



eBulletin

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Summary

This eBulletin highlights a comprehensive effort to address the aftermath of the Jajarkot earthquake in November 2023, detailing the mobilization of the DPNet and numerous stakeholders towards effective disaster response and future preparedness. A virtual discussion initiated by DPNet gathered over 150 stakeholders to strategize immediate actions and coordinate efforts, emphasizing the necessity of field assessments and data collection to tailor responses to affected clusters. It showcases the collaboration between various organizations, government bodies, and individuals to assess needs, provide immediate relief, and strategize long-term recovery and resilience building.

The formation of the Doda Watershed Multi-Stakeholder Platform and the Provincial Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (PPDRR) in Sudurpaschim Province represents a strategic move towards holistic development and disaster risk reduction, involving local governments, NGOs, and community members. These platforms aim to implement comprehensive risk reduction efforts, promote early warning systems, and enhance climate resilience. The Participatory Review and Reflection Workshop for the SUDRIDH Project, in collaboration with USAID Tayar Nepal, reflects on the project's phases, learnings, and future pathways for DRR planning. It highlights the importance of networking, quick response, and policy-based discussions in enhancing DRR practices.

The Learning of Anticipatory Action Scoping Study, organized by DPNet and Oxfam, introduces anticipatory action as a crucial strategy in disaster management, focusing on policies, plans, and early warning systems to mitigate disaster risks effectively. Finally, the Interaction Program on Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction in Bagmati Province highlights efforts to evaluate and enhance disaster risk governance, emphasizing the need for collaborative training, data management, and resource mobilization among government tiers and sectors for effective disaster management.

This series of initiatives and discussions encapsulates a multi-faceted approach towards disaster preparedness, response, and resilience, showcasing the collective commitment of various stakeholders to mitigate disaster impacts and enhance community resilience.

DPNet Discussion on the Jajarkot Earthquake

On November 4, DPNet organized a virtual discussion in response to the earthquake in Jajarkot, which occurred on November 3, 2023. The meeting was a significant gathering, with over 150 stakeholders participating and sharing their insights. The primary focus of the discussion was to strategize the immediate actions required in the wake of the disaster and to ensure an effective and coordinated response. The meeting has been decided that DPNet



will take the lead in gathering information to compile a daily situation report, which will serve to minimize the duplication of efforts among the involved parties. Additionally, there is an immediate need for the mobilization of field staff to assess the actual on-ground situation from day one. DPNet will also put together a team dedicated to data collection and identifying the specific needs of different clusters affected by the earthquake.

News in Detail:

The program began with a warm welcome by Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chair of DPNet Nepal, to all the participants in this emergency meeting. Mr. Thapa in his presentation stressed the emergence of the current situation where a series of earthquakes, including a significant one measuring 6.4 Richter scale recently occurred in the Jajarkot District.

Mr. Thapa kindly requested input and suggestions from various stakeholders to foster a collaborative approach. This includes United Way, as DPNet possesses a broader group comprising over 1000 individuals from related sectors including media representatives, and the Social Welfare Council. This discussion session aimed to leverage the experiences from Bajhang to inform discussions about our future plans. Mr. Thapa commended the collaborative efforts of Mr. Dinanath Khatiwota and Mr. Harshaman Maharjan during the Bajhang field visit assessment. He also recognized the dedication of Dr. Raju Thapa and his team in preparing the daily situation reports during the Bajhang earthquake.

Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, NSET presented about the mishap and shared valuable technical information that could be instrumental in planning and guiding future efforts. He presented damage photos and reports related to the earthquake and discussed the implications of floods and road blockages caused by disasters. He highlighted that starting from 2072, in collaboration with NDRRMA under the coordination of Mr. Rajendra Sharma, approximately 40 early warning system sensors were

deployed in various locations. Among these, two sensors were highly advanced, and 19 sensors were actively engaged in the EWS, working in collaboration with Czech and American scientists. These sensors were able to track the situation during the Jajarkot earthquake. The sensors were fitted in the regions near Gandaki and Bagmati provinces, followed by the western areas of Dhangadi and Accham. Notably, there were no sensors in the central region, and the absence of sensors in this area meant that critical information could not be promptly gathered.

Mr. Shrestha also shared records from the NSET building, revealing that all sensors from Dhangadi to Kathmandu experienced shaking. The Kathmandu system analyzed the results within 5 minutes, providing an initial estimate of about a 6.1 magnitude earthquake originating from the epicenter at Rani Dada in Jajarkot. Furthermore, Mr. Shrestha stressed the importance of obtaining information about the extent and locations of shaking after an earthquake, which could have significant implications for response and preparedness efforts.

Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha emphasized the impact of the 2072 earthquake, highlighting that Kathmandu experienced an intensity of 6-7, while areas near Gorkha and Sindhupalanchowk reached 8 and 9 on the intensity scale. He pointed out that the recent earthquake in Jajarkot had an intensity above 6 and 7, with the intensity decreasing as one moved farther from the epicenter, typically reaching 2-3 units. He suggested that expanding the early warning system network would lead to more accurate and timely tracking of such seismic events. Additionally, he stressed that a 7-intensity earthquake could potentially affect a population of 10,000. However, due to geographical features and limited media coverage, essential data might go unnoticed. Mr. Shrestha called for improved response coordination, collaboration with local authorities, and a comprehensive need assessment, including recovery planning, to address the situation effectively.

Mr. Hira Singh Thapa, SOSEC shared that the Protection and Health cluster meeting occurred in Karnali this morning and the WASH cluster meeting is supposed to be held soon. He provided a summary of the current situation in various areas. In Jajarkot's Nalgad municipality, a total of 48 mortalities and 135 injuries have been reported. The neighboring Bheri region experienced 47 deaths and 200 injuries, while Chaurgari reported 41 injuries with no recorded fatalities, and in Sani Bheri, there were 10 deaths and 40 injuries. In aggregate, there have been 157 confirmed deaths and approximately 480 injuries across these areas. Additionally, an estimated 12 more deaths are anticipated in Barakot, underscoring the critical need for continued support and assistance in the affected regions.

Dr. Raju Thapa, Vice-chair, DPNet Nepal during his presentation: [Jajarkot Earthquake Presentation by DPNet](#) provided a concise overview of the recent earthquake in Jajarkot, Nepal registered over 4

on the Richter. He compared its intensity to that of the devastating 2015 earthquake felt in Kathmandu. He expressed concern about the accuracy of information dissemination and stressed the need to improve it by mobilizing a dedicated team for this purpose. Dr. Thapa noted that the construction materials used appeared to be of poor quality, such as round stones worsened the damage caused by the earthquake. He highlighted the negligence towards seismic preparedness in the western part of Nepal, further complicating the situation during such natural disasters, and emphasized the need to make efforts to minimize future risks.

As per the data, three helicopters were deployed for rescue efforts, and shortly after the incident, the Prime Minister visited the site and reported that most houses had collapsed entirely, making it challenging to locate any that remained standing. The need for mass casualty vehicles was also identified, and security and armed forces were mobilized from the night of the earthquake to assist with the situation as per his presentation.

Dr. Thapa added that treatment of casualties has been going on within the helicopters, highlighting the critical and immediate nature of medical care required for the earthquake victims. Furthermore, international interest has been seen in the situation, as the Prime Minister of India expressed his concerns and willingness to offer support as a gesture of solidarity. In this challenging time, Dr. Thapa emphasized the need to be alert to duplication of efforts and proper resource utilization to ensure efficient and effective aid to the needy. Additionally, he announced that DPNet has already mobilized a team in Jajarkot to assess the situation and posed a commitment to prepare comprehensive reports on the situation in Jajarkot. The dedicated team deployed to the site will help to facilitate real-time data sharing and assess the changing situation, which would contribute to better-informed decision-making and response efforts.

Mr. Kedar Neupane, Former Secretary of the Government of Nepal shared his view that the situation is awful as the earthquake struck at midnight, resulting in mass casualties. This serves as a reminder that we must remain prepared for earthquakes at any time. The ongoing rescue operation is being disrupted by a high-profile visit. Therefore, it's crucial to prioritize the establishment of a command center to streamline coordination for non-government sector rescue and relief efforts, working in tandem with the Chief District Officer or local government chief. He urged DPNet to command the establishment and running of the command center. He also acknowledged the analysis and prediction of Dr. Uprety seem true about earthquakes in the western region.

Dr. Arjun Karki, RRN shared that the affected area isn't extensive, it is crucial to coordinate efforts and avoid any unnecessary duplication and resource mobilization. Additionally, in such emergency situations, it's imperative that we collaborate closely with the government. He overviews that the RRN

is prepared to contribute to this effort since it falls within our operational domain. Furthermore, as there is a persistent need to establish Civil Society organization centers, he strongly urged DPNet to take the lead in this regard.

Mr. Bhagawan Shrestha, AIN in the discussion shared that AIN has initiated coordination with its members and is prepared to depart and has commenced its efforts to assist the disaster-affected community. AIN is committed to working in close collaboration with DPNet and would like to express their appreciation for DPNet's efforts during the Bajhang Earthquake. AIN hopes for the same high level of coordination and information sharing in the response to the Jajarkot earthquake.

Mr. Lalit Thapa, AWO International shared an update that Non-food items are currently being distributed from the AWO warehouse, with the assistance of local partners.

Mr. Meen Bista highlighted that since the year 2072 B.S., Nepal has experienced several earthquakes. Drawing from the experiences with previous earthquakes, it is essential to conduct rapid visual assessments to determine whether a house is habitable or not in Jajarkot.

Prof. Dr. Bishal Nath Uprety, NCDM emphasized the need to establish a dedicated core group that would act decisively. He highlighted the importance of preparing for the next impending earthquake. He also pointed out the potential for using cost-effective technology to reconstruct houses in hilly areas. Lastly, he reminded everyone that these recent earthquakes are merely precursors and not indicative of a major earthquake. It is essential to remain prepared for such an event, and he stressed the active involvement of the engineering community in these efforts.

Mr. Sunil Sun Shakya, NDRC shared that the provincial government and cluster within the province should be executed during this level of event. He suggested the member organizations of DPNet should be focused on supporting the province level so that we can mobilize the existing law and structure of the province.

Ms. Sarita Karki, ADPC suggested the need for ensuring an inclusive team to address all immediate needs, mobilize women's networks, and seek the necessary support available. She emphasized the need for pursuing rapid gender analysis support resource sharing from different experts and professionals.

Sr. SP Kalaunee, Blink Now Foundation shared that they have sent one ambulance along with medicine and food and coordinating with the district.

Mr. Kishor Neupane, PACE-Nepal, Jumla committed to share the detailed information later on.

Ms. Renu Tuladhar, a Social Worker emphasized the vulnerability of Nepal as a seismically prone zone. She underlined the importance of preparedness and awareness in the face of potential seismic events. She stressed the need to prioritize life-saving skills during such emergencies and advocated for efforts to make rural housing structures more resilient to seismic activity. Additionally, she suggested incorporating earthquake preparedness and response education into the curriculum to ensure that future generations are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate seismic events effectively. Her insights underscore the critical importance of proactive measures in safeguarding the community against seismic risks in Nepal.

Dr. Suman Kumar Karna, UNDRR stressed that the anticipated Recovery and Reconstruction program should embrace greater integration and adopt a systemic approach taking into account the lessons from the Gorkha Earthquake. He emphasized the need to utilize this emergency response opportunity to not only rebuild local institutions but also enhance preparedness to minimize future risks.

Mr. Ram Krishna Bhandari emphasized the importance of accurate information in such cases. His sharing centered around contributing to reconstruction in the later phases and facilitating integrated or safer housing. He also stressed the need to consider psychosocial factors and other hazards during the relief and reconstruction efforts.

Mr. Sudarshan Sigdel, NCE shared that the situation of schools and educational institutions should be assessed. The earthquake events if occurred at day may not affect residents of residential buildings but will devastate the students and school.

Ms. Krishna Karkee, USAID Tayar Nepal emphasized the need for the development Agencies and Humanitarian actors to come together and provide support. She added the need for strong coordination and engagement of the development partners at the local level. She opined that the vulnerable group should be included in the assessment making the assessment inclusive. She also suggested that the information and fund collection efforts carried out by various networks should be coordinated. The team should be mobilized, and the initiatives undertaken during the Bajhang Earthquake should be continued. It's essential to avoid repeating the gaps observed during the Bajhang Earthquake in the current situation.

Mr. Ram Prasad Bhandari, DPNet Advisor suggested incorporating the lesson learned from the previous earthquake and the operational hindrance should not be repeated in this event such as the failure of the one-door policy in Bajhang should not be repeated.

Mr. Ram Luitel shared that there was an information gap in the 2072 (2015) Earthquake between the government and the nongovernment sector and the nongovernment sector should support the government in emergency response.

Mr. Dinanath Bhandari highlighted that, to obtain accurate and complete information about the damage, an organized and secure damage assessment system is required. In places like Bajhang and Jajarkot, verifying the accuracy and completeness of the data is a challenge. It is necessary to conduct localized impact assessments. Collection of data on children with disabilities has become difficult to obtain in Bajhang, so the need for identifying the proper ways to collect data has been a concern at present so as to ensure the same situation does not repeat while working in Jajarkot. In terms of relief, flexibility is needed according to the specific needs, rather than traditional “relief packages”. The media should raise awareness about this.

Mr. Narayan Gyawali, LWR shared that they have a warehouse and will coordinate and collaborate with all acting agencies. He suggested that the rapid need assessment should be done jointly and LWR was ready to collaborate.

Mr. Bhakta Hamal, FNCCI mentioned that they are actively engaged in providing relief and medical support to the affected community. Additionally, they are collaborating with the government and medical-related associations to deploy health workers and doctors for this purpose.

Mr. Pustak Chand, Gramin Yuwa Sarokar Kendra committed on behalf of the organization that they are ready to facilitate as local agencies for any organization willing to work in earthquake-affected areas.

Mr. Rohit Kumar Yadav mentioned that they have established fixed mechanisms at three levels of government and are actively supporting the mobilization of these mechanisms as a top priority. Their primary focus is on a coordinated response and immediate relief, with a strong emphasis on supporting the government's efforts.

Mr. Dinesh Baral, CBM Global Nepal suggested the initial assessment should also be focused on persons with disabilities.

Ms. Dilmaya Bidari recommended taking into consideration the needs of lactating and pregnant women, along with providing essential nutrients for children. This should include the use of local “sarbottam pitho” to avoid relying on less nutritious junk supplements. Additionally, she suggested ensuring that girls have access to sanitary pads.

Dr. Sulav, FHI suggested that the medical sanitary wash and needs along with psychosocial support should be worked on a coordinated approach.

Dr. Man Thapa recommended focusing on the priorities within the first 24 and 72 hours immediately after the event. He emphasized that the rescue and search operations should proceed without interruption. Dr. Thapa also stressed the importance of promptly mobilizing local resources and maintaining a concentrated effort. He further suggested that during the initial 72 hours, the discussion and focus should solely revolve around the immediate needs of search and rescue, as well as providing primary health aid.

Dr. Kashim Shah, NSI shared those 5 Health workers (2 Doctors, 2 Nurses, and 1 Paramedic) have been mobilized from Salyan Hospital to Jajarkot Hospital for an emergency response by NSI as they're both NSI-supported hospitals.

Mr. Pratap Maharjan, Mercy Corps shared with the floor that their team has handed over NFI kits to the Karnali government during the Bhakari Project, and it is coordinating with the government at present regarding the situation and needs of the affected families there in Jajarkot. Mercy has 100 NFI sets at Dhangadi and is now preparing to mobilize those to the affected area for immediate relief. Further, he added that it is supporting DPNet to prepare Situation Reports in coordination with PEOC. He also highlighted the support provided to MoIAL, Karnali in terms of basic necessities like tents, NFRI, and Tarpaulin that can be mobilized immediately at this emergence.

Mr. Sher Bahadur Gurung, TU highlighted the crucial need to prioritize primary healthcare as many homes have been severely damaged. He added that efforts should be directed towards establishing a proper healthcare system, including first aid and medical supplies.

Ms. Pradipta Kadambari, Kadambari Memorial College highlighted the fact that the college has been planning social work students from Kadambari Memorial College to respond and assess the situation of the affected families in coordination with DPNet Nepal.

Mr. Asim Shrestha, UNICEF shared about the efforts made by the organization in this state of emergence and highlighted the importance of implementation of the Existing plans and the need for cluster mechanisms to be activated and supported by all humanitarian agencies.

Mr. Mahesh Badal, ActionAid emphasized that ActionAid Nepal has been closely monitoring the situation and planning to move forward with the response work. He expressed a commitment to communicate further updates continuously regarding the assessments in the affected regions.

Mr. Prakash Ghimire, Netizen Media highlighted that providing accurate and timely information is of utmost importance for stakeholders and people. It's essential to consider a consistent and swift flow of information. During disasters, the role of digital communication is vital as it provides a significant impact on rescue and relief efforts through information dissemination, he added.

Ms. Lily Thapa, Women for Human Rights shared that Women Federation and WHR have been collecting relief materials to support the affected families and showed an interest in collaborating on any assistance they can provide.

Mr. Dinesh Chandra Joshi, LAGHE Nepal, and NDRNet committed on behalf of NDRNet that the organization will support the initiative of all the organizations by mobilizing their members around the Karnali province and also shared the details of a focal person appointed Mr. Khim Raj Regmi (9858050664) for coordination.

Ms. Rupa Pandey, CRS underscored that, as rapid assessments are being conducted by various organizations and networks, it is crucial to map out the agencies and resources to enhance coordination, ensuring comprehensive coverage across all areas. This prevents duplication of efforts and data, while also ensuring that the most vulnerable populations are not left behind.

Mr. Nagendra Sitoula, IOE underscored the essence of NDRRMA taking a lead role in coordinating with the concerned stakeholders and organizations to ensure the effectiveness of the efforts made.

Ms. Rupa Pandey, CRS attempted to pass on information that NDRRMA has developed questionnaires on the Kobo Collect Toolbox for Bajura and Bajhang. A similar idea can be applied to assess the impact in Jajarkot in coordination with NDRRMA by revising and improving on the parts lagging during the prior attempt for correct data gathering.

Mr. Sher Bahadur Karki, NRCS underlined the importance of prioritizing immediate assessments in Jajarkot and Rukum as prioritization facilitates an instant provision of humanitarian assistance without any challenges. He underscored the urgent need for medical supplies and health professionals at present.

Mr. Ram Chandra Neupane mentioned the need for conducting an assessment of the implementation of the preparedness and response plans in the municipalities of the affected province is essential for addressing future challenges and improving any deficiencies. He further suggested DPNet appoint a coordination assistant in those districts and provinces to analyze information and data accurately.

Dr. Suman Chandra Gurung, ADRA suggested that having accurate information regarding the specific needs in the affected area would greatly benefit agencies in aligning their response efforts rather than just haphazardly supplying relief materials.

Mr. Dinesh Kumar Shrestha, Youth Manpower Mobilization Center emphasized the need for organizations to collaborate with the organization, a DPNet member organization stationed in Jajarkot for any information and assistance required regarding the situation in Jajarkot.

Ms. Goma Acharya Joshi, Nepal Mahila Sangh expressed a commitment to provide any assistance required in psychosocial counseling of the affected families and individuals.

Mr. Hasta Bahadur Sunar, Tearfund conveyed that Tearfund has currently been mobilizing its three partners - INF, HDCS, and Micah - to provide health support services in Jajarkot. He assured that further actions will be taken once the needs are accurately identified.

Mr. Romi K.C, NRCS shared that NRCS is deploying its relief team to the affected areas with a plan to deliver relief supplies, including tarpaulins and essential relief items, to the affected households.

Mr. Sabin Adhikari, PIN reported that the organization has deployed its Technical Information Management Officers in two districts, Kalikot and Rukum for immediate assistance and to gather comprehensive data.

Mr. Hari Bhandu Aryal, INF shared that the medical team was sent to Jajarkot for emergency response.

Mr. Nawaraj Chaulagain, One Heart Worldwide expressed the commitment of the organization and shared the ongoing efforts for immediate relief and beyond in supporting the affected families and vulnerable populations after the mishap occurred as they have mobilized team members to the affected areas.

DPNet Chair Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa shared his remarks saying that; Considering the recommendations and suggestions from the experts, presenters, and participants of the meeting, it has been decided that DPNet will take the lead in gathering information to compile a daily situation report, which will serve to minimize the duplication of efforts among the involved parties. Additionally, there is an immediate need for the mobilization of field staff to assess the actual on-ground situation from day one. DPNet will also put together a team dedicated to data collection and identifying the specific needs of different clusters affected by the earthquake.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, the Chair of DPNet, based on the recommendations and suggestions provided by experts, presenters, and participants during the discussion conveyed that DPNet will take a leading role in combining information to produce a daily situation report. The primary aim of this report will be to update efforts and prevent duplication among all stakeholders involved in the response efforts. Furthermore, recognizing the urgency of the situation, DPNet will promptly deploy field staff to conduct on-ground assessments right from the outset. This proactive approach is essential for gaining a comprehensive understanding of the actual situation in the affected areas.

Mr. Thapa also stated that DPNet will establish a dedicated team responsible for data collection. This team will work diligently to identify the specific needs of various clusters that have been impacted by the earthquake. This approach ensures a more targeted and efficient response to address the diverse requirements of the affected communities. Lastly, he thanked all for participating on short notice and called for joint collaboration to support earthquake affected community in every possible way.

Multi-Stakeholder Doda Watershed Platform Formed

The local governments within the Doda Watershed in Sudurpaschim Province have convened in a two-day workshop to address interconnected issues of disaster risk reduction, climate change, sustainable development, and resilience. The workshop, held on November 7, 2023, in Dhangadhi, unanimously



elected Ran Bahadur Mahar of Shuklaphanta Municipality as the leader of the newly formed Doda Watershed Multi-Stakeholder Platform, with Bimala Bohora, the Deputy Mayor of Parshuram

Municipality, as Vice President; Nirmal Rana of Chairperson of Laljhadi Rural Municipality as Secretary; and Dhana Devi Thapa Magar of Deputy Chair of Chure Rural Municipality as Treasurer.

In attendance were Dr. Gangalal Tuladhar, a member of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and former Minister of Education, along with Rishi Raj Acharya, Head of the Environment, Disaster Management Section of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration and Acting Secretary of MoIAL, Laxmi Prasad Joshi.

The meeting focused on strategic planning for the region and agreed on immediate actions, including comprehensive geological studies of the upstream, learning from other water watershed conservation programs, and implementing risk reduction efforts such as biological embankments. Long-term strategies were envisioned to promote early warning systems for floods, promote crops resistant to wildlife damage, and transform high wildlife population areas into tourist destinations. Additionally, policies will be reviewed to address obstructions caused by protected areas like wildlife reserves and to promote climate resilience development initiatives.

The program, jointly organized by Mercy Corps, NEEDS Nepal, and DPNet and facilitated by Dr. Raju Thapa, DPNet Vice Chair, aims to promote collaboration, access to information and resources, and community involvement in local government activities such as meetings, workshops, and training programs. It also seeks administrative support, resource, and budget allocation, and the implementation of a technology-friendly multi-hazard early warning system to enhance community access and promote nature-based solutions for disaster risk management and climate adaptation. The platform emphasizes the importance of gender equality and social inclusion in watershed area work, enhancing the capacity of community disaster management committees, and prioritizing the issues outlined in the agreement in annual and periodic planning by local governments.

Provincial Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (PPDRR) formed in Sudurpaschim Province



The Provincial Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (PPDRR) was formed in the Sudurpashchim Province on 8th November 2023. In support of Mercy Corps Nepal, NEEDS Nepal, and DPNet, the program was organized jointly by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law. It was attended by Chief Minister Kamal Bahadur Shah, Minister of Internal Affairs and Law Shivaraj Bhatta, Member of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Dr. Gangalal Tuladhar, and the representative of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), Smita Paudel, among others.

Ms. Smita from NDRRMA informed that following the recommendations by the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction to form disaster risk reduction platforms at various levels globally, the Ministry of Home Affairs established the “National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction” in the year 2012 and formally introduced the "National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Operational Guideline, 2019".

Dr. Raju Thapa, Vice Chair of DPNet informed that the formation of PPDRR is as per the provision of NPDRR Guideline 2019 and the previous three provincial-level discussions provided vital feedback to bring the PPDRR guideline in shape.

Former Secretary Mr. Kedar Neupane, presented the proposed structure for the platform, which would be chaired by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Law and would include members representing a) governmental bodies, b) semi-governmental bodies, c) UN and donor agencies, d) international non-governmental organizations, e) non-governmental organizations, f) academic sector, g) private sector, h) media world, and i) representatives of disaster-affected groups, with DPNet Sudurpashchim serving as the secretariat.

In his remarks, Honorable Chief Minister Kamal Bahadur Shah requested Dr. Gangalal Tuladhar to advocate for support for Sudurpaschim Province at the national level, highlighting the province's vulnerability to disasters, exacerbated by poverty. He noted that Dr. Tuladhar, who often discusses disaster management with the Prime Minister, could be instrumental in conveying these concerns. Shah admitted that while their efforts to mitigate disasters are earnest, they face challenges due to limited resources and inefficiencies in their system. This was evident after the Bajhang earthquake, when it took an extended period to finalize decisions, revealing the need for more efficient processes.

The Chief Minister also mentioned the ongoing threat of elephant and other wildlife disturbances in the province, alongside the ever-present danger of a major earthquake. He emphasized the risk to rural inhabitants living in centuries-old, poorly constructed houses, which are increasingly becoming uninhabitable. Convincing these residents to relocate or rebuild, however, remains a significant challenge. Regarding disaster management policies, Shah expressed disappointment with the inefficiencies in the distribution of relief materials, as experienced during the Bajhang and Jajarkot earthquakes. He proposed the need to rethink their approach, suggesting the establishment of a central point and a focal person in each affected area for better coordination. He also highlighted the logistical challenges brought on by the federal restructuring, which has extended the time required to reach remote areas. Shah stressed the need for a collaborative approach to disaster management, which he sees as a collective responsibility. He supported the establishment of the Provincial Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (PPDRR), particularly in the context of Sudurpaschim Province. While attending a program to discuss this initiative, he suggested that further discussions are needed to finalize the structure and composition of the PPDRR committee.

Minister for Internal Affairs and Law, Shiva Raj Bhatta, spoke about the unique geographical challenges of Sudurpaschim Province, which links mountainous, hilly, and plain regions within a short distance. This geography, tied with poor infrastructure, significantly heightens the province's

vulnerability to hydro-meteorological disasters and earthquakes. Bhatta emphasized the need to sensitize residents, particularly those in high-risk areas and poorly constructed houses. He suggested that development partners could assist in this educational effort and announced plans to allocate funds for strengthening vulnerable structures. He concluded by informing that under his leadership, the PPDRR has been established and that its structure and committee members will be finalized in the next meeting.

SUDRIDH Project - Participatory Review and Reflection Workshop

On November 9, 2023, DPNet Nepal, in collaboration with USAID Tayar Nepal, organized the SUDRIDH Project-Participatory Review and Reflection Workshop. The event, presided over by Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet, featured discussions led by Mr. Kshitiz Paudel, Program Coordinator, highlighting the project's phases and learnings. Guests including Mr. Tirtha Raj Joshi from USAID Tayar Nepal, Mr. Rishi Raj Acharya from



MOFAGA, and Ms. Krishna Karkee from USAID Tayar Nepal, among others attended the event. Mr. Thapa expressed gratitude for Tayar's support and acknowledged DPNet's dedication to transparently achieving project goals. The event concluded with feedback for improvements and emphasized ongoing activities, such as earthquake response in Jakarkot and Bajhang, policy discussions, and coordination efforts. The event aimed to foster collaboration for future disaster risk reduction planning.

News in Detail:

On 9 November 2023, DPNet Nepal in collaboration with USAID Tayar Nepal, organized a Participatory Review and Reflection Workshop on the SUDRIDH project. Mr. Kshitiz Paudel, Program Coordinator at DPNet Nepal started the event with a brief highlight of the program, to discuss the learning throughout the phases of the project and look forward to a future pathway.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet presided over the event, which was attended by guests such as Mr. Tirtha Raj Joshi, Chief of Party, USAID Tayar Nepal, Mr. Rishi Raj Acharya, Under Secretary, MOFAGA, Ms. Krishna Karkee, Disaster Preparedness and Response Specialist, USAID Tayar Nepal, representatives from Armed forces, media, and organizations working on disaster management.

Mr. Thapa gave welcome remarks and proceeded with the program remembering the deceased lives during the recent Bajhang and Jajarkot earthquakes. He emphasized the fact that DPNepal has been working rigorously to achieve the project goals with utmost transparency, hence the event seeks feedback and suggestions from the participants as per their observation for further improvements. He openly thanked the Tayar team for their unwavering support and guidance because of which DPNepal has been able to reach this far with its work in supporting the whole DRR sector as an umbrella organization. Along with this, Mr. Thapa highlighted the activities DPNepal has been conducting at present namely, coordination and networking, quick response to Jajarkot and Bajhang earthquakes for situation analysis and reporting, and policy-based discussions. On behalf of the whole DPNepal team, he gave a commitment to strongly work on networking and coordinating for enhanced DRR practices with CSOs, government, and agencies working on disaster, with an anticipation that the event would provide a base for future planning.

Mr. Kshitiz Paudel, Program Coordinator at DPNepal Nepal shared his presentation titled “SUDRIDH Project: Learning from Program Execution and Future Planning”. His presentation took off with a brief introduction to the SUDRIDH project that started on the 15th of March 2023, the intention with what the project began, and moved further with the activities conducted, learning, and future planning. His presentation revolved around the learning throughout the project implementation and his observations as a Project coordinator on the parts where efforts can be made further and shared the future plans.

Mr. Paudel shortly gave a brief on the previous grant of USAID Tayar Nepal that led to the formation of NPDRR thematic groups and the establishment of platforms for knowledge sharing and discussion and that the present grant has been an assistance to strengthening the Disaster Governance System and DRRM capacity development at the federal, provincial and municipal levels. He highlighted that 8 national-level and 3 provincial policy dialogue programs have already been conducted under the project which has brought a common conclusion that even though numerous policies exist, the problem lies on the part of the implementation and coordination among the bodies working on disaster be it governmental, non-governmental or CSO’s. The PPDRR in Sudurpaschim province was established through continuous advocacy by DPNepal central and provincial committees. Additionally, the Planning Commission in Gandaki province has collaborated with DPNepal Gandaki Province, showcasing a lasting impact of our provincial-level initiation.

He further shared about the policy dialogues conducted under 7 themes, a review of those dialogues, and a national conference on DRR in detail; the dialogue on PSC brought recommendations to emphasize the pre-disaster counseling as preparedness to minimize the risks of sudden shocks, induced traumas, and mental health issues during and post-disaster, and the need to properly counsel the responders and workers during disaster stages. As a progress, DPNepal has been incorporating the

concerns of mental health and PSC in DRR on the sitreps of recent Bajhang and Jajarkot earthquakes. DPNet further plans to create a loose network with organizations working on mental health.

The learning gathered from the dialogue on EWS was the gap in reach and access to EWS among marginalized and vulnerable groups of people. He emphasized the need to work on the EWS mechanism considering the accessibility of people with disabilities and other marginalized groups. He highlighted that NAST has been making efforts for EWS after the recommendations from the dialogue. DPNet also discussed the essence of EWS during provincial-level programs and observed remarkable progress on EWS in Neelkantha municipality. DPNet further plans to facilitate the Provincial Government for an Early Warning System during the field level mentoring.

During the Policy dialogue on private sector engagement in DRR, concerns were raised regarding the lack of Private sector inclusion in decision-making, so the learning on the need to emphasize the role of the private sector in DRR. DPNet has progressed by ensuring the participation of the Private Sector in various programs organized by DPNet. As a way forward, DPNet plans to conduct MERS in collaboration with private sector organizations such as FNCCI work on member sensitization, and prepare business continuity plans.

Mr. Paudel underscored that throughout the discussion on Market System resilience, a gap in government policies to strengthen the market system along with a lack of resources was highlighted. He further shared that, DPNet has made efforts to cover the market functioning after disasters in the situation reports of the recent earthquakes in Bajhang and Jajarkot to assess the needs for the market to function well during and post-disasters. DPNet sees a prospect in working with a collaborative approach bringing together organizations working on market resilience such as Mercy Corps.

Mr. Paudel emphasized the need to focus on the overall aspects of risk transfer and financing, not just by concentrating on Insurance and providing access to the rural vulnerable areas too. He underscored the need to simplify insurance policies and programs to increase public engagement. Progress has been made by bringing up discussions on Provincial level forums and the Karnali Provincial government has already started with the disaster insurance policy “Mass Accidental Insurance Policy” through which 160 individuals have already benefitted. A future prospect Mr. Paudel shared is facilitating interaction programs between the government, National Insurance Authorities, Insurance Providers, and Private Sector organizations to identify the gaps and to expand DRR insurance in a collaborative approach.

While sharing the learnings collected from the dialogue on Multi-level disaster risk governance, Mr. Paudel stressed the need for the local government to wisely exercise the power and authority provided

to them to enhance rescue, and relief efforts and utilize the existing infrastructures and entities. He underlined that DPNet has progressed by including the need for enhanced multi-level coordination gap in the sitreps prepared. He shared further plans for the conduction of Policy Research, gaps identification and contradiction between the laws of three tiers of government, and implementation of the policies after the gap research, and comprising province-level government to address the gaps.

Mr. Paudel moved forward to share the learnings from the dialogue on non-government engagement such as; the lack of meaningful participation and coordination among the three tiers of government. He emphasized the need to work on a collaborative approach forming a monitoring mechanism, and jointly taking along CSO and private sector organizations.

During the provincial events, the active participation of governmental authorities was observed during which Mr. Lal Bahadur Kawari, the Secretary, of MoIAL, Lumbini Province committed to taking forward the NPDRR and emphasized the need to enhance EWS in the province”, he shared. Also, in the Bagmati province, the need to specifically work on landslide EWS was emphasized. Hon. Ganga Narayan Shrestha, Minister of Internal Affairs and Law, Bagmati Province also suggested that the program would have been more effective if it had been conducted two months before the start of the fiscal year as it would help in the planning process.

During the sharing of the learnings from the NCDRR, Mr. Paudel underlined the need to engage academic partners to effectively conduct the program and continue the sustainability of the event. Regarding Knowledge sharing and information dissemination, DPNet’s ORC, an online library has been operational with a collection of documents under different categories such as research publications, legal documents, policy reviews, articles, SPHERE standards, and their translated versions consisting of more than 1400 documents. DPNet has planned to upload documents published by the Tayar Nepal partners and legal, and provincial documents. The virtual DRR platform is an online forum for discussions on upcoming concerns regarding DRR as a cross-cutting issue.

Mr. Paudel proceeded to share about the further pathway on DPNet’s functionality through the learnings from all the events, such as; creating loose networks of the themes generated, enhancing further efforts on EWS, policy reviews, and research comparing the three levels of government. Further, he put emphasis on knowledge exchange via the utilization of indigenous knowledge and sharing it at the regional level and implicating international experiences and knowledge for enhanced DRR practices.

Mr. Paudel concluded his presentation by thanking the valuable guests for their presence and handing it over to the Chair of the program Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, DPNet Chair.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Program Chair and DPNet Chair shared about the four major working themes of DPNet Nepal, Policy advocacy, Knowledge sharing, Coordination and networking, and Research and capacity building, and highlighted the key practices ongoing at the present. He further spoke about DPNet's plan to work with an approach for a longer-term impact and requested the floor to suggest and provide feedback for the same. He added that a team has been mobilized in Jajarkot to assess the situation post-earthquake and that some of them will still be working throughout Tihar for facilitation, and announced the opening of the floor for discussions.

Mr. Shyam Jnavaly, Technical Advisor, DPNet identified the importance of identifying beneficiaries and understanding the target audience and specific criteria before launching programs. He urged the importance of facilitation of knowledge and information sharing to effectively reach relevant audiences. Mr. Jnavaly addressed the necessity of disseminating disaster-related information and ORC to individuals with limited accessibility. He acknowledged that while there is sufficient information, there is a delay in providing access to the interested groups. A review and reflection on policy advocacy are considered necessary along with the recognition of broader implications for network interference and resource mapping.

Mr. Ram Prasad Bhandari, Technical Advisor DPNet stressed the importance of integrating capacity building at the local level and revisiting both the Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Plan (DPRP) and the Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plan (LDCRP).

Mr. Om Prakash Ghimire, Editor at Netizen Media addressed that DPNet as a networking body should study to enhance the effective incorporation of media in DRRM. He emphasized the possibility of authorized, simple, and easily accessible knowledge dissemination to the public through media linkage, which helps prevent misinformation and infodemic.

Mr. Bamshi Acharya, Technical Advisor, DPNet Nepal highlighted that the segregated roles and responsibilities of all levels including municipal and local level are required in order to minimize duplications. He highlighted the lagging areas in our governance system, noting a lack of monitoring and analysis of knowledge, which is currently event-based. He underscored the importance of implementing effective strategies, conducting impactful research, and involving communities. He emphasized that the responsibility should not solely rest with NPDRR and the government but should extend to broader levels of CSOs, and development organizations.

Ms. Chetana Lokshum, Technical Advisor, DPNet Nepal emphasized the need for establishing a protection cluster. In the psychosocial aspect, nine councils have been mobilized for knowledge networking. She highlighted that priority should be given to the psychosocial aspect during the pre-

disaster phase to minimize the risk of disaster-induced trauma and mental health issues. She further underscored the need to train and counsel support workers and volunteers to minimize the risk of compassion fatigue.

Ms. Santona Devkota, Vice President, NCE Nepal emphasized the need for intensive capacity enhancement, particularly strengthening local levels. She also highlighted the need to prioritize the formation and coordination of clusters in education, health, and protection. Furthermore, she highlighted the importance of DRRM localization training, policy revisiting, and capacity building, drawing lessons from recent earthquake experiences.

Mr. Rishiraj Acharya, Under Secretary, MOFAGA emphasized that they've been working in coordination with local level government and highlighted the impactful activities conducted by the local level. He further said "Many gaps exist within the local level, but he raised a concern that the central level has been lacking to provide proper guidance to the local-level government. He further emphasized the need to mobilize funds largely on preparedness rather than response to enhance resilience and minimize the risk of vulnerability and the need to mentor with policy feedback.

In addition to this, he emphasized the need to address the gaps in Intergovernmental coordination by segregating the duties and roles of different levels in order to minimize duplications among federal, provincial, local, and district levels considering climate vulnerability and GEDSI inclusion while formulating plans and policies, and operate the LEOC effectively. Furthermore, he highlighted the need to strengthen the governmental network among the private sector and non-governmental institutions.

Mr. Santosh Kumar Khatri, Section Officer, MoFAGA put emphasis on the availability of segregated data in MoFAGA and that these can be referred to while working on disaster risk prediction which guides for making efforts on preparedness and policy advocacy.

Mr. Tirtha Raj Joshi, Chief of Party, USAID Tayar Nepal suggested DPNet continues its remarkable efforts in the preparation of situation reports as the reports aid in preparedness efforts, and to continue on with the ORC and Virtual DRR platform.

Mr. Nirmal Adhikari, Deputy Director of National Insurance Authority (NIA) emphasized the disparity in the understanding of insurance across various levels and highlighted the necessity for clear policy advocacy. He provided an overview, noting that insurance spans various sectors such as health and agriculture. Additionally, he pointed out that, an association with the government, delays in

claiming and settlements could potentially arise. He emphasized that the higher premium amount is a result of the higher cost of reinsurance.

Mr. Adhikari pointed out that a 17 lakh insurance facility has been provided to 153 individuals in Karnali province. Using the example of COVID insurance, he highlighted that as long as funds were available, there was no issue with settlements, but once the government intervened, payments were disrupted. He underscored that approximately a large amount of payment has been delayed in insurance settlements. Mr. Adhikari also stressed that agriculture funding is being disrupted due to legal issues related to premium payments.

Mr. Pallav Pant, Chairperson of Atullya Foundation focused on the importance of segregated data and easy accessibility in disaster. He also acknowledged the improvements in learning that have been observed. He emphasized the need to move away from a centralized procedure and mindset when addressing disasters, as even simple items like tarpaulin are not effectively implemented at the local level. He pointed out a lag in realizing DRR as a cross-cutting issue. Mr. Pant identified gaps in DRR integration, citing interruptions in the education system after a disaster occurs. He praised rigorous efforts in prevention and preparedness, noting that these can lead to cost-effective funding. He emphasized the importance of moving forward with a rights-based approach.

SP Mr. Lal Bahadur Shahi, APF, Nepal emphasized the need to rephrase and redefine the concept of one-door policy in DRR.

Ms. Rama Dhakal, General Secretary of FWDN addressed the scenario of women with disabilities. She highlighted that six thousand houses of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) have been destroyed during the recent earthquakes. Emphasizing that the most vulnerable group includes women with disabilities from Dalit communities, she stressed the importance of their consideration and mainstreaming. She called for the implementation of a disabled-friendly Early Warning System to focus on these specific issues. Additionally, she urged for disability-friendly information dissemination and photo description. Ms. Dhakal addressed the necessity of providing training and simulations to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Mr. Shambhu Prasad Dulal, NFIWUAN called for a review of post-disaster policies, particularly in the context of relief distribution to marginalized communities.

Mr. Kedar Neupane, Former Secretary of the Government of Nepal highlighted significant achievements over the past 10-12 years, specifically noting changes in the modality of disaster and disaster response mechanisms. He urged a revision and reconsideration of the door policy concept to

ensure aid reaches every affected individual. He emphasized resource insufficiency at the government level becoming a hurdle and stressed that security forces alone cannot manage rescues, underscoring the crucial role of local-level volunteers in disaster response. He also addressed the lack of multipurpose evacuation centers that can provide shelter to both humans and livestock.

Mr. Neupane highlighted the challenges posed by animal-induced hazards, including elephants, wild boars, and currently, hornets. Additionally, he mentioned DPNet Nepal's submission of the 16th plan recommendation to the National Planning Commission (NPC), emphasizing the importance of reaching local and provincial levels. He also highlighted the traditional construction process in Jajarkot that involves the use of round-shaped stones, which are not considered resilient leading to major devastation during the earthquake.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, DPNet Chair thanked the participants for their valuable presence, and feedback, and committed to moving forward DPNet Nepal as an initiator with a program design as per the recommendations in consultation with the major donors and collaboration with the governmental and non-governmental agencies. With this, he gave concluding remarks and announced the end of the program.

Learning of Anticipatory Action Scoping Study



On November 21, 2023, DPNet Nepal, in collaboration with Oxfam, organized the Learning of Anticipatory Action Scoping Study. Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet presided over the event which was attended by guests from Governmental Organizations namely Mr. Rishiraj Acharya, Under Secretary, MOFAGA, Mr. Jiwan Prasad Dulal, Under Secretary, NDRRMA, and Ms. Shanti Kandel, Senior Divisional Hydrologist, DHM, and the representatives from different NGO/INGOs, Insurance, and Media.

The objective of the program was to recognize anticipatory action as a noble initiative in disaster management. The event focused on exploring, exchanging, and disseminating knowledge within this pioneering domain. Mr. Bimal Khatiwada, Oxfam, and Mr. Ram Gurung, DPNet Technical Advisor shared their presentations focusing on the findings and learning from the SCOPR3 project and Anticipatory Action scoping study. The program brought a way forward and recommendations for bridging the existing gaps and enhancing multi-hazard-focused anticipatory action.

News in Detail:

Dr. Raju Thapa, Vice-Chair, DPNet Nepal with a warm welcome to the participants moved forward to highlight the agenda of the program and shared in brief the importance of anticipation of risks and precision of data as an effort to mitigate the disaster risk through anticipatory action. He introduced in brief the evidence-based study related to policy regulation conducted by Oxfam in collaboration with ARDS “Strengthening Community Preparedness, Rapid Response and Recovery Program in Asia-Nepal” as an initiative of anticipatory action. He added that; regardless of the ‘no regret theory’, it may lead to social disputes, therefore the development partners must apply their experience to mitigate challenges in the absence of a comprehensive policy framework. Practical implementation is crucial to addressing issues in this evolving strategy.

He further underlined DPNet’s initiative in assessing the needs of families affected by the Jajarkot earthquake, emphasizing the significance of anticipatory action. He added that, despite the absence of a formal policy, the development sector, in collaboration with local government, has actively been engaged in anticipatory action and the utilization of cash support has proven to be a valuable tool in anticipatory action. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) are also actively involved and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) stands out as a key stakeholder, underscoring its central role in coordinating and implementing anticipatory action measures in the country.

He highlighted the need to implement and bring to applicability the legal provisions formulated by NDRRMA regarding Anticipatory action which would be useful and aid in DRM, and shared with the floor that the DPNet ORC consists of more than 1200 documents among which the document on “Scoping Study on Anticipatory Action in Nepal” have been uploaded under the ‘reports’ category.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Program Chair and DPNet Chair expressed thankfulness towards Oxfam Nepal for their research and for the collaboration and coordination with DPNet to organize this notable event. He emphasized the role of DPNet as a common platform for DRR and its commitment to providing coordination, facilitation, and a platform for coordinating among the organizations working on DRR. He acknowledged the dual nature of anticipatory action (both positive and negative aspects) and underlined the need for understanding the practicality and reality of anticipatory action in Nepal. He highlighted the importance of the involvement of governmental bodies.

Mr. Bimal Khatiwada, Oxfam gave a brief on anticipatory action highlighting that it not only means cash support, but also support of nonfood items like shelter kits, risk transfer, and sustainable micro-finance access. He moved forward to share about the project on “Strengthening Community

Preparedness, Rapid Response and Recovery Program in Asia-Nepal Project (SCOPR3)” highlighting the purpose, key outcomes, the results observed, new initiatives, and the learning made. The project was executed throughout the 40 communities from Bhimdatta, Dodhara Chandani, and Beldandi from Kanchanpur and Parsuram from Dedeldhura, reaching 19,300 populations.

The project was based on resilience and climate justice ensuring the co-led efforts for enhanced capacities for disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and relief and educating the communities on local hazards, vulnerabilities, and risks, empowering them to formulate and implement disaster risk reduction plans. Collaborating with women, youth, and private sector entities, the initiative established local structures for timely and effective responses to crises. The ultimate goal is to provide vulnerable households with the skills and resources needed to stabilize and strengthen their economies before and after disasters, contributing to social protection mechanisms and livelihood risk mitigation plans in Nepal. The project’s learning outcomes are informed and improved community-based disaster risk reduction, response, and recovery practices at both the policy and implementation levels in Nepal.

3 outcomes; Capacity Sharing, Asset Protection, and learning and sharing were achieved from the project execution. He highlighted the municipalities that formulated Cash voucher assistance guidelines and endorsed them but the gap still lies as it hasn’t been endorsed at the national level. As a part of anticipatory action, the project also assisted in livestock insurance of one thousand households for risk transfer and supported in operation of ten micro-enterprises like noodle factories with the initiation of women and marginalized groups. It also made efforts to prepare the River Basin Industrial Plan and conducted a scoping study on anticipatory action.

Another aspect is the Annual Impact Reflection (AIR) in which the community members come together and interact on a free base rather than being based on a log frame. He further added that frequent inter-governmental transfer meetings are held and regional sharing is conducted (virtual or Physical) for sharing the learning. Oxfam in collaboration with DCA conducted a Group cash transfer and constructed a fishpond, fencing in common vegetable farming, riverbank protection applying nature-based solutions, and community toilets construction was done.

The project SCOPR3 has demonstrated significant advancements in achieving its goals through evidence-based investments in initiatives such as PCMA, BCP, RBIP, and SSME scoping. The application of the 13 feminist principles in Local Humanitarian Leadership (LHL) has proven essential, emphasizing power balance and showcasing promising results. The project recognized the challenges in engaging the private sector without a win-win approach. It highlights the importance of a well-balanced mix of approaches, emphasizing the prerequisite of social preparedness for both disaster

readiness and economic activities in poor and vulnerable communities. The experience with Flood Early Warning Systems (EWS) reveals that newly established DRR units in municipalities face challenges in mechanisms and expertise, raising questions about community trust in received data. The project's high degree of flexibility, alignment with government priorities, and application of appropriate mix approaches prove cost-effective, fosters ownership, and facilitates easy implementation. These insights contribute to the overall learning and success of Project SCOPR 3.

Mr. Ram Gurung, Technical Advisor DPNet shared his presentation on “Finding Sharing on Research Scooping Study on Anticipatory Actions in Nepal”. He overviewed the research background as anticipatory action is gaining attention in Nepal, especially as a long-time partner in disaster management. This project is associated with the third outcome activity, focusing on outlining the project's objectives, key policies, and plans related to Disaster Risk Reduction/Climate Change that support anticipatory action, as well as the early warning structure and communication mechanisms. The geographical coverage of the project lies in four municipalities of two districts: Dadeldhura: (Parshuram Municipality) and Kanchanpur (Dodhara Chandani, Beldandi & Bhimdatta Municipalities).

Mr. Gurung displayed the major purpose of the research was under anticipatory action in Nepal, focusing on policies, plans, early warning systems, and community perceptions related to disaster risk reduction and climate change. He provided a brief overview of research study findings: The National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Plan 2018-2030 focuses on enhancing resilience by improving preparedness, and response, and integrating risk reduction into national policies. A key aspect is Indicator 6, which emphasizes improved availability and accessibility of early warning systems for multiple hazards. Success is measured by monitoring multi-hazard systems, ensuring population access to early warnings, and implementing forecast-based preparedness plans in high-risk zones. Additionally, Priority Area 3 emphasizes a holistic, risk-informed approach to investments in DRR reduction, involving both the public and private sectors.

UN agencies and INGOs leverage Forecast-based financing, incorporating cash-based anticipatory actions and boosting private investment in disaster risk reduction. The plan underscores the need to adapt the National Disaster Response Framework (NDRF) and the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP) to focus on forecast-based emergency preparedness and response mechanisms. Mr. Gurung stressed the need to identify the gaps in the forecast-based plan. The narratives in the past and present must be acknowledged. He emphasized that the forecast-based plan goes beyond cash considerations, encompassing various aspects. Implementing cash-based anticipatory actions at the local level, along with early actions based on the forecast plan, forms an effective early warning

system. Referring to the 2020 National Disaster Risk Financing Strategy, he explained pre-arranged financial mechanisms aimed at mitigating financial risks. The proposed actions include enhancing hazard monitoring, integrating weather-based forecasting into agricultural insurance, and incorporating early warning information into pre-financing mechanisms.

He shared evidence of the World Bank and Nepal Partnership to strengthen Climate and Disaster risk response as a 50-million-dollar financing agreement for contingent financing that can be availed in the case of a natural disaster or health emergency in the country. He mentioned that MoFAGA is working on introducing a ‘Cash Distribution Guideline’ while the ‘Shock Responsive Social Protection (Operation & Management) Guideline’ has been drafted by NDRRMA. The draft includes proactive distribution of monetary support and tangible resources, upfront risk mitigation efforts, and the provision of predictive monetary support and cash no later than ten days before the forecasted events. He also mentioned the local level policies, plans, and efforts in enhancing anticipatory activities as some Local Governments have implemented cash and voucher assistance anticipatory activities in support of various development partners, some developed forecast-based preparedness procedures, and some municipalities have formally endorsed the anticipatory cash guidelines. Summarizing the efforts in mitigating the climate change issues, Mr. Gurung highlighted the study and approaches of the “Karnali Climate Action Education Program” (KCAEP) for Karnali Province and in a few other municipalities that have developed protocols to address the effects of cold waves. He emphasized that a stronger forecast makes it easier to establish the EWS. The mechanism prioritizes and initiates facilitation for different groups, such as pregnant women, lactating mothers, and infants.

NDRRMA’s Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan, 2023, permits only UN agencies to provide cash assistance based on forecasts, creating uncertainty about the participation of INGOs in such initiatives. These issues and gaps create significant challenges and uncertainties in implementing these initiatives. The Federal Government based on the standard, prevents other non-government agencies from directly distributing cash. Non-government agencies are limited to providing in-kind support through a one-door system. A significant challenge in anticipatory actions is the potential for conflict if relief is provided before a disaster, and the disaster impacts those without assistance while sparing those with assistance. This could lead to disputes that might escalate, possibly necessitating federal intervention and the use of force to maintain order. Discussing key stakeholders, MoHA and NDRRMA play pivotal roles in disaster management, policy formulation, and coordinating efforts from the federal to local levels. Additionally, local governments and development partners such as UNICEF, Start Fund, EU, WFP, Danish Church Aid, Save the Children, Nepal Cash Coordination Group, Nepal Red Cross Society, and Mercy Corps are actively involved in contributing significantly

to the overall effort. He shared a timeline of AA in Nepal, spanning from 2015 post-earthquake to 2023.

Additionally, he discussed the incorporation of Indigenous knowledge and practices in EWS, emphasizing existing indigenous EWS in Nepal by blending indigenous anticipation with modern forecasting methodologies. He stressed the significance of accurate EWS, noting that even a single mistake in a hundred early warning systems could have an impact. Furthermore, he underscored the importance of disseminating EWS information across all municipalities. Insights from development partners implementing anticipatory actions include the identification of triggers in a single hazard system. Notably, Oxfam's involvement is marked by a focus on gender considerations, as evidenced by gender analysis conducted for DRR/CC. Recognizing the varying impacts of climatic changes and post-disaster consequences across genders, Mr. Gurung also emphasized the need to enhance community-based approaches. In conclusion, he highlighted the importance of developing proactive guidelines for international non-governmental organizations and fostering collaboration mechanisms to create a flexible response system.

Mr. Shyam Jnavaly, Technical Advisor, DPNet underscored the need for the orientation of anticipatory action to be comprehensive, encompassing all disasters rather than solely focusing on floods. He emphasized the need for an expansion of the research scope concerning Anticipatory Action and advocated for the identification of related provisions, emphasizing the importance of a comprehensible approach that addresses all aspects of disaster. He recommended that mechanisms for risk reduction, mitigation, and Anticipatory Action should run parallel rather than being distinct concepts. Furthermore, he suggested the incorporation of Anticipatory Action within the broader framework of disaster preparedness, marking a shift toward a more inclusive and integrated approach.

Mr. Prakash Khadka, PIN highlighted the proactive efforts of PIN in the realm of anticipatory action, specifically focusing on landslide-prone areas in Rasuwa. He emphasized the organization's work in implementing early actions and establishing a funding mechanism. Mr. Khadka mentioned the utilization of funds sourced from the respective local government, showcasing a practical application of anticipatory action in addressing the specific challenges posed by landslide risks in the region.

Mr. Suraj Gautam, IHRR emphasized the need to view anticipatory action in three aspects; risk assessment, regular monitoring of hazards, and early action. He stressed the significance of risk assessment in establishing thresholds and incorporating components of DRM as a standard for a coordinated approach. He raised questions about the relevance of individual household assessments for community-wide initiatives and recommended either group transfers based on community

assessments or individual assessments with corresponding household-level assistance. He underscored the importance of uniformity and effectiveness in assistance advocating for universal standards, suggesting the implementation of Department of Hydrology and Metrology standards universally to ensure consistency in coordinated assessment practices.

Ms. Shanti Kandel, DHM highlighted that hydro-generated hazards are relatively easy to address when establishing EWS. This could be a key factor in the initiation of EWS, particularly for floods in Nepal. Given that over 80% of disasters in Nepal are hydro-oriented, significant progress has been made in the case of flood EWS. Ms. Kandel acknowledged the DHM as the second pillar in the EWS framework. The DHM has adopted various technologies with support from development partners, although there appears to be a gap in strengthening and recognizing the DHM. The importance of the “Leaving No One Behind” approach was emphasized for Nepal, where DHM plays a crucial role as the second pillar. Despite the adoption of numerous technologies and support from development partners, there is a challenge for DHM in deciding how to disseminate forecast reports to reach a larger community effectively. She mentioned that recommendations, a way forward, and suggestions to enhance the recognition and strength of DHM are highly appreciated by DHM.

Mr. Pallav Panta, Atullya Foundation stressed on the need to incorporate the needs of people with disabilities while anticipating the needs and during anticipatory action on disaster risk mitigation efforts. He emphasized the need to assess the disaggregated data within disability as disabilities have a lot of variations according to which the needs vary too. Assessing the disaggregated needs will aid in providing support based on the needs of the vulnerable groups.

Mr. Jiwan Prasad Dulal, NDRRMA highlighted the fact that the present legal procedures are challenging regarding the cash transfer. He emphasized the need to conduct research and studies that would add value in exploring the ways to manage loss and damage at the federal level through insurance policies.

Mr. Rishiraj Acharya, Under Secretary, MOFAGA highlighted that MoFAGA actively supports rural and urban municipalities in DRR and Climate Change efforts. Recognizing the importance of anticipatory action, the government has dedicated over a year to preparing the Cash Assistance Operation Procedure Guideline. Despite perceived risks and the government’s limited experience in this field, the insights gained are crucial for shaping the guidelines. He mentioned consulting various development organizations after post-disaster events in Jajarkot, West Rukum, and Bajhang, seeking input on multipurpose cash distribution. He assured coverage of both conditional and non-conditional assistance.

Mr. Acharya shared that on November 27th and 28th, 2023, MoFAGA plans to organize a discussion program to gather input from stakeholders and address any unnecessary domains, incorporating the feedback into the guideline. Highlighting the potential challenges if cash assistance proves ineffective, he pointed out the recent government declaration to assist in earthquakes based on self-announcements of casualties. While the government will provide technical support, an evaluation is necessary to determine needs. Regarding the cash voucher modality, he stressed its impact on social security, as discussed in the report. The report's recommendations can offer valuable feedback for the guideline, aligning with federal-level facilitation and high-level practices.

Mr. Ram Prasad Bhandari, Technical Advisor DPNet expressed curiosity, questioning whether cash transfer is essential and if cash assistance serves as a substitute for relief post-disasters.

Mr. Keshav Malashi, ISET underlined the importance of prioritizing the concept of multi-purpose cash and incorporating Psychosocial Counseling as anticipatory action efforts.

Mr. Bhawaraj Regmi, NGO Federation discussed various forms of assistance, including commodity vouchers and bank transfers during disasters, and highlighted both conditional and non-conditional aid. Emphasis was placed on providing assistance based on a thorough need evaluation. Giving the example of flood-affected Dodhara, he shared an instance where individuals purchased agricultural tools with provided cash vouchers. Challenges were noted, particularly in determining the timing of assistance, specifically how many days in advance of the forecast. He also mentioned issues such as shopkeepers providing products past their expiration date and selling goods at higher prices than the market rate in case of cash assistance creating further problems.

Dr. Raju Thapa explained the high probability of a flood in the hilly region of Nepal in case of rainfall of 60mm within an hour. While most disasters in Nepal are hydro-induced, a few, such as landslides, are gravity-induced and can result in the blocking of doors, especially during the morning hours due to land creeping that occurs in the night increasing the risk of casualties. Dr. Thapa observed that debris accumulation, along with floods, can alter the direction of water flow, causing floods in unexpected areas. To manage this, cash assistance can be provided a few days before the predicted rainfall so that people can prepare for the worst. He pointed out that providing help before a disaster does have a chance of creating conflicts, as those who received help might be safe while others feel vulnerable. This may lead to arguments, possibly requiring government intervention and force to maintain order. Despite the potential for conflict, Dr. Thapa emphasized the positive aspects and lessons learned, suggesting that such anticipatory actions have been effective worldwide.

In 2019, the National Planning Commission (NPC) created an integrated framework for Social Security, based on past programs related to disaster and social security. This framework was submitted to the ministry, which retained it for about two years before returning it to the NPC. Considering Nepal's significant investment in foreign loan interest and for social security, even a small manipulation or imbalance in those arenas can result in substantial losses which needs to be worked on, Dr. Thapa added.

He highlighted the importance of cross-idea fertilization through discussions like these. He also addressed the crucial role of insurance in anticipatory actions and emphasized the need for clarity in the one-door system. He praised MoFAGA's efforts in preparing guidelines, recognizing that a lack of guidelines poses challenges at the field-level intervention.

Mr. Prakash Kafle, Oxfam underscored the vagueness of anticipatory action not just being limited to cash and voucher transfers. Anticipatory action is more like preparing as per the need assessed by anticipating the emergence to minimize the effects of disasters and also regarding social protection, but the financial obligations in Nepal seem very high. Mr. Kafle proposed to organize a discussion based on pre-disaster cash transfers, giving examples of the field-based documentation done in Tikapur, Rajbiraj incorporating both success and failure stories. The recommendations from the experience include strengthening EWS and enhancing the understanding of anticipatory action among the actors. Since MoFAGA is an important stakeholder, coordinated efforts should be made by all the governmental tiers to formulate uniform guidelines and raise awareness on volume transfer to enhance the management mechanism. Studies regarding pre-disaster cash transfer need to be carried out for clarity, he added and announced the conclusion of the program with concluding remarks.

Interaction Program on Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction at Bagmati Province

On November 23, 2023, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, Bagmati Province (MoIAL), led an



event titled 'Interaction Program on Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction.' The event, organized by DPNep-Nepal and financially and technically supported by USAID's Tayar Nepal, aimed to enhance Disaster Risk Governance in Bagmati Province, Nepal. The primary focus of the interaction was to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of acts, policies, and follow-ups related to DRR at the provincial level. Mr. Dhruva Gaida, Province Secretary of MoIAL, Bagmati Province, chaired the event, with Hon. Ram Krishna Chitrakar, Minister of Industry, Commerce, Land Management and Administration, Bagmati Province, serving as the Chief Guest, and Ms. Meena Lama, Mayor of Hetauda Sub Metropolitan City as the special guest. Mr. Surya Prasad Sedai, Chief District Officer of Makwanpur District, along with province secretaries from different ministries of Bagmati Province, Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chair of DPNep Nepal, and representatives from the Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, Nepal Red Cross Society, and NGOs operating in Bagmati Province were among the guests present at the event.

Mr. Deepak Neupane, Under Secretary of MoIAL started the program with a warm welcome to all the attendees of the program.

Mr. Kedar Neupane, Former Secretary of the Government of Nepal and Advisor of DPNep Nepal explained the objectives of the program to the distinguished guests and participants. Exploring into the

historical context summarized in the Dabik Prakop Ain, he highlighted the traditional belief that attributed disasters to sins. Drawing insights from the Gorkha Earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic, He explored various aspects of disaster management. Mr. Neupane underscored that despite the existence of policies, governance has not significantly improved since 1990 BS, emphasizing the weak implementation of these policies. Reflecting on the recurrent nature of disasters, he emphasized the critical need to prioritize preparedness alongside rescue efforts. Drawing attention to recent incidents like the Uttarakhand tunnel collapse in India and past tornado in Bara, he emphasized the unpredictable nature of new disasters, presenting ongoing challenges. He advocated for collaboration among the three tiers of government to jointly address different phases of disaster risk reduction mainly focusing on preparedness. Mr. Neupane stressed the integration of development and DRR, emphasizing the efficient utilization of existing resources, adoption of enhanced technology, and capacity building for technocrats. He highlighted the importance of mock drills and preventive measures such as fire extinguishers, hydrants, and fire engines. Additionally, he recommended that local governments strictly enforce building bylaws and codes to mitigate the impact of disasters. Mr. Neupane emphasized the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Provincial Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (PPDRR) in Bagmati Province to facilitate effective collaboration and coordination in DRR initiatives.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chair of DPNet, began his presentation with an overview of DPNet Nepal's history, which was established in 1996 A.D. He described DPNet as an umbrella organization comprising members from I/NGOs, and UN agencies, all working in the field of DRR. DPNet also serves as the secretariat office for the National Platform for DRR. As a networking organization, DPNet organizes various International, National, and Regional Conferences in the field of DRR.

During his presentation, Mr. Thapa outlined DPNet's operational focus areas, emphasizing key pillars such as policy advocacy, knowledge management, capacity building, and coordination and networking. He shared insights into various publications released by DPNet Nepal and presented a graphical representation of integrated disaster incidents from 2070 to 2079 B.S. and highlighted the major five disaster events in the year 2079 B.S., categorized based on the number of incidents as fire, landslide, animal attack, thunderbolt, and forest fire. Mr. Thapa provided a detailed list of policy provisions relevant to disaster management, including legislative documents such as the Constitution of Nepal, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2074, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Regulation of 2076, and the Local Government Operation Act of 2074. Other significant policies mentioned encompassed the Urban Planning & Development Act, the Building Code for Nepal, Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030), and the Environment Conservation Act of 2076.

In the overview of the September 5, 2023 discussion, Mr. Thapa focused on defining provincial roles based on the type of disaster, collaborative training between security forces and citizens, cooperation between the government and private sectors in data management and resource utilization, and the mobilization of local resources and knowledge. Mr. Thapa also outlined the historical context of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) formation in Nepal, dating back to 2069 B.S., guided by UN directives. He highlighted the collaborative role of NPDRR at the national, regional, and international levels and advocated for the establishment of PPDRR in Bagmati Province.

Mr. Deepak Prasad Neupane, Under Secretary at MoIAL, Bagmati Province, provided an overview of the disaster situation in Bagmati Province over the past decade, encompassing incidents such as floods, landslides, fires, and earthquakes. He particularly highlighted the significant impact of fire-related disasters across all districts, coupled with an increasing frequency of floods and landslides. Mr. Neupane underscored the importance of collaboration among the three tiers of government and non-government sectors to ensure effective disaster management. Illustrating the support extended by MoIAL in a recent landslide event in Gaurishankar Rural Municipality to affected families and the local government, Mr. Neupane emphasized Bagmati Province's dedication to disaster management. He specifically focused on the development and implementation of various plans and guidelines, including the Bagmati Province Monsoon Preparedness and Response Action Plan 2023, the Bagmati Province Environment Protection Act 2020, the Contingency Plan for the Housing Sector 2022, Bagmati Province Disaster Management Act 2018, and the Province Disaster Management Policies and Strategic Action Plan 2019-2030, among others.

Mr. Neupane detailed that, following the province's fund mobilization guidelines, funds are being allocated to all districts and hazard-prone local levels not only for post-disaster rescue and relief but also for preparedness. He also discussed awareness campaigns, and relief allocations for private housing reconstruction by the provincial government, and highlighted challenges, including coordination gaps among the three tiers of government, proper data management, coordination among agencies and governments, limited human and economic resources, and the necessity of integrating disaster management with development initiatives.

Mr. Mahendra Bdr. Magar, Executive Director of CCDN, emphasized the importance of risk mapping for the province. He suggested that each agency allocate a specific percentage of funds toward DRR. Illustrating with an example of controlling landslides through bamboo plantations, he emphasized the use of indigenous technologies which will not only serve as local-level disaster mitigation but also as income-generating activities.

Mr. Tirtha Raj Bhattarai, Province Secretary of the Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Transport in Bagmati Province, shared his experience managing a fire disaster event during his tenure as the Chief District Officer of Morang district. He highlighted the effective use of the airport's fire engine and stressed the importance of sharing resources among government agencies during disaster events. Mr. Bhattarai emphasized the necessity of collaborative efforts among the three tiers of government and commended the MoIAL for developing frameworks for DRR. He requested all agencies to focus on the implementation of these legal frameworks.

Mr. Surya Prasad Sedai, Chief District Officer of Makwanpur District, shed light on the diverse activities carried out by the District Administrative Office and District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) in Makwanpur District. He detailed the use of Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Management guidelines for DRR at the district level. Mr. Sedai emphasized that the DDMC not only concentrated on the twelve clusters of DRR but also took into account hazards at the road level. He explained the collaborative efforts between the District Emergency Operation Center (DEOC) and Local Emergency Operation Center (LEOC), with regular meetings organized and proper collaboration from local government. Mr. Sedai stressed the importance of integrating development with environmental considerations and disaster risk reduction. He highlighted the necessity to enhance the capacity of ward-level units and local police for immediate disaster rescue and response. Mr. Sedai underscored the existing challenges in the district, including thunderbolts, urban inundation, forest and urban fires, and floods. He called for support to mitigate the impacts of such disasters. Focusing on citizen involvement, he urged people to use information shared by the government regarding alert situations and emphasized collaboration for effective information dissemination and risk reduction.

Ms. Meena Lama, Mayor of Hetauda Submetropolitan City, emphasized that local government alone cannot effectively handle DRR at the local level. She stressed the necessity for proper support from the federal and provincial governments, as well as the private sector, especially for preparatory equipment like fire engines. Ms. Lama highlighted instances where Hetauda Submetropolitan City deployed its vehicles to support relief distribution during the Jajarkot Earthquake and assisted neighboring local governments with resources such as fire engines. She called attention to Hetauda's status as an industrial city, urging all three tiers of government to focus on industrial hazards and be adequately prepared. Drawing from her foreign visit experiences, Ms. Lama noted the immediate rescue operations conducted by foreign governments and urged collaborative efforts to provide similar immediate support in Nepal.

Hon. Ram Krishna Chitrakar, Minister of Industry, Commerce, Land Management and Administration in Bagmati Province, shared his experience advocating for the establishment of the

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and including disaster provisions in the constitution during his tenure as a member of the Constitutional Assembly. He acknowledged a significant shift in DRR over the past decade, with sufficient policies now in place at all levels, emphasizing the urgent need for their implementation. Hon. Chitrakar highlighted Bagmati Province's awareness of the disaster scenario and its strong commitment to addressing these challenges. He stressed the importance of shifting the perception from post-disaster management to pre-disaster preparation, considering upcoming development activities and retrofitting existing infrastructures. Hon. Chitrakar emphasized the use of suggestions received from local-level representatives and Chief District Officers as input for the provincial government, expressing his commitment to collaborative efforts.

Mr. Dhruba Gaida, Province Secretary of MoIAL and Program Chair, expressed his commitment to working more effectively in DRR in the upcoming days. He highlighted the importance of conducting Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) orientation sessions for provincial stakeholders and members of parliament. Additionally, he stated his commitment to establishing the PPDRR in Bagmati Province. He expressed gratitude to all distinguished guests and participants for their presence and suggestions, committing to use the recommendations from the program as policy feedback.

Interaction Program on Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction at Lumbini Province

On November 26, 2023, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Lumbini Province (MoHA), led an event titled 'Interaction Program on Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction.' The event, organized by DPNet-Nepal and financially and technically supported by USAID's Tayar Nepal, aimed to enhance Disaster Risk Governance in Lumbini Province, Nepal. The primary focus of the interaction was to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of acts, policies, and



follow-ups related to DRR at the provincial level. Mr. Lalbabu Kawari, Province Secretary of MoHA, Lumbini Province, chaired the event, with Hon. Dr. Nahakul K.C, Vice Chairperson, Lumbini Province Planning Commission, Lumbini Province, serving as the Chief Guest. Various persons with province secretaries from different ministries of Lumbini Province, Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chair of DPNet Nepal, and representatives from the Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, Nepal

Red Cross Society, NGO Federation, and NGOs operating in Lumbini Province were among the guests present at the event.

Ms. Manju Kumari Pokharel, Legal Officer and Disaster Focal Person of MoHA, Lumbini Province started the program with a warm welcome to all the attendees of the program.

Mr. Kedar Neupane, Former Secretary of the Government of Nepal and Advisor of DPNet Nepal expressed that disasters are causing significant physical, economic, and social losses in Lumbini Province, which encompasses diverse geographical features ranging from hills and Chure hills to the Terai, exposing it to a variety of disasters. He noted that while awareness about these disasters may not be as widespread within the community. He highlighted the importance of considering different phases of disasters, including pre and post-stages, and expressed concern about the need to protect the Chure region. He also emphasized the challenge of linking development with disaster risk reduction. He stated that there is a need to consider the lessons from various casualties, such as those caused by wild animals, consumption of wild mushrooms, and suffocation due to winter fires, in Lumbini province. He also focused on the Tinau and Rapti rivers causing floods, along with difficulties from monkeys, wild boars, and elephants to farmers, as well as fire events in Narainapur, Banke. He drew attention to road accidents causing a majority of daily casualties, emphasizing the importance of considering infrastructure quality to minimize disaster impact. He underscored the need to give equal consideration to both rescue and post-disaster operations and pre-disaster preparations. He praised the efforts of security personnel in rescue operations and acknowledged the positive contributions of the non-government sector in DRR. To mitigate the impact of disasters, he advocated for the effective utilization of technology and experience. He stressed the importance of raising awareness to reduce the impact of disasters and called for an increased focus on using indigenous technology while integrating foreign advancements in the local context. Mr. Neupane advised for close coordination within the three tiers of government and the non-government sector. Finally, he requested the chief guest to incorporate aspects of disaster management into the planning of the province.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chair of DPNet, initially expressed gratitude to MoHA for coordinating the program and extended thanks to the distinguished guests and participants for their involvement. Subsequently, Mr. Thapa commenced his presentation with an overview of DPNet Nepal's history, established in 1996 A.D. DPNet is described as an umbrella organization, comprising members from I/NGOs and UN agencies, collectively engaged in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Additionally, DPNet serves as the secretariat office for the National Platform for DRR, organizing various international, national, and regional conferences in the DRR field as a networking organization.

During his presentation, Mr. Thapa delineated DPNet's operational focus areas, highlighting key pillars such as policy advocacy, knowledge management, capacity building, coordination, and networking. He shared insights into various publications released by DPNet Nepal and presented a graphical representation of integrated disaster incidents from 2070 to 2079 B.S., emphasizing the major five disaster events in the year 2079 B.S. categorized based on the number of incidents as fire, landslide, animal attack, thunderbolt, and forest fire. Mr. Thapa provided a detailed list of policy provisions relevant to disaster management, including legislative documents such as the Constitution of Nepal, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2074, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Regulation of 2076, and the Local Government Operation Act of 2074. Other significant policies mentioned encompassed the Urban Planning & Development Act, the Building Code for Nepal, Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030), and the Environment Conservation Act of 2076.

Mr. Thapa also conveyed his experience from previous relief operations in Lumbini Province, specifically during the Tinau River Flood and the Marchawar inundation. Additionally, he discussed his involvement in the reconstruction of houses in the aftermath of the Marchawar inundation. In the overview of the August 11, 2023, discussion, Mr. Thapa focused on defining provincial roles based on the type of disaster, collaborative training between security forces and citizens, cooperation between the government and private sectors in data management and resource utilization, and the mobilization of local resources and knowledge. He also outlined the historical context of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) formation in Nepal, dating back to 2069 B.S., guided by UN directives. Mr. Thapa emphasized the collaborative role of NPDRR at the national, regional, and international levels and advocated for the establishment of PPDRR in Lumbini Province. He also urged the chief guest to integrate the suggestions and recommendations from the program into the plans of Lumbini Province.

Mr. Manoj Panthi, Nepal Disaster Resilient Network shared his experience in the preparation of District Disaster Risk Reduction Plans (DPRP) for various districts in this province but he still he expressed that these plans are not being revised as needed. He noted that while legal documents are in place, they are not being utilized effectively, and response plans should be updated to address emerging disasters and hazards. Mr. Panthi identified street cattle as a major problem in the province, leading to road accidents. He also emphasized the importance of addressing the un-engineered and unmanaged settlements of marginalized people. Highlighting the significance of a proper early warning system, he shared insights from past flood experiences and stressed the need to consider pre-disaster measures. Additionally, Mr. Panthi pointed out the importance of including snake bites in disaster considerations in the province.

Mr. Jagannath Kurmi emphasized the existence of all the necessary documents but expressed concern that those at risk are not adequately informed. He stressed the importance of the provincial government and local people taking the lead in document preparation and planning, with development partners only playing a supportive role. Mr. Kurmi highlighted the need to raise awareness in the local language and underscored the importance of community involvement in addressing their specific issues during the preparation of legal documents. Drawing from his past experience, he shared insights that the communities affected by disasters should actively participate in the preparation and implementation of programs related to disaster risk reduction. Mr. Kurmi pointed out the inclusion of animal attacks and snake bites in the definition of disasters, yet stated that the affected communities have not yet received the necessary relief and compensation.

Mr. Umakant Pant, NGO Federation expressed his concern for protecting wetlands and forests in the province. He expressed the need for a small pond for ground recharge and to control the impact of flowing water. He also shared that the Chure region should be protected and unnecessary encroachment of forest and Chure should be stopped. He added the need to utilize indigenous technology, protecting the forest, water resources, and rivers for proper DRR within the province.

Ms. Keulapati Chaudary expressed her concern that Children, women, pregnant and lactating women should be considered during disasters. Sharing her past experience, she highlighted that due to a lack of awareness, no one gets ready to rescue people affected by road accidents. She encouraged the need to target some advocacy and awareness programs to minimize the risk of casualties of road accidents.

Mr. Resham Khatri, Nepal Police informed that they have trained 125 human resources within the province. He stated that there is a limitation of resources including the rescue materials. He also informed that they have been engaged in a Community Police coordination program including Disaster awareness and road accidents and there is an immediate requirement to train the people to get themselves in first aid immediately after road accidents and other disasters.

Mr. Deepak Bahadur Balami, APF highlighted the need for the Local government to utilize the disaster fund for pre-disaster preparedness rather than for post-disaster relief. He shared that the APF has been sharing and conducting awareness in schools and the community. He also focused on how local people and the community should be prepared as first responders and that the local level and people should engage in disaster risk reduction efforts.

Dr. Nahakul K.C., Chief Guest, expressed gratitude to the MoHA and DPNet for organizing the program. He acknowledged the abundance of legal documents and institutions dedicated to addressing disaster and climate change. However, he highlighted the persistent challenge of effectively executing

these measures. Despite the limitations faced by provincial governments in execution, Dr. K.C. noted that they have still formulated legal documents related to DRR. Dr. K.C. mentioned the impact of the Jajarkot earthquake on East Rukum and Rolpa of Lumbini Province. Additionally, he mentioned that the province experiences annual floods from the Rapti and Babai rivers. While commending the government's coordination in disseminating information, he emphasized the crucial need for communication in local languages. He cautioned against a blanket approach in DRR. Dr. K.C. stressed the importance of properly managing information dissemination, drawing from his own challenges during the Koshi flood. He also highlighted the significance of embracing indigenous technologies, such as the bamboo embankments of the Tharu community. Dr. K.C. emphasized the necessity of establishing vertical linkages between the plans and policies of 109 local governments and those of the province. He provided insights into ongoing efforts aimed at overcoming technological deficiencies. Dr. K.C. stated about the inclusion of a new chapter in the provincial plan that explores the relationship between wild animals and citizens. Furthermore, he recognized the importance of establishing a robust connection between income generation and resilience, as outlined by the Provincial Planning Commission. Dr. K.C. encouraged continued collaboration and innovation, emphasizing the need for strategies and execution tailored to the unique challenges faced by each community within the province.

Mr. Lalbabu Kawari, Program Chair, expressed heartfelt appreciation to USAID and DPNet for their pivotal support and coordination in the ongoing disaster response program in Lumbini Province. Offering insights into the proactive measures taken, Mr. Kawari highlighted the dynamic role of the MoHA in actively leading, coordinating, and monitoring activities in the region. He expressed that a comprehensive 7-year strategic plan, guidelines, and policies, including relief and rescue efforts, have been implemented, allocating 1.5 crores to disaster relief and reconstruction. Addressing the recent Jajarkot Earthquake in Karnali Province, Mr. Kawari shared that the provincial government swiftly dispatched a rescue team and a medical team, operating under the guidance of Provincial Home Minister Santosh Kumar Pandey. Despite legal challenges, Lumbini Province has set aside an impressive ten crore fund for immediate response, with a strategic emphasis on pre-disaster preparation. In emphasizing the province's commitment to risk reduction, Mr. Kawari detailed ongoing initiatives such as drills, simulation exercises, and public awareness campaigns. Recognizing the essential role of communities as first responders in DRR efforts, Mr. Kawari emphasized a dedication to enhancing community involvement. The MoHA is actively working to increase engagement and participation in DRR, supported by various relief schemes tailored for affected communities. Notably, efforts are underway to incorporate the Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) into the upcoming Disaster Act at the provincial level. Mr. Kawari further stressed the imperative for improved public awareness and highlighted collaborative endeavors with security forces and local

government. This multifaceted approach seeks to fortify disaster response capabilities, ensuring a resilient and community-centric framework in Lumbini Province.

Interaction Program on Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction at Karnali Province



On November 29, 2023, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, Karnali Province (MoIAL), led an event titled 'Interaction Program on Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction.' The event, organized by DPNet-Nepal and financially and technically supported by USAID's Tayar Nepal, aimed to enhance Disaster Risk Governance in Karnali Province, Nepal. The primary focus of the interaction was to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of acts, policies, and follow-ups related to DRR at the provincial level. Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chair of DPNet Nepal, chaired the event, with Hon. Kalyani Khadka, Chair of Provincial Affairs Committee, Provincial Assembly, Karnali Province, serving as the Chief Guest, and Mr. Nidhiraj Neupane, Acting Secretary of MoIAL as the special guest. The province secretaries from different ministries of Karnali Province, and representatives from the Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, Nepal Red Cross Society, and NGOs working in Karnali Province were among the guests present at the event.

Mr. Kshitiz Paudel, Program Coordinator of DPNet Nepal started the program with a warm welcome to all distinguished guests and the attendees of the program.

Mr. Kedar Neupane, Former Secretary of the Government of Nepal and Advisor of DPNet Nepal, explained the objectives of the program and welcomed the distinguished guests and participants. He appreciated the prompt action taken by security personnel and emphasized the essential role of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) volunteers, including the involvement of former security personnel and local residents regarding the recent Jajarkot Earthquake in Karnali Province. He highlights the importance of mobilizing and enhancing the capacity of first responders. Mr. Neupane has suggested that the chief guest take a lead role in sensitizing members of the provincial parliament and in capacity building for local government and communities to minimize the impact of disasters. Considering our past experiences with earthquakes, COVID, and the Jajarkot diarrhea, he stresses the need for unity in efforts of among the three tiers of government and nongovernmental sector in preparedness alongside rescue efforts and emphasized that despite the presence of policies, governance has not shown significant improvement, underscoring the weak implementation of these policies. Mr. Neupane highlighted the integration of development and DRR, emphasizing the efficient utilization of existing resources, the adoption of enhanced technology, and capacity building for technocrats. He underscored the significance of mock drills and preventive measures such as fire extinguishers, hydrants, and fire engines. Furthermore, he recommended that local governments rigorously enforce building bylaws and codes to mitigate the impact of disasters. Mr. Neupane stressed the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Provincial Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (PPDRR) in Karnali Province to facilitate effective collaboration and coordination in DRR initiatives.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chair of DPNet, began his presentation with an overview of DPNet Nepal's history, which was established in 1996 A.D. He described DPNet as an umbrella organization comprising members from I/NGOs, UN agencies, all working in the field of DRR. DPNet also serves as the secretariat office for the National Platform for DRR. As a networking organization, DPNet organizes various International, National, and Regional Conferences in the field of DRR. During his presentation, Mr. Thapa outlined DPNet's operational focus areas, emphasizing key pillars such as policy advocacy, knowledge management, capacity building, and coordination and networking. He shared insights into various publications released by DPNet Nepal and presented a graphical representation of integrated disaster incidents from 2070 to 2079 B.S. and highlighted the major five disaster events in the year 2079 B.S., categorized based on the number of incidents as fire, landslide, animal attack, thunderbolt, and forest fire. Mr. Thapa provided a detailed list of policy provisions relevant to disaster management, including legislative documents such as the Constitution of Nepal, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2074, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Regulation of 2076, and the Local Government Operation Act of 2074. Other significant policies mentioned encompassed the Urban Planning & Development Act, Building Code for Nepal, Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030), and the Environment Conservation Act of 2076. Mr.

Thapa focused on defining provincial roles based on the type of disaster, collaborative training between security forces and citizens, cooperation between the government and private sectors in data management and resource utilization, and the mobilization of local resources and knowledge. Mr. Thapa also outlined the historical context of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) formation in Nepal, dating back to 2069 B.S., guided by UN directives. He highlighted the collaborative role of NPDRR at the national, regional, and international levels and advocated for the establishment of PPDRR in Karnali Province.

Mr. Krishna Bahadur Rokaya, Disaster Focal Person of MoIAL, provided an overview of the province's historical disaster situations, including floods, landslides, fires, and earthquakes, with a special focus on MoIAL's actions during the recent Jajarkot Earthquake. He detailed that MoIAL has allocated two crores forty-five lakh for various districts affected by the earthquake, contributing to rescue and relief operations for affected communities. Mr. Rokaya explained that the provincial emergency operation center is closely collaborating with national and district-level centers, ensuring local emergency centers work with proper coordination. He underscored the importance of the Group Accident Insurance Program Operating Procedure against Disaster Risk, 2079, which offers collective disaster accident insurance coverage for human losses from disasters. He mentioned that the ministry is currently working on insuring infrastructure within the province. He also mentioned the ministry's involvement in constructing warehouses and raising awareness about disaster risk reduction through informative programs conducted at the grassroots level and in local schools.

Mr. Hira Singh Thapa, Province Coordinator of DPNet Karnali, emphasized the need for a clear and comprehensive explanation of the one-door policy among concerned stakeholders. He drew attention to the increase in incidents of rape and trafficking immediately following the Jajarkot Earthquake event, seeking attention and intervention from the police. Additionally, he called for focused efforts on capacity building and the development of a well-thought-out plan for reconstruction.

Mr. Pradipta Poudel, Acting Chair of Nepal Red Cross Society, Karnali, shared insights into the efforts undertaken by the Red Cross following the Jajarkot Earthquake. He emphasized the potential trauma caused by constant discussions about future earthquakes by experts and the media. Mr. Poudel advocated for the consideration of managing unattended settlements by concerned stakeholders.

Ms. Bishnu Devi Rawal from the NGO Federation, Karnali, highlighted the crucial need for effective collaboration between the government and the non-government sector. She pointed out that the efforts of the non-government sector are often overlooked due to the negligence of government authorities.

Ms. Rawal stressed that the non-government sector is actively reaching the grassroots level to serve the people and requires proper support from the government.

Mr. Bhim Prasad Dhakal, Province Chief/DIG of Nepal Police, emphasized a significant number of casualties in the province resulting from falling off cliffs and called for attention to this matter. He highlighted the importance of regular maintenance of hilly roads to reduce the occurrence of road accidents. Despite the limited resources, he assured efficient police operations based on necessity. Mr. Dhakal shared a proactive measure undertaken by Karnali police, where they affixed stickers with the police phone number on the front doors of 2,40,425 households out of 3,71,125 in Karnali Province. This initiative has notably increased the reporting of crimes and was implemented at zero expense. He suggested expanding this approach to other provinces. In addition, Mr. Dhakal recommended linking volunteers mobilized during disasters with the police for better coordination and support which would enhance overall disaster response efforts.

Mr. Narayan Pandey, Assistant CDO of Surkhet, shared his experiences during the recent Bajhang Earthquake. He emphasized the first 72 hours as a critical timeframe and discussed how collaboration with security forces and major stakeholders played a crucial role in saving lives and properties. Mr. Pandey outlined three major aspects of disaster management: communication, coordination, and control. He urged equal consideration of all 32 legally defined disaster events in Nepal during the pre-disaster stage for effective work during and after disasters. Mr. Pandey stressed the importance of reviewing events like the Bajhang and Jajarkot Earthquakes to better plan for future events and reconstruction. He emphasized the need for proper research and the implementation of building codes with the coordination of all three tiers of government to minimize the impact of disasters.

Mr. Bishnu Prasad Koirala, Province Secretary at the Office of Chief Minister and Council of Ministers in Karnali Province, provided insights into the recent Jajarkot earthquake. He praised the effective approach in the rescue operation but pointed out challenges faced by the provincial government. Although they allocated one and a half million to the district disaster fund, the funds have yet to be transferred to the intended account, highlighting administrative complications. Mr. Koirala emphasized the need for clarity in guidelines, particularly regarding the decision-making process for constructing temporary shelters. The delay from the federal government in determining responsibility is causing continued suffering for the affected community. He stressed the importance of clear criteria to facilitate efficient support and relief distribution. In addressing the reconstruction efforts, Mr. Koirala raised concerns about the rebuilding of structures with archaeological significance and the difficulty of landless individuals in Jajarkot. He urged for a careful reconstruction approach, citing observations that buildings constructed with round stones in the past were more susceptible to

destruction. Furthermore, he advocated for reducing taxes on building registration, drawing lessons from past earthquakes. While Karnali Province has the capability to address various aspects of recovery, Mr. Koirala emphasized the necessity of capacity building and support from all levels of government in a coordinated manner. He underscored the importance of proper needs and damage assessment in the affected regions for effective planning and resource allocation.

Mr. Nidhiraj Neupane, a Special Guest, highlighted the provincial government's efforts in response to the Jajarkot earthquake. He explained that the MoIAL serves as the focal ministry for DRR and is efficiently working with other ministries and clusters in the province. However, he expressed the need for support from all stakeholders. Mr. Neupane pointed out that the provincial government is not assuming the responsibilities outlined in the constitution of Nepal. Using the example of the previous year, he mentioned that the federal government declared four districts of Karnali Province as a state of emergency without consulting the provincial government. Mr. Neupane emphasized that the work carried out by the three tiers of government often results in duplication due to a lack of coordination, and the federal government is not collaborating effectively with the provincial government, even in the case of the Jajarkot earthquake. He also highlighted discrepancies in the data regarding losses and damages from the Jajarkot earthquake across different tiers of government. He also gave his commitment to work on the formation of PPDRR after discussing with the secretary and minister of the province. Mr. Neupane called on agencies like DPNet to work towards maintaining intergovernmental coordination, facilitating cooperation among the three tiers of government.

Hon. Kalyani Khadka, Chief Guest emphasized the collaboration of the legislative, executive, and judiciary for the improvement of provincial affairs, including DRR. She highlighted ongoing efforts to establish proper working modalities during the implementation of federalism, emphasizing that provinces should be provided with the responsibilities as outlined in the constitution with proper budget allocation and coordination with all three tiers of government within the federal system. Agreeing with the viewpoints raised during the program, Hon. Khadka underscored the strong support of the Provincial Affairs Committee, starting from the initial rescue operations during the Jajarkot Earthquake.

Hon. Khadka stressed the urgent need for psychosocial support, addressing the psychological and mental health problems faced by the affected community. She advocated for special attention to elderly individuals, pregnant women, and lactating women in the field. Highlighting the effectiveness of the One Door policy and multi-party committee in facilitating relief actions in Jajarkot and Rukum West, she acknowledged the need for proper categorization and mobilization of volunteers based on their expertise to avoid duplication and mismanagement. Pointing out the necessity for risk mapping and

resettlement of vulnerable settlements, she provided an example of scattered settlements in Rukum Athabiskot 14. Hon. Khadka emphasized the immediate need for temporary shelter and the subsequent requirement for reconstruction in the long term. She stressed the importance of proper data management, suggesting that local governments play a role in this but should be strengthened. Addressing concerns about damaged buildings under bank loans and those without legal documents, she urged the government to take action. Hon. Khadka highlighted the necessity of incorporating suggestions from the ground level into legal documents. Additionally, she underscored the immediate need for the skilled demolition of damaged buildings and the utilization of security personnel from other districts. Hon. Khadka explained the need for sensitization and training programs for members of the provincial assembly regarding DRR. Lastly, she emphasized the strengthening of the government, with support from the non-governmental sector in a collaborative approach.

Mr. Surya Bdr Thapa, the Chair, in his closing remarks, emphasized the need for proper coordination and collaboration, stating that DPNet is prepared to facilitate these efforts as the umbrella organization and member secretariat of NPDRR. He highlighted that the observed gaps at this level would be advocated at the federal level. Mr. Thapa mentioned that suggestions regarding DRR are being provided to the Prime Minister, and recommendations from this program will be included in those suggestions. He pointed out that the NGO sector possesses knowledge and experience and is ready to work in coordination with the government on DRR. Mr. Thapa explained that a multi-stakeholder platform like PPDRR would be contributory in this collaboration. He commended the insurance scheme provided by the province, expressed gratitude to all participants for their presence, and officially concluded the program.

DPNet and FAO Deliver Hermetic Bags to Jajarkot



29 November 2023, DPNepal, with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), delivered 20,000 hermetic bags to the District Administrative Office (DAO) Jajarkot. The DPNepal Team in Jajarkot handed over the bags to Mr. Hira Lal Acharya, Assistant CDO of Rukum East, currently serving as the Coordinator of the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) in Jajarkot in the presence of government authorities and security personnel.

Mr. Hira Lal Acharya briefed the public on using hermetic bags during the handover program. He emphasized that these bags, known for their effectiveness in storing crops and seeds, will serve as a crucial preservation solution for an extended period, especially for the earthquake-affected community.

Mr. Acharya further outlined the distribution plan, stating that the DDMC will facilitate the distribution of hermetic bags to earthquake-affected farmers in the Jajarkot district through local government channels. The distribution will take place through all ward offices, ensuring accessibility to the public. Finally, He expressed gratitude to DPNepal and FAO for their assistance and expressed a desire for continued collaboration in the future.

DPNet and FAO Deliver Hermetic Bags to Rukum West



On December 1, 2023, DPNet, with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), facilitated the delivery of 20,000 hermetic bags to the District Administrative Office (DAO) in Rukum West. In the presence of Mr. Hira

Singh Thapa, Coordinator of DPNet Karnali Province, Hon. Sita Kumari Rana, Member of Parliament, she handed over the hermetic bags to Mr. Hari Prasad Panta, Chief District Officer (CDO) of Rukum West and Coordinator of the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) in Rukum West. Various government authorities and security personnel were also present at the program. During the handover event, Mr. Hira Singh Thapa thanked the distinguished guests for their presence. He extended thanks to FAO for providing the hermetic bags to support farmers affected by the earthquake in Rukum West. He also presented a brochure explaining the usage of hermetic bags. Hon. Sita Kumari Rana, Member of Parliament, expressed appreciation to DPNet and FAO for their initiative in distributing hermetic bags. She emphasized that these bags, known for their effectiveness in storing crops and seeds, would serve as a vital preservation solution for an extended period, especially benefiting earthquake-affected farmers.

Mr. Hari Prasad Panta, CDO of Rukum West, outlined the distribution plan, stating that the DDMC would facilitate the distribution of hermetic bags to earthquake-affected farmers in the Rukum West district through local government channels at the earliest possible time. He thanked DPNet and FAO for their support and requested similar collaboration in the future.

Interaction Program on Online Resource Center and Virtual DRR Platform

On December 5, 2023, DPNet Nepal, in collaboration with USAID Tayar Nepal, organized an interaction program focusing on the Online Resource Center (ORC) and Virtual Disaster Risk Reduction Platform (VDRR). Mr.



Surya Bahadur Thapa, DPNet Chair, presided over the event. Among the distinguished guests were Mr. Kedar Neupane, Former Secretary at the Government of Nepal, Mr. Khem Raj Paudel, Section Officer from NDRRMA, and Ms. Krishna Karkee, Disaster Preparedness and Response Specialist from USAID Tayar Nepal. Additionally, past chairs, advisors of DPNet, and representatives of agencies actively involved in DRR were present.

Mr. Kshitiz Paudel, Program Coordinator at DPNet Nepal, commenced the event with a warm welcome to distinguished guests and participants, providing a brief highlight of the program.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa offered insightful remarks during the program overview, underscoring the importance of the ORC and VDRR in promoting awareness and knowledge exchange about DRR among the audience. He traced the evolution of the ORC from its initial state to its current state, with various modifications emphasizing its effectiveness in disseminating the information. Mr. Thapa advocated for the establishment of an internal monitoring mechanism within DPNet to enhance the documentation and overall effectiveness of the ORC. He further explained that the program aimed to provide recent updates to the ORC, with a focus on planning a way forward. The objective of the program is to offer suggestions and recommendations for further improving these two essential platforms for DRR, with an emphasis on strengthening the repository with relevant and robust resources that will enhance the ORC's ability to fulfill its purpose in the field of DRR.

Dr. Raju Thapa, Vice-Chair of DPNet, explained the origins and purpose of the ORC, emphasizing its role as a centralized repository for scattered documents on DRR. He highlighted the user-friendly design of the ORC, aimed at providing easy access for stakeholders and interested individuals through search engines and DPNet website search features. Dr. Thapa underscored the ORC's proactive approach in preventing document duplication and ensuring transparency in DRRM efforts. Additionally, he emphasized the ORC's significance as a platform for documenting expert research in DRR, catering to academic needs. He highlighted that documents are meticulously classified under relevant categories and sub-categories, accompanied by well-articulated summaries and publisher information, offering a comprehensive overview for users.

Dr. Thapa also highlighted the effectiveness of the VDRR platform, initiated to discuss contextual DRR issues. He noted that relevant and useful reflections from these discussions are documented and recommended to the concerned authorities to enhance DRRM practice. Dr. Thapa specifically pointed out a recent discourse on Lessons from the Jajarkot Earthquake Response and Strategies for Effective Post-Earthquake Reconstruction, noting substantial engagement and the surfacing of critical issues that had not been previously addressed. According to Dr. Thapa, one major concern highlighted during the

current virtual discussion was the revelation that numerous homes were constructed on land with ownership certificates issued by the former Maoist Parallel Government whereas the Supreme Court invalidated these certificates, creating a dilemma for residents holding "Janabadi" land certificates who experienced earthquake damage. Dr. Thapa stressed the need for government attention and resolution before proceeding with reconstruction efforts and other initiatives.

Furthermore, Dr. Thapa highlighted the newly initiated complaint hearing mechanism by DPNet, aimed at establishing a trend of listening to complaints and obtaining feedback regarding activities in humanitarian sectors to increase the accountability of humanitarian actors and agencies. He clarified that suggestions and feedback received through the complaint box are kept anonymous and forwarded to the concerned bodies as a reference for improvement in lagging areas.

Mr. Bijay Rai, Technical Consultant at DPNet, shared a comprehensive presentation on the ORC and VDRR of DPNet Nepal. He introduced the ORC as a web-based centralized hub dedicated to collecting and organizing diverse information on disaster management. He explained that the ORC aims to provide easy and spontaneous access to a wide array of resources, fostering efficient information gathering with the objectives of facilitating knowledge sharing, ensuring timely dissemination of critical information during disasters, and supporting research initiatives.

Mr. Rai highlighted the user-friendly features of the ORC, such as document titles in both English and Nepali, web accessibility functions for persons with visual impairment, and easy navigation panels. Each document includes articulated summaries, facilitating quick identification of relevant content. He shared that currently, the platform hosts over 1400 documents under segregated categories.

Mr. Rai further discussed the VDRR platform, emphasizing its role as a discussion forum dedicated to DRRM. He shared that the platform facilitates collaboration among stakeholders through categorized discussions. Mr. Rai shared the platform's transformation, enabling anonymous comments for user comfort and openness. He highlighted that discussions cover various topics related to disaster and climate change, harnessing the collaborative power of stakeholders. Mr. Rai also touched upon the DPNet complaint box, designed to gather suggestions and feedback about humanitarian actor agencies' performance and accountability. Looking ahead, Mr. Rai outlined potential advancements for the ORC, including better web accessibility, search engine optimization, regular updates, and user-focused evaluation. For the VDRR platform, he proposed community building through targeted discussions, internationalization efforts, and user training programs. He further shared that a mobile application could enhance accessibility and foster a sustainable community, ensuring valuable insights continue to shape effective disaster risk reduction strategies.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa provided a short reflection of the presentation and announced the opening of the floor for discussion and welcomed ideas, and feedback for making the ORC and VDRR more impactful and effective.

Open Floor Discussion:

Mr. Man Bahadur Thapa, Advisor at DPNet Nepal, raised a query regarding the availability of disaster databases and stressed the importance of collecting relevant databases in the DPNet ORC from reliable sources. Acknowledging that Nepal lacks robust database systems to support such platforms, there are concerns about the sustainability and reliability of the resources. Additionally, he commended the DPNet team for setting up a complaint box and suggested improving the mechanism to effectively respond to the suggestions, recommendations, and complaints received.

Mr. Pitambar Aryal, Former Chair and Advisor at DPNet Nepal raised inquiries regarding the process of collecting documents and information. He expressed concerns about the authenticity, legal issues, and reliability of the research paper on ORC. Mr. Aryal suggested a collaboration with academic institutions and universities to include significant PhD theses, Master's theses, and research papers in the ORC, considering the challenges the general public faces in obtaining such resources. Additionally, he recommended hosting regular discussions on specific themes to expand user outreach and increase the impact of raising awareness on DRR. Mr. Aryal emphasized the need for a responsive mechanism for problem-solving instead of merely accumulating complaints and suggestions. He proposed mobilizing technical human resources, including engineers and geotechnical experts, to address technical queries within the response mechanism. Concerning the VDRR, Mr. Aryal discussed the necessity for a moderator overview of comments during discussions to ensure a more focus-oriented dialogue. Expressing sustainability concerns, he questioned the long-term maintenance impact of the platforms established by DPNet.

Mr. Shyam Sundar Jnavaly, Advisor at DPNet Nepal, congratulated DPNet for its significant progress in the DRRM arena, reflecting on his experience of establishing the DPNet website in 2004 A.D. and its subsequent development in 2009 A.D. He emphasized the importance of finding ways to enhance community access to documents and resources. Mr. Jnavaly suggested linking social media platforms to disseminate information about DPNet's resource center and VDRR. He explained that this approach would not only engage those familiar with DPNet and DRR actors but also enable the general public to actively participate in and contribute to improved DRRM practices. He also proposed establishing a linking mechanism for resources uploaded elsewhere to minimize document and data duplication. Furthermore, Mr. Jnavaly inquired about the existence of a mechanism allowing users to

upload documents after certain verifications, thereby expanding the platform's public reach and increasing the availability of valuable resources. He sought information on the audio-visual depository mechanism, particularly how DPNet's YouTube channel is linked with the ORC platform. Regarding the DPNet complaint box, he underscored the importance of maintaining the confidentiality and privacy of sensitive information shared by users, emphasizing the need to address this aspect from a legal viewpoint.

Mr. Ram Chandra Neupane, Former Chair and Advisor at DPNet Nepal commended DPNet for the launch of the ORC as a repository for DRR-related documents. He underscored the importance of broadening community engagement in DRR discussions on the VDRR platform by integrating it with popular social media channels. Additionally, he advocated for addressing pertinent topics such as the one-door policy in DRR. Mr. Neupane emphasized the need for a user-driven document upload mechanism, along with a monitored filtering and verification system to prevent duplication and misinformation. Regarding the complaint box, he suggested implementing a lesson learned and action model to enhance the effectiveness of DRRM practices.

Ms. Krishna Karkee, Disaster Preparedness and Response Specialist from USAID Tayar Nepal commended DPNet for initiating the preparation and dissemination of situation reports for disasters. She advised integrating disaggregated data for those affected, considering factors such as gender, minorities, and other marginalized groups, as a reference for intervention efforts through the ORC. Ms. Karkee stressed the importance of adopting a 'do no harm' policy and encouraged the upload of refined, grammatically correct documents to prevent the haphazard collection of information.

Additionally, Ms. Karkee emphasized the necessity of designing a complaint mechanism that allows for anonymous postings of complaints, suggestions, and recommendations to safeguard user privacy. While acknowledging that governmental and non-governmental organizations already have their complaint mechanisms, she suggested focusing efforts on advocacy to ensure accountability within these existing entities which will in turn strengthen the mechanisms already in place, promoting efficiency and collaboration in addressing concerns and improving DRRM practices.

Ms. Santona Devkota KC, Vice President of the National Campaign for Education Nepal, raised concerns regarding the popularity and public reach of the platforms, emphasizing the crucial need to assess their sustainability and user-friendliness. She highlighted the importance of consistently organizing discussions on disaster and climate-related topics on the VDRR platform to guarantee a lasting impact.

Ms. Sarita Karki from NDRC emphasized the importance of categorizing discussion topics appropriately to facilitate structured discussions related to the VDRR platform. She also highlighted the significance of conveying the outcomes of these discussions as feedback to the relevant stakeholders for further improvement.

Prof. Dr. Hari Darshan Shrestha, Advisor at DPNet, raised concerns about the response mechanism and expertise reflection for future actions, drawing on suggestions and recommendations derived from discussions on the VDRR platform. He highlighted the critical need to assess website capacity and emphasized the importance of disseminating resources on a source-linking basis. Prof. Shrestha also stressed the importance of accountability within the ORC. Additionally, he underscored the necessity of reflecting on the relevance of the complaint mechanism and considering ethical limitations. Furthermore, Prof. Shrestha emphasized the idea of opening the VDRR platform to other stakeholders, allowing them to facilitate their discussions and contribute to the platform.

Mr. Dambar Bista from NRCS emphasized the need for maintaining quality assurance and making efforts to increase accessibility throughout all the platforms to ensure the inclusion and voice of marginalized groups are heard.

Mr. Dayasagar Shrestha from DiMaNN raised inquiries regarding the sustainability plans for the ORC. He underscored the importance of establishing a separate guiding team dedicated to the ORC to ensure its effective management and development. Mr. Shrestha further proposed implementing a voluntary self-uploading mechanism in the ORC to enhance efficiency and encourage resource contributions. Additionally, he emphasized the need to increase the frequency of discussions on the VDRR platform. These suggestions are aimed at strengthening the overall impact and functionality of both platforms within the context of DRRM.

Mr. Khem Raj Paudel from NDRRMA emphasized identifying the target audience for the ORC and VDRR. He highlighted the necessity of disseminating information to individuals unaware of DRR efforts, emphasizing its significance to effectively raise awareness and improve digital literacy. Additionally, Mr. Paudel stressed the importance of ensuring that platforms like the ORC remain active even after the conclusion of specific projects. Regarding the complaint box, he recommended restricting it to issues solvable by DPNet to maintain ethical standards and prevent potential conflicts. According to him, these considerations are aimed at enhancing the impact and sustainability of platforms while adhering to ethical guidelines.

Dr. Raju Thapa provided insights into the question raised during the discussion concerning the ORC, emphasizing its web-based design for sustainability and a user-friendly interface. He underscored the

importance of the complaint box in ensuring accountability for humanitarian field workers, particularly those in public-facing roles while maintaining the privacy of users utilizing this feature.

Furthermore, Dr. Thapa outlined the purpose of discussions on the VDRR platform, which involves collecting recommendations, documenting them, and forwarding them to relevant authorities, similar to the process during the CHS global revision. In terms of outreach, DPNet has a database of 19,500 DRR localization graduates at the local level, continuing to provide vital information to these trained personnel. Dr. Thapa expressed confidence in the ORC's ability to sustain itself even without specific projects through effective internal management within DPNet. Regarding the linking of resources collected from various areas, he shared that solely including links may pose a problem if the links related to other websites become unavailable or disrupted.

Mr. Bijay Rai addressed the concerns and queries raised by participants during the discussion. He clarified that voluntary uploading of documents is not implemented to prevent potential verification issues, as it might require additional human resources for shortlisting and verifying documents. Regarding the linking mechanism, Mr. Rai suggested the formation and utilization of server drivers. Furthermore, he explained that audio-visual resources are uploaded on the YouTube channel of DPNet and linked on the ORC to conserve ORC web space for richer document resources.

Mr. Kedar Neupane, Former Secretary of Government of Nepal and Advisor of DPNet highlighted the significance of the ORC and the VDRR platform, acknowledging them as remarkable initiatives by DPNet with a substantial impact on DRR efforts. He stressed the importance of efforts directed toward ensuring the authenticity of uploaded documents and resources, underlining the need to reflect the broad scope of DPNet. Additionally, Mr. Neupane emphasized the significance of consensus-building, emphasizing collaborative efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and reach of these platforms within the context of DRR initiatives.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Program Chair, concluded the session by providing insights into the transformative history of the DPNet ORC and VDRR platforms over time. Looking ahead, he, on behalf of the DPNet team, committed to reviewing the existing complaint box mechanism, linking social media with the VDRR platform, and exploring avenues to connect academic documents related to DRR through collaboration with universities.

Participatory Review and Reflection Workshop of SUDRIDH Project



On December 5, 2023, DPNet Nepal, in collaboration with USAID Tayar Nepal, organized the Participatory Review and Reflection Workshop of the SUDRIDH Project chaired by Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet, the event featured discussions led by Mr. Kshitiz Paudel, Program Coordinator at DPNet, who highlighted the project's phases and learnings. Ms. Sujata Chhetri Pandey, Sr. Admin/Finance at DPNet, covered the financial aspects of the project. Notable guests included Mr. Kedar Neupane, Former Secretary of the Government of Nepal, Mr. Jaya Narayan Acharya, Joint Secretary from NDRRMA, Mr. Rishi Raj Acharya, Under Secretary from MoFAGA, Mr. Dhruva Khadka, Under Secretary from NDRRMA, Ms. Bandana Kumari K.C., Under Secretary from MoHA, and Ms. Krishna Karkee, Disaster Preparedness and Response Specialist from USAID Tayar Nepal, among others. Additionally, past chairs, advisors of DPNet, and representatives of agencies actively involved in DRR attended the event.

Mr. Kshitiz Paudel started the event with a brief highlight of the program, to discuss the learning throughout the phases of the project and look forward to a future pathway and handed over to the DPNet Vice-chair who highlighted the SUDRIDH project in brief and its impact.

Dr. Raju Thapa, Vice-Chair, DPNet Nepal highlighted the fact that USAID Tayar Nepal's collaboration has become very fruitful over the period. He emphasized that the SUDRIDH Project stands out as one of the most significant undertakings in the history of DPNet Nepal. He underscored the remarkable activities conducted during the project period, namely; National Level Policy Dialogues for Policy Advocacy and Implementation, the Provincial Level Policy Dialogue and Learning/Sharing for Implementing and Strengthening DRR Policies and Strategies, and the National Conference on DRR to share good practices and lessons learned for exploring a way forward for plans and policies on DRR, this year 2023 marking the mid-term of SFDRR. Another important activity conducted was making progress on the two major online platforms of DPNet ORC and VDRR. He shared that the ORC is the complete depository of scattered materials and the VDRR is the digital platform for raising and discussing contextual issues. From the discussion of ORC and VDRR sessions, it can be concluded that the main challenge is to maintain the sustainability of this portal even with or without a project. He also acknowledged that even though DPNet is an umbrella organization for several organizations working in the field of DRR, it does not possess the mechanism to participate in competitive processes to seek and undertake the project.

Dr. Thapa proceeded to highlight the initiation taken by DPNet in preparing situation reports of the recent earthquakes in Jajarkot and Bajhang that have aided in assessing the factual condition and needs of the people of those regions making it easier to the response efforts. He shared that DPNet, in collaboration with AIN, has developed a comprehensive spreadsheet containing 5W questions to streamline relief distribution in the Jajarkot Earthquake. DPNet is actively coordinating the collection of relevant information from various organizations through a Google spreadsheet. He also proposed a prospect for the interested organizations to work collaboratively on data collection to avoid duplication and ensure appropriate activities.

Mr. Kshitiz Paudel, Program Coordinator, DPNet Nepal shared his presentation titled "SUDRIDH Project: Learning from Program Execution". He started his presentation with a brief introduction to the SUDRIDH Project, its inception on the 15th of March 2023. He proceeded to share the activities conducted at the National and Provincial levels along with the learnings made throughout the project execution.

He highlighted the initiatives discussed during various policy dialogues and events. Key points include the identified gap in the accessibility of EWS among marginalized groups, with efforts made by DPNet and NAST to address this issue. The importance of private sector engagement in DRR was emphasized, leading to DPNet's plans for a collaborative approach and activities like Member Engagement and Business Continuity Plans. Challenges and progress in Market System Resilience, risk transfer and

financing, and multi-level disaster risk governance were also discussed. The engagement of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, and the private sector involvement was highlighted as essential for effective DRR practices. The involvement of governmental authorities in provincial events, along with insights from NCDRR, underscored the importance of collaborative efforts and knowledge-sharing platforms facilitated by DPNet.

Mr. Paudel shared insights gathered from events conducted in three provinces. From the learnings of Bagmati Province, he shared learnings to bolster disaster resilience and focus on implementing and reinforcing existing policies at provincial and local levels, with regular reviews and updates to address evolving challenges. He emphasized the need to foster collaboration among federal, provincial, and local governments for a cohesive approach to DRR, establishing mechanisms for seamless data management through government-private cooperation. Priority should be given to preparedness alongside rescue operations, conducting regular mock drills to enhance community readiness. He underscored the necessity of integrated disaster risk reduction with overall development initiatives for sustainability. Enforce building bylaws and codes, especially in earthquake-prone regions. In Bagmati Province, establishing a multi-stakeholder PPDRR to facilitate collaboration, prioritize risk mapping to identify vulnerable areas strategically, and encourage agencies to allocate funds for risk reduction was observed. He also addressed the need for conducting extensive awareness campaigns, involving citizens in information dissemination and risk reduction.

Mr. Paudel shared the learnings gathered from the Lumbini Province as the importance of emphasizing comprehensive governance, the presentation highlighted the effectiveness of acts, policies, and follow-ups for provincial disaster risk reduction. It raises concerns about the Chure Region, advocating measures for wetland and forest conservation. He highlighted the importance of community engagement in DRR with recommendations for local language awareness. The presentation emphasized the use of indigenous technology like bamboo embankments and advocates integrating foreign advancements while preserving local knowledge for effective risk reduction. The learning from Lumbini province also drew suggestions of allocating funds for pre-disaster preparedness to enhance proactive measures and reduce post-disaster impact.

From the learnings collected from Karnali Province, Mr. Paudel stressed the need to address challenges like data duplication and change over time, emphasizing proper data management and affected community identification. He advocated for integrating development efforts with DRR, efficient resource utilization, adoption of enhanced technology, and capacity building for technocrats. He recommended the establishment of a multi-stakeholder PPDRR in Karnali Province for effective collaboration. He emphasized the need for a clear and comprehensive explanation of the one-door

policy among stakeholders, calling for focused efforts on capacity building and reconstruction planning. He also highlighted the crucial need for effective collaboration between the government and non-government sectors, recognizing and supporting the efforts of NGOs. Identifying challenges faced by the provincial government in fund allocation, decision-making processes, and administrative complications post-Jajarkot earthquake, he stressed working on that. The need to train and sensitize provincial parliament members and build capacities for local government and communities' post-recent disasters was also realized.

Ms. Sujata Chhetri Pandey, Senior Admin and Finance Officer, DPNet Nepal shared her presentation titled "SUDRIDH Project: Financial Aspects". She provided an overview of the finances of the SUDRIDH Project beginning from the agreed budget of 80,45,166 (100%), allocating 20% for each of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd milestones, 25% for the 4th milestone, and 15% for the 5th milestone. Ms. Pandey further segregated the amounts based on the budget received to date and the budget yet to be claimed. The received amounts were 16,09,033 for each of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd milestones, while the yet-to-claim amounts included 20,11,291 for the 4th milestone and 12,06,776 for the 5th milestone. She presented a bar graph illustrating the budget breakdown for various events as 8 events from Activity 1.1; 3 events at the provincial level from Activity 1.2; 2 events from Activity 1.3; 3 events on field-level mentoring from Activity 1.4; National Conference and ORC and VDRR platform along with encompassing HR and management costs, as well as indirect costs. Ms. Pandey also clarified that the overhead budget covered additional expenses, such as the SWC approval cost, the purchase of a hard drive, and other indirect expenses.

Open Floor Discussion:

Mr. Kedar Neupane, Former Secretary of the Government of Nepal shared his insights from the observation and learning from his visit to the provinces that the practical assistance hasn't been established sufficiently. The trend of just distributing relief materials via donations has been seen rather than utilizing the resources for preparedness efforts. He also highlighted the gaps lying on the implementation and practice of existing legal provisions and emphasized the need to work on that rather than just adding up on the pile of acts and policies. He further moved to urge the concerned stakeholders to practice accountability regarding risk reduction and planning via risk mapping.

Mr. Neupane commended the initiation taken for sensitization and training and recommended focusing more on that with joint efforts of concerned bodies. He put forward a prospect for the non-government organizations to bridge between the government and community people at the grassroots level for enhanced intervention. He also attempted to stress the role of the provincial government to commit to

appropriate fund mobilization for preparedness and pre-disaster efforts to minimize the casualty rate rather than post-disaster relief and response.

Mr. Ram Chandra Neupane emphasized the need to segregate roles and responsibilities of the authorities as per the Ministerial guidelines based on the type and intensities of disasters rather than haphazardly using larger resources for response even during minor incidents to minimize duplication to enhance appropriate disaster management practice.

Ms. Chetana Lokhsun, Technical Advisor, DPNet Nepal highlighted the importance of working vigorously on the pre-disaster stage with a capacity-building framework on disaster-related issues mainstreaming the ETRR guideline by WHO. She also highlighted the need to incorporate psychosocial counseling in all the phases of disaster management. She urged DPNet to work on capacity enhancement for better advocacy practices.

Mr. Dambar Bista, Program Coordinator, NRCS highlighted the fact that the findings and learnings made at the provincial level by DPNet align also at the local level. He shared experiences regarding unresponsiveness and the lack of accountability of the authorities at the local level and tried to reflect the measures to create a linkage among the levels of government for enhanced preparedness.

Ms. Bandana Kumari K.C., Undersecretary, MoHA mentioned that this is her first program since her appointment as the Chief of the Disaster Study, Risk Reduction, and Recovery Section at MoHA. She appreciated the good practices by different agencies highlighted during the presentation and emphasized the importance of sharing such good practices among organizations. She expressed that with her experience of working under various departments, she will now continue to work on the disaster management division and hopes for cooperation from others in the future.

Mr. Dhruba Khadka, Under Secretary at NDRRMA, underscored the significance of prioritizing risk reduction initiatives over temporary solutions such as post-disaster relief distribution. He emphasized that, unless there is heightened awareness and sensitization among the populace, policy formulation alone won't yield a substantial impact, as implementation is likely to lag. On behalf of NDRRMA, he expressed a commitment to collaboration in disaster risk reduction efforts, stressing the continuous readiness of the Authority. Mr. Khadka emphasized the imperative for increased advocacy and sensitization, citing lessons learned from the 2015 earthquake that revealed critical gaps requiring attention. He expressed confidence in DPNet's capacity to lead such advocacy, given its track record of voluntary contributions and resource limitations, as demonstrated in the SUDRIDH project. He highlighted the importance of leveraging NDRRMA's web portals, such as Godam, Bipad Portal, and volunteer management systems, for effective data and information dissemination. Mr. Khadka

suggested that collaborative efforts, such as the implementation of initiatives like EWS for All, can enhance overall risk preparedness and reduction practices. Additionally, he stressed the effectiveness of incorporating indigenous knowledge and local-level land use plans into resilient construction practices, considering environmental and land designation considerations.

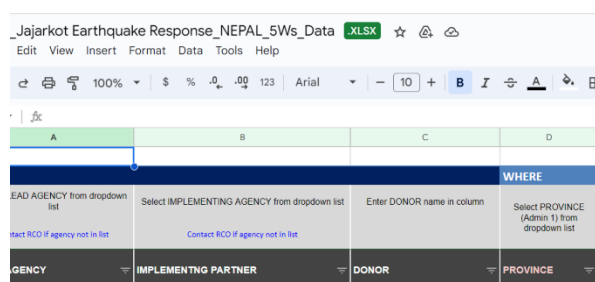
Mr. Rishiraj Acharya, Under Secretary, MoFAGA congratulated DPNet for its legacy and for making a larger impact utilizing limited resources and voluntary contributions in the field of policy advocacy, networking, and knowledge sharing to sensitize people regarding disaster matters. He attempted to reflect on the learnings shared by Mr. Paudel and emphasized the need for localization and mobilization of the good practices in the local level DRR arena. He praised the contribution of scientific research and studies and underlined the need for collaboration among different sectors to bring the best out of the learnings made so far. He further highlighted the NPDRR localization efforts and shared readiness to coordinate and collaborate at the provincial level by forming PPDRR.

Mr. Jaya Narayan Acharya, Joint Secretary of NDRRMA, underscored the challenge faced by Nepal in establishing a balanced relationship among disaster management, development, and preparedness. He noted the existing gap in basic awareness and sensitization among stakeholders and the general public. Mr. Acharya emphasized the crucial need to integrate and mainstream indigenous knowledge and practices resilient to disasters. He commended DPNet's efforts in DRRM, acknowledging their meaningful contributions through the SUDRIDH project, despite budget constraints.

Mr. Acharya stressed the importance of activities such as risk mapping, retrofitting of existing buildings, and strengthening governance mechanisms to proactively mitigate the impact of impending disasters. He recognized that while disasters cannot be entirely prevented, collaborative efforts between the government and non-government sectors at the local level are essential to minimize the risks associated with disasters which will support governmental initiatives in the broader context of DRRM.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Program Chair thanked the participants for their valuable presence and inputs at the session summarized the discussions, and committed on behalf of DPNet to make efforts on policy advocacy and capacity building as per the recommendations received during the discussion. Highlighting the role of DPNet in the formulation of the DRR Act in Nepal, he highlighted the importance of understanding the community's needs while designing the legal provisions. He emphasized the need to work on enhancing safety during disasters and pre-disaster sensitization simulation rather than post-rescue and relief. With this, he gave the vote of thanks to all the distinguished guest and attendees and announced the end of the program.

Building Consensus for Standardized Relief Data Collection Form



On December 12, DPNet conducted the discussion program to review the existing relief data collection form. The session was facilitated by Dr. Raju Thapa and coordinated by the former Secretary, Mr. Kedar Neupane. This gathering is an important step in our ongoing project to develop consensus among government stakeholders for forming and implementing a standardized method for gathering information about relief materials, in line with the 5W approach.

Mr. Kedar Neupane emphasized the urgent need to streamline the relief data collection process, particularly in response to the Jajarkot earthquake. He pointed out the current inefficiencies caused by the diverse forms used by different agencies, including the HEOC, AIN, MoIAL, DAO, and various local government entities. We aim to simplify this procedure, thereby minimizing redundancy and the time humanitarian workers spend completing these forms.

Mr. Suresh Sunar, Chief District Officer of Jajarkot District noted the challenges faced by the DAO in tracking the activities of different groups. Since November 27, humanitarian agencies have been asked to fill out a 4W form, and from today, we are actively updating our data and reaching out to organizations like CARITAS, IOM, UNDP and DPNet for updates. However, we often receive inquiries from government officials and humanitarian agencies in Kathmandu and other provinces regarding who is doing what, where, and when, along with the details of materials provided, existing gaps, and stock requirements. Unfortunately, due to the lack of centralized data, responding to these queries is difficult. The necessity for a unified form is important, as it would significantly reduce the time and effort spent by those engaged in humanitarian efforts on filling out multiple forms.

The Assistant CDO of Rukum West expressed similar concerns, highlighting the lack of a system to report on activities and needs. This unified form, if successfully implemented in our response to this earthquake, could serve as a model for future disaster responses.

Mr. Dhurba Bahadur Khadka, the Spokesperson of NDRRMA, also acknowledged the critical need for such a form. NDRRMA is considering this proposal and suggests that DPNet review the existing forms used by different agencies and develop a concise, informative, and user-friendly single form on Google Sheets. Following this, we can convene with relevant stakeholders to finalize the form, which NDRRMA plans to incorporate as an annex to the relief standard and enforce legally.

Role, Opportunities and Gaps of Provincial Government on DRR and Humanitarian Initiatives



On December 17, 2023, DPNepal Nepal supported by Mercy Corps Nepal, organized an online discussion on “Development Partners' Possible Contribution to Provincial DRR Initiatives” to discuss the probable areas of contribution and partnership of the development agencies in the provincial DRR initiatives.

The discussion session was chaired by Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DPNepal which was attended by Mr. Kedar Neupane, Former Secretary of Government of Nepal and Advisor of DPNepal Nepal, Dr. Raju Thapa, Vice-Chair, DPNepal, and all Provincial Government's Secretaries from Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law (MoIAL), Ministry of Home, Communication and Law (MoHCL) and Ministry of Home Affairs. The discussion focused on the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2017 which outlined the extensive responsibilities of the Provincial Government in various domains and brought to light the possibilities of developmental partners' collaboration.

It also highlighted the need for a coordinated approach at provincial levels integrating efforts with federal strategies and emphasized the potential for Development Partners (DPs) to assist in areas such as humanitarian support, capacity building, SWOT analysis, and addressing seismic vulnerabilities, particularly in Eastern and Western Nepal.

The session revealed a consensus on the necessity for enhanced collaboration in DRR initiatives. Provincial representatives, including Mr. Sushil Baidya of Sudurpaschim Province and Mr. Krishna Bahadur Rokaya of Karnali Province, shared insights into their ongoing efforts and challenges, stressing the importance of authentic data management, resource mobilization, and the establishment of effective early warning systems.

They emphasized the need for DPs to support provincial efforts in areas like disaster preparedness, humanitarian response improvement, and resource gap analysis. The discussion also brought to light the importance of indigenous knowledge and practices in disaster management, the need for establishing a centralized entity for coordination, and the vital role of DPs in areas like funding for disaster risk insurance and disaster data management.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of multi-sectoral participation and the establishment of Provincial Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction (PPDRR) following the UNDRR guidelines. Participants agreed on a comprehensive approach, involving all tiers of government and development partners, to enhance DRR capabilities at the provincial level. The discussion set the stage for a more integrated and collaborative approach to disaster risk management in Nepal, with development partners playing a crucial role in bridging gaps and building resilience at the provincial level.

Formation of DPNet Province Level Committee in Madhesh Province

On December 21, 2023, DPNet Nepal organized a meeting in Bardibas, Mahottari of Madhesh Province, to establish the DPNet Province Level Committee in Madhesh Province. The meeting, attended by DPNet members from Madhesh Province, was chaired by Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, the Chair of DPNet, with Mr. Harshaman Maharjan, Deputy General Secretary of DPNet Central Committee, attending as the guest for the program.



During the meeting, Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa explained the organizational structures and activities of DPNet to the participants. He highlighted DPNet's essential role as the National Platform for DRR secretariat at the federal level. Emphasizing the need for collaboration among Madhesh Province members, Mr. Thapa stressed the importance of strengthening disaster risk reduction and management within the province.

Following a constructive discussion and the members' commitment to collective efforts, the Province Level Committee in Madhesh Province was formed. The appointed positions include Mr. Nagdev Yadav, CDAFN as Coordinator, Mr. Om Prakash Thakar, Dalit Janjati Utthan Kendra as Co-coordinator, Mr. Dev Bilash Yadav, PN Nepal as Secretary, Ms. Jamuna Pokharel, RYC as Vice-Secretary, Mr. Nagendra Sah, Unnat Nepal as Treasurer, and Mr. Suraj Pandit, Arundaya Yuwa Club, Mr. Bijay Sah, NCDMC, Mr. Saroj Kumar Yadav, NCDC, Ms. Manju Kumari Yadav, SDRC, Ms. Sima Koirala, Rural Women Upliftment Sarlahi, and Mr. Sukdev Chaudary, KVS Saptari as members.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa extended congratulations to the newly appointed coordinator and committee members, as well as all participants, commending their dedication to collaborate closely with provincial-level stakeholders to effectively enhance disaster risk reduction efforts across the Madhesh province.

Progress toward unified relief support data gathering.



On December 28th, DPNet arranged a meeting with SWC's Member Secretary, Manoj Bhatta, with attendees such as DPNet Chair Surya Bahadur Thapa, Vice Chair Dr. Raju Thapa, Kedar Neuapne, DPNet Advisor and Former Secretary of the Government of Nepal, and Dipendra Prasad DC, Secretary of the NGO Federation. The primary agenda was the development of a standardized 5W format for gathering data on relief support. DPNet presented a 5W form currently in use by DPNet, UN Agencies, AIN Members, and partner organizations to collect such data. After the presentation, Mr. Bhatta said that SWC's separate data collection format for internal compliance purpose but he expressed interest in assessing the 5W form presented by DPNet for potential integration of additional fields, aiming for a unified format. He suggested consulting NDRRMA for further insights. Subsequently, the DPNet team arranged meeting with NDRRMA officials, including a Spokesperson, who agreed to schedule a meeting on January 2nd at the NDRRMA hall. The proposed meeting aims to include representatives from MoHA, MoFAGA, UNRCO, UNDP, AIN, AINTGDM, DPNet, IFRC, NRCS, Start Fund Network, HRRP, and other pertinent stakeholders to finalize the relief support data collection form. NDRRMA aims to incorporate the relief support form as an annex to the revised version of the relief standard, providing it with legal validation.