which are financial transfers from higher levels of government to lower levels to promote equity and reduce disparities. These grants play an important role in addressing fiscal imbalances and enabling less financially privileged regions or local governments to provide adequate public services. Additionally, Mr. Devkota emphasized the importance of research in improving policy



implementation. Research helps identify gaps, evaluate policy effectiveness, and provide evidence-based recommendations for better implementation strategies. By investing in research and data-driven decision-making, policymakers and implementers can gain valuable insights into challenges and explore innovative approaches to overcome them.

Concluding the session as the chair, **Ms. Saloni Pradhan Singh** highlighted several key points, emphasizing the significance of collaboration, coordination, and a transformative approach in disaster management. She also acknowledged the interdependent relationships between different sectors and levels of governance.



Ms. Pradhan emphasized the need for a transformative approach, suggesting a shift from traditional or conventional practices towards innovative and forward-thinking strategies. A transformative approach involves challenging existing norms, systems, and mindsets, and embracing new ideas and solutions that can lead to long-lasting positive change. By adopting a transformative approach, disaster management can become more proactive, adaptive, and inclusive, addressing underlying vulnerabilities and promoting sustainable development.

Lastly, Ms. Pradhan acknowledged the interdependent relationships between various sectors and levels of governance. It requires collaboration and coordination across different sectors such as health, infrastructure, environment, and social welfare, as well as at various levels of governance, including local, regional, and national. Understanding and nurturing these interdependencies is essential for comprehensive and effective disaster management.

**Key Takeaway Messages from the session “C” are as follows:**

1. The existing provisions and policies supporting businesses, such as subsidies, services, and provisions for women entrepreneurs, are in place but need further strengthening to ensure inclusivity with a focus on GEDSI.
2. It is important to recognize and appreciate the significant role of the private sector in disaster resilience which involves highlighting their contributions, advocating for their engagement in disaster risk reduction, promoting business continuity management, encouraging investments in disaster-resilient products and services, raising awareness, and sharing successful initiatives.
3. Private sector engagement in DRR brings financial resilience, expertise, innovation, and a collaborative approach. However, challenges persist in terms of coordination, resource availability, and high insurance premiums, which need to be addressed.
4. Efforts should be made to improve coordination and collaboration among various stakeholders, including the private sector, government agencies, NGOs, and community-based organizations, to maximize the effectiveness of DRR initiatives.
5. Clear policies, guidelines, and frameworks are necessary to ensure the effective allocation and utilization of resources, including Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, for disaster-related initiatives.
6. Enhancing coordination between different levels of government is essential for successful policy implementation and effective disaster management.
7. Investments in disaster resilience should focus on proactive measures, such as risk reduction, preparedness, and mitigation, to minimize the impact of disasters and promote long-term resilience.
8. Addressing challenges related to resource availability, insurance premiums, and coordination can help create an enabling environment for private sector engagement in DRR.
9. Continued efforts are needed to raise awareness about the importance of private sector involvement in DRR and to foster collaboration and partnerships between the private sector and other stakeholders.

10. There is a need to enhance DRR investment in local governments by focusing on strengthening institutional arrangements, implementing strategic plans, promoting risk-sensitive planning and budgeting, conducting capacity building initiatives, and providing policy support. Additionally, increased financial support through grants should be provided to facilitate effective DRR implementation at the local level.



## **Theme D: Enhancing Disaster for Effective Response and “Build Back Better”**

The session "D" was initially chaired by Dr. Gangalal Tuladhar, Former Education Minister and Expert Member of the National Council for DRR, who oversaw five presentations. Later, the session was chaired by Mr. Mahadev Panth, Joint Secretary of MoHA. He oversaw three papers.

A total of seven presentations were delivered, covering the following topics:

1. Reconstruction Practice and Experiences by Mr. Krishna Gaire, Under Secretary, NDRRMA.
2. Early Warning Systems and Effective Information Dissemination by Er. Mousam Bhandari, Hydrologist, DHM.
3. Public Health Emergency Management: Challenges and Safety by Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari, Chief, Health Emergency Operation Center, MoHP.
4. Resilient Infrastructures: Landslide Triggered by Road Construction and Way Forward by Mr. Saroj Pradhan, National Road Safety Council.
5. Transforming Communities Through Innovative and Effective Humanitarian Response by Mr. Umesh Prasad Dhakal, Executive Director, Nepal Red Cross Society.
6. Harnessing Home-Grown Technology for DRR by Mr. Ram Prasad Rimal and Mr. Laxman Prasad Rimal, Ram Laxman Innovation.
7. Preparedness for Effective Response: Simulation Exercise Process and Practices by Dr. Shrijan Bahadur Malla, SIMEX Hub.

## Presentation 1: Reconstruction Practices and Experiences

### Mr. Krishna Gaire, Under Secretary, NDRRMA

Mr. Krishna Gaire focused on the Reconstruction practices and experiences. He shared about the legal frameworks and guidelines that escort Reconstruction practices in Nepal. He highlighted two major guiding frameworks and action plans NDRRMA has been working on very recently regarding reconstruction; Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan, 2077 and Fire Disaster Affected Housing Reconstruction Guideline, 2078. While talking about the Issues and challenges, he shared that the feeding approach is not suitable as it increased dependability. The feeding approach in disaster management focuses on addressing the challenges during humanitarian crises which disrupts the societal systems to ensure that the affected individuals and communities receive sufficient and appropriate assistance. Mr. Gaire discussed about the damages and losses faced by people post-2015 earthquake with factual data and shared the achievements regarding reconstruction; 90% of the reconstruction was completed whereas 10% of the reconstruction is currently ongoing under the supervision of concerned organizations. The remaining reconstruction works in urban areas have been going on in collaboration and coordination with the CLPIU-Housing and Building unit under the Ministry of Urban Development. Furthermore, he oriented the conference room about Empowerment, Rehabilitation, and reconstruction, and the roles of local-level Disaster management committees.



Mr. Gaire expressed that NDRRMA is currently implementing various types of reliefs and grants to address the aftermath of natural disasters. These include the Repair and Rehabilitation Grant, which aims to assist in restoring damaged infrastructure and buildings. The Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Grant specifically targets the regions affected by disasters, such as the mountains, hills, and Terai areas, to support their recovery efforts. Another essential grant is the Temporary Shelter Construction Grant, which focuses on providing immediate shelter solutions for displaced individuals. Additionally, the NDRRMA offers Land Relief to help affected communities in

acquiring suitable land for rebuilding purposes. Lastly, the Displacement and Rehabilitation Grant supports the relocation and rehabilitation of individuals who have been displaced due to disasters. The implementation of relief and grants by the NDRRMA involves close collaboration with all levels of government. Progress is being monitored using data collected through NDRRMA KoBoCollect and the MIS system ([reconstruction.ndrrma.gov.np](http://reconstruction.ndrrma.gov.np)). However, several challenges have arisen during the implementation process. One challenge is the identification of socio-economically vulnerable citizens, requiring accurate prioritization based on their needs. Additionally, securing initial investment from local governments has proved difficult, hindering effective action plan implementation. Furthermore, the current approach only covers three types of affected areas regarding the private sector, highlighting the need for a more inclusive approach to address all affected sectors and regions. Unequal distribution of grants, up to 1 lakh, has failed to sufficiently alleviate the economic crises faced by affected families. To overcome these challenges, efforts are underway to ensure greater equity in grant distribution and address the identified issues. By collecting data through the mentioned platforms, the NDRRMA can monitor progress, make informed decisions, and improve future disaster response and recovery initiative

## **Presentation: 2 Early warning system and effective information Dissemination**

### **Er. Mousam Bhandari, Hydrologist, DHM**

Er. Mousam Bhandari presented on the evolution of early warning systems and effective information dissemination in Nepal. He outlined the historical timeline, starting from the establishment of the Hydrometeorology Department in 2044 B.S. Initially, flood monitoring towers were employed (2045-2055) as physical structures in flood-prone areas to monitor water levels and weather conditions. Telemetry was introduced (2055-2065) for remote data transmission from sensors to central control centers using wireless communication. Telecommunication technology became more prevalent afterward, enabling faster and more efficient flood-related information dissemination (Post-2065).



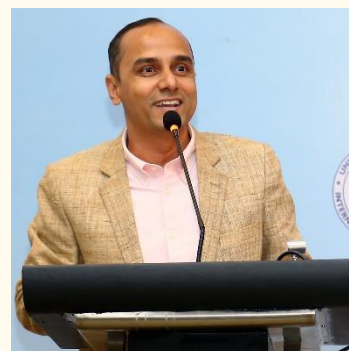
Er. Bhandari emphasized that an effective EWS requires political commitment and highlighted key features, including being goal-oriented, scientifically developed, and having provisions for monitoring, information dissemination, and response capacity. He discussed the progress made in response capacity through preparedness and the use of tools like rainfall measuring devices, satellite data, temperature measurement, and real-time monitoring networks via the Hydrological Observation website.

Er. Bhandari explained that the DHM provides various prediction and forecasting services. This includes everyday weather forecasting for three days, flood prediction three days in advance during the monsoon season, weather bulletins explaining unusual rainfall with terminologies and indicators, and flood bulletins for up to five days. Prediction analysis and information dissemination are conducted through various channels such as Facebook, websites, TV, radio, and social media platforms. The department also focuses on flash flood prediction, achieving 72% accuracy in rainfall pattern analysis. Prediction bulletins and a help desk with an SMS flood polygon are available, ensuring timely information sharing and assistance. By leveraging multiple communication channels, the department aims to reach a wider audience and enhance public awareness and preparedness in dealing with flood-related risks.

### **Presentation 3: Public Health Emergency Management: challenges and Safety**

#### **Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari Chief, Health Emergency Operation Center, MoHP**

Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari discussed the challenges and safety in Public Health Emergency Management. He explained the organizational structure of the Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) and its close collaboration with local governments as a health focal point during emergencies. HEOC's activities align with the Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Plan of Action 2018-2030, focusing on four priority areas.



Priority 1 involves understanding disaster risk through hazard-wise risk assessment, inter-agency coordination, and the development of an effective disaster management information system.

Priority 2 aims to strengthen disaster risk governance at federal, provincial, and local levels, emphasizing institutional structures, legal frameworks, capacity building, and inclusiveness.

Priority 3 focuses on promoting comprehensive risk-informed investments in disaster risk reduction for resilience, including public and private investments, risk sharing, insurance, and social security.

Priority 4 aims to enhance disaster preparedness, including the development of a multi-hazard early warning system, community-based disaster risk reduction, communication and dissemination improvements, and capacity building for search and rescue.

Dr. Adhikari highlighted the post-COVID action points for the health sector to support building back better, such as strengthening epidemiology and laboratory functions, implementing countermeasures and mitigation strategies, providing mass health care, and improving public information and communication. He expressed various experiences shared during the session, including the development of an activation system and coordination at the central level, technical challenges in surveillance and sample collection, risk communication through media, hospital coordination and revised disaster plans, mobilization of internal teams, oxygen management, and vaccination efforts. Dr. Adhikari highlighted observations from the National Demographic and Health Survey, revealing issues related to anxiety, road traffic accidents, coordination challenges, resource management, technical issues, proactive preparedness, and the importance of the entire disaster risk reduction and management cycle.

Dr. Adhikari expressed the way forward in disaster management and healthcare preparedness, emphasizing the whole disaster risk reduction and management cycle, using critical resources and emergency funds for preparedness, building operational readiness mechanisms, coordinated sectoral strength, regular practice and improvement of public health emergency preparedness, and addressing healthcare facilities in rural areas. He shared findings from a survey, highlighting early

pregnancies, inadequate health facilities, vaccination challenges, psychosocial issues, and the need for road traffic accident prevention. He emphasized the need for targeted interventions and collaborative efforts to address these issues effectively.

#### **Presentation 4: Resilient Infrastructures: Landslide Triggered by Road Construction and Way Forward**

##### **Mr. Saroj Kumar Pradhan, National Road Safety Council**

Mr. Saroj Kumar Pradhan highlighted the challenges of road development in hilly terrain in Nepal, specifically focusing on the differences between national highways and provincial/local roads. National highways, funded by donors, prioritize geotechnical studies, control mechanisms, and proper drainage and slope management. On the other hand, provincial and local roads lack sufficient geotechnical investigations, leading to improper drainage and slope designs, which increase the risk of landslides.



Several causal factors for landslides were identified, including slope conditions, soil composition, hydrological and climatic factors, and geology. The presentation emphasized that road construction mainly focused on engineering aspects, neglecting the prevention of landslides.

Mr. Pradhan in his presentation highlighted ways in which road construction can trigger landslides, including insufficient study during road design and construction, incorrect construction approaches, neglect of land use patterns, excavation, and slope destabilization. Resilient structures were identified as necessary, considering climate change issues and their importance to the economy and society. Key aspects of resilient structures include life cycle analysis, proper road corridor section based on hazard and risk rating, addressing downstream disposal issues, and considering land use patterns.



According to Mr. Pradhan, past experiences have shown that debris clearance and slope trimming contribute to improved road safety and reduced landslides. The way forward involves geo-mapping along route corridors, proper route corridor selection based on hazard and risk rating, geotechnical evaluation, consideration of climate change effects, plantation and soil combination assessment, policy implementation, debris clearance, and sustained commitment to mitigating landslides in construction practices.

### **Presentation 5: Transforming communities through Innovation and Effective Humanitarian Response**

#### **Mr. Umesh Prasad Dhakal, Executive Director, Nepal Red Cross Society**

Mr. Umesh Prasad Dhakal emphasized the need for principle-based actions and a coordinated and integrated cluster approach to humanitarian response, citing the response to the 2008 flood in Nepal as an example.



Mr. Dhakal provided a brief history of humanitarian crises and the development of policies, tools, and frameworks to support humanitarian response over the years. He highlighted the shift in Nepal's approach to DRR and humanitarian response from a focus on emergency response to organizational preparedness, capacity development, and community resilience. The approach has evolved to be risk-informed, long-term, decentralized, and people-centric, with proactive measures and support provided to the government through risk assessment, community-based DRR programming, and disaster response strengthening.

According to Mr. Dhakal, Key elements of the humanitarian response in Nepal include the institutional setup for disaster response, multipurpose cash assistance, mental health and psychosocial support, use of tools like sirens for supporting migrant populations, promotion of indigenous knowledge and innovation, and the digitalization of data and tools.

Mr. Dhakal recommended the institutionalization of disaster response, focusing on innovations for preparedness and community engagement, strengthening local governance and volunteer mobilization, promoting a circular economy and risk financing, uniformity in benefit packages, and centralizing and managing data by the government.

## **Presentation 6: Harnessing Home-Grown Technology for DRR**

### **Mr. Ram Prasad Rimal and Mr. Laxman Prasad Rimal, Ram Laxman Innovation**

In their presentation, Mr. Ram Prasad Rimal and Mr. Laxman Prasad Rimal showcased their home-grown technology solutions for DRR in Nepal. Over the past 20 years, they have developed more than 20 projects, including voting machines for accurate and secure elections, community-based alarm systems, mobile applications for tracking vehicles and assets, and web and mobile applications for DRR. Their motto, "Home-grown technology for home-grown issues," emphasizes the importance of locally developed solutions within a minimal budget to enhance the status of Nepalese society.



The presenters highlighted their innovative technologies aimed at enhancing disaster preparedness and response. These include community buzzers and sirens as early warning systems, vehicle tracking and announcement systems designed for disabled individuals, and an early warning system developed by the National Academy of Science and Technology. The focus has been on creating inclusive, cost-effective, and disaster-friendly technologies.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the presenters developed a thermographic camera system capable of detecting elevated body temperatures in mass gatherings. This disability-friendly system includes a printer and alerts for high temperatures, and it has even been exported to Japan. Other showcased innovations include an agro-meteorological weather station for agricultural sensing and data prediction, a multi-use equipment system for landslide prediction and alerting, a

flood early warning system with telecom and local network communication, and a wireless community rescue siren system that connects sensors for fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and defense kits.

The presenters outlined plans for network development, data collection, and prediction systems. Their objective is to establish 100 networks within one year, including a collective rescue siren that utilizes sensor data. Additionally, there are plans to establish an integrated national network for disaster risk reduction.

### **Presentation 7: Preparedness for Effective Responses: Simulation Exercise Process and Practices**

#### **Dr. Shrijan Bahadur Malla, SIMEX Hub**

In his presentation, Dr. Shrijan Bahadur Malla focused on "Preparedness for Effective Response: Simulation Exercise Process and Practices." He highlighted the historical perspective and current trends in simulation exercises, emphasizing their value as part of disaster preparedness. The Nepal Red Cross Society has been utilizing simulation exercises for 60 years, and SIMEX has developed a simulation manual for preparedness structures and response readiness. The objectives of simulation exercises include capacity building, testing, improving, and validating emergency plans and policies.



Dr. Malla explained the four types of simulation exercises: tabletop exercises, drills, functional exercises, and field exercises/full-scale exercises. The selection of the exercise type depends on objectives, participants' knowledge and skills, desired realism, and the context. The WHO Simulation Manual provides a decision tree to aid in choosing the appropriate type. The simulation process involves planning, designing, implementing, and debriefing.

Dr. Malla shared current trends and observations in simulation exercises, including the lack of understanding and awareness, limited inter-organizational linkages, insufficient government resources, and the need to incorporate GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability Inclusion, and Social Inclusion). The way forward involves endorsing the simulation manual, investing in simulation at the national level, involving inter-organizational and government stakeholders, implementing policies to engage the private and corporate sectors, and prioritizing the incorporation of GEDSI considerations.

### **Remarks from the Session Chair Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar**

Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar emphasized the importance of disaster-resilient political commitment in promoting good practices related to DRR . He highlighted that while we cannot change the nature of disasters, we can change our habits and practices to reduce their impact. Dr. Tuladhar specifically emphasized the need for engineers to monitor excavations and construction activities to ensure safety and prevent potential disasters.



Dr. Tuladhar also stressed the importance of modifying policies, acts, and laws to address relevant issues in disaster risk reduction. He mentioned the development of an instant incident command system in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the need for adaptive and responsive approaches in emergency management. By adapting policies and laws to current challenges and incorporating lessons learned from past disasters, we can enhance our preparedness and response capabilities.

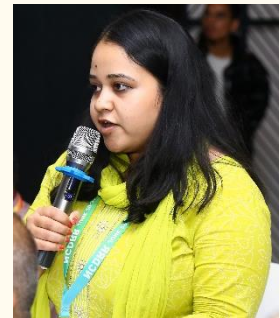
Furthermore, Dr. Tuladhar highlighted the significance of involving all levels of government and civil society in health emergency response. Effective disaster response and mitigation require collaboration and coordination among different stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and the general public.

## Questions and Answer Session

Following questions and feedbacks were provided by the participants:

### **Ms. Saurabi Niraula, CSRC**

Ms. Saurabi Niraula sought information regarding the policy-level criteria used to determine a crisis. Additionally, she inquired about the inclusion of environmental and social impact assessments in crisis management frameworks. She asked to provide insights into the policy criteria for defining a crisis and the integration of environmental and social impact assessments in crisis management practices.



### **Mr. Sandip Adhikari, DHM**

Recognizing the importance of a comprehensive approach, Mr. Sandip Adhikari emphasized the need to broaden the scope of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) action plans to include all types of disasters, rather than solely focusing on monsoon-related disasters. In light of this perspective, could you elaborate on the strategies and measures being undertaken to ensure that DRRM action plans encompass a wide range of hazards, such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, droughts, and other potential disasters, he asked. By encompassing a diverse array of risks, DRRM can effectively address the multifaceted challenges and enhance resilience across various disaster-prone regions.



### **Mr. Niral Sapkota, Start Fund**

Mr. Niral Sapkota raised an important query regarding the focus on addressing the impact-based forecasting of deaths caused by heat and cold waves. In order to enhance preparedness and response strategies, he sought insights into the measures and approaches being implemented to effectively predict and record fatalities resulting from extreme temperature conditions. He asked to provide information on the advancements and initiatives aimed at refining impact-based forecasting methods, specifically in relation to heat and cold waves, with the ultimate goal of mitigating the adverse effects and reducing the loss of human lives.



### **Ms. Shyna Karki, Change Action Nepal**

Recognizing an important aspect that has often been overlooked, Ms. Karki drew attention to the importance of considering gender identity in data collection for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM). In her pursuit of understanding the inclusive nature of DRRM, she specifically seeks information on the provisions and considerations regarding HIV/AIDS within the framework of DRRM. She asked to provide insights into the measures being taken to incorporate gender identity into data collection practices for DRRM. Additionally, she demanded to elaborate on the provisions and initiatives that exist to address the unique needs and challenges faced by individuals affected by HIV/AIDS within the broader context of DRRM.





### **Mr. Sumsher Bahadur Shahi, Dullu Municipality**

Mr. Sumsher Bahadur Shahi raised concerns regarding the absence of conclusive findings and discussions regarding the future course of action. He further questioned the planning and execution of road construction projects and proposed the inclusion of provisions in policies to promote better practices. He asked to provide insights into the steps being taken to address the identified gaps in the post-conference planning phase. Moreover, he wanted to know what measures are being considered to improve the planning and implementation of road constructions, ensuring alignment with sustainable and efficient practices.



### **Mr. Govinda Rimal, Advisor, DPNet-Nepal**

Mr. Govinda Rimal, Advisor at DPNet, expressed curiosity regarding the monitoring of the conference's findings. Additionally, he voiced concerns about the absence of targeted approaches in the post-2015 earthquake reconstruction efforts. He asked to provide information on the mechanisms in place for monitoring and following up on the conference outcomes. Furthermore, he demanded to shed light on the steps being taken to address the identified lack of targeted approaches in the reconstruction process after the devastating earthquake.



### **Mr. Shyam Sundar Jnavaly, Advisor, DPNet-Nepal**

Mr. Jnavaly, with a keen interest in early warning systems for thunder and lightning, posed inquiries regarding the existing mechanisms for such warnings and the potential for utilizing locally developed technology to establish an effective Early Warning System (EWS). Furthermore, he proposed involving academic researchers in data gathering and research activities pertaining to Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM). Mr. Jnavaly asked to provide insights into the current approaches for



thunder and lightning early warnings and the feasibility of incorporating home-grown technology for an EWS. He further asked about the potential benefits and challenges of engaging academia in data gathering and research for DRRM purposes.

**Ms. Lisa Garu, ActionAid**

Ms. Garu expressed her curiosity regarding the mobilization of academic research and the identification of research gaps in DRR to strengthen preparedness measures. With a keen interest in this field, she seeks to understand the strategies employed to effectively utilize academic research for enhancing DRR practices. Furthermore, she is interested in learning about the methods used to identify areas where further research is needed, thereby bridging existing gaps and fostering a more comprehensive approach to preparedness. Ms. Garu asked to provide insights into the approaches and initiatives undertaken to mobilize academic research and identify research gaps in DRR, ultimately contributing to more effective and holistic preparedness measures.



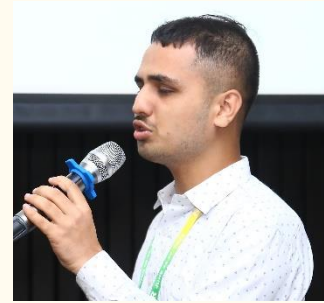
**Mr. Pitambar Aryal, Former Chairperson / Advisor, DPNet and Former General Secretary, Nepal Red Cross Society**

Mr. Pitambar Aryal requested information on the institutionalization of humanitarian preparedness plans and the enhancement of the surveillance system. He wanted to know what measures are being taken to establish robust frameworks for preparedness and response to emergencies and how the surveillance system is being strengthened to ensure effective monitoring and early detection of potential risks.



### **Mr. Saugat Wagle**

Mr. Saugat Wagle raised concerns about the significant challenges faced by visually impaired individuals in terms of accessibility and emphasized the importance of digitalizing information to ensure inclusivity for this demographic. Moreover, he emphasized the paramount importance of digitalizing information to ensure inclusivity for this demographic. He sought insights into the initiatives and efforts being undertaken to address the accessibility issue faced by visually impaired individuals, particularly in the context of digitalization.



### **Ms. Sobha Manandhar, Disaster Journalism Network**

Ms. Sobha Manandhar has raised questions regarding the operations of the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, the participation of local governments in EWS, and the effective dissemination of information. She is curious about the responsibilities of DHM in monitoring and forecasting weather patterns, and the collaboration between local governments and DHM for establishing EWS and distributing information. She also seeks to understand the efficient strategies being developed and implemented by DHM for information dissemination, ensuring the delivery of accurate and timely information to the appropriate recipients. Ms. Manandhar was interested in how this information reaches communities at risk, ultimately bolstering their preparedness and resilience.



### **Mr. Kiran Shilpakar, President, National Association of Physical Disabled Nepal**

Mr. Shilpakar inquired about innovative developments and their implications beyond voting machines that have been developed so far to support individuals with disabilities. He wonders if there are possibilities for designing innovative solutions in other areas such as healthcare, education, employment, accessibility, and more. Addressing these concerns and supporting individuals with disabilities is important for promoting inclusivity in society.



### **The paper presenters responded to the questions and concerns as follows:**

Responding the questions, **Mr. Krishna Gaire** emphasized the importance of enhancing preparedness, response, and recovery for families living in disaster-affected areas. In response to this, several action plans have been developed to address the limitations of the existing Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2074. These plans aim to broaden the definition of disasters to include various hazards such as earthquakes, storms, droughts, and other calamities. Recognizing the diverse nature of these hazards is important for comprehensive disaster management.



To support this comprehensive approach, there is a focus on allocating a dedicated budget specifically for disaster preparedness with the need to address all types of hazards and disasters and provides financial resources for effective planning and implementation. The government aims to strengthen preparedness measures, enhance response capabilities, and support recovery efforts in disaster-affected areas by securing a dedicated budget.

Additionally, efforts are being made to establish an incidence model that promotes collaboration between federal and local governments. This model ensures that grants and reliefs are distributed according to the allocated budget, enabling transparent and equitable support to affected

communities. By fostering collaboration, these efforts facilitate the efficient utilization of resources and enable timely assistance to those in need.

**Mr. Saroj Kumar Pradhan** emphasizes the adoption of a comprehensive approach, encompassing a "whole of society, whole of government" perspective, to address road safety and accidents. Efforts are being made to foster collaboration with global emergency organizations to promote strategies that enhance road safety using the "Build Back Better" approach. This approach considers not only technical aspects but also social and cultural factors to ensure effective and sustainable solutions. Recognizing the specific challenges posed by landslide disasters, measures are being integrated that encompass both technical and social dimensions. The importance of collaboration and involvement of all stakeholders, including government bodies, communities, and relevant organizations, is emphasized to holistically address road accidents and related issues. This approach acknowledges the significance of technical expertise while also recognizing the social considerations necessary for successful implementation and long-term impact.



**Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari** assured that efforts are being made to address the needs and challenges faced by the LGBTIQ community, although the small sample size poses feasibility challenges. Mental health is recognized as an important issue, leading to the introduction of emergency services for mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, including a dedicated hotline number (1166). To enhance road safety, the establishment of an information system for monitoring and responding to road accidents is being prioritized. However, the current system lacks indicators for heat waves and cold waves. To address this gap, hospital records can be utilized to track individuals affected by heat waves, ensuring data on the impacts of such events is captured and incorporated into the system.





**Mr. Umesh Prasad Dhakal** mentioned about the inclusion of mental health within the ongoing programs of the Nepal Red Cross Society, indicating the organization's recognition of the importance of addressing mental health concerns alongside physical health in their initiatives. By incorporating mental health into their programs, the Nepal Red Cross Society acknowledges the significance of supporting the psychological well-being of individuals affected by disasters and emergencies.



Furthermore, Mr. Dhakal emphasizes the need for health services and disaster management to be closely linked and coordinated with a proper understanding that effective disaster response and management should not solely focus on immediate physical needs but also consider the mental and emotional well-being of affected individuals. By recognizing the interconnectedness of physical and mental health, Mr. Dhakal emphasizes the importance of integrating these two aspects to provide comprehensive care and support during and after disasters.

**Er. Mousam Bhandari** mentioned the plan of DHM to establish climate change stations throughout the country, which will serve as key installations for monitoring and assessing climate-related data and phenomena. The establishment of these stations is important for gathering accurate and reliable information on climate change. Regular monitoring, calibration, data collection, and quality control measures will be implemented to ensure the integrity of the collected data.



The responsibility for the maintenance and operation of these climate change stations rests on the committed allocation of financial and human resources. Adequate funding and staffing are necessary to ensure the proper functioning and upkeep of the stations. Additionally, training and capacity-building programs will be conducted to equip personnel with the necessary skills and knowledge for operating and maintaining the climate change stations effectively.

The goal of establishing these climate change stations and gathering important data and information is to contribute to the understanding of climate change patterns and impacts in Nepal.



The collected data will inform evidence-based policies and strategies for mitigating and adapting to the challenges posed by climate change.

**Mr. Ram Prasad Rimal** and **Mr. Laxman Prasad Rimal** provide insights into lightning detection systems and the potential for developing indigenous technologies. They explain that lightning detection systems have been installed in 12 locations and are currently undergoing testing, as they have been in operation for less than five years. This indicates ongoing efforts to assess the effectiveness and reliability of these systems in detecting lightning strikes and providing early warning information.



Furthermore, they highlight the possibility of developing homegrown technologies, emphasizing that factors such as sustainability and mass production support are important which suggests that if the necessary resources and support are available, local innovations can be nurtured and scaled up to meet the specific needs and challenges of disaster management.

Promoting the development of indigenous technologies presents an opportunity to tailor solutions to the local context, potentially increasing their effectiveness and long-term sustainability. In addition to lightning detection systems, Mr. Rimal and Mr. Rimal mention research and development efforts focused on applications related to gadgets for individuals with disabilities. This suggests that efforts are being made to create technological solutions that cater to the specific needs of people with disabilities, promoting inclusivity and accessibility. However, they also note that further progress in this area is contingent upon the availability of resources.

## **Key Takeaway Message from Session “D”**

The take away messages from the session are as follows:

1. Challenges persist in reconstruction efforts, including identifying vulnerable citizens, securing local government investment, and ensuring equal distribution of grants to address economic crises faced by affected families.
2. The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) plays a important role in monitoring and forecasting weather patterns in Nepal. Their responsibilities include collecting meteorological and hydrological data, analyzing the data to generate weather forecasts and flood predictions, and disseminating this information to various stakeholders, including local governments and communities.
3. Technological advancements have improved flood monitoring and information dissemination, but further enhancements are needed for effective flood management.
4. Comprehensive disaster risk reduction efforts are important in public health emergency management, including building operational readiness, coordinating sector strengths, and addressing healthcare facilities in rural areas.
5. Proper road construction practices are necessary to prevent landslides and ensure road safety, including geotechnical studies, drainage management, slope stabilization, and resilient infrastructure development.
6. Local governance strengthening, volunteer mobilization, risk financing, and effective data management are essential for a people-centric approach to disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response.
7. Home-grown technology plays a vital role in addressing local issues and enhancing society in a cost-effective, inclusive, and sustainable manner.
8. Simulation practices need to incorporate greater awareness, stakeholder involvement, and considerations for gender, equality, diversity, and social inclusion (GEDSI).

## Closing Ceremony

**Closing Session Chair: Mr. Mahadev Panth, Joint Secretary, MoHA (Chief, Disaster and Conflict Management Division)**

**Guests:** Mr. Dipesh Tharu, Mayor, Rajapur Municipality, Mr. Ishwor Narayan Manandhar, Mayor, Bhimeshwor Municipality, Ms. Sushila Shahi, Mayor, Lamkhi Chuha Municipality, Mr. Nilakantha Khanal, Deputy Mayor- Birendranagar Municipality, Ms. Manakala Chaudary, Deputy Mayor, Rajapur Municipality, MoFAGA, MoUD, MoHP, Association of District Coordination Committees of Nepal, Nepal Army, Armed Police Force, Nepal Police, Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN), National Association of Rural Municipalities In Nepal (NARMIN), Mr. Pratap Kumar Pathak, Former Secretary of GoN, Mr. Kedar Neupane, Former Secretary of GoN, Representative-Tulsipur Sub Metropolitan, Representative- Dullu Municipality, Mr. Sanat Kumar Basnet, Former Inspector General, Armed Police Force, Mr. Thule Rai, Former Additional Inspector General, Nepal Police, Representative, NAST, Representative, Social Welfare Council, Mr. Tirtha Raj Joshi, USAID's Tayar Nepal, Representative, FNCCI, Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chair, DPNet-Nepal, Representative, NGO Federation, Representative from various Government Agencies, Development Partners, NGOs, INGOs, CSOs, Media, and Paper Presenters.

## Closing Remarks

**Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson, DPNet-Nepal**

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa expressed his gratitude to all the individuals and organizations involved in the event, including the paper presenters, participants, and authorities from government agencies such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, Local Government, and Security Forces. He also appreciated the support of the private sector, USAID, USAID's Tayar Nepal, DPNet-Nepal's advisors, technical advisors, and the volunteers' team from the Institute of Crisis Management Studies (ICMS). He



acknowledged the contributions of individuals involved in close captioning and sign language interpretation, as well as the IT team and the venue provided by the hotel. Mr. Thapa announced that a proceedings report would be prepared, and the presentations from the event would be made available on the DPNet-Nepal's website. He highlighted the incorporation of lessons learned from the previous year's event, which had led to increased multi-sector involvement in the NPDRR. This increased involvement had resulted in NRs. 1 million allocations for NPDRR activities and programs by the government. Looking ahead, Mr. Thapa mentioned that a joint plan would be developed in the next year's program, as promised by various stakeholders.

### **Mr. Tulsi Prasad Dahal, Under Secretary, MoHA**

Mr. Tulsi Prasad Dahal shared several important points during his remarks. He mentioned that recommendations and feedback would be collected for the next year's program, highlighting the commitment to continuous improvement. He emphasized the importance of shared responsibility and accountability, considering the capacity in terms of economic and human resources. Mr. Dahal stated that the Core Humanitarian Standards would be taken into consideration, and the humanitarian principles would be emphasized in disaster risk reduction efforts. Inclusiveness would be promoted through the publication of a disability-friendly handbook, and the GEDSI approach was currently being drafted. He then summarized the recommendations from past NCDRR events and shared the progress made on these recommendations to date.



<b>Recommendations from Last NCDRR</b>	<b>Progress Made</b>
1. Enhancement of Indicator Quantification for SFDRR MTR Report	More than 3000 stakeholders were consulted to refine the SFDRR mid-term review procedures. A National Report was prepared and inaugurated in the NCDRR event.

2. Inclusion of Marginalized Groups in Legal Structures	NDRRMA finalized the GEDSI policy in DRR. MoHA adopted the Disability Inclusive DRR Guidebook.
3. Strengthen Global Cooperation for Trans Boundary Hazards	Relation and Collaboration effort started with Indian Metrological Association and World Metrological Association for Trans Boundary Issues
4. Investigate Anticipatory Action and SRSP Integration	National level discussion program on SRSP and regional level program on anticipatory actions have been conducted.
5. Policy Harmonization and Workload Reduction	MoFAGA is refining the LDCRP. It is trying to accommodate some policies and guidelines under LDCRP.
6. Foster Inclusive DRRM through National level commitment	The inclusive National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) now has a dedicated secretariat and staff at the NDRRMA. Additionally, the government has allocated Rs. 1 million for the new FY to support various activities under the NPDRR. This financial allocation reflects the government's commitment to accommodating the diverse stakeholders involved in disaster risk reduction efforts and underscores the importance of their active participation in shaping and implementing DRR strategies and initiatives.
7. Lessons Learnt from COVID-19 and Prepare for Similar Disasters	Health facilities have been strengthened, and efforts are being made to provide medical facilities in all local governments. Additionally, health hazards are being taken into account, and measures are taken to enhance healthcare infrastructure and services, particularly at the local level, to ensure better access to medical care.
8. Enhance Local Government Capacity and Resources	MoFAGA conducted 753 DRR Localization Trainings. As a result, local governments are more aware of disaster

	management. Even at ward-level, materials related to disaster management are being stored.
9. Promote Technological Innovations with Indigenous Knowledge	Homegrown technologies like the landslide early warning system are being promoted. Both the government and donor agencies are interested in indigenous knowledge and practices.
10. Share Nepal's Best Practices and Lessons Learned in Regional and International Forums	Based on the findings and recommendations of the last NCDRR, official statements and position papers for APMCDRR and GPDRR were prepared and shared with the international community.

Mr. Dahal acknowledged the exemplary efforts of certain municipalities in fulfilling their responsibilities as local governments. There was also recognition of the need to incorporate the concepts of insurance, risk transfer, and financing into Pillar 3 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, with certain compulsory provisions. The private sector was encouraged to prioritize the development of a Business Continuity Plan to ensure preparedness in the face of disasters. Fire hazards were raised as a significant concern, as they accounted for over 70% of incidents, highlighting the necessity for effective fire prevention and management strategies.

Mr. Dahal emphasized the importance of innovation and the utilization of homegrown technologies. He highlighted the example of drone mobilization facilitated by the local government during the formation of a landslide dam in Myagdi. Monitoring of the Strategy Action Plan would be conducted to ensure its effectiveness. Indigenous knowledge would be valued and integrated into disaster risk management efforts. The Volunteer Management System, Godam App, and Monitoring Disaster Strategic Action Plan (MDSA) were established and would play a significant role in future disaster response and management.

Lastly, Mr. Dahal emphasized the collection of recommendations and feedback for future programs, the promotion of inclusiveness through disability-friendly publications and a GEDSI



approach, the encouragement of homegrown technologies, addressing fire hazard issues, and prioritizing the development of a Business Continuity Plan.

**Mr. Mahadev Panth, Closing Session and Program Chair, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs**

Addressing the closing session, Mr. Mahadev Panth, the Closing Session and Program Chair and Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs, provided important insights. He mentioned that the program would consider the constructive feedback received, indicating a commitment to incorporating suggestions for improvement. He emphasized the need for in-depth discussions on specific agendas, suggesting that comprehensive analysis and deliberation are necessary for effective disaster risk reduction measures. The overarching goal of the program is to ensure that development initiatives are sensitive to disasters, with the aim of building a resilient society and reducing disaster risk.



Mr. Panth highlighted the dissemination of lessons learned from past reconstruction efforts through international conferences and making them available on the program's website. This knowledge sharing helps foster collaboration and the adoption of best practices in disaster management. Finally, Mr. Panth expressed his gratitude and extended a vote of thanks to everyone involved in the program.

## Recommendations of The Second NCDRR

1. In order to effectively implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and DRR policies, there is a need for further enhancements in various key areas.
2. Improving disaster financing, integrating risk management into development processes, and investing in preparedness measures are important aspects.
3. Collaboration among different levels of government, conducting risk and multi-hazard assessments, and implementing disaster insurance schemes are important steps to enhance resilience.
4. Prioritizing Research and Development (R&D) initiatives, enhancing volunteer management systems, and constructing resilient structures are necessary for effective disaster management.
5. Disseminating knowledge and information, developing and harmonizing policies, and giving due priority to resilience in development projects are also essential.
6. Inter-government coordination and information sharing among the three tiers of government are important for localized interventions and enforcing building codes to protect vulnerable households.
7. Empowering and enhancing the capacity of local and provincial government bodies is important for effective disaster response and reducing environmental impact.
8. Incorporating gender equality, diversity, and social inclusion (GEDSI) principles into disaster management requires increased awareness and active involvement of stakeholders.
9. Meaningful participation and leadership of individuals from diverse backgrounds and abilities should be considered throughout all stages of disaster management.
10. Special attention should be given to the needs of hearing-impaired individuals in early warning systems and accommodating individuals with physical disabilities in rescue and relief efforts.
11. Inclusion should extend beyond binary perspectives and include the participation of all non-binary individuals and groups.
12. Public Health Emergency Management encompasses the criticality of implementing all-encompassing measures to reduce the risks associated with disasters. It necessitates a

reinforced focus on establishing operational preparedness, coordinating various sectors' capabilities, conducting regular drills to enhance public health emergency preparedness, and addressing mental health and psychosocial support.

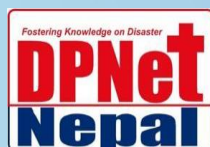
13. Strengthening the role of science, technology, and innovation in DRR is important. Developing and utilizing homegrown technology is essential for effectively addressing local issues and improving the overall well-being of Nepalese society.
14. By adopting homegrown solutions, we can achieve cost-effectiveness, inclusivity, and sustainability while prioritizing community empowerment and real-time communication for DRR. Additionally, increased investment in this sector is important to foster the growth of homegrown technology rather than relying solely on enforced or imported solutions.
15. Technological advancements, including telecommunication technologies and real-time monitoring networks, have played a vital role in enhancing flood monitoring and the prompt dissemination of important information. These advancements have greatly contributed to effective flood management and response. To further improve these capabilities, it is important to enhance them through scientific analysis, provision of monitoring provisions, establishment of a robust information dissemination network, and strengthening response capacity. Furthermore, the success achieved in flood management and response should serve as a model to transfer and apply to other types of disasters as well.
16. Recognizing and appreciating the role of the private sector in disaster resilience is important. It is essential to view them as partners and acknowledge their contributions. This involves advocating for their active engagement in pre-disaster planning and preparation, promoting the implementation of business continuity management practices, encouraging investment in disaster-resilient products and services, raising awareness about their role, and facilitating the sharing of successful initiatives. By doing so, we can harness the potential of the private sector and foster a collaborative approach towards building resilience in the face of disasters.
17. Increasing investment in disaster preparation, risk reduction, rescue, and management is vital. It is necessary to allocate more resources to these areas to enhance our capacity to

effectively respond to and mitigate the impact of disasters. Additionally, there should be provisions and compulsory measures in place for Disaster Risk Financing and Risk Transfer Mechanism. This ensures that adequate financial mechanisms are established to support timely response and recovery efforts in the face of disasters. By prioritizing investment and implementing robust financing and risk transfer mechanisms, we can better protect communities and minimize the devastating consequences of disasters.

18. To ensure proper and effective disaster communication, the role of media should go beyond reporting on disaster incidents. It is essential for media outlets to also focus on pre-disaster preparation and resilience-building efforts. This can be achieved by enhancing disaster management knowledge among journalists, prioritizing journalist safety during disasters, conducting regular policy content and impact analysis, recognizing the significance of disaster communication, engaging multiple stakeholders in the process, and establishing a validation mechanism for DRR messages.

# **SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (NCDRR)**

CONFERENCE PROCEEDING



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