



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Home Affairs
National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu



Mountain village affected by thermokarst flood triggered by permafrost thaw in Humla, May 2025

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Nepal Position Paper for GP2025

1. Background

Nepal is a highly disaster-prone nation, sitting in the Himalayan arc with steep topography and complex geology. The country faces a wide range of geological and hydro-meteorological hazards, earthquakes, floods, landslides, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), droughts, extreme temperatures, avalanches, and storms are all recurrent threats (MoHA, 2024) —that disproportionately affect women and girls, persons with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, Dalits, and other marginalized communities the most. These hazards have become more intense and frequent with climate change, causing significant losses of life and property in recent years. For example, the November 2023 Jajarkot earthquake killed 156 people and destroyed over 65,000 houses, accounting for an estimated NPR 2.47 billion (PDRF, 2025) in losses. Similarly, the 2023 monsoon floods and landslides affected thousands of families and claimed dozens of lives. Over the six-year period mid-2018 to mid-2024, Nepal experienced 32,375 disaster incidents causing 2,996 deaths, 446 missing, and NPR 23.6 billion in direct losses (MoHA, 2024). These impacts are a drag on development: the 2015 Gorkha earthquake alone caused losses equivalent to about one-third of Nepal's GDP (World Bank, 2015).

Nepal's social and economic vulnerability exacerbates these hazards. It is a landlocked, low-income country where about 60% of GDP comes from agriculture (often subsistence-based) and 69% of the workforce is employed in this sector. Nearly one-third of Nepalis live in multidimensional poverty (NPC, 2018). A large share of the population lives in rural mountainous areas, often in isolated villages with limited access to services. Urbanization is growing, but many cities (e.g. Kathmandu) lack resilient infrastructure, making them vulnerable to floods and earthquakes. Climate change is an accelerating risk: temperatures in Nepal are rising above the global average, glaciers are retreating, and extreme rainfall events are intensifying (World Bank, 2020). The UN Secretary-General has highlighted Nepal as a frontline of climate-induced disasters (UN News, 2023).

The 2015 Constitution of Nepal reorganized the state into federal, provincial and local governments and mandated decentralized disaster governance (Constitution of Nepal, 2015). The Government of Nepal (GoN) has shifted from a response-centric to a proactive risk reduction approach. The 2017 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (DRRM Act) and its 2019 Regulations define disaster management roles across all tiers of the government, emphasizing preparedness, mitigation and “build back better” reconstruction. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (2018) and Strategic Action Plan (2018 - 2030) localize the Sendai Framework, aiming to reduce loss of life and assets through resilient development (MoHA, 2024). Establishment of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) in 2019 marked a major step; it serves as the apex agency to coordinate DRR policy and planning across government and society.

Nepal’s recent development agenda has mainstreamed DRR. The 15th Five-Year Plan (2019-2024) integrated disaster management priorities, and all 77 districts now have disaster preparedness and response plans. Warehouses and humanitarian staging areas are being set up in each province; over 80 open spaces in Kathmandu valley have been identified for evacuation (MoHA, 2024). The federal government has developed hazard and risk maps, and more than 650 rural municipalities have prepared local disaster risk profiles. Meanwhile, public awareness on disasters is growing: government media channels, social networks and community radio now routinely broadcast weather forecasts and risk information (MoHA, 2024). The public can access disaster data via the NDRRMA’s online portal and the national Disaster Information Management System (DIMS), which aggregates real-time hazard data from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA, 2024). These measures reflect Nepal’s commitment to the Sendai Framework and to “building back better” after each event (MoHA, 2024). Nevertheless, the frequency of climate and geologic disasters continues to rise, highlighting the urgency of stronger risk reduction policies and investments (World Bank, 2020; MoHA, 2024).

2. Understanding Disaster Risk

Nepal is strengthening its understanding of disaster risk through science, technology, and community engagement. The government, with partners, has conducted

systematic risk assessments at national and local levels. Most of the districts have disaster risk profiles based on historic hazard records, vulnerability data and community consultations. In especially high-risk areas, technical agencies and universities are undertaking detailed hazard maps (e.g. landslide susceptibility in Bhimeshwar municipality) and multi-hazard risk models. The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) has expanded its network of automatic weather and water-level stations across major river basins; hydromet forecasting is now available for several-day lead times. Community-based Early Warning Systems (EWS) have been established in over 9 flood-prone rivers and their tributaries (MoHA, 2024). New observatories in the high Himalaya are monitoring glacial lakes for potential GLOFs; for instance, DHM and partners have installed lake level sensors and developed evacuation plans in the Himalaya (ICIMOD, 2023).

Public and private research institutions contribute to this understanding. Academic networks and NGOs have generated open-source data on hazards and vulnerabilities, including GIS-based risk maps. The 2021 and 2022 post-disaster assessments of the Melamchi and Saptakoshi floods, and the 2023 Jajarkot earthquake, have enriched Nepal's hazard database and yielded lessons on mitigation (MoHA, 2024). Media and civil society play an active role: disaster documentaries, radio programs and social media discussions have raised public awareness of risk. A national DRR portal and the BIPAD Information Platform consolidate disaster statistics and response plans (MoHA, 2024). Planned risk communication strategies, including IEC (information, education and communication) campaigns and "messenger networks" with local influencers, aim to mainstream safety knowledge into everyday life.

Since 2022, Nepal has been organizing an annual National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (NCDRR). This conference serves as a platform to review the progress and challenges of the past year and to plan priorities for the upcoming year. It brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including government agencies, semi-government bodies, UN organisations, donor agencies, INGOs, NGOs, the media, academia, the private sector, and disaster-affected communities. The aim is to build a shared understanding of disaster risk reduction and to reach a common

consensus on actions and commitments needed to strengthen resilience across the country (DPNet, 2025).

Nepal is undertaking the necessary processes to achieve the targets of UN's Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL) initiative and successfully organized a national dialogue in 2023. The country is developing multimodal hazard alerts (using mobile SMS, radio, loudspeakers and social media) to ensure even remote communities receive timely warnings. For example, telecom operators have partnered with DHM to send flood and weather alerts to subscribers in vulnerable districts. The NDRRMA emergency operations center (EOC) operates 24/7 during monsoon, issuing forecasts and coordinating local contingency plans. In summary, Nepal's understanding of disaster risk is evolving from intuition to evidence-based practice, integrating science, local knowledge and community feedback (MoHA, 2024).

3. Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance

Nepal has made significant steps in institutionalizing DRR across all levels of government. The 2017 DRRM Act established the National Council (chaired by the Prime Minister) and an Executive Committee (chaired by the Home Minister) as top policy bodies. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) under Ministry of Home Affairs serves as the secretariat of these bodies, overseeing DRR implementation. The federal Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry for DRR, while each of the seven provinces has created a Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (chaired by the Chief Minister) and an Executive Committee (chaired by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Law). District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) and Municipal/Metropolitan Disaster Committees ensure coordination at local levels. These institutions all draw mandates from the Constitution and DRRM Act, which formally assign DRR responsibilities to federal, provincial and local governments in a 'concurrent' manner.

3.1 Strategic Action Plan for DRR

Nepal's National DRRM Strategic Action Plan (2018 - 2030) provides a comprehensive roadmap for DRR, aligned with the SFDRR and SDGs. It enshrines the "Sendai principles" that the State bears primary responsibility to prevent and

reduce disaster risk, and that all sectors and communities must be engaged in a multi-hazard, multi-stakeholder approach. The Plan emphasizes coherence between DRR, climate adaptation, and sustainable development. It calls for risk-informed public and private investment, gender and social inclusive policies, and science-and-technology driven solutions (e.g. use of local materials and traditional knowledge in construction). A key feature is the “Build Back Better” approach for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction phases (MoHA, 2024).

To operationalize the Action Plan, the government has defined detailed outputs and timelines. Provinces and local governments are developing their own DRR strategies and emergency plans in line with the national plan. Sector agencies (agriculture, health, education, tourism, etc.) are mainstreaming DRR into their programs. The mid-term review of the SFDRR noted that Nepal is “very close” to achieving Priority 2 (governance) and Target E (subnational DRR strategies) by 2020. The Disaster Response Framework was revised in 2019 to align with federalism, and update contingency plans for floods, landslides, and epidemics. Regular reviews by the National Disaster Council and by Parliament ensure accountability for DRR targets.

Similarly, Government of Nepal developed and endorsed Nepal’s Strategic Action Plan for Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) in May 2024. The plan was recognised as a regional good practice at the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR. The Strategic Action Plan outlines eight ambitious yet practical pillars aligned with 9 priorities of Sendai GAPS - ranging from inclusive risk assessments to disaster-responsive governance. It is not merely a policy document, but a catalyst for systemic transformation. With a multi-tiered implementation timeline—short-, medium-, and long-term - it embeds GEDSI at the heart of Nepal’s DRRM system, both in principle and in practice. Nepal government, together with various development partners plan to strengthen its localization in all its provinces and municipalities.

3.2 Legal and Policy Framework

Nepal has enacted a strong legal-institutional framework for DRR. The 2015 Constitution explicitly mandates disaster risk reduction as a shared responsibility at all three levels of government (Republic of Nepal, 2015). Under this constitutional

mandate, the DRRM Act (2017) is the apex law covering all phases of the disaster cycle. The Act created the National Council and Executive Committee, and defined the NDRRMA's role. It also requires Disaster Management Funds at federal, provincial and local levels, and obligates officials to integrate DRR in sectoral plans. DRRM Act and guidelines for disaster fund mobilization, relief distribution, etc. have been enacted at the provincial and municipal level.

Major policy documents underpin the Act. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (2018) sets the vision and principles for building a “safe and resilient Nepal.” Key priorities, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, are now incorporated into federal and provincial plans. Notably, the policy commits to “no one left behind,” ensuring that women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are included in DRR programming. In line with this, gender-responsive budgeting and inclusive planning are being promoted across agencies.

Several regulations and standards have been established to support implementation. Nepal's National Building Code was updated after the Gorkha Earthquake 2015 to strengthen earthquake-resistant designs. The Disaster Sensitive Social Protection and Relief Distribution Standard (2025), post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) institutionalize the “one-window” approach for relief and recovery. The government has also formulated a National Disaster Response Framework (2019) and National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR, 2020), to ensure a coordinated, multi stakeholder response.

3.3 Institutional Structure

As stated earlier, Nepal's governance structure is now federalized and multi-tiered. At the federal level, the Prime Minister chairs the National DRR Council and the Home Minister chairs the Executive Committee. The NDRRMA functions as the secretariat for both. NDRRMA's mandate has been steadily expanded: it now leads national risk assessments, develops standards, and channels international DRR cooperation into Nepal's priorities.

At the provincial level, each of the seven provinces has Provincial DRR Council, Provincial DRR Executive Committee, and Provincial Emergency Operation Center

(PEOC). The seven Provincial DRR Acts decentralize further. Local governments (753 municipalities and rural municipalities) have been empowered by the Local Government Operation Act (2017) to prepare local DRR plans, construct earthquake-resistant shelters, establish local EOCs and funds, and enforce building safety norms. Disaster Management Committees have been formed at the Municipal level, some of the municipalities have established ward-level DRR committees. District Disaster Management Committees, led by the Chief District Officer, coordinate with local municipalities.

This decentralized system is supplemented by thematic coordination bodies. Similarly, at the provincial level, Provincial Platforms engage stakeholders in each province. Specialized agencies (the Department of Hydrology Meteorology, Department of Mines and Geology, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, etc.) contribute technical inputs to policy. Humanitarian clusters (led by the government and co-led by UN) and informal networks (e.g. DpNet Nepal) ensure NGO and civil society voices inform DRR strategies.

3.4 Collaboration and Partnership

Disaster resilience in Nepal is built on partnerships and collaborations. The government works in close coordination with UN agencies, development partners, and academia. For example, the World Bank's Nepal is supporting the strengthening of the Disaster Information Management System and funding risk mapping; UNDP and UNICEF support community resilience projects in schools and health posts; together with UN Women supported GEDSI mainstreaming in all preparedness and response efforts in three provinces. UNICEF and IFRC support local search-and-rescue teams. International research networks (ICIMOD, Asian Institute of Technology) partner with Nepali universities on hazard science. Private-sector actors have signed MOUs with the government: notably, telecom operators Nepal Telecom and Ncell fund country-wide mass-SMS flood alert systems (Government of Nepal, 2017; MoHA, 2024).

Nepal also contributes to regional and global DRR platforms. It endorsed the 2016 Cancún Declaration on Safe Schools and Health Facilities. Nepal is also a member of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and collaborates in various

resilience building programs. Nepal is also a council member of Regional Integrated MultiHazard Early Warning System (RIMES). Nepali officials have co-chaired working groups in various Regional and the Global Risk Forum. During disasters, Nepal has welcomed foreign search-and-rescue teams and coordinated cross-border aid flows, demonstrating international solidarity. Equally, Nepal is engaging with donors to mobilize DRR finance: it has developed project proposals for the Green Climate Fund (for community resilience) and requested technical assistance from GFDRR (Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery - a World Bank facility) to enhance risk financing and insurance mechanisms.

Nepal has completed Sagarmatha Sambad, a global dialogue forum named after Mount Everest, to address critical issues like climate change and environmental sustainability. It brings together governments, experts, civil society, and the private sector to promote international cooperation, share knowledge, and develop collective solutions for a sustainable future.

Non-governmental stakeholders are essential partners for disaster risk management in Nepal. Civil society networks and various stakeholders actively participate in National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction meetings, policy reviews and district coordination. Professional groups (engineers, media associations, community radio) conduct trainings on building safety and information dissemination. The Nepal Chamber of Commerce has signed a Disaster Risk Reduction pledge on behalf of businesses. This “whole-of-society” approach, with formal Memoranda of Understanding and clear role definitions, is cited by UNDRR as a model of inclusive governance (UNDRR, 2023).

3.5 Inclusiveness

Nepal’s DRR policies stress “leave no one behind.” The National DRR Policy specifically mandates inclusion of women, children, elderly, persons with disabilities and marginalized communities in all DRR activities. In practice, the NDRRMA has integrated Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in its programs. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Executive Committee, chaired by Hon. Home Minister, endorsed the GEDSI Strategic Plan of Action in May 2024. Over 19,900 government officials of all 753 local governments, including many female

local leaders received DRR trainings. Similarly, UN Women trained more than 400 local governments, CSO, and gender focal persons on GEDSI and DRR. Executive Committee has endorsed different training modules and training programs directed towards creating a pool of participative community first responders. Government Institutions conducts multi-hazard drills in community and schools with active participation from all genders. Shelter camps, Relief camps are designed with separate space for women and girls with separate feeding room, toilets and bathing place for women and care for the elderly. The government also provides targeted recovery grants to female-headed and Dalit households.

Nepal is also expanding disability-friendly infrastructure in evacuation shelters. These inclusive measures are in line with the Sendai Framework priority to protect groups at-risk, and they demonstrate Nepal's commitment to a rights-based approach to DRR (MoHA, 2024).

4. Public, Private Investments in DRR

Investments are needed across Nepal's economy to build resilience. While public funding for DRR has increased, it remains limited. Substantial investment also comes through public private partnership. The government encourages corporate participation in DRR via CSR programs and tax incentives. For example, the private sector has co-financed reconstruction of flood-resistant schools and health posts in riverine districts. The telecom partnership for flood alerts (see above) is a flagship public, private initiative. Tourism companies finance mountain rescue helicopters and avalanche training in Annapurna and Everest regions.

Nepal is piloting disaster risk financing to spread the burden of compensating losses and damages. The government is exploring a national catastrophe insurance program for farmers, jointly with the World Bank's Global Index Insurance Facility. A micro-insurance product for livestock and crops, offered through local cooperatives, began in 2023, with premium subsidies from the federal budget. Nepal is also a client country under the World Bank's Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Program (DRFIP), which recommends establishing a sovereign catastrophe fund CAT DDO. The 2024 budget created a provisional "DRR Investment Fund" to pilot such mechanisms (GoN, 2024).

Risk transfer through insurance is at an early stage, but health, social security and remittance inflows already act as informal buffers. NGOs facilitate savings schemes and emergency loans for flood- and earthquake-affected families. The banking sector is testing weather-indexed credit products for agribusinesses. Overall, the philosophy of investment is shifting toward resilience: infrastructure projects (roads, hydropower) now routinely incorporate hazard-proofing (e.g. bridges raised to withstand floods). This integration of DRR into development finance is essential to achieve Nepal's long-term sustainable growth (World Bank, 2020).

5. Enhancing Preparedness and Promoting Build Back Better

Nepal's policy and planning emphasize preparedness and resilient recovery. The National DRR Policy calls for a "Build Back Better" ethos in all recovery efforts. This is reflected in ongoing reconstruction programs. For instance, the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), mandated after the 2015 earthquake, has rebuilt over 811,754 homes with earthquake-resistant designs, using local materials and skilled labor (NRA, 2023). These houses exceed previous building codes and have become models for rural construction. Similarly, after major floods, resettlement of at-risk communities now follows safer zoning based on new inundation maps.

5.1 Promote Preparedness. Early preparedness measures have been expanded nationwide. Nepal has established community disaster management committees across the nation, linked to local governments. Each district has pre-positioned food, relief supplies and standby response teams. A network of government-managed warehouses (at federal, provincial and district levels) holds rescue and relief materials for rapid deployment. The Strategic Plan of Actions for DRR 2018-2030 and successive budgets have steadily increased funds for drills and stockpiles. Since 2018, local governments have developed Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans, integrating climate change adaptation measures in local planning and policies. All seven provinces have Provincial Disaster Management Centers with basic emergency operations and ambulance units. In Kathmandu, a strategic human-made levee (a "green dike") is under construction along the Bagmati river to protect the city from storm surges and monsoon floods. These preparedness

investments, though uneven, illustrate a clear trend: Nepal is institutionalizing readiness, not just waiting for disasters.

5.2 Multi-Hazard Early Warning System. Nepal is upgrading its Early Warning System from single-hazard to multi-hazard. Department of Hydrology and Meteorology is now able to issue probabilistic flood and landslide forecasts for key watersheds, and is expanding Doppler radar to capture convective storms. Community Early Warning System networks, which were traditional practice on major rivers, are being linked into the national system. The hydrological forecasting in 3-day horizons has been useful; technological innovations are underway for longer lead times (e.g. satellite rainfall prediction). Notably, Nepal has been selected among 30 pilot countries for the UN Secretary-General's "Early Warnings for All" initiative. The government, with the WMO and UNDRR, is formulating a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System roadmap, which will seek to cover all people in Nepal by a multi-hazard, end-to-end, and people-centered EWS, including through efforts such as coordinating data flows from meteorological, seismic and water agencies into a unified platform. The goal is to empower local governments to issue pre-emptive warning and evacuation orders. This shift recognizes that giving people advance notice of multiple hazards can save far more lives and assets than ad hoc alerts.

5.3 Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction. Nepal's long history of Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) continues to pay dividends. Over the past decade, more than 11,000 communities have developed local risk reduction plans in micro-watersheds. These plans include risk mapping, first responder lists, and small-scale mitigation projects (reforestation, micro-dams to control erosion, riverbank protection). Various Non-Profit Organizations working in disaster risk reduction have supported in training of local volunteers in fire-fighting, search-and-rescue, and basic first aid; community rescue brigades now exist in each district (MoHA, 2024). Awareness campaigns in schools teach children to "Drop, Cover and Hold" during earthquakes and to seek high ground during floods. Traditional knowledge is also incorporated for example, farmers are reviving indigenous early-signs (bird behavior, atmospheric cues) for monsoon onset, clearing gullies and cracking the seal in the prospective landslide prone areas. The cumulative effect has been to strengthen bottom-up resilience. During the July 2024

floods where in 24 hours 624 mm rain received, many villages in Sudurpaschim Province evacuated timely thanks to these community action plans, with zero casualties.

5.4 Capacity Building in Search and Rescue. Nepal's security forces have professionalized disaster response. The Nepal Army, Armed Police Force, and Nepal Police each have disaster management units trained in specialized rescue techniques, water rescue, confined-space, high-angle rope rescue and dog handling. They conduct annual drills, exchange experiences with foreign counterparts, and have acquired essential search and rescue equipments. Preparations are being made for national accreditation of search and rescue units as per International Search and Rescue Advisory Group and prepare foundations for the international accreditation. Medical First Responder (MFR) programs have been launched nationwide to train paramedics in emergency care. Civil, military exercises (e.g. Disaster Response Exercise & Exchange) strengthen coordination between government forces and stakeholders. Through Community Volunteers training modules and programmes, Government of Nepal is targeting to develop Medical First Responder or Community Volunteer team on call. These capacity-building efforts ensure that when disaster strikes, swift search, rescue and medical intervention can reach affected communities.

5.5 Build Back Better. In the reconstruction and recovery phase, Nepal is committed to 'building back better' across all sectors. The NRA's post-earthquake housing reconstruction is one example. More broadly, infrastructure rebuilding now follows stricter standards: schools and health posts are being retrofitted for seismic safety; roads in landslide-prone areas are realigned; and irrigation canals are raised to account for future flood depths. The government's "Green Reconstruction" policy ensures that relief and rebuilding integrate climate resilience (e.g. using climate-smart agriculture, solar-powered pump sets for irrigation, and hurricane-resistant roofing). Economic diversification is also part of recovery: after floods, communities receive training in alternative livelihoods (like high-altitude horticulture) to reduce dependence on flood-prone farming. The overarching principle, now codified in the Strategic Action Plan, is that Nepal's recovery from past disasters must make the country less vulnerable to the next ones (MoHA, 2024).

6. Implementation Status of the Sendai Framework

Nepal reaffirms its full commitment to the Sendai Framework 2015-2030. It has aligned national targets with Sendai's seven global targets (A-G) and reviews progress biannually. Nepal's 2021 National Voluntary Review (NVR) noted particularly high scores on reducing disaster mortality (Target A) and on multi-hazard early warning (Target G). The DRRM Act, Policies and Plans ensure that the "Sendai principles" are integrated into law. For instance, Sendai Priority 1 (Understanding Risk) underpins the DIMS. Priority 2 (Governance) is supported by the federalizing of DRR and the adoption of provincial/local DRR strategies. Priority 4 (Build Back Better) is institutionalized via NRA and the directive that all reconstruction must follow resilient standards.

Nepal's Sendai Framework implementation is regularly monitored via the online Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM), to which Nepal submits data through MoHA and NDRRMA. As of 2024, Nepal had achieved many of its intermediate targets: nearly 100% of local governments have DRR laws or plans (aligning with Target E) and the number of people killed per disaster has been on a downward trend (MoHA, 2024). The National DRR Strategic Action Plan is serving as Nepal's "Sendai roadmap", and a mid-term review in 2021 reaffirmed that Nepal is on track to meet most of the Sendai goals. However, challenges remain in data quality and in fully linking DRR to climate action (Sendai Target F), which Nepal is addressing through collaborative reporting with the UNFCCC and by integrating DRR in its Nationally Determined Contributions.

7. Challenges

- **Multifaceted risk environment:** Nepal's diverse terrain and exposure mean that risks vary widely across the country. Scientific risk assessments (seismic hazard zoning, glacial risk modeling) are still limited by data gaps, especially in remote areas. The novelty of certain risks (e.g. debris flows induced by extreme rain) also requires more research and tools.
- **New federal governance:** The transition to federalism, while positive, created short-term coordination gaps. Local governments are still building

capacity for DRR planning in their own jurisdictions, and there is some overlap and ambiguity between federal, provincial and local roles (MoHA, 2024).

- **Resource constraints:** Current investment in DRR is insufficient relative to needs. Budget allocation for preparedness is often small; most funds still go to relief after a disaster, rather than mitigation beforehand. Fiscal decentralization means some local government lack revenues to implement DRR plans (MoHA, 2024).
- **Policy coherence:** Ensuring coherence across various policies, development, environment, health, climate is challenging. At times DRR priorities compete with short-term development goals, and streamlined multi-sector coordination is required.
- **Climate change uncertainty:** Climate change is amplifying hazards in unpredictable ways (e.g. out-of-season monsoons, glacial lake formation, thermokarst). This uncertainty makes planning difficult. Nepal must adapt its DRR approaches continuously to account for non-linear climate impacts (World Bank, 2020).
- **Transboundary hazards:** Nepal is downstream of major river basins, and disasters often cross borders (floods, epidemics). This requires bilateral and regional collaboration, which can be slow.
- **Socio-economic vulnerability:** High poverty and dependence on climate-sensitive livelihoods (agriculture, tourism) mean that socio-economic risk factors are large and growing. Addressing poverty and inequality is essential for DRR but goes beyond the immediate DRR system.

8. Way Forward

- **Data and research:** Expand hazard and risk assessments through scientific studies (e.g. seismic microzonation in cities, glacial lake inventories, flood risks mapping) and integrate these into planning. Use technology (satellite, drones, crowd-sourcing) to update risk information continuously. Invest on inclusive evidence collection, analysis and use. The disaster plans

must be based on the robust disaggregated data. The actual needs of women and marginalized group needs, gender disaggregated data are mostly out of DRR planning and resource allocation.

- **Policy and planning:** Institutional Development plan and policy of National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority. Capacity development policy for Emergency Operations Centers. Develop search and rescue guidelines in accordance to the national aspiration of International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) guidelines. Prepare national roadmap for Multi Hazard Early Warning System. Update building codes and land-use policies to reflect new hazard knowledge.
- **National DRR plan, policy review:** Review national DRR plan and policies to assess the implementation status of the current disaster governance in Nepal and facilitate coordination of DRR efforts across sectors and tiers, with clear priorities and milestones.
- **Implement action plans:** Accelerate implementation of the National DRRM Strategic Action Plan: 2018-2030 complete short-term projects (e.g. telemetric river gauges, community shelters) and initiate long-term projects (e.g. national floodplain management). Establish robust monitoring of each action item.
- **International cooperation:** Deepen bilateral and multilateral partnerships. Seek technical assistance for climate adaptation (e.g. GLOF risk modeling), and negotiate for inclusion of DRR in climate finance (GCF, Loss & Damage Fund). Offer Nepal's "mountain resilience" experience at forums (UNFCCC, SDG conferences) to attract support and share learning.
- **Local empowerment:** Continue to empower provinces and local governments. Provide training and resources so that they can lead disaster risk management, as expected by the Constitution. Ensure that the voices of women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups are heard in all DRR decision-making.

- **DRR financing:** Develop national and international funding sources for DRR in developing communities, for example, tap into global resilience funds and regional disaster risk facilities. Explore range of fiscal risk transfer instruments for Disaster Risk Financing to mitigate fiscal exposure of Nepal due to disaster incidents.
- **Evidence and awareness:** Share more data and success stories to illustrate the benefits of investment in preparedness. Use public media campaigns and school curricula to sustain a culture of safety.
- **Early warning and innovation:** Continue the push toward a fully multi-hazard early warning system (EW4All initiative). Integrate modern technology and traditional knowledge in warning dissemination. Encourage private innovation (apps, decision-support tools) and university research networks.
- **Disaster-resilient livelihoods:** Promote resilient livelihood options (e.g. climate-smart agriculture, diversified income sources, eco-tourism) to reduce community vulnerability to hazards. Support community-based insurance pools and social safety nets to cushion shocks.
- **Institutional capacity:** Invest in human resources across the DRRM system. Expand training (e.g. earthquake safety courses, DHM forecasting skills, NDRRMA training courses) and ensure DRR knowledge is mainstreamed in civil service and educational institutions. Strengthen volunteer networks and integrate them into official response plans.
- **Women's leadership in DRM processes:** Across Nepal, women are leading effective DRR solutions at the community level, from earthquake response to flood forecasting to river ecosystem restoration and care work and as volunteers. Formulate initiatives to consistently strengthen GEDSI in local resilience and disaster preparedness programs.
- **Financing Inclusive Resilience:** In line with the Sendai GAP Key Objective 6[1], increase national and subnational governments funding

allocations and improve access to financing for disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives that advance gender equality.

These actions will guide Nepal as it prepares for GP2025. At the Global Platform, Nepal will reaffirm its commitment to implement the Sendai Framework and share its experiences in integrating DRR with sustainable development. Nepal seeks international collaboration to implement high-priority actions, such as enhancing multi-hazard early warning systems and securing climate finance for DRR. Through continued policy reform, inclusive governance, and innovative partnerships, Nepal aims to reduce disaster losses and build a safer, resilient nation for all its people (MoHA, 2024; World Bank, 2020).

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