



LEARNING & SHARING

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (NCDRR)

In partnership with



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Conference Proceedings



**Disaster Preparedness Network-Nepal (DPNet-Nepal) Kalimati, Kathmandu, Nepal
March 2022**

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Conference Proceedings..... | I |
| Acknowledgments..... | I |
| Forewords..... | II |
| Preface..... | III |
| List of Acronyms and Abbreviations | IV |
| Preparation of this Document: | 1 |
| Background: | 1 |
| Context:..... | 2 |
| Program Design: | 3 |
| Day 1: | 5 |
| Opening Ceremony: | 5 |
| Ms. Tammie Harris, Chief of Party, USAID Tayar Nepal | 5 |
| Mr. Sushil Paudel, Program Management Specialist, USAID | 6 |
| Dr. Sindhu Prasad Dhungana, Joint Secretary, MoFE..... | 7 |
| Er. Prakirna Tuladhar, Joint Secretary, MoUD..... | 7 |
| Mr. Bishnu Dutta Gautam, Joint Secretary, MoFAGA..... | 8 |
| Dr. Roshan Pokhrel, Secretary, MoHP | 9 |
| Dr. Raju Thapa, Acting Chairperson, DPNet-Nepal..... | 10 |
| Take Away Messages from the Opening Ceremony | 11 |
| Technical Session..... | 12 |
| A: Disaster Governance | 12 |
| Darshana Shrestha, 2nd Vice President, FWEAN | 15 |
| Questions and Answers Session..... | 17 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Take Away Message from the Session A: Disaster Governance | 18 |
| Technical Session B: DRRM Localization | 18 |
| Panel Discussion | 20 |
| Questions and Answer Session | 24 |
| Take Away Messages from the Session B: DRRM Localization | 25 |
| Essay Competition | 25 |
| Day 2: | 26 |
| Technical Session C: Understanding and Managing Disaster Risk | 26 |
| Questions and Answer Session | 29 |
| Take Away Messages from the Session C: Understanding and Managing Disaster Risks | 30 |
| Technical Session D: Good Practices and Learning | 31 |
| Questions and Answer Session | 36 |
| Take Away Messages from the Session D: Good Practices and Learning | 37 |
| Closing Ceremony: | 38 |
| Lok Dohori (Duet Folk Song) | 39 |
| Market Place | 39 |
| Conference Outputs/Outcomes | 41 |
| Outputs: | 41 |
| Outcomes: | 41 |
| Major Highlights: | 42 |
| Conclusion/Final Note | 44 |
| Recommendations | 45 |
| Programme/Schedule | 48 |

Acknowledgments

Nepal is facing increased disaster risks. Disasters affect not only the people; they also set back the overall development of the country. Thus, the socio-economic costs of the disasters have long-term repercussions on local communities and the whole country. Gorkha Earthquake 2015 is a prominent example of such a condition. Nevertheless, it is an established fact that preparedness and mitigation measures reduce vulnerability to disasters and minimize the loss of lives and physical properties. The government of Nepal has formulated various legal tools and established related institutions to cope with the disasters. The development partners, non-government agencies, private sectors and the general public also are contributing to disaster risk reduction works. Despite such efforts, the trends of disaster losses are increasing. As a result, the catastrophic events overwhelm not only the local community's response capacities but also the capacities of the whole country.

To tackle the above situation, it is necessary to take structural and nonstructural measures. The organization of this conference on "Learning and Sharing National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction" is one of the parts of nonstructural measures. The conference was supported by the USAID-funded Tayar Nepal under the "Capacity Enhancement for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Project." I would like to thank USAID and Tayar Nepal for their kind support. I am grateful to the various government and non-government agencies for their support to make the conference productive and successful. Particularly, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) have greatly helped and guided us to organize and conclude the conference successfully. Likewise, I am deeply obliged to the NCDRR Management Committee Coordinator and Members, DPNet-Nepal Advisory Board, Technical Advisory Team and the whole DPNetNepal Executive Committee, DPNet-Nepal staff for their hard work at various stages of the preparation and effective completion of the conference.

I am highly grateful to the Lead Consultant Dr. Meen Bahadur Poudyal Chhetri, for his highly professional and determined efforts in writing the proceedings of the conference. I thank Mr. Ram Prasad Bhandari and Mr. Suraj Gautam for helping Dr. Chhetri to compose the proceedings. Due to my urgent international visit, I couldn't attend the conferences. Even in my absence the conference went well. For this, I must thank all who contributed directly or indirectly to make the conference a grand success. I have no words to express my sincere thanks to the Vice-Chair of DPNet Dr. Raju Thapa who worked around the clock to make the conference successful in all respect. It is my firm belief that this document will serve as an important tool for the concerned agencies and individuals to find out the ways and means to cope with potential hazards in the country.

Surya Bahadur Thapa

Chairperson, DPNet Nepal

Forewords

DPNet Nepal in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) & other stakeholders and with the technical and financial support of USAID's Tayar Nepal successfully organized a historic twoday Learning & Sharing National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (NCDRR).

The conference intended to establish a practice of organizing national conferences on an annual basis and to share good practices and challenges from the ground. Similarly, it was envisioned to review the current status of policy implementation including DRRM Localization and to produce relevant materials to prepare a national position paper to participate in the upcoming Global Platform for DRR in May 2022 and Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR in September 2022.

With the overwhelming support of various institutions and individual, the conference was a great success with the in-person participation of more than 300 individuals from various institutions. With this, the conference laid down a benchmark for the National Conference on DRR.

I utilize this opportunity to thank the Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Tek Narayan Pandey and Joint Secretary Mr. Pradip Koirala to make this conference a grand success. I would also like to thank USAID Tayar Nepal for additional financial support for making the conference possible. I highly praise and appreciate the high professionalism and technical standards of the conference preparatory committee led by Dr. Meen B. Poudyal Chhetri. Similarly, I must thank various government institutions, DPNet-Nepal family including advisors and conference participants.

We believe that this document will be invaluable reference material for the readers. We are confident that this report may serve as a guide and reference material for the government and nongovernment sectors, students, researchers, practitioners and anyone interested in disaster management.

Lastly, I would like to request you to visit <https://dpnet.org.np/ncdrr> to get details of the conference including report, news, photo, video and presentations. I hope that all concerned stakeholders will help DPNet to organize NCDRR on annual basis to share our achievements and find a way forward.

Thank you!

Dr. Raju Thapa

Vice-Chair, DPNet-Nepal

Preface

This document is the outcome of the “Learning and Sharing National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction” which was held on 24 and 25 February 2022 at Soaltee Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal. The conference was supported by the USAID-funded Tayar Nepal under the “Capacity Enhancement for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Project” of Disaster Preparedness Network-Nepal (DPNet-Nepal). I would like to express my sincere thanks to the DPNet-Nepal team for giving me the task of preparing this highly important NCDRR-2022 conference proceedings document. I owe thanks to various government and non-government agencies for their continued support and goodwill in course of the preparation of this document. I would also like to thank all DRR stakeholders, paper presenters and participants for their valuable guidance and constructive feedback at various stages of the preparation of this document. I duly acknowledge the contribution of all other organizations and individuals who have directly and indirectly contributed to shaping this manuscript. I am indebted to Mr. Ram Prasad Bhandari and Mr. Suraj Gautam for helping me to produce this document encompassing the findings and recommendations, with a focus on policymaking.

It is expected that this document that incorporates conference outcomes will make a major contribution to identifying the current state of disaster management systems in the country, including gaps, shortcomings and the pathway to a common/shared vision, information base and analysis platform. Such a system should allow DRR stakeholders to be better informed and prepared and could help in preventing disaster losses in the future.

Congratulations to the DPNet-Nepal team for bringing the DRR issues to the forefront through a successful NCDRR-2022.

Finally, I anticipate that the findings of this document will be beneficial to all the DRR actors and stakeholders associated with disaster management at various levels such as the policymakers, academia, administrators, disaster managers, researchers, donors and practitioners.

(Meen B. Poudyal Chhetri, Ph.D., Post Doc.)

Lead Consultant & Coordinator of NCDRR Management Committee

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|--------|--|
| AMCDRR | Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction |
| APF | Armed Police Force |
| BBB | Build Back Better |
| BCP | Business Continuity Plan |
| CBLEWS | Community Based Landslide Early Warning System |
| CDO | Chief District Officer |
| DAO | District Administration Office |
| DCC | District Coordination Committee |
| DEOC | District Emergency Operation Centre |
| DPRP | Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Reduction |
| DRM | Disaster Risk Management |
| DRRM | Disaster Risk Reduction & Management |
| DOF | Department of Forest |
| DOHS | Department of Health Service |
| DHM | Department of Hydrology and Meteorology |
| DMG | Department of Mines and Geology |
| DWIDP | Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention |
| DSCWM | Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management |
| EC | Executive Committee |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| GLOF | Glacier Lake Outburst Flood |
| GoN | Government of Nepal |
| GPDRR | Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction |
| IRA | Initial Rapid Assessment |
| INGO | International Non-Government Organization |
| LDMC | Local Disaster Management Committee |
| LDRC | Local Disaster Relief Committee |
| LDPRP | Local Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan |
| LEOC | Local Emergency Operation Center |
| LG | Local Government |
| LGOA | Local Government Operation Act |
| MIS | Management Information System |
| MoALD | Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development |
| MoFE | Ministry of Forest and Environment |

| | |
|---------|---|
| MoEST | Ministry of Education, Science and Technology |
| MOFA | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| MoFAGA | Ministry Federal Affairs and General Administration |
| MoHA | Ministry of Home Affairs |
| MOHP | Ministry of Health and Population |
| MoPIT | Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transportation |
| MoUD | Ministry of Urban Development |
| MoEWI | Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation |
| MoSTE | Ministry of Science and Technology |
| MoCIT | Ministry of Communication and Information Technology |
| MoLMCPA | Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation |
| MoWS | Ministry of Water Supply |
| MoWCSC | Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen |
| MISP | Minimum Initial Service Package |
| NCDRRM | National Council for Disaster Risks Reduction and Management |
| NA | Nepal Army |
| NARMIN | National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal |
| NAST | Nepal Academy of Science and Technology |
| NBC | National Building Code |
| NCDM | Nepal Centre for Disaster Management |
| NDRRMA | National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority |
| NDMP | National Disaster Management Policy |
| NEOC | National Emergency Operating Centre |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NP | Nepal Police |
| NRs. | Nepalese Rupees |
| NRCS | Nepal Red Cross Society |
| OPM | Oxford Policy Management |
| RSLUP | Risk Sensitive Land Use Planning |
| SAR | Search and Rescue |
| SFDRR | Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction |
| SOP | Standard Operating Procedure |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SRH | Sexual and Reproductive Health |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |

WFP
WHO

World Food Program
World Health Organization

Preparation of this Document:

This is the proceedings of the Conference on “Learning and Sharing National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction” held in Hotel Soaltee, Kathmandu, Nepal from 24-25 February 2022. The workshop was hosted by Disaster Preparedness Network-Nepal (DPNet-Nepal). The Conference and Conference report were prepared under the auspices of the project “Capacity Enhancement for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management,” supported by the USAID's Tayar Nepal. This document was written by Dr. Meen B. Poudyal Chhetri with the support of Mr. Ram Prasad Bhandari and Mr. Suraj Gautam. The contributed papers for the workshop are reproduced as submitted by the authors as well as the material included in their respective annexes.

Background:

Disaster Preparedness Network-Nepal (DPNet-Nepal) has been implementing several activities, with funding support from USAID Tayar Nepal. It aims to contribute to strengthening DRRM governance system in Nepal. Strengthening the process of learning and documentation was a major activity under the project. In this regard, DPNet-Nepal in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) and other stakeholders, and with the technical and financial support from USAID Tayar Nepal organized the national conference captioned “Learning and Sharing National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (NCDRR)”. On the first day, 256 and second day 197 participants attended the conference. The conference was represented by participants and guests from diversified backgrounds and sectors. This write-up aims to summarize briefly the context, program design, proceeding, key outputs and way forward of the conference.

Context:

Nepal has been a hotspot for disasters induced by several hazards. It has witnessed several largescale disasters including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, earthquakes of 1934, 1980, 1988, 2015 and the flood of July 1993, 2008, 1913, 2014 and 2017 A.D. are the most destructive disasters which not only caused heavy losses to human lives and physical properties but also adversely affected the development process of the country. The lessons of the earthquakes of 1988 and 2015 and the floods and landslides of 1993, 2008, 2013, 2014 and 2017 have highlighted the need of efficiency in disaster response. Fire is another disaster that occurs frequently and wildfires are damaging to already severely exhausted forests and biodiversity of Nepal, which results on economic loss, land degradation and environmental pollution. This situation demands proactive government policy and action and private sector engagement in the country. Hence, Nepal has made several initiatives in the DRRM field. Some of those initiatives are as follows:

- Constitution promulgated in 2015 delineating broadly the DRRM functions to the 3level of governments under the newly introduced federal governance system
- Enactment of DRRM Act, 2017 with the provision of dedicated DRRM agency - National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and shifting from the 'reactive' response and relief orientated Act of 1982 with the 'proactive' notion of DRRM
- Enactment of Local Government Operation Act, 2017 clearly defining the DRRM functions of Local Governments (LGs)
- Development of National DRR Policy and National Strategic Plan of Action for DRR, 2018-30 in line with SFDRR, 2015-30.
- Establishment of NDRRMA
- Localization of DRRM under the federal governance system

Enactment of National Reconstruction Authority Act, 2015, establishment of special purpose vehicle organization National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) and successfully completion of the post-2015 Gorkha Earthquake Reconstruction works. In the above context, as briefly narrated above, several governmental, national and international organizations have been supporting in DRRM several innovative approaches are being piloted, and thus huge learning opportunities exist to share not only with the national stakeholders, but also with the global communities. Several

learning sharing and documentation activities are also ongoing, but are either of project or organization specific. Hence, instilling of systematic knowledge development process involving the wider stakeholders has been a felt need. This conference aimed to address the need as a kickoff action.

Program Design:

Program conceptualization and design first started within DpNet-Nepal by organizing several consultation meetings among its executives and advisors. After shaping some image of the conference the preparation process moved to the government agencies. With several rounds of one-to-one, smaller group meeting, it landed to the executive committee meeting of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR), which is chaired by the Executive Chief of NDRRMA, participated by several government agencies and other stakeholders and DpNet-Nepal functioning as the Secretariat. The NPDRR Executive Committee meeting decided to organize the conference in hybrid mode considering the 3rd wave of COVID-19 pandemic and also formed a Steering Committee to provide oversight and Management Committee to operationalize the conference and DpNet-Nepal to facilitate the process. However, later it was agreed to organize the NPDRR led conference with much more preparation and organizing the Learning and Sharing National Conference on DRR as pre-cursor to the NPDRR led conference. As the COVID-19 situation was getting better and administrative restrictions were lifted, the conference was finally designed to organize in person. Following were the key features of the conference, the details about the concept and contents are presented in Annex 1.

- Paper Presentations, Panel Discussions besides the Inaugural and Closing sessions: Aimed at exchanging views, experiences, learning, challenges through speeches, presentations and discussions.
- Launching of Online Resource Center and Virtual DRR Platform: Aimed at bringing to the notice of wider stakeholders the customized one-stop resource center and virtual discussion platform.
- Market Place: Aimed at disseminating the good works and the products from different stakeholders.
- Essay Competition: Aimed at bringing on board the school students in the DRRM issues.

- Duet Folk Song (Lok Dohori): Aimed at engaging the popular means for transmitting DRRM message.

Day 1:

Day 1 had an opening ceremony followed by 2 technical sessions and essay competition. All together 256 participants attended the Day 1.

Opening Ceremony:

The opening ceremony was chaired by Dr. Raju Thapa, Acting Chairperson of DPNet-Nepal and hosted by Mr. Kailash Rijal, General Secretary of DPNet-Nepal. Ms. Shakti Gurung, Treasurer of DPNet-Nepal delivered her welcome speech highlighting the objective of the conference and the frame of the 2-day conference. She described how the conference is aiming to enhance the knowledge on policies, provisions, and practices on DRRM in Nepal. After the welcome speech, Mr. Rupendra Bista, Executive Committee Member of DPNet-Nepal made a disaster safety briefing for the conference period. The opening ceremony was attended by several dignitaries including high-ranking government officials such as Mr. Tek Narayan Pandey, MoHA Secretary as the Chief Guest and Dr. Roshan Pokhrel, MoHP Secretary the guest of honor. Other guests attending the ceremony and delivering opening remarks were Mr. Bishnu Dutta Gautam, Joint Secretary of MoFAGA, Mr. Prakirna Tuladhar, Joint Secretary of MoUD, Dr. Sindhu Prasad Dhungana, Joint Secretary of MoFE, Mr. Sushil Paudel, Program Management Specialist from USAID, and Ms. Tammie Harris, the Chief of Party, USAID Tayar Nepal. The Chief Guest Mr. Pande formally inaugurated the conference in an environment-friendly manner by watering the plants in the vase. Mr. Pandey also formally launched two initiatives taken by DPNet-Nepal with financial support from USAID Tayar Nepal. Those initiatives are: (i) Online Resource Center, which provides one-stop information about the several documents related to DRRM [can be visited at <https://www.DPNet-Nepal.org.np/resource>] and (ii) Virtual DRR Platform, which aims to initiate discussions on several DRRM issues and use the discussion findings as feedback [anyone can take part in the virtual discussion through <https://virtualldr.DPNet-Nepal.org.np/>]. Below are the key highlights of the remarks delivered by the guests during the opening ceremony:

Ms. Tammie Harris, Chief of Party, USAID Tayar Nepal

Expressing her pleasure of working for the past two and half years through Tayar Nepal, she highlighted the major activities of Tayar Nepal such as piloting innovative practices, enhancing the capacity of local governments, preparing guidelines and frameworks, adopting mitigation activities which have been contributing towards the resilience. Ms. Harris believed that this kind

of conference will help in consolidating the learning, idea and will also promote culture across learning.



Mr. Sushil Paudel, Program Management Specialist, USAID



Mr. Sushil Paudel highlighted that the development works in Nepal had been challenged by the Climate Change, Gorkha Earthquake and yearly events of disasters like Flood and Landslides. As per him, the progresses made in the country so far in developing policy documents to the implementation has been promising. He

applauded MoHA for prioritizing DRRM and the willingness to work continuously in the field of DRR. Mr. Paudel added that the Sessions in this conference will contribute in to strengthening DRRM Governance, localization, learning sharing and so on. Mr. Paudel further highlighted

USAID's commitment in working hand by hand with the GoN, private sector, and other stakeholders.

Dr. Sindhu Prasad Dhungana, Joint Secretary, MoFE

Dr. Sindhu Prasad Dhungana shared that Nepal is facing a number of problems from climate change despite having relatively low GHG emissions. He said that the impacts of the disasters on all the communities are not the same. The marginalized community, people with disabilities, women, and other communities are found to be affected more by the disaster. He added that Nepal has been facing the challenges of extreme effects. The forest fires of 2016 and 2020 were among those causing huge losses. He opined that the conferences like this will help in identifying the key learning and disseminating it to the wider stakeholders.



Er. Prakirna Tuladhar, Joint Secretary, MoUD

E. Prakirna Tuladhar believed that the outcomes of this Learning & Sharing NCDRR will be beneficial to the different stakeholders. Mr. Tuladhar shared the number of initiatives of MoUD that included the preparation of the National Plan of Action for Safer Buildings, Guidelines and Procedures for the Safe Settlements and Integrated Settlement. He added that 185 Integrated



Urban Development Plan (IUDP) have been developed to address the multi-hazard risk. Further, he said MoUD has also published National Urban Development Strategy (NUDS 2017), Safer Building Code, and Guidelines along with the necessary modification in line with the Build Back Better (BBB) principle. The Safer settlement

implementation Procedure 2019 has been implemented in the 73 districts which has replaced the 170,000 thatched roofs. The National Building code (Seismic Design NBC 105:2020) has been revised after the learning from the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake.

Mr. Bishnu Dutta Gautam, Joint Secretary, MoFAGA



Mr. Bishnu Dutta__Gautam highlighted that the DRRM is not possible through the efforts of the government only, which needs participation from all the sectors including private sectors, academia, and local stakeholders. This has been well signified by the participants attending this conference. Mr. Gautam stated that

the provisions of DRRM in Constitution have enabled the three tiers of the government to work effectively towards DRRM. The local government being the key implementing agency has important role in the implementation and localization of DRRM related activities. He underlined the need of capacitating the local governments and the local community towards the common agenda of DRRM. Mr. Gautam stated that the MoFAGA has been supporting the local government by sharing the model policies, program, and implementing capacity building programs. He also praised the works of local governments during the COVID-19 response. Mr. Gautam believed that the learning and sharing from this conference will contribute a lot in disseminating the best practices, lessons learnt by the local governments and also in the documentation of best practices. Mr. Gautam also emphasized on the organizing of such conference in the future as well on regular basis.

Dr. Roshan Pokhrel, Secretary, MoHP

Dr. Roshan Pokhrel acknowledged the support provided by several organizations and thanked all the stakeholders and organizations for the support during the COVID-19 response. He highlighted that the all-around participation and collaborative approaches followed have helped the country to



tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. He underlined the importance of the health sector, being the most critical one and particularly the women, children, and marginalized community are highly prone to many types of disasters. Dr. Pokhrel also highlighted how health and disaster were very much interrelated. Dr. Pokhrel expressed his expectations of receiving concrete and consolidated findings from this conference so that the actions related to MoHP can be taken care of.

Mr. Tek Narayan Pandey, Secretary, MoHA

Mr. Tek Narayan Pandey congratulated the DpNet-Nepal for organizing the conference and on the launching of the Virtual Platform and Online Resource Center. Endorsing of what the earlier remarks made by different ministries, he expressed his deep interest and commitments for the coordination and collaboration towards the DRRM. Mr. Pandey also highlighted that the MoHA will be more than happy to work together with all the stakeholders in this regard. Mr. Pandey described how the disaster causes emergencies and affects vulnerable communities thereby bringing discrepancies/inequality in the community. He highlighted that there shouldn't be any



barriers, divisions and no one should be left behind. As the country is, prone to a multitude of disasters, he opined that we have no other option than to strengthen our DRRM efforts. For the effective DRRM, GoN has already established the institutional and legal frameworks, while the three tiers of governments are

working on it, he emphasized the need for coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders.

Mr. Pandey cited an example on the flood of 2021 and its impact on paddy harvesting to present the capacity gaps. He said that because of the unclear and contradictory reporting of losses, the GoN has not been able to verify the data for thirty-one districts and was unable to distribute relief. He highlighted the lack of a good inventory system for accounting damage and losses in order to activate prompt relief operations. Mr. Pandey also underlined the importance of a risk transfer mechanism rather than only relying on the relief distribution to have a sustainable disaster response. Mr. Pandey informed that disaster risk financing is one of the key areas where the ministry is looking forward to working. In his concluding remarks, he expressed his kind interests in the consolidated document with specific conclusions and recommendations from the conference so that he can roll out the recommendations within the mandate of the ministry by himself and from the ministerial decisions and forward to the cabinet for the actions requiring much higher-level decision making. He also hoped that as Nepal is participating in the upcoming conference such as GPDRR in Indonesia and AMCDRR in Australia where Nepal will be sharing the position paper. He believed that the outcomes of this conference will significantly contribute to the preparation of the country position paper.

Dr. Raju Thapa, Acting Chairperson, DPNep-Nepal



Dr. Thapa speaking at the end of the opening ceremony thanked all the distinguished speakers for sharing their important insights. Dr. Thapa expressed his willingness to contribute and collaborate with all the stakeholders in the coming days. Dr. Thapa shared his experiences of Nepal sharing a common country paper incorporating the

concerns and voices of all stakeholders a good practice in the past and hoped that the conference outputs will further embrace in preparing common position/policy paper. He added that the conference has signified the significance of the collaboration and is in very line with taking all the stakeholders together towards the DRR and contributing to ensuring "no one is left behind". Dr.

Thapa also mentioned that the conference has also aided the features of closed captioning, language translation, sign language to ensure that persons with different disabilities can also participate equally in the discussions. Dr. Thapa also thanked MoHP for the realistic projection of the COVID-19 scenario so that the conference could have been organized in physical presence.

Dr. Thapa also mentioned that DPNet-Nepal is also working together with NDRRMA on organizing another conference on DRR alongside this Learning and Sharing NCDR. Dr. Thapa stated that the conference has set up a foundation. Further, he informed that a consolidated report from the conference will be shared with the stakeholders and the DPNet-Nepal's Virtual Discussion Platform will regularly raise voices and make sure no one is left behind.

Take Away Messages from the Opening Ceremony

- Initiation of holding a national conference for exchanging learning, discussing on challenges by bringing on board all the stakeholders is a good start, which will contribute to the journey of making disaster-resilient Nepal
- Nepal has been experiencing disasters induced by several hazards. Numerous actors have been working in DRRM. With this, Nepal can produce good learning not only to Nepal but also to the world.
- The new governance system and the legal infrastructure of Nepal has provided strong base. Moving ahead with good reflection to answer the key questions what we had achieved and how? What could not be achieved and why?
- Local Governments (LGs) have many responsibilities in DRRM as per the constitutional and legal provisions. All we need is to support and capacitate the LGs.
- Health is an integral part of any type of disaster, hence, health should be at the center of planning and implementing all DRRM actions.
- Disaster impacts are more to the vulnerable people, hence, the strategies and actions needed to be highly sensitive and in favour of those vulnerable people.
- Specific recommendations with focused discussions will help the government agencies to take forward the recommendations for actions.
- The national level reflection will be the foundation for preparing evidence-based country position paper for regional and global platform meetings of DRR

Technical Session

The role of NCDRR was to gather like-minded individuals from across the country, to discuss thoughts, learn, share ideas, create new ideas, network, and to ignite motivation. Technical Session were integral part of the conference, the primary goal of the technical session was to solicit papers and presentations from experts working in DRR. The technical session was organized to promote DRR activities publically for peer review, on themes such as Disaster Governance, DRRM Localization, Understanding and Managing Disaster Risk, and Good Practices & Learning.

A: Disaster Governance

The session was coordinated by Mr. Sunil Sun Shakya, Executive Committee Member of DPNepal and chaired by Mr. Pradip Kumar Koirala, Joint Secretary and Chief, Disaster and Conflict Management Division of MoHA. All together 5 presentations (see below) covered the disaster governance covering the progress against the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR, progress made and future programs of the newly established NDRRMA and gender equality and social inclusion from the perspective of governance. Key highlights of the presentations and discussions are presented below and the PowerPoint presentations have already been uploaded in DPNepal's Online Resource Center [<https://www.DPNepal.org.np/resource/ncdrrpresentations/day-1>].

Technical Session A: Disaster Governance

Chair. Mr. Pradip Koirala, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

1. Review and Reflection on the Implementation SFDRR: Mr. Tulsi Prasad Dahal Under Secretary, Disaster and Conflict Management Division MoHA
2. Ongoing Activities of NDRRMA and Future Plan: Dr. Dijan Bhattarai, Under Secretary/ Spokesperson, NDRRMA
3. Private Sector in DRRM: Learning from USAID/ Tayar project: Ms. Darshana Shrestha, FWEAN
4. GESI in DRRM: A National Level Reflection- Ms. Achala Dahal, Director of Studies, Nepal Administrative Staff College
5. Lessons and Learning on GESI in DRR at Ground: Learning from USAID/ Tayar Ms. Sahara Neupane, Atullya Foundation Pvt. Ltd.



**Presentation 1: Review and Reflection on the Implementation SFDRR: Mr. Tulsi Prasad Dahal
Under Secretary, Disaster and Conflict Management Division, MoHA**



- Nepal has prepared the National Strategic Action Plan for DRR 2018-30 in line with the SFDRR
- Good progress has been achieved in terms of formulating policies, strategies and legal frameworks including the capacity building of the local governments
- Establishment and regular updating of DRR Portal and BIPAD portal for the disaster information management system has been another good initiative, but uploading the information from several stakeholders needs adequate attention. Similarly, cooperation from the stakeholders in collecting and archiving the published documents and information in DIMS has been underlined another important task.
- The initiative of Karnali province in the establishment of disaster risk financing strategy was shared as a good initiative for the risk transfer mechanism.
- The understanding of risk, be it be in the policy level, budget formulation or in the three tiers of government, community and family has been limited and needs proper attention.
- The necessity of mobilization of CSR funds from the private sectors in the overall DRM cycle was also highlighted.
- Coherence in the DRRM policies and practices alongside the localization of SFDRR was highlighted as another important aspect of DRRM institutionalization.
- Government has already started mid-term review and evaluation of SFDRR by establishing a Steering Committee and Technical Working Committee (TWC). The TWC has already prepared a format for reporting to the SFDRR.

Presentation 2: Ongoing Activities of NDRRMA and Future Plan: Dr. Dijan Bhattarai, Under Secretary/Spokesperson, NDRRMA

- The NDRRMA has taken several initiatives such as the development of Structural Integrity Assessment (SIA), Communication Strategy, Communication and outreach (for International Disaster Risk Reduction Day, National Earthquake Day, International Lightning Day).



- NDRRMA together with the Social Welfare Council has also established a portal (mdsa.bipad.gov.np) for the integration of the project information, documents carried out and prepared by the different stakeholders.
- NDRRMA has initiated strengthening and institutionalizing of the National Platform for DRR by introducing the guidelines of NPDRR and establishment of Thematic Committees to ensure systematic participation from different stakeholders. Further, the preparation of a five years' work plan of the NPDRR is another ongoing initiative of NDRRMA. Adapting the learning from the successful post-Gorkha Earthquake reconstruction, NDRRMA has initiated the formulation of the Nepal Disaster Resilience Framework, which is expected to make the road to resilience much clearer. The factors behind those successes were pointed out as - (i) A strong institutional framework, (ii) A clear plan of action and targets, and (iii) Clarity in funding.

Presentation 3: Private Sector in DRRM: Learning from USAID/Tayar Project: Ms. Darshana Shrestha, 2nd Vice President, FWEAN



- The disruptions in the supply chain due to the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the cash flow of women entrepreneurs. It was addressed by supporting the sales of targeted women entrepreneurs through e-commerce (Thulo.com) so that their cash flow was eased.
- The women entrepreneurs were supported through entrepreneurial skills thus enhancing their business confidence.
- Prepared DRRM guidelines to help FWEAN to implement DRRM activities under FWEAN's CSR initiative. The guidelines will also support to implement need based activities during disasters.
- Rapid assessment conducted revealed that only 13% of women entrepreneurs are aware of DRRM, 40% of entrepreneurs do not have insured their business and 77% do not have Business Continuity Plan (BCP) during disasters, which are huge challenges to enhance disaster informed actions.

Presentation 4: GESI in DRRM: A National Level Reflection - Ms. Achala Dahal, Director of Studies, Nepal Administrative Staff College



- Disaster impacts are high to the vulnerable groups such as: financially weak, socially excluded, pregnant and lactating mothers, old aged and single women, disabled people, sexual and gender minorities.
- The National Strategic Action Plan for DRR is a comparatively gender-informed document, but other key documents such as National DRR Policy and DRRM Act are gender neutral.
- Governance should be viewed from three dimensions - (i) Foundation of governance, (ii) Infrastructure: Policy and Structure, (iii) Service delivery.
- To plan and deliver the specific needs and interests of women and excluded groups in DRRM, mandatory involvement of such groups in the structure is required.

Presentation 5: Lessons and Learning on GESI in DRR at Ground: Learning from USAID/Tayar: Ms. Sahara Neupane, Atullya Foundation Pvt. Ltd.

Access to relief, services, information, emergency shelter and camp facilities are found either denied or very limited to the disabled people.



- Experiences of gender-based violence in shelters after the Gorkha Earthquake 2015, and COVID-19 underline that the vulnerable groups suffer more during the disasters.
- Promotion of inclusive disaster risk reduction to enhance public safety for person with disabilities is highly required.

- Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Guideline (DIDRR) Get Ready Guidebook was developed to minimize the loss of life and property. It provides information and guidelines to persons with disabilities and their caretakers to mitigate and prepare for disasters. The guidebook is available in different formats (EPUB, Braille, etc.)
- Government stakeholders should have knowledge about DIDRR at all levels (federal, provincial and local) and sensitization to first responders and volunteers on the needs of persons with disabilities and vulnerable communities is a must activity to ensure proper care of persons with disabilities.

Questions and Answers Session

Some of the key questions, concerns raised and the suggestions provided during the floor discussions are narrated below:

- Integration of the guidelines like DIDRR into the planning process with proper disaggregation of disaster caused deaths, affected families, economic losses is necessary to target the vulnerable people.
- Importance on the need of the Budget Code for each thematic/sectoral area on the DRM.
- Introduction of disaster branding on the products and services provided by the service providers helps to establish a culture of disaster responsive behaviors.
- The reviews of the national strategy and other programs should also be focused on quantitative terms as only the qualitative dimensions do not sufficiently provided a clear picture.
- Although, the private sector is a key player during the disaster, the designated focal point to take care of the private sector in DRR is lacking in the government agency, which needs to be improved.
- The priority of NDRRMA in preparing a resilience framework should not be an additional burden but should instead comply with the SFDRR.
- The floor suggested the NDRRMA be more autonomous and well clear on its activities.
- While developing the institutional and legal framework, the GESI components (including the person with disabilities and vulnerable groups, etc) should be taken well care of.

- The session chair well-acknowledged the suggestion on the need of much comprehensive localization process. He also drew attention of NDRRMA to incorporate the good suggestions coming from the floor. The need for scientific assessment of the damage and losses and the disaster risk financing for the risk transfer was another highly important aspect to be duly considered.

Take Away Message from the Session A: Disaster Governance

- The review and reflection of the implementation of policies, strategies and programs should be specific including the quantitative figures besides the qualitative results.
- Preparation of several programmatic documents should not be overburdening to the implementing agencies.
- The DRR policies and programs need to be gender-informed for which mandatory inclusion of the vulnerable groups during the formulation process is required.
- Access to information, rescue and relief support especially of the disabled and other vulnerable people needs to be well embedded into the government system and the first responders should be trained in this regard.
- The private sector, a key actor during the disaster, in terms of suffering, providing the goods and services should be engaged in policy and program formulation process. For this purpose there should be a focal government agency.
- Introduction of dedicated Budget Code and strengthening of DRRM institutions with much autonomy and clarity of roles and responsibilities are required to address the increasing disaster events.
- Moving forward from the dependency of government relief distribution is necessary by incorporating risk transfer mechanism for the long-term sustainable disaster risk reduction and management.

Technical Session B: DRRM Localization

The session was coordinated by Ms. Shakti Gurung, Treasurer of DPNet-Nepal. The session was chaired by Dr. Gangalal Tuladhar, DRRM Expert, and former Education Minister and moderated by Mr. Ram Prasad Bhandari, DRRM Expert. The session had one paper presentation focusing on the policy and legal provisions on localization, the facilitation from the federal ministry and the present status by Mr. Rishi Raj Acharya, Under Secretary, and Section Chief of the Disaster and Environment Section, MoFAGA. Five panellists representing five different actors - Municipality,

Deputy Mayor (for gender concerns), NGO supporting localization process, NARMIN (umbrella association of Rural Municipalities) and Independent expert familiar involved in responsibility delineation study and several guidelines for the LGs (see below). Key highlights of the presentation and discussions are presented below and the PowerPoint presentations have already been uploaded in DPNep-Nepal's Online Resource Center [<https://www.DPNep-Nepal.org.np/resource/ncdrrpresentations/day-1>].

Technical Session B: DRRM Localization

Chair: Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Former Education Minister

Moderator: Mr. Ram Prasad Bhandari, DRRM Expert

6. Implementation Status of DRRM Policy in Local Level -

Mr. Rishi Raj Acharya, Under Secretary, MOFAGA

Panelist 1: Mr. Dev Kumar Subedi, Mayor, Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet

Panelist 2: Ms. Kamala Basnet, Deputy Mayor, Bhimeshwar Municipality, Dolakha

Panelist 3: Mr. Bhawa Raj Regmi, Executive Director, NEEDS Nepal, Kanchapur

Panelist 4: Mr. Rajendra Prasad Pyakurel, Executive Director, National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN)

Panelist 5: Mr. Dinanath Bhandari, Disaster Resilience Lead, OPM



Presentation 6: Implementation Status of DRRM Policy in Local Level: Mr. Rishi Raj Acharya, Under Secretary, MoFAGA



- Highlighted various policy provisions on the DRRM role and responsibilities of the LGs. Emphasis was given for an effective localization to achieve the policy expectations.
- Preparation of local DRRM Act, LDCRP, Local Environment and Natural Resource Protection Act, Local DRRM Strategic Plan, Local Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP), Local Emergency Operation Guideline, etc were the key legal and program frameworks to be prepared and implemented from the LGs.
 - o Mainstreaming of DRRM and CCA in the periodic plans, annual program and budget program as well as in sector plan is required to comprehensively address the issues of DRRM.

- The present capacity of LGs with respect to the responsibilities is a concern and need to address the capacity issue.

Panel Discussion

Mr. Ram Prasad Bhandari highlighted the roles of the Local Government (LG) as an implementation agency and their efforts in DRRM implementation. He then shared about the format of this session and expected session output thus entering into the lead questions to the panelists. Below are the key points shared by the panelists responding moderator's questions and also including the response to the questions from the floor.

Panelist 1: Mr. Dev Kumar Subedi, Mayor, Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet, Karnali Province



- Municipality has prepared and endorsed the DRRM laws and policies.
- Municipality was successful in responding the COVID-19 pandemic. As a responsible implementing agency, the LG provided the emergency services that included quarantine, isolation, designated hospital, and oxygen facilities to the locals from its own internal funds and support from outside.
 - Municipality has also been prioritizing the environment, disaster, and greenery alongside the number of interventions in slope stabilization, river training, and forest conservation.
 - Municipality has also established LEOC, designated focal point for DRR, providing better service delivery (Ambulance, Critical facilities, Fire Brigade facilities, etc). Developed First Women Fire brigade and provided training.
- However, the budget and resource constraints have been the major setback for the municipality in the effective implementation of the DRR activities. There is support for the preparation of the laws, plans and policies from the federal level by providing templates and guidelines. No support has been received from the provincial government.
- Different Donor Agencies, Municipality Association have been providing additional support on the capacity building and technical support.
- Municipality has not been able to keep in track with the accurate data management system.

Panelist 2: Ms. Kamala Basnet, Deputy Mayor, Bhimeshwor Municipality, Dolakha, Bagmati Province



- Municipality has enacted DRRM Act and policies.
- COVID-19 response was effectively carried out by the municipality on its own.
- Very limited activities have been carried out for the prevention and mitigation of disasters.
- Integration of risks in other sector work and introduction of Risk Sensitive Land Use Planning is necessary for the long-term mitigation actions.
- GESI has been duly considered in implementing training and other activities. However, mainstreaming the GESI at the planning and decision-making level is far behind.



Panelist 3: Mr. Bhawa Raj Regmi, Executive Director, NEEDS Nepal, Kanchapur, Sudur Pashchim Province

- LGs have prepared several policies, acts and guidelines, but making those contextual to the situation and practical is the need.
- LGs have been involved in response without having preparedness planning with a clear calendar of operation.
- LGs have inadequate human resources for the DRRM portfolio, the focal point designated have also several other responsibilities to be delivered.
- Relief operation should be strategic rather than on blanket approach. For this accurate damage and loss assessment is necessary. Damage data couldn't be established even after 2 months of heavy rainfall and flooding in 2021. Data distortion is directly associated with the involvement of leaders, hence a credible damage and loss assessment mechanism needs to be developed for fair and smooth relief and recovery action.
- Several committees have been formed, but have not been mobilized.

- LGs are ahead in relief distribution, but very little attention has been given in preparedness and mitigation.

Panelist 4: Mr. Kalanidhi Devkota, Executive Director, Municipal Association of Nepal



- The situation demands good DRRM governance with accountability.
- Clarity in the delineation of roles and responsibilities of the local, provincial and federal government is another important aspect.
- The LG should be capacitated in both human resources and finance to deliver the huge responsibilities given for DRRM. The functions outlined for the LGs should be well covered by the functionaries.

Panelist 5: Mr. Dinanath Bhandari, Disaster Resilience Lead, Oxford Policy Management



- Clarity on roles and responsibilities among the 3 levels of government needs further attention.
- The COVID-19 has helped the system to realize the importance of LGs, hence, capacitating further the LGs is a must to move further in the journey of disaster resilience.
- There should be a clear distinction of decentralization (i.e. clear roles of NDRRMA, coordination/interoperability with the other ministries and departments)
- There needs to be a clear conceptual understanding of whether it is "Development addressing (with) Disaster" or the "Development versus Disaster."

Questions and Answer Session

Some of the key suggestions, questions, and concerns raised and the answers provided during the floor discussions are narrated below:

- Suggestion was to develop and follow standards on road construction, the establishment of industries based on the land-use plan.
- The role of private sectors should be duly considered by the LGs while preparing policies and programs.
- As hazards and thus the disasters are not confined within the administrative boundary of single Palika, attention needs to be given to look at the interconnectivity of DRRM issues among several Palikas.
- Moderator, briefly summarized the discussion points as:
 - LGs have been developing and introducing several policies, acts and regulations, but need further fine-tuning to make them contextual and practical.
 - LGs role was highly instrumental in addressing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Further clarity in the delineation of roles and responsibilities are required to make LGs work effective.
 - LGs should try to come out of relief operation and gradually move towards preparedness based response and disaster risk mitigation based DRRM actions. ○ LGs need to be capacitated in order to be able to bear the DRRM responsibilities.
- Session chair highlighted the progressive achievements through the DRRM Act and paradigm shift of Nepal from response-centric approaches towards the whole cycle of DRM. Disaster imposes a number of challenges, threats to lives and properties, but it also provides opportunities in return. The 2015 Gorkha Earthquake had huge damages and losses, but on the other side triggered to promulgate the long-awaited Constitution and also DRRM act, policy and various other legal frameworks.

Take Away Messages from the Session B: DRRM Localization

- The Constitution, DRRM Act, Local Government Operation Act, Strategic Plan of Action, and several sectoral policies, guidelines, frameworks have defined roles and responsibilities among the 3-levels of governments, but it requires further fine-tuning to make the DRRM functions more effective.
- The LGs have been highly instrumental in carrying out the response operation including in the ongoing COVID-19 response, but they need to be shifting their priorities in preparedness-based response instead of ad-hoc response and then further moving towards the disaster risk mitigation.
- The LGs have been developing, endorsing several policies and legal frameworks, but need to make those documents further practical based on the local contexts.
- The huge gap between the responsibilities given to the LGs and their capacities (mainly in terms of understanding DRRM, human resources and financial resources) needs to be duly addressed for which the support from federal and provincial governments are most important.
- The constitutional provision has ensured the political representation of women and other marginalized groups in the LGs. However, it needs to be transferred into meaningful participation in order to address the DRRM issues and concerns right from the policies and programs.
- The conceptual clarity not only at the LGs' level but also at all levels is on understanding the DRRM; whether the right notion is Development with Disaster Consideration i.e. Disaster Informed Development or Development versus Disaster. Otherwise, there will always be competition in the allocation of limited resources. As a result, DRRM works will be receiving low priorities.

Essay Competition

Essay competition aimed to bring on board the school students on DRRM issues. It was targeted to school level students up to higher secondary (+2) level. The announcement was made through online news portals, DPNet-Nepal's email groups as well to some school related networks. Few students participated and four students of class 10 were selected by the essay evaluation team for cash prizes and certificates.

It was successful in drawing attention of school level students and also knowing their level of DRRM understanding, but it needs further strategy in disseminating the information in order to attract more students for participation.

Day 2:

Day 2 had 2 technical sessions, a closing session and Folk Duet Song (Lok Dohori). Altogether 197 participants attended the Day 2 event. It was realized time overrun in comparison to the planned schedule.

Technical Session C: Understanding and Managing Disaster Risk

The session was coordinated by Mr. Sunil Sun Shakya, Executive Committee Member of DPNepNet and chaired by Prof. Dr. Bishal Nath Upreti, a veteran Geologist. The session had four papers presentation related to integrated hazard assessment, seismic hazard assessment based on seismic micro zonation, seismic risk assessment, and indigenous practices (see below for the session details).

Key highlights of the presentation and discussions are presented below and the powerpoint presentations have already been uploaded in DPNepNet's Online Resource Center [<https://www.DPNepNet.org.np/resource/ncdrr-presentations/day-2>].

Technical Session C: Understanding & Managing Disaster Risk

Chair Prof. Dr. Bishal Nath Upreti

1. Importance of Geohazard Investigation for Sustainable Risk Reduction in the Nepal Himalaya: Dr. Basanta Raj Adhikary, Institute of Engineering
2. Urban Seismic Hazard Assessment through Seismic Microzonation: A Case Study from Birendranagar Municipality: Dr. Deepak Chamlagain, Geo-Engineering Consult
3. Earthquake Risk Management in Nepal: Key Approaches and Lessons Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha - Executive Director, NSET
4. Indigenous Practice in DRR: Prof. Dr. Jiba Raj Pokharel



Presentation 7: Importance of Geohazard Investigation for Sustainable Risk Reduction in the Nepal Himalaya: Dr. Basanta Raj Adhikary, Institute of Engineering

- Key triggering factors of the geo-hazards includes extreme events like intense rainfall and drought, earthquake, climate change, snow melting, forest fire, anthropogenic activities, and so on.
- With reference to 2012 Seti Flood Nepal, 2021 Melamchi debris flow, 2015 Gorkha Earthquake emphasis was to look at the upstream and downstream conditions to understand the dynamics of hazard and its cascading impacts.



- Highlighted the available technologies such as real time monitoring camera, sediment sampling, ADCP, UAV, and so on that can serve in a number of ways to reduce the exposure and impacts of hazards.

- Adoption of the technologies like Community Based Landslide Early Warning System (LEWS) can also be effective in the context of Nepal where there are difficulties in opting for structural mitigation and resettling the settlements.
- Necessity of establishing hydro-meteorological stations above 3,000 meters to understand much accurately the effect of climate change.
- The infrastructure development, especially the road construction, needs strong disaster consideration as more than 60% of the landslides in Sindhupalchowk district were found within 100 meters distance from the roads.

Presentation 8: Urban Seismic Hazard Assessment through Seismic Micro Zonation: A Case Study from Birendranagar Municipality: Dr. Deepak Chamlagain, Geo-Engineering Consult



- Highlighted the differential responses received in the response strata (medium like soils, rocks, and so on), thus emphasizing the need for seismic hazard zonation to characterize the risks and use for urban planning.

- Shared the learning of urban seismic hazard assessment through the use of seismic micro zonation technique in Birendranagar municipality.
- The traditional methods estimated the shear wave velocity on the rock strata beneath the surface but failed to estimate the responses on the soil surface, thus requiring innovation to understand the soil responses. These values are essential during the design of the buildings and will contribute to the effective implementation of the building code.

Presentation 9: Earthquake Risk Management in Nepal: Key Approaches and Lessons Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Executive Director, NSET



- Major existing vulnerabilities are not only of the physical but also of social and attitudinal dimensions with respect to earthquake hazards.
- Majority of the deaths during the 2015 Gorkha

Earthquake were found to be mainly due to the building collapse suggesting that attention is required to construct safe infrastructures.

- NSET's learning shows that awareness, capacity and institutional systems are the key domains for intervention programming in order to realize safer building construction. Further, the learning informs that developing a critical mass for National Building Code (NBC) implementation is required to realize a self-propelling NBC rollout. The

experiences say that program interventions with a direct reach of 30% of the people, 50% of masons and engineers and 20% of municipality's coverage are required for effective NBC implementation.

- The learning and the technical standards and procedural guidelines developed during the post-2015 Gorkha Earthquake reconstruction need to be implemented throughout the country.

Presentation 10: Indigenous Practice in DRR: Prof. Dr. Jiba Raj Pokharel



- Highlighted the significance of local knowledge, and technology for the reduction of disaster risks. Prof. Pokharel shared his research works carried out in various areas which are given below: Fire resistant technologies in the

thatched roof by the use of plastic cover with mud.

- Construction of ponds to contribute in minimizing the risks of landslides and flooding by sharing the experiences of constructing 101 ponds with support from Rotary Club and other organizations.
- Introduction of cracks filling and provisions of proper drainage to mitigate the landslides, the experience from the Siranchok, Gorkha.
- Local technology using bamboo as the reinforcement for the retrofitting low-strength masonry buildings in Ramechhap, Dolakha, Kaski, and Kavrepalanchok that survived during the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake.

Questions and Answer Session

Some of the key suggestions, questions, and concerns raised from the floor and the answers provided by the speakers are narrated below:

- The existing land pooling, plotting issues were underlined in relation to the land response in the filled-up areas. The presenter responded that technically any land-filled sites could

be stabilized using different established techniques of engineering and can be used for constructing houses, but the bottom line requirement is adequate attention on that aspect.

- It was informed that the practice of pond construction work that is being done in Uttarakhand of India it has been found instrumental for the revitalization of water resources.
- Alongside the technical requirement during safer construction, the importance of the construction materials was also emphasized. The presenter responded that standards for the construction materials already exist in terms of Nepal standards, only the need is to comply with that and users awareness in this regard. Further, in the case of Nepal, the workmanship problem has been found predominant in addition to the quality of the construction material.
- Necessity of sustainable and continuous efforts from the government agency was stressed while over 51,000 masons trained during the post-2015 Gorkha Earthquake reconstruction have either changed their profession or went abroad.
- Session chair recalled how the scientists in Nepal started to work from the scratch and over the period of 30-40 years, there have been massive improvements in the research. Over the time, Nepal has gathered significant knowledge and capacities and it is capable of integrating science in the decision-making process. The need was to give recognition of such scientific works and streamline government policies and programs. `

Take Away Messages from the Session C: Understanding and Managing Disaster Risks

- As Nepal is extremely posed to several hazards including the adverse effects of climate



change, an integrated multi-hazard assessment with the due consideration of cascading effects is necessary.

- In the urban setting more intensive hazard assessment-based

microzonation is necessary to reduce the urban risks created from physical infrastructures including building construction.

- National Building Code enforcement is a must to mitigate the risk of earthquake damages and losses for which focus should be in three dimensions - awareness, capacity and institutions. To realize a self-propelling NBC implementation the program direct support requires to produce a critical mass (by reaching directly 30% of people, 50% of masons and engineers and 20% of municipalities).
- Indigenous technologies have huge potential for eco-friendly, low-cost solutions that have multiple benefits.

Technical Session D: Good Practices and Learning

The session was coordinated by Mr. Sunil Sun Shakya, Executive Committee Member of DPNetNepal and chaired by Ms. Saloni Pradhan Singh, Hon'ble Member of National Planning Commission. The session had five papers related to shock responsive social protection, learning on cash transfer and localization, experiences on the issues of sexual and reproductive health, the establishment of medico-legal death investigation systems to enhance response on the management of the dead (motd), and localization of disaster management information system (see below for the session details).

Key highlights of the presentation and discussions are presented below and the PowerPpoint presentations have already been uploaded in DPNet-Nepal's Online Resource Center [<https://www.DPNet-Nepal.org.np/resource/ncdrr-presentations/day-2>].

Technical Session D: Good Practices & Learning

Chair: Hon' Member Ms. Saloni Pradhan Singh NPC

1. Strengthening Shock Responsive Social Protection in Nepal Mr. Ram Gurung, DRR and SRSP Expert
2. Learning on Cash Transfer and Localization: Mr. Ganesh KC, Senior Advisor, DEPROSC
3. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Experiences from Recent Disaster Events including COVID-19 Pandemic: Mr. Hari Karki, National Humanitarian Response Officer, UNFPA
4. Establishment of Medico-Legal Death Investigation Systems to Enhance Response on Management of the Dead (MotD): Dr. Meen Bahadur Poudyal Chhetri, IPP, NCDM
5. Reflection on Localization of Disaster Management Information System: Mr. Umesh Dhakal, Executive Director, NRCS



Presentation 11: Strengthening Shock Responsive Social Protection in Nepal, Mr. Ram Gurung, DRR and SRSP Expert



- Disasters have differential impacts and the impacts are more to the vulnerable strata of the society. The flat response does not meet the special needs of those vulnerable people and thus trapping them into the vicious cycle of poverty and vulnerability.
- Government of Nepal spends a sizable amount of its portfolio in social protection (estimated 4.8% of GDP in the fiscal year 2020), but is not shock responsive. If made shock responsive it can significantly tackle the challenges of poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion.
- Social protection addresses three interrelated goals of resilience, equity and opportunity.
- Despite huge spending on social protection there is a lack of a mechanism of objective indicators based assessment of the interventions/supports.
- Necessity for the establishment of an adaptive information system to identify households vulnerable to shocks.

Presentation 12: Learning on Cash Transfer and Localization: Mr. Ganesh KC, Senior Advisor, DEPROSC



- Grand Bargain's objective expects better humanitarian outcomes for affected populations through enhanced efficiency, effectiveness, and greater accountability.

• COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity to fast-track localization (recognition to local actors and power of communities) and demonstrated the power of communities and how investing in communities is important to combat any crisis.

- Realizing true localization must recognize the concerns of both (donors' and local NGOs), as donors concerns are on the capacity and transparency of local NGOs whereas NGO's concerns are of the access to information and easier mechanism to access funding.
- Learning showed that the local NGOs demonstrate a vital segment in the humanitarian response and partnership with the private sector, use of cash and vouchers and modern information technology have some remarkable milestones that local NGOs succeeded in attaining.
- Earthquakes marked a major shift towards cash transfer programming and the Nepal Government had the acceptance showing an opportunity for scaling-up
- Cash transfer needs clearly defined criteria. Unconditional cash transfers supports social protection whereas conditional cash transfers support faster livelihood recovery.

Presentation 13: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Experiences from Recent Disaster Events including COVID-19 Pandemic: Mr. Hari Karki, National Humanitarian Response Officer, UNFPA



- Sexual and reproductive health needs continuous and even increase during the emergency, as there cannot be any pause or interruption in pregnancy, lactating mothers, giving birth, and so on.

- STI/HIV transmission, unwanted pregnancies, malnutrition, risky childbirth, menstruation hygiene, maternal deaths are seen predominant in the crisis period. Assessing this situation, the Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in refugee situations developed a Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in humanitarian settings. Similarly, the minimum Standards in health action have also been defined in the Sphere Handbook.

- The experiences from the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake on how the health facilities were destroyed with supplies and drugs being damaged and how the Mobile reproductive health camps established were effective for supporting health service recovery and life-saving RH supplies during that period.
- Gender-based violence (GBV) during emergencies have been noticed to increase, but also GBV survivors should be made confident of the benefits by reporting the incidents, as they don't see any benefits and tend to hide.

Presentation 14: Establishment of Medico-Legal Death Investigation Systems to Enhance Response on Management of the Dead: Dr. Meen Bahadur Poudyal Chhetri, IPP, NCDM



- Death does not end human suffering, especially when death is sudden, as the result of a disaster. The death of a loved one leaves a permanent mark on the survivors. Sadly, because of the lack of information, the

families of the deceased suffer additional harm because of the inadequate and inappropriate way that the bodies of the dead are handled.

- As a matter of fact the live ones are given priority while the dead ones are generally given lower priority during disaster or emergency response. When people die during wars or disasters, or in course of migration, their bodies must be handled respectfully and with dignity. The remains of unknown individuals must be searched for, recovered and identified. For this biometric data and forensic science can be instrumental while forensic science offers perfect tools, expertise and techniques.
- Nepal has the dead body management guidelines 2011 (First Amendment 2020) but needs effective implementation.

Presentation 15: Reflection on Localization of Disaster Management Information System: Mr. Umesh Dhakal, Executive Director, NRCS



- The Government has given responsibility for conducting Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA) to NRCS. NRCS has developed a template for IRA data collection and report processing and

generation system.

- NRCS has developed over 1,000 volunteers and also conducted training to Government staff including security forces on IRA and information management systems.
- As a way forward, the IRA needs to be compared with the data/report of the local governments and census. It also requires interconnecting with National (NDRRMA, BIPAD system), province, DCC, LGs and DAO system.

Questions and Answer Session

Some of the key suggestions, questions, and concerns raised and the answers provided during the floor discussions are narrated below:

- The need for disaggregated data was emphasized to make the DRRM inclusive
- Integration of IRA with bipad portal was the suggestion
- Development planning is for 5 years whereas the emergency response planning is only for around 3 months, hence the core essence of learning from 3 months planning needs to be well reflected and captured while preparing the periodic plans
- Session chair said that we all need to be disaster sensitive while planning and implementing our programs as disasters have become a part of our life due to the existing social, economic and environmental situation. Our actions need to be responsive based on anticipatory actions, preparedness and assessments rather than assumptions based. The blanket approach may not always be useful to address the risks as there are several social taboos,

stigmas and stereotypes that need interventions. Institutionalization of experiences, learning and findings are necessary to make continuously the progressive changes and for that this sort of conference becomes highly instrumental.

Take Away Messages from the Session D: Good Practices and Learning

- As Nepal has already been spending a sizable amount on social protection, looking at objectively of its impact and connecting with the Shock Responsive Social Protection is highly important.
- Establishment of an information system that locates the households with disaster vulnerability is necessary to make the social protection truly a shock responsive
- Aligning with Grand Bargain's objective the humanitarian outcomes must be made much efficient, effective and accountable. For these evidence-based humanitarian responses that ensure access of the most vulnerable and the local actors taking the leads are the two aspects requiring due attention and strengthening.
- Well implemented cash transfer not only helps to meet the real need of the disaster-affected people, but also stimulates the market system.
- Sexual and reproductive health issues need due planning, as these function in a continuum irrespective of disaster situation. The GBV becomes much prevailing during the emergency thus victimizing the women and girls.
- Management of the dead should be with respect and dignity, which usually do not receive due attention during disasters. Nepal has dead body management guidelines that need implementation.
- Tools, human resources and the mechanism required to make effective Initial Rapid Assessment has been on the progressive track, it needs well connected with the bipad portal.
- DRRM actions should be anticipatory and assessment based to make the actions evidencebased and thus effective. This requires continuous learning and transferring those learning in the planning process.

Closing Ceremony:

The closing ceremony was chaired by Dr. Raju Thapa, Acting Chairperson of DPNet-Nepal and hosted by Mr. Kailash Rijal, General Secretary of DPNet-Nepal. The closing ceremony was conducted earlier to the Lok Dohori considering the time overrun. The program began with the remarks from Dr. Meen Bahadur Poudyal Chhetri, the Coordinator of the Conference Management Committee. Dr. Chhetri reflected his observation saying that the conference was a grand success and thanked all those who contributed to making it successful. Er. Suraj Gautam, the Rapporteur briefly summarized the two days proceedings. Speaking in the closing ceremony, Mr. Bishnu Timilsina, General Secretary, DiMaNN, Mr. Bhawa Raj Regmi, Representative, NGO Federation



Nepal, Dr. Sushil Koirala, Chairperson, AIN, Mr. Prem Awasthi, UNRCO and Mr. Kala Nidhi Devkota, Executive Director, MuAN expressed their full satisfaction towards the outcome of the conference and congratulated to the DPNet-Nepal for arranging the conference in an organized manner and making it a success. They expected that the outcome of the conference will be useful for the DRR stakeholders.

On the occasion of the closing ceremony, Prof. Dr. Jiba Raj Pokharel, Former Vice-Chancellor of

Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) was awarded 2078 DPNet-Award by the Hon'ble Ms. Saloni Singh Pradhan, Member of National Planning Commission. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Pokharel expressed his kind gratitude and sincere thanks to the DPNet-Nepal for honoring and recognizing his contribution in the field of disaster risk reduction and management in Nepal.

Finally, Dr. Raju Thapa, Acting Chairperson of DPNet-Nepal expressed his kind gratitude to all government and non-government organizations and their officials in helping and supporting DPNet-Nepal to organize this important conference. He thanked DPNet-Nepal secretariat personnel and all other individuals involved directly and indirectly in the organization of the conference.

Lok Dohori (Duet Folk Song)



The two-day conference, somehow the tiredness from presentations, discussions, and speeches, ended in a refreshing mood with the networking dinner with popular and melodious duet songs. Over a dozen artists were singing and dancing by communicating the DRRM message in a popular

folk tune. The artists inspired the participants also to dance.

Market Place

Despite short notice and change in the modality of conference i.e. from virtual to physical, the Participation of the stakeholders in the marketplace was encouraging. Altogether, 23 there were 4 government agencies 6 NGOs, 5 INGOs, 8 Private Sector, and 1 UN agency showcasing their work on DRR in the marketplace by displaying their DRR tools, techniques and resource materials.



Conference Outputs/Outcomes

Following outputs and outcomes were expected from the conference while planning and designing the conference, which has been found delivered successfully as evidenced by the points below:

Outputs:

- A Large number of participants participated in the conference through which understanding the present status of DRRM initiatives, learning and challenges were exchanged
- 15 papers covering different aspects of DRRM were presented, which will also be documented and uploaded through DPNet-Nepal's website and the online resource center.
- Conference report, brief reporting with analysis and a comprehensive proceeding will serve as the knowledge base.
- Students and duet song artists were sensitized on disaster issues.
- 23 stalls demonstrating and sharing knowledge and experiences gained by different stakeholders.

Outcomes:

- Established practice of organizing national conferences on an annual basis. All the participants were found highly appreciating for organizing such as program participated by all the stakeholders of DRRM. Hence, it has contributed to practicing such learning events on regular basis. Good practices and challenges from the local to national level were shared and documented. The papers presented, the issues discussed have been / will be documented in a systematic way in the form of different reports, proceeding and DPNetNepal Journal. The documented reports will be made available through the well-organized and user-friendly online resource center.
- Reviewed the current status of policy implementation including DRRM Localization. Present implementation status, the challenges especially on the capacity of local government to deliver DRRM functions and the issues of inclusion of gender and people with disability in the policymaking process were discussed in-depth and explicitly.
- Produced relevant materials to prepare a national position paper to participate in the upcoming Global Platform for DRR in May 2022 and Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR in September 2022. It was again loudly discussed and endorsed as well by the

MoHA Secretary that the outcomes will be highly useful for preparing the regional and global platform' meetings that are going to be held in the near future.

Major Highlights:

- The Online Resource Center (ORC) was formally launched at the conference, the ORC content specific categories with has 1000 plus DRRM related materials.
- The Virtual Discussion Platform was also launched at the event, the platform promotes discussions on how situations, policies and laws affect DRR and the public.
- The NCDRR ensured the accessibility issues (close captioning, sign language interpretation, simultaneous language interpretation considering the presence of the most vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities) participated in the event, so they could voice their opinions.

Crucial matters discussed were:

- The participants highlighted the existing qualitative dimensions of the Mid-term review and Evaluation and urged on the need of the quantification of the indicators in order to keep in track with our milestones achieved.
- While the development of institutional and legal framework, the GESI components (person with disabilities and vulnerable groups, etc.) should be considered as well.
- The hazards are not confined within the single political boundaries, there can be effects in the multiple countries, in such circumstances how is the government coordinating with other nations.
- The participants discussed upon how SRSP is looking at inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- The policy, legal and institutional infrastructures developed and being implemented are highly encouraging after the global commitment through Sendai Framework for DRR. However, the measurements required to be indicators-based and objective.
- Due attention to duplication and work burden needs to be given while preparing different frameworks, guidelines.
- Strengthening of inclusive DRRM is necessary by ensuring meaningful participation of private sector, gender, disabled people and other socially excluded and vulnerable groups.

- The presence of the local governments during COVID-19 response and other disasters is encouraging but needs the focus to be shifted from relief operation towards preparedness and risk mitigation.
- The constitution guaranteed participation of women and other socially excluded groups in the local governments needs to participate in DRRM policy, program formulation and execution.
- The DRRM mandates given to the local governments through constitutional and sectoral legal frameworks are relevant, but require further clarity in the delineation of roles and responsibilities among the three levels of governments.
- The capacity of the local governments (both in human and financial resources) are far below the DRRM responsibilities given to them, which demands urgent addressing in order to move towards the path of disaster resilience.
- As Nepal is prone to several hazards and has been becoming further complex with the adverse impacts of climate change, the efforts should be much in understanding the risks from multiple hazards and the effects in a cascading way. Well-connected macro to microlevel hazard and risk analysis and evidence-based risk management practices are needed.
- The home-based experiences of National Building Code implementation need to be expanded throughout the country by incorporating the learning from the post-2015 Gorkha Earthquake reconstruction.
- While moving to smart technologies including the opportunities created by the advancement in information technology, it is also necessary to utilize the indigenous knowledge and practices, which are cost-effective, eco-friendly and sustainable.
- The already practiced social security provision needs to be objectively reviewed and aligned with the shock responsive social protection, as the disasters affect more the vulnerable and marginalized people and they fall into the trap of poverty cycle.
- The sexual and reproductive health issues need to be brought to the forefront of all DRRM policies, planning and implementation, as it adversely affects the majority of the population.

- Appropriate planning for the disposal of dead bodies and the adoption of best practices in protecting and handling dead bodies is of vital importance, while dignified handling of the dead is the supreme human right. Therefore, a prompt, impartial, and efficient investigation and management of the dead is key to ensuring a culture of accountability.
- The response needs to be information-based to make it accountable for which the database and assessments need to be credible.
- There exist learning within the country, hence proper reflection and documentation are required to strengthen DRRM plan, program and policies. Regular reflections by holding the learning forum are required and this sort of forums needs continuation and also organized at the sub-national level.

Conclusion/Final Note

In a nutshell, highly inclusive and accessible NCDRR event established a practice of organizing national conference on annual basis and to share good practices and challenges from the ground. Similarly, it has successfully reviewed the current status of policy implementation including DRRM Localization and to produce relevant materials to prepare national position paper to participate in the upcoming Global Platform for DRR in May 2022 and Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR in September 2022.

There are a number of lessons that can be taken from this conference to foster effective disaster risk reduction activities to encourage partner support.

A few key ones linked with the actions include:

1. Clarify the links between legal tools, blueprints and other policy documents;
2. Carry out local, provincial and federal assessments of the sectors of the population most vulnerable to disasters; the ecosystems and ecosystem services most at risk; adaptation and mitigation options available in DRR sectors and the links between them; and how other drivers of change relate disaster impacts;
3. Develop guidelines on ensuring social justice and protection of rights, particularly of the disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalized groups;
4. Develop indicators (social, economic, environmental and institutional) for disaster mitigation and adaptation, including related indicators;

5. Support for information dissemination and sharing of experience among the DRR stakeholders.

Recommendations

- The quantitative indicators for the SFDRR MTR report should be enhanced to provide a more accurate measure of the progress and impact of disaster risk reduction strategies and to identify areas needing improvement.
- Marginalized groups such as women, children, PWD, and ethnic minorities should be included in legal structures to ensure an equitable approach to disaster risk reduction and to benefit from their unique perspectives.
- Global cooperation is crucial when addressing transboundary hazards. A unified and coordinated global response can significantly reduce the impact of such disasters.
- The proactive approach of anticipatory action should be combined with shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) for a more effective disaster risk mitigation strategy.
- Policies across different levels of governance should be harmonized to prevent duplication of efforts, enhance efficiency, and streamline operations in disaster risk reduction.
- National governments should commit to fostering inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM), involving all stakeholders in the decision-making process, including marginalized communities.
- The COVID-19 pandemic taught many lessons, and these should be used to prepare for similar future disasters. This could involve improving healthcare capacities, enhancing communication systems, and setting up robust crisis management structures.
- Local government capacity should be strengthened with adequate resources, training, and decision-making authority to effectively implement disaster risk reduction strategies.
- Modern technological innovations should be combined with traditional indigenous knowledge for a more holistic approach to disaster risk reduction.
- Nepal's best practices and lessons learned from dealing with natural disasters should be shared in regional and international forums to aid other countries in enhancing their own disaster risk reduction strategies.

| Recommendations from NCDRR | Progress Made |
|---|---|
| 1. Enhancement of Indicator Quantification for SFDRR MTR Report | More than 3000 stakeholders consulted to refine the SFDRR mid-term review procedures, and a national report was prepared and inaugurated at the NCDRR event. |
| 2. Inclusion of Marginalized Groups in Legal Structures | NDRRMA finalized the GEDSI policy in DRR, and MoHA adopted the Disability Inclusive DRR guidebook. |
| 3. Strengthen Global Cooperation for Transboundary Hazards | No significant progress has been made yet. |
| 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 and trying to accommodate some policies and guidelines under LDCRP. |
| 6. Foster Inclusive DRRM through National level commitment | Inclusive NPDRR platform now has a dedicated secretariat and staff at NDRRMA. The Government allocated Rs. 1 million for the new fiscal year to run various activities under NPDRR to accommodate various DRR stakeholders. |
| 7. Learn from COVID 19 and Prepare for Similar Disasters | Health facilities have been strengthened, and there's an effort to provide medical facilities in all local governments. Health hazard has also been considered for anticipatory action. |
| 8. Boost Local Government Capacity and Resources | MoFAGA conducted 753 DRR Localization Training and local governments are more aware of disaster management. Even ward-level, materials related to disaster management are being stored. |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>9. Promote Technological Innovations with Indigenous Knowledge</p> | <p>Homegrown technologies like the landslide early warning system are being promoted. Both the government and donor agencies are interested in indigenous knowledge and practices.</p> |
| <p>10. Share Nepal's Best Practices and Lessons Learned in Regional and International Forums</p> | <p>Based on the findings and recommendations of the last NCDRR, official statements and position papers for APMCDRR and GPDRR was prepared and shared with the international community.</p> |

Annex 1

Programme/Schedule



LEARNING & SHARING

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (NCDRR)

In partnership with



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Introduction:

Nepal is highly vulnerable to various types of disasters. Globally, it is ranked eleventh and thirtieth in terms of vulnerability to earthquake and flood risks respectively (MoHA, 2018). Nepal has witnessed remarkable disaster events ranging from mega-earthquake to global pandemic COVID19 recently. Learning from the bitter disaster events, Nepal has done significant achievements in policy formulation. Now various stakeholders have been actively engaging in the implementation of the policy provisions. However, there is a lack of a mechanism to trace out who is doing what. In this regard, DPNet as a common platform of various DRR stakeholders has been actively involving in knowledge management.

In this course, in technical and financial support of USAID/Tayar and in collaboration with Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Ministry of Forests, Environment (MoFE), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and other stakeholders, DPNet has planned 'Learning & Sharing National Conference on DRR' to bring out DRR stakeholders in a single platform to discuss and share the contextual issues related to DRR.

Goal and Objectives:

The overall goal of the conference is cross-learning of Disaster Risk Reduction Management in the context of Nepal. The specific objectives of the conference are:

- To enhance knowledge on policies, provisions, and practices on DRRM in Nepal

- To take stock of DRRM initiatives, issues, good practices, learning by different stakeholders at various levels
- To produce a comprehensive document that will serve as the reference material for Country Report that can contribute to DRRM Journal planned to produce by DPNet Nepal after the conference.

Conference Date: 12-13 Falgun 2078 (24-25 February 2022)

Venue: Soaltee Hotel, Kathmandu

Conference Events:

| Event | Program |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Opening Ceremony | The opening ceremony will be conducted among various stakeholders and key government personnel. |
| Market Place | Relevant stakeholders can display their DRRM related materials in the program venue. |
| Technical Sessions | Different peer-reviewed contextual papers will be presented in the program and will be published in the DRRM Journal of DPNet. |
| Essay Competition | The essay competition will be upto the 10+2 school students. The top ten essays will be selected and the top three will be awarded in the program. |
| DRRM Lok Dohori (Duet Song) | Lok Dohori program will be organized during the event to deliver the key message to wider audiences through live streaming. |
| Closing Ceremony | A brief closing ceremony will be organized. |

** Details of the events will be made as the program progresses.

Schedule

Date 24th Feb, 2022 (Fagun 12, 2078 B.S.)

| Time | Program | Remarks |
|-------------|---|---------|
| 12:00-13:00 | Registration, Lunch & Market Place Observation | |
| 13:00-14:10 | <p>Opening Ceremony</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Raju Thapa, Acting Chair, DPNet</p> <p>Chief Guest: Mr. Tek Narayan Pandey, Secretary, MoHA</p> <p>1300: Announcement / Taking Seats (M/C - Mr. Kailash Rijal, General Secretary, DPNet)</p> <p>1305: Welcome / Objective / Format - Ms. Shakti Gurung (Treasurer, DPNet) <u>Remarks:</u></p> <p>1310 Tayar Nepal</p> <p>1315 USAID</p> <p>1320 MoFE</p> <p>1325 MoUD</p> <p>1330 MoFAGA</p> | |

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| | <p>1335 Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Executive Chief, NDRRMA 1340 Dr. Roshan Pokhrel, Secretary, MoHP 1345 Launching Online Resource Center (ORC)/Virtual Platform - Chief Guest 1350 Opening Remarks - Chief Guest 1400 Vote of Thanks and Remarks – Chair</p> | |
| 14:10-14:30 | Break and Market Place Observation | |
| 14:30-16:50 | <p>Technical Session A: Disaster Governance Chair: Mr. Pradip Koirala, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review and Reflection on the Implementation SFDRR: Mr. Tulsī Prasad Dahal Under Secretary, Disaster and Conflict Management Division, MoHA Ongoing Activities of NDRRMA and Future Plan: Dr. Dijan Bhattarai, Under Secretary/Spokesperson, NDRRMA Private Sector in DRRM: Learning from USAID/Tayar Project: Ms. Darshana Shrestha, FWEAN GESI in DRRM: A National Level Reflection - Ms. Achala Dahal, Director of Studies, Nepal Administrative Staff College Lessons and Learning on GESI in DRR at Ground: Learning from USAID/Tayar: Ms. Sahara Neupane, Atullya Foundation Pvt. Ltd. | <p>5 Presentations X20 Minutes = 100 Minutes Session Chair: 10 minutes Q&A: 30 minutes</p> <p>[FNCCI will be requested for comments during Q&A]</p> |
| 16:50-17:10 | Break (Tea/Coffee) and Market Place Observation | |
| 17:10-18:50 | <p>Technical Session B: DRRM Localization Chair: Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Former Education Minister Moderator: Mr. Ram Prasad Bhandari, DRRM Expert</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation Status of DRRM Policy in Local Level – Mr. Rishi Raj Acharya, Under Secretary, MoFAGA <p>Panelist 1: Mr. Dev Kumar Subedi, Mayor, Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet Panelist 2: Ms. Kamala Basnet, Deputy Mayor, Bhimeshwor Municipality, Dolakha Panelist 3: Mr. Bhawa Raj Regmi, Executive Director, NEEDS Nepal, Kanchapur Panelist 4: Mr. Rajendra Prasad Pyakurel, Executive Director, National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN) Panelist 5: Mr. Dinanath Bhandari, Disaster Resilience Lead, OPM</p> | <p>Presenter: 20 minutes Panelist = 5P X 8 Minutes= 40 Moderator: 10 minutes Session Chair: 10 minutes Floor: 20 Minutes</p> |

| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| 18:50-19:20 | Essay Competition 1745 Announcement of process, criteria, essays submitted, results - Coordinator, Essay Technical Committee 1755 Essay reading - Top 3 winners Announcement of Day 1 Closing and Information on Day 2 (Program M/C) | Technical Committee Coordinator –5 minutes Winners 3x7 = 21 minutes Program M/C - 4 minutes |
| 19:20 ~ | Networking Dinner | |

Date 25th Feb, 2022 (Fagun 13, 2078 B.S.)

| Time | Program | Remarks |
|-------------|---|--|
| 12:00-13:00 | Registration and Lunch | |
| 13:00-15:00 | Technical Session C: Understanding & Managing Disaster Risk Chair: Prof. Dr. Bishal Nath Upreti 7. Importance of Geohazard Investigation for Sustainable Risk Reduction in the Nepal Himalaya: Dr. Basanta Raj Adhikary, Institute of Engineering 8. Urban Seismic Hazard Assessment through Seismic Microzonation: A Case Study from Birendranagar Municipality: Dr. Deepak Chamlagain, Geo-Engineering Consult 9. Earthquake Risk Management in Nepal: Key Approaches and Lessons Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha - Executive Director, NSET 10. Indigenous Practice in DRR: Prof. Dr. Jiba Raj Pokharel | 4 Presenters X 20 Minutes = 80 minutes Session Chair: 10 minutes Q&A: 30 minutes |
| 15:00-15:15 | Break and Market Place Observation | |

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| 15:15-17:30 | <p>Technical Session D: Good Practices & Learning Chair: Hon' Member Ms. Saloni Pradhan Singh NPC</p> <p>11. Strengthening Shock Responsive Social Protection in Nepal Mr. Ram Gurung, DRR and SRSP Expert</p> <p>12. Learning on Cash Transfer and Localization: Mr. Ganesh KC, Senior Advisor, DEPROSC</p> <p>13. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Experiences from Recent Disaster Events including COVID-19 Pandemic: Mr. Hari Karki, National Humanitarian Response Officer, UNFPA</p> <p>14. Establishment of Medico-Legal Death Investigation Systems to Enhance Response on Management of the Dead (MotD): Dr. Meen Bahadur Poudyal Chhetri, IPP, NCDM</p> <p>15. Reflection on Localization of Disaster Management Information System: Mr. Umesh Dhakal, Executive Director, NRCS</p> | <p>5 Presenters X 20 Minutes = 100 minutes Session Chair: 10 minutes</p> <p>Q&A: 25 minutes</p> |
| 17:30-18:15 | <p>Lok Dohori (Duet song containing DRRM messages in simple folk tone and words)</p> | |
| 18:15-19:15 | <p>Closing Ceremony</p> <p>1815 Chair takes seat</p> <p>1815 Dr. Meen Bahadur Poudyal Chhetri, Coordinator, Conference Management Committee</p> <p>1820 Rapporteur presents the summary of 2 days deliberations <u>Remarks:</u></p> <p>1835 Mr. Jaganath Kurmi, Chairperson, NCDMC (Umbrella organization of community organizations)</p> <p>1840 Mr. Bishnu Timilsina, General Secretary, DiMaNN (Umbrella organization of NGOs working in DRRM)</p> <p>1845 Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi, President, NGO Federation Nepal (Umbrella organization of NGOs)</p> <p>1850 Dr. Sushil Koirala, Chairperson, AIN (Umbrella Organization of INGOs) 1855 Mr. Prem Awasthi, UNRCO</p> | |
| | <p>1900 FNCCI (Umbrella organization of Private Sector)</p> <p>1905 Mr. Rajendra Prasad Pyakurel, Executive Director, NARMIN (Umbrella Organization of Rural Municipalities)</p> <p>1910 MuAN (Umbrella organization of Municipalities)</p> <p>1915 Vote of Thanks and Closing Remarks – Chair</p> | |
| 19:25 ~ | Closing Dinner | |

Note: Market Place (Throughout the program)

Please visit <https://dpnet.org.np/ncdrr> to get various documents, photo, video and presentation related to the conference.