

# Transforming communities through innovative and effective humanitarian Response



**Umesh Prasad Dhakal**  
**Executive Director**  
**Nepal Red Cross Society**

# Outline

**Understanding Humanitarian Response**

**Principles and importance/Approaches**

**Humanitarian crises in history**

**History on humanitarian response- Global**

**Policies, framework targets, and agreement**

**Evolution on humanitarian response**

**Major hazard - Nepal**

**Humanitarian Crises- Nepal**

**Disaster Impact on last 6 Years( 2015-2021) – Nepal**

**Progression on Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Response -Nepal**

**Paradigm Shift on humanitarian response – Nepal**

**People centric disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response**

**Inclusion in humanitarian response**

**Recommendations**



# Principles and Approaches



Humanitarian response operates based on key principles, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence.

Contributes to save lives, upholds human rights, supports vulnerable people, address immediate and long-term needs, fosters stability and peace, strengthen local capacities, promotes international cooperation, and advocates for policy changes.

During the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon urged the global community to commit to the 'Agenda for Humanity' to address the challenges in the humanitarian sector with the aim of preventing and helping to reduce human suffering during crises.

In 2005, the UN implemented a coordination mechanism called the 'cluster approach' to improve coordination of humanitarian response.

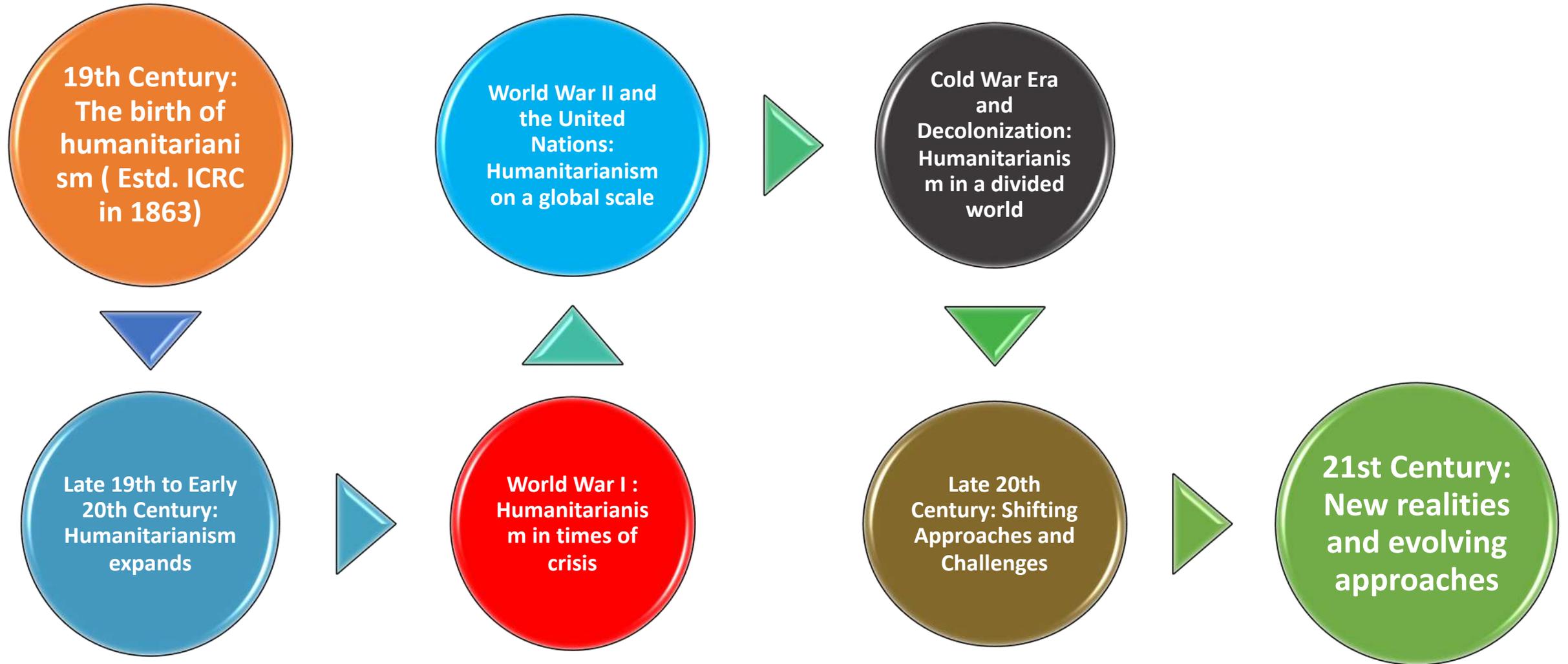
Framed as coordinated international approach by the UN, ICRC, NGOs and others, in support of local response.

# Humanitarian crises in history

<i>Black death</i> (1347-1351)	Great fire of London (1666)	Titanic Sinking (1912)
SARS pandemic in 2003	Tsunami (2004)	Hurricane Katrina (2005)
Avian Influenza in 2006,	H1N1 in 2009	Ebola in 2014
Zika virus in Latin America in 2015	Earthquakes and Tsunami	Covid-19 pandemic



# Progression on humanitarian response- Global



# Policies, framework targets, and agreement

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

International Disaster Law (IDL)

Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE)

Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030)

The Paris Agreement (2015)

SFDRR (2015-2030)

Constitution of Nepal – 2015

Disaster Risk reduction and Management Act- 2017

Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Plan 2018-2030

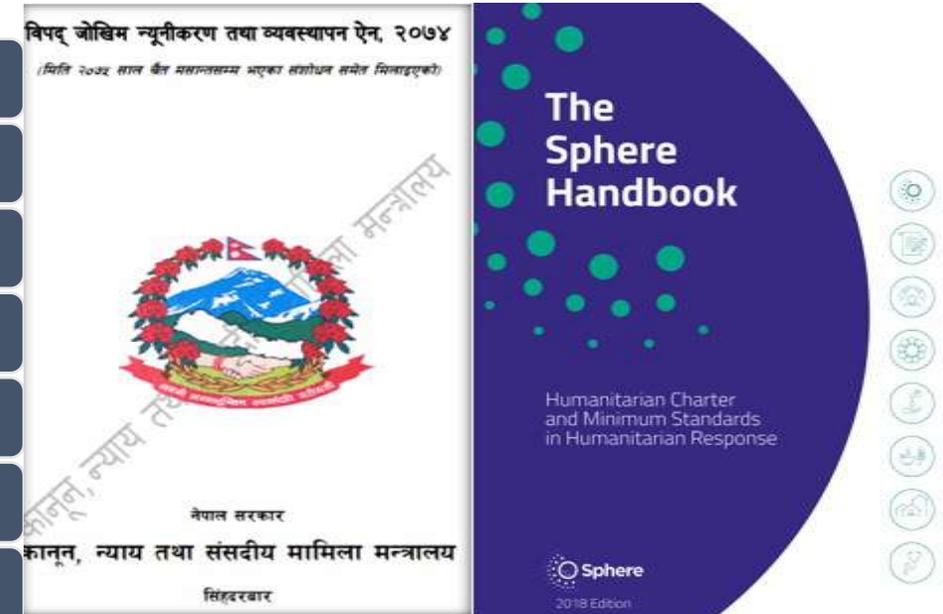
Disaster Risk Reduction National Policy – 2018

National Disaster Response Framework -2013

Local Movement Operation Act 2017( 2074)

Development plans /Sectoral plans

Rescue and relief procedure – 2077



# Major Hazard in Nepal

Earthquakes

Landslides

Floods

Glacial Lake  
Outburst Floods  
(GLOFs)

Droughts

Avalanches

Fires ( Forest and  
house)

Air Pollution

Wind storm

Heat waves/cold  
waves

Pandemic/Epidemic

Infrastructure  
Failures

Conflicts and Civil  
Unrest

Road Accident

Earthquakes

# Humanitarian crises- Nepal

**Bhola Cyclone (1970):** Resulted in a massive influx of refugees into Nepal.

**Drought and Famine (1973-1974)**

**Bhutanese Refugee Crisis (early 1990s)**

**Earthquake (1934)**

**Political Conflict (1996-2006)**

**Earthquake (2015)**

**Floods and Landslides every year**

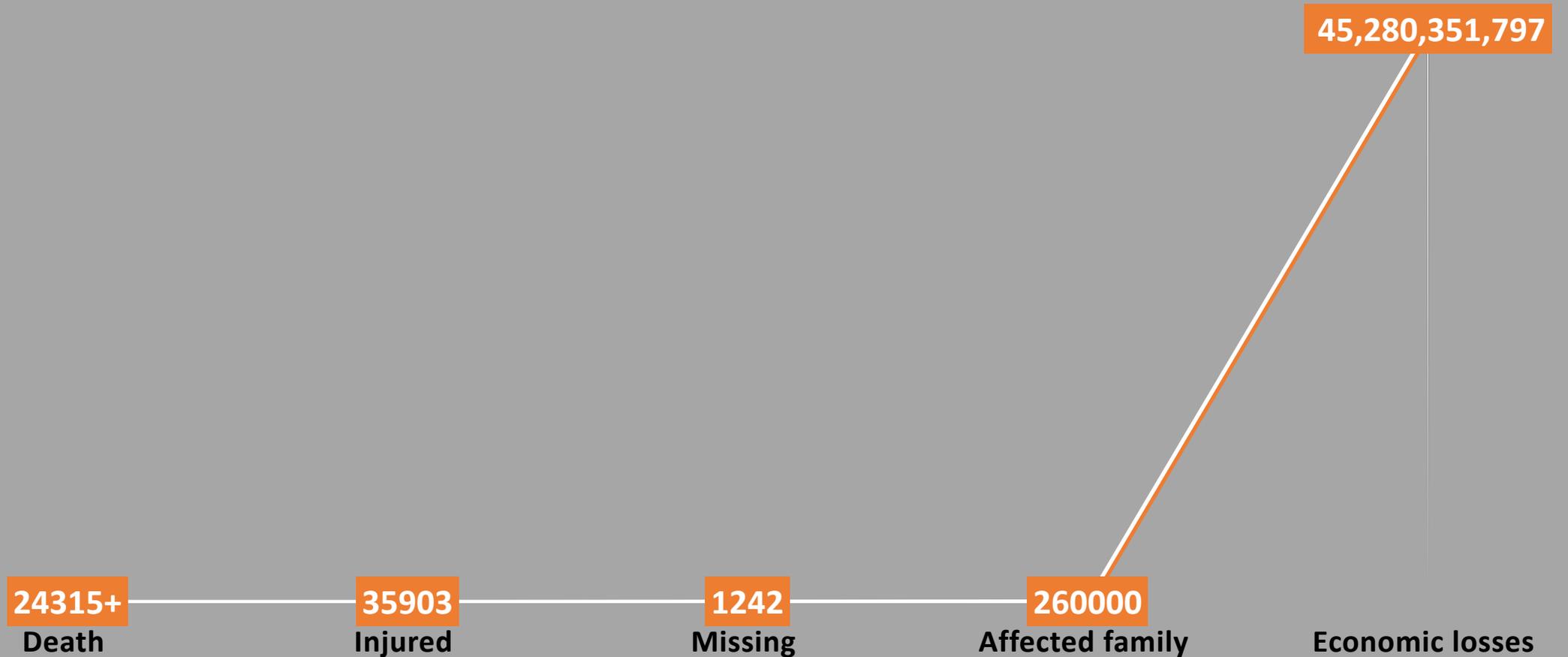
**Unseasonal flooding (2021)**

**Lamjung, Doti, and Bajura earthquake-2079**

**COVID-19**

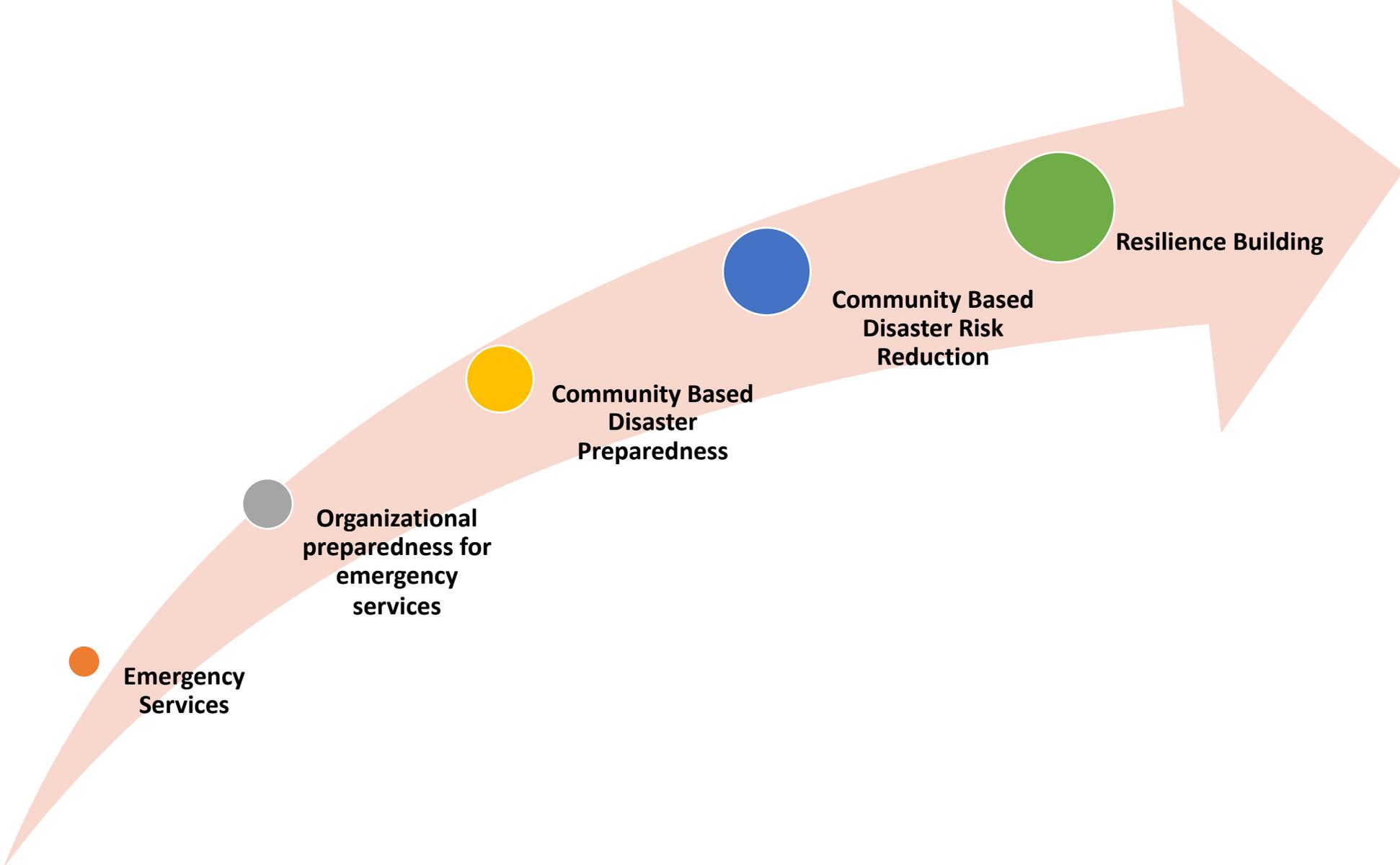


# Disaster Impact on last 6 Years (2015-2021) – Nepal

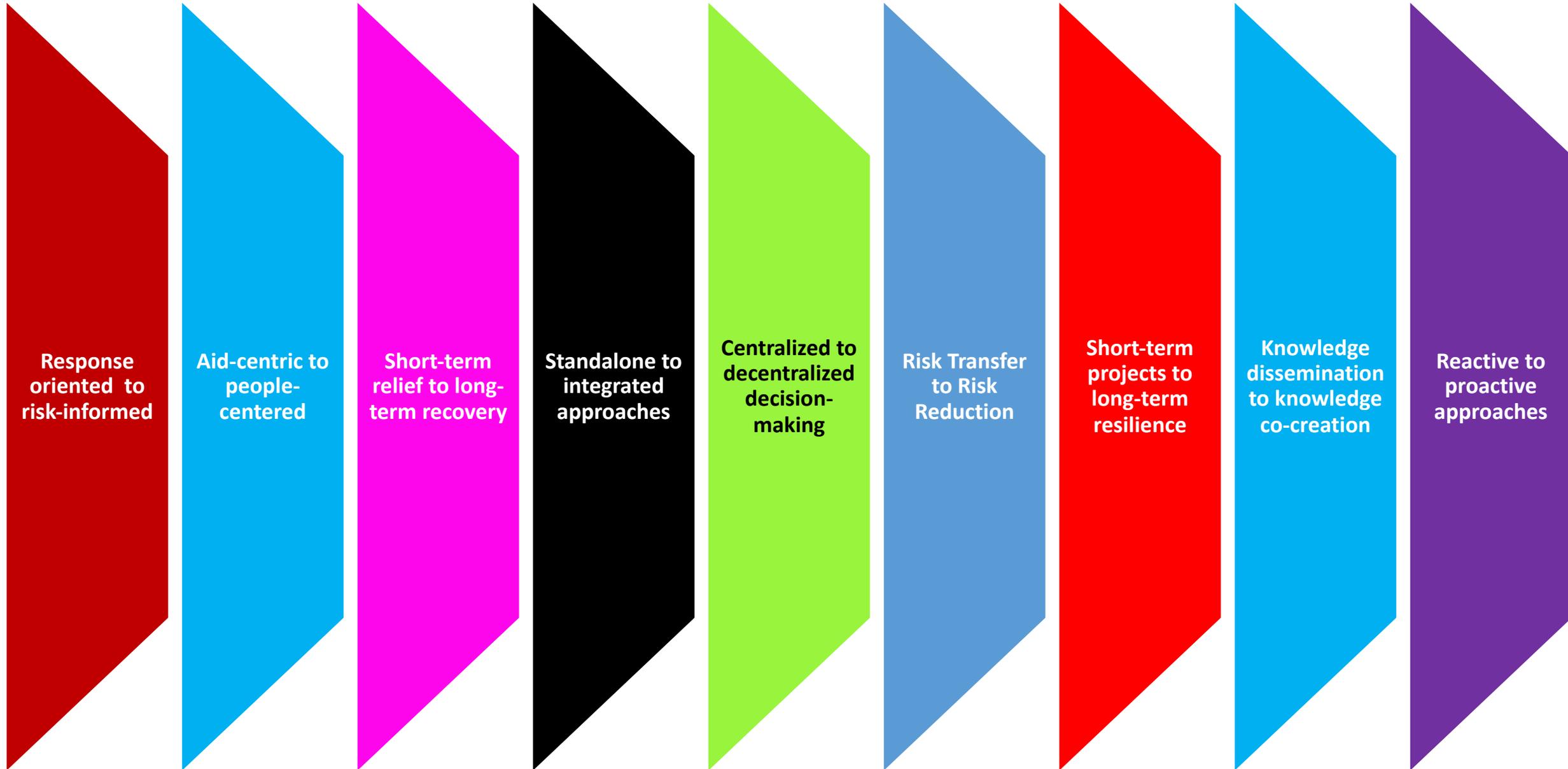


*Data source: DRR portal, Nepal*

# Progression on Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Response in Nepal



# Paradigm Shift into humanitarian response in Nepal



# People Centric Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Response

Risk assessment

CBDRR programming

DRR governance

Anticipatory Action (multi hazard) as a new tool for DRR and Response (National and AP dialogue).

Preparedness and mitigation measures(structural, non-structural)

Warehouse/Godam management in strategic location

Enhancing response capacity (search and rescues equipment stockpiling)

Contingency plan and simulation exercise.

Early warning , early communication system.

Forecasting model, weather forecasting.

Nature-based solution.

Institutional Set up



Practical use of First Aid Service by trained NRCs volunteer as immediate response action (bus accident), Doti

# People Centric Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Response Cont.

Data management(Flood exposure data collection and uploading on DRR/ IBF portal, IRA and so on)

Capacity building initiatives( training, workshop, orientation and meetings)

Livelihood /socio-economic support

Multi Purpose Cash Assistance

Psychosocial support

Risk communication(Multi hazard siren, audio, video) Responding to IDPs and migrants

Use of new technology (social media)

Food, cash, and non- food items distribution



# People Centric Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Response Cont.

Digitalization of tools and data

Multi sector engagement / whole of society approach

Curriculum, guidelines and tools

Accessing with new technology: OSM, IRA, google earth.

Cluster approach

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Leveraging social protection systems - SRSP

Volunteer mobilization with a focus on youth for climate / DRR

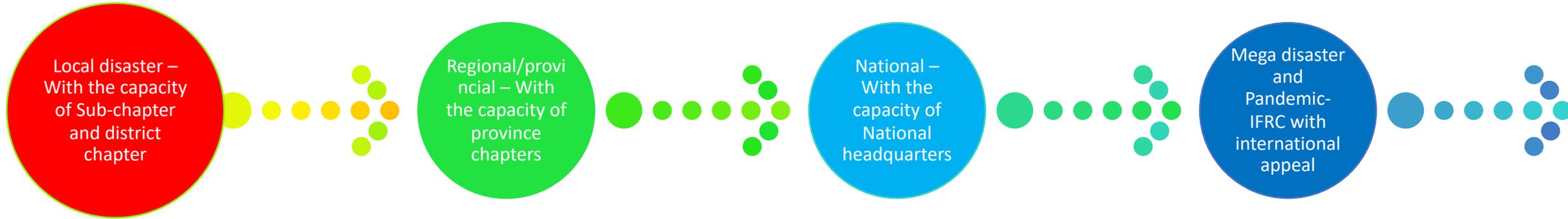
Local governance – transforming communities through risk-informed local budgeting and planning processes, also ensuring inclusivity and participatory approaches (like when we use VCA and local risk mapping to inform mitigation strategies )



Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA)



# RCRC Response Mechanism



# Response tools

## National level

- NDRT
- DDRT
- CBERT
- First Aid
- Psychosocial support
- Shelter

## International level

- RDRT
- CAP
- FACT
- ERU
- SURGE



# Inclusion on DRR and humanitarian response

Inclusive policy, strategy, guidelines, plans, and curriculum.

Special attention to PWDs, children, women, senior citizens, single women headed households.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA).

Addressing socio-economic disparities

Participation and engagement

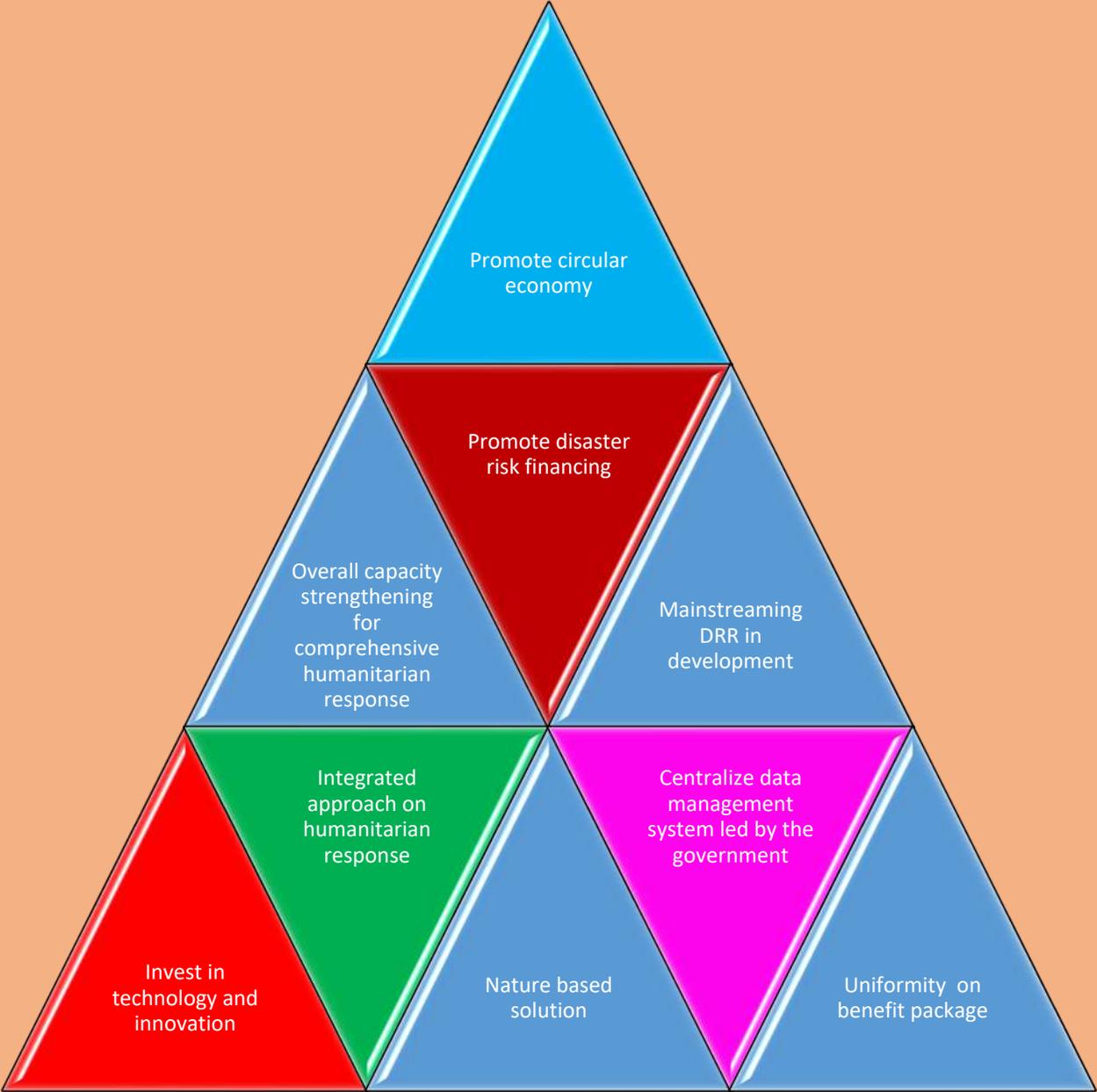
Protection and safety

Youth engagement in climate change

Do no harm



# Recommendations



# Glimpses on DRR and humanitarian response



Initial Rapid Assessment Orientation to local government representatives and NRCS volunteers, Sunsari



Handover of Response kits to local government, Dadeldhura



Constructing temporary toilet in Purbichauki Rural Municipality, Doti District



Document search Jobs News & Blogs Events  
ABOUT LEARN EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE ADVOCATE



Forecast-based action and shock-responsive social protection in Province 5 and Sudhur Paschim, Nepal

Bringing the two concepts of forecast-based action and shock-responsive social protection in Nepal represents a valuable opportunity to improve system delivery, build off innovations, and reduce the disaster burden in one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. Beginning in 2020, this project aims to integrate shock responsiveness and anticipatory action into Nepal's social security allowance programme to inform the development of more responsive and anticipatory social protection and early warning systems that protect the most vulnerable people - before, during and after shocks. Further, it aims to build a replicable mechanism for anticipatory action based on experiences and evidence collected and tested on the ground, strengthening the capacity of the government of Nepal and humanitarian stakeholders to implement forecast-based action and shock-responsive social protection for floods and cold waves.



# Glimpses on disaster response



**Thank You!**