

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management



Achala Dahal, NASC



Global Context of Disaster

- According to UNISDR 2019 – the people of developing countries are more vulnerable to disaster (either in response or recovery) by 6 times to other.

Nepal is one among it.



Context of Nepal

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□ Nepal is exposed to the multiple hazards which is recurrent as:

- Flood
- Landslide
- Earthquake
- Epidemics
- Fire
- Hailstone
- Drought
- GLOF
- Avalanches
- Windstorm
- Thunderbolt

Pandemic/ disaster / emergency



Who are most affected

Women and girls

- Poor/backward/uneducated
- Vulnerable and Socially excluded group
- Pregnant and lactating mother
- Adolescent girls
- Old aged and Single women
- Disable people
- Sexual and gender minorities

What is needed ?

Disaster governance in Nepal

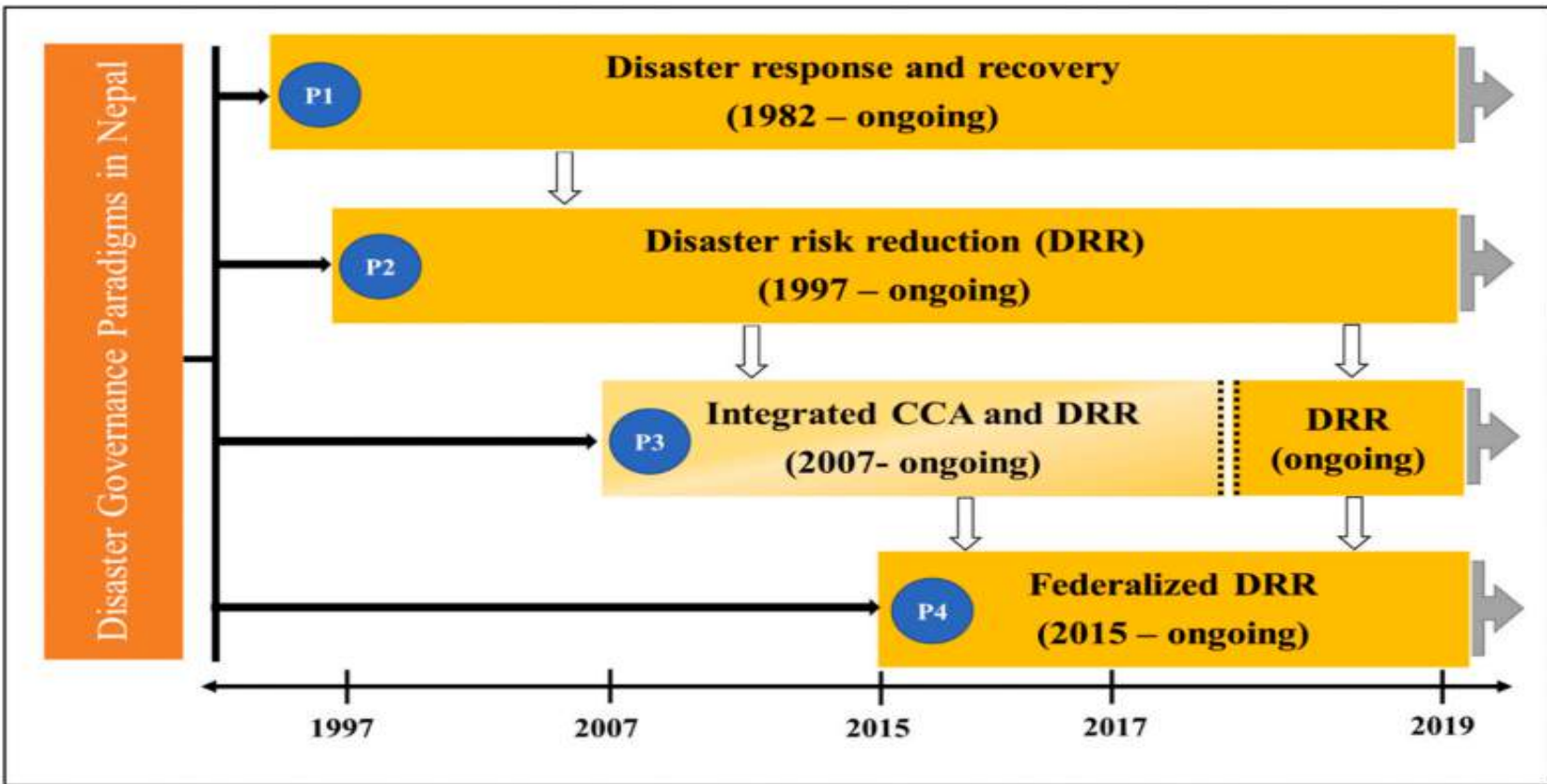


Fig. 1. Disaster governance paradigms in Nepal.



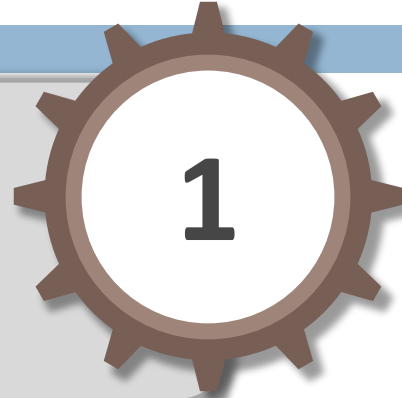
- Governance can be understood in three dimensions (Nepal Administrative Staff College, 2018)
 - Foundation of governance
 - Infrastructure: Policy and Structure
 - Service delivery: Implementation



Gears 10

Foundation of governance

The inclusion of voice and participation of these excluded groups in DRRM.



Infrastructure: Policy and Structure

Infrastructure of disaster governance where the policy and structure affecting disaster governance need to be GESI

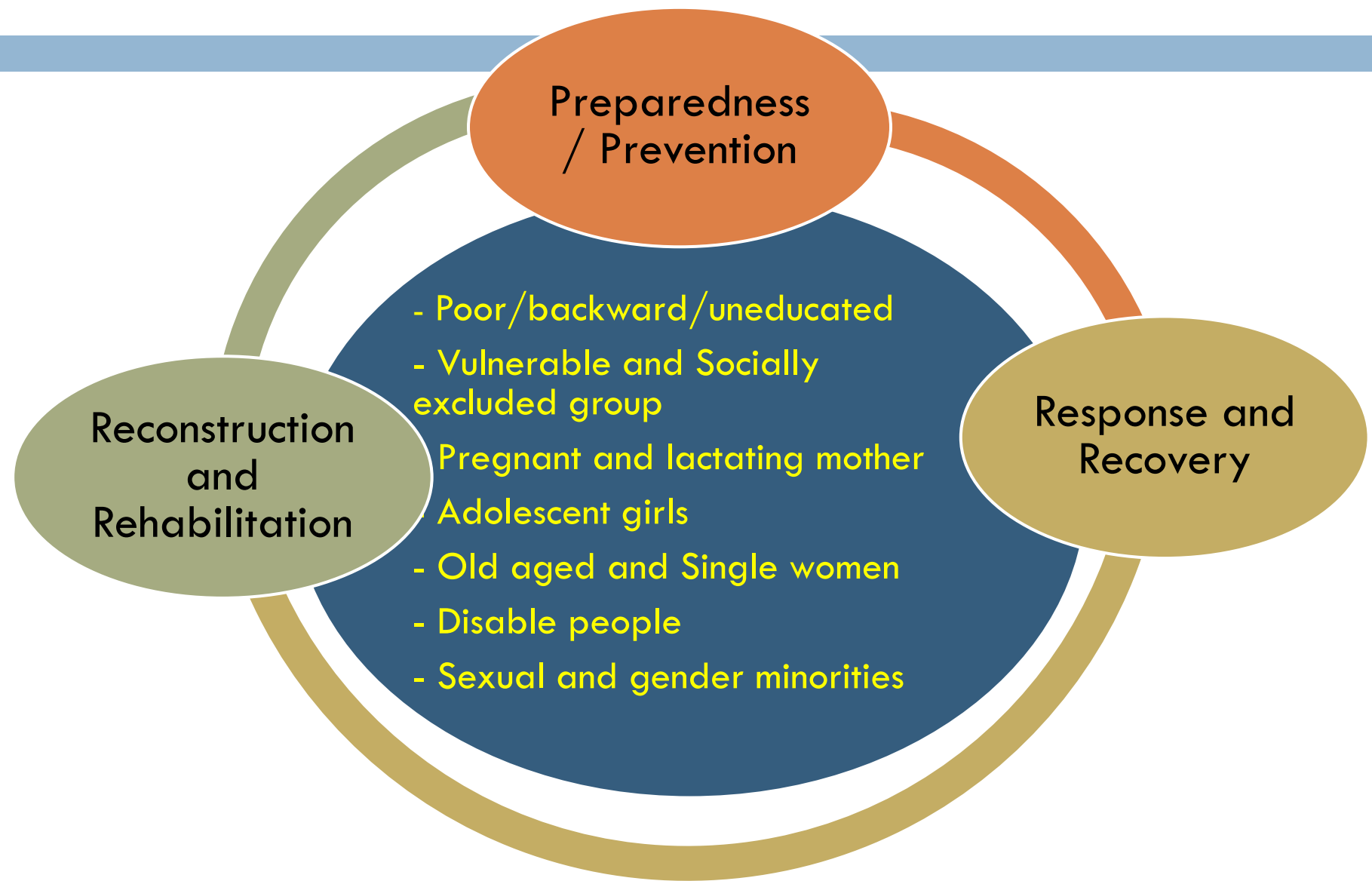
Service delivery: Implementation

The desired execution and implementation of inclusiveness is necessary for the sustainable solution to the problem.





GESI in DRRM





GESI in DRM governance (*observations and recommendation*)

Acts/Polices	Observations and recommendations
Constitution of Nepal	<p>The constitutional provisions regarding shared responsibility of all tiers of government have provided legal backup for institutionalizing DRM at national and sub national levels. Also, in its preambles it has stated the essence of GESI.</p> <p>Recommendation: All the policies and guidelines formulation at all three level of government needs to embrace the essence and be inclusive. These are the foundation which needs to be mainstreamed for achieving the desired state of prosperous Nepal happy Nepali.</p>
Disaster risk reduction and Management act, 2074	<p>The provisions of member in the council, executives committees, experts committee, Provision on Provincial Disaster Management Committee, and Provincial Disaster Management Executive Committee, District and Local Disaster Management Committee have positional nomination from different positions and organizations who are men and have minimal or no representation of women.</p> <p>Recommendation: The structure have to mandatory involvement of women and excluded group to include their concern in the process and the duties and responsibilities shown include the need to include the specific need and interest of women and excluded group in DRRM.</p>

<p>National Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2018</p>	<p>The vision, mission, goals, objectives and set of policies for achieving the objectives, policy implementation and coordinating, monitoring and evaluation given in the national policy for disaster risk reduction is gender neutral.</p> <p>Recommendation: The goals, objectives set of policies for achieving the objectives, policy implementation and coordinating, monitoring and evaluation in the national policy for disaster risk reduction should have included the specific need of gender and excluded groups</p>
<p>Disaster risk reduction and Management Regulation, 2076</p>	<p>In the functions, duties and powers of the executive committee; expert committee; functions, duties and powers of the authority; secretariat and meeting of district disaster management committee; functions, duties and powers of the district disaster management committee; functions, duties and powers of the local disaster management committee; responsibility of public enterprise and business establishment; administration of the fund; and district disaster management fund in the regulation are all gender neutral.</p> <p>Recommendation: The disaster risk reduction and management regulation, 2076 should have included the gender and excluded groups concerns in the different committees envisioned in the regulation at federal, provincial and local level. Also, in the administration of the fund at federal and district level it have not envisioned the special consideration in its distribution to gender and excluded groups.</p>

National Disaster Response Framework (first amendment 2075)

In the first amendment of the framework it has envisioned the various working process and framework. the process for international assistance for disaster response, national and international assistance and coordination structure, coordination mechanism between international and national actors; special operation arrangement for national disaster response; framework for mobilization of national and international response and rescue team and assistance through NDRRMA; preparedness plan for disaster response at federal, provincial and local level are gender neutral.

Recommendation: The authority and institution envisions in the framework and the process for international assistance for disaster response, national and international assistance and coordination structure, coordination mechanism between international and national actors; special operation arrangement for national disaster response are positional which does not ensure the gender concern to be addressed. Also the preparedness plan for response prepared at federal, provincial and local level have not considered the special need and interest of gender excluded groups who are more vulnerable during any type of disaster.



**Disaster
Risk
Reduction
National
Strategic
Action Plan
2018 -2030**

The GoN developed and endorsed Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Plan of Action (2018- 2030), as Nepal’s roadmap to implement the key provisions of SFDRR in our context. The Strategic Plan of Action has a long-term vision to build a safer, adaptive and resilient nation from disaster risk and ensure sustainable development.

- The strategic plan has set 13 guiding principles which has included GESI consideration in principle 4 and 7 in isolation and other principle are gender neutral.
- The 6 targets and indicators given in the plan are gender neutral.
- The priority action and its strategy under priority 1 gives due consideration for gender and excluded groups, gender disaggregated data, gender and excluded group consideration in vulnerability and hazard assessment.
- The other priority action and its strategy of communication, coordination, Capacity Development, Collaboration and Partnership and Promoting Public Investment are gender neutral

Recommendations: The guiding principle have to be envisioned mainstreaming gender concern on it rather than giving an individual principle. The other priority plan also need to consider the inclusion of gender and excluded representation and consideration.



**Local Government
Operation Act,
2074**

In the local government operation act, 2074 the aspects of disaster management are the functions, duties and powers of the urban and rural municipality include all the stages related to disaster management; Building construction permission, monitoring and regulation in accordance with National Building Code and standard; Policy, plan, program formulation, implementation, monitoring, regulation and evaluation work related to safe settlement development; Provision of subject group for institutional coordination in case of emergency; Disaster information collection and impact mechanism and its operation; Priority for different post-disaster time period; The local government has also identified the priority work of different time periods after the operation and has also identified the work to be done after the disaster and divided the responsibilities, which are gender neutral

Recommendation: The act have to include the consideration of gender and excluded group on all the above given functions, provisions and actions which is envisioned at local level for effective gender mainstreaming at local level.

<p>Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act for Local Government, 2075</p>	<p>The model act given for preparation of DRRM Act of Local level was issued by Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration in 2075/1/10. The act has envisioned local disaster management committee, ward level disaster management committees and their functions, role and responsibility. The committee members envisioned on local and ward level are positional representation which happen to be men and the functions and roles are all gender neutral.</p> <p>Recommendations: The committee members to ensure the representation of women and excluded group to include their concerns in different phases of disaster. Also, the functions and roles to include the special considerations of gender and excluded group.</p>
<p>Local Level Disaster Management fund Operation Guideline, 2075</p>	<p>The guideline for operation of disaster management fund at local level was issued by Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration in 2075. The guidelines gives the authority to mobilize the fund during emergency, during response and recovery for local authority. But the guidelines have not given any consideration to use the specific fund for women and excluded group who are more victimized at disaster event because their bounce back capacity is weak.</p> <p>Recommendations: The fund mobilization guidelines of local level should have provisioned the special fund to women and excluded group as their will be impacted more during disaster.</p>



Mainstreaming GESI at different cycle of DRRM

Different cycle in DRRM	How can we mainstream
Pre – Disaster Phase – Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gender-responsive assessment of risk including sex-disaggregated data, gender-responsive VCA and early warning system; ● Gender-responsive community participation, community education and community awareness raising on inclusive disaster preparedness and response; ● Capacity building for gender-responsive response for all institutions and partners ● Empowering women and excluded groups to participate in early warning responses, disseminating information, becoming first responders; ● Training women volunteers in response, recovery and/or the development and implementation of evacuation plans. ● Use the elderly women and men are as a key resource for information and guidance and as a source of indigenous knowledge.

**Prevention**

- Understanding the diversity of vulnerability and risk improves efficiency (including disaggregating data)
- Prepare and enforce GESI responsive DRR related laws/orders/regulation at all levels of government and educate them.
- Preparation of GESI responsive development plan and strategies, community development plans etc.
- Ensure provision to provide full knowledge of disaster to women, men and esp. other excluded group.
- Make a provision to ensure equal participation of women and men in prevention and disaster risk management.



During disaster Phases

Response

- Identifying gender in the immediate response phase: basic needs, protection and participation
- Use the gender desegregated data of the specific community or area to plan and focus response for women and excluded groups.
- Ensuring women and men's equal access to livelihoods in all phases of emergency recovery
- Design tools to engender the humanitarian programming cycle
- Conducting gender sensitive initial rapid assessment and post-disaster need assessments for accurate and speedy recovery plan.
- Conduct Sex and Age Disaggregated Data and Rapid Gender Analysis Tool



Recovery

- Gender-specific needs in restoring livelihoods with a focus on providing equal opportunities for women and men;
 - Gender-specific needs in recovery and development of infrastructure across all sectors.
 - Increasing the participation of women and excluded groups (e.g. youth, people living with disabilities, etc.) in policy and planning processes.
- Conduct assessment of affected infrastructure and consider the gender implications;
 - Identify primary needs and necessary recovery measures for women and men from different population groups;
 - Preference to the procurement of construction materials from women owned companies and hire women to work on infrastructure development and in livelihood development programs;
 - Ensure access to financing and training for women interested in entrepreneurship and funding for women's empowerment programs.
- Implementation of socially-oriented loans with favorable interest rates or no credit guarantee schemes and "Solidarity lending" for the most vulnerable women;

<p>प्रशिक्षण</p> <p>Post Disaster Phase</p>	<p>Reconstruction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collect, analyze and use sex disaggregated data and equally consult with women, girls and marginalized groups during the design of reconstruction program and activities and in the overall monitoring. ● Support women's economic empowerment through livelihoods and skills development interventions (including cash-based programs). ● Adopt strategies that recognize, reduce and redistribute the unpaid care and household responsibilities assigned to women and girls; ● Ensure the leadership and meaningful equal representation and participation of women and marginalized groups;
	<p>Rehabilitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emphasis the use of indigenous knowledge, process, technology and strategies for the recovery process for making a sustainable growth economically, mentally and physically.



Challenges in mainstreaming GESI at DRRM

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The major challenges in mainstreaming issues of women, men, LGBTQI, people with disability, socially excluded people and poor and vulnerable in DRRM are:

- The management system and process along with policies and activities are gender neutral which may not address the diverse need of diverse group.
- The capacity of staff in having technical knowledge of gender mainstreaming is not adequate and not focused too.
- Lack of enabling office environment like presence of open and participatory processes, mandatory GESI policy, policies on work life balance, sexual harassment and abuse of authority policy notified and implemented (mandatory courses on gender).



- **Weak knowledge management** as knowledge products on GESI developed and disseminated, communication work/materials/ website reflect commitment to GESI concerns.
- **Weak partnerships** with different stakeholders, systematic participation in interagency coordination mechanisms for GEWE.
- **Minimal engagement** of women, men, LGBTQI, disabled and socially excluded people in policy making, decision making and in access to resource together with disaster governance decision making.



Way forward

Technical Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out GSEI -responsive risk assessments and vulnerability analysis, early warning system and indicators at national, provincial and local levels.
Political Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure GESI perspectives in the national and local agenda, national and local policy and plans, national and local budgets for DRRM and financial resources equally in all DRR activities. • Introduce legislation to provide legal support to gender-responsive DRRM.
Social Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch national and local campaigns on GESI – responsive DRRM. • Engage the media to report on GESI difference.
Development Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make GESI - responsive risk assessment a precondition for any development planning at national and local level. • Take action to enhance women’s leadership and decision role in integrating DRRM in natural resource management, environment protection, and health education. • Encourage micro credit and micro finance programs to provide more support to women, LGBTQI, disability people and increase their capacity to reduce their disaster risks.
Humanitarian Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a GESI responsive disaster contingency plan based VCA, disaster preparedness planning and storage of relief goods, especially in preparation of emergency relief goods and Include women’s and excluded groups participation in planning and distribution of humanitarian assistance.



Thank you