

**Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction:
3 to 6 July 2018 -- Ulaanbataar, Mongolia
Officially Statement**

Date: 5th July 2018

Distinguished Chairperson,
Honorable Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers and Representatives of the Member States
Civil Society Leaders, Ladies and gentleman!

First of all, I would like to thank United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction for providing this opportunity to put my official statement on the very pertinent issue of DRR at '2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction'.

Nepal is exposed to multiple geo-physical and hydro-meteorological hazards, leaving its people unusually vulnerable to disasters. In fact, Nepal is considered a hot spot of natural disasters and is ranked as being at high risk from both disasters in their current form and those whose intensity is aggravated by climate change. Nepal face problem from floods and landslides every year. The Gorkha earthquake in April 2015 with 7.3 magnitude, and flood in plain land area in August 2017, were recent phenomena in Nepal which took hundreds of lives and damaged millions of properties and infrastructures. Recently, 11 people had lost their lives and 4 people injured due to flood and landslides in Dhading District west of Kathmandu.

The fragile and difficult geo-physical situation, variable climatic conditions, and complex geology are major challenge for DRR in Nepal. Moreover, the lack of coordination among agencies related to disaster management, resource constraint, the lack of technical manpower, absence of modern technology, unplanned settlement and lack of public awareness are major hurdles for effective DRR. Despite having terrible experience of disaster, there are number of non-addressed issues.

Disaster itself does not discriminate people based on their social and economic status, but it makes people vulnerable differently. Several research and studies declare that poorest and most marginalized people like Dalits (13.8% of total Population of Nepal) in Nepal are disproportionately affected by disasters. The studies done after Gorkha Earthquake in 2015 in Nepal, shows that Dalits, poor and marginalized people were discriminated and got less attention even during rescue. According to a study, about 60% Dalits felt discrimination during relief and rescue operation¹.

The DRR education among vulnerable groups is also very low, and their participation for disaster preparedness is also weak. As most of them live nearby disaster prone areas, they are at high risks. Therefore, vulnerable groups should be included in DRR as active agents of change to effectively and equitably build resilience.

Another pertinent issues is that vulnerable groups tend to be excluded from DRR decision-making, thus making them even more vulnerable to the impacts of disasters. These group of people have poor access to and control over the resources, plans and polices and hence limited say in decision making process. The existing policies have not sufficiently addressed these needs and aspirations. Promoting the integration of caste, ethnicity, gender, age, disability and cultural perspectives are rarely incorporated into DRR programs and policies.

The landlessness is an acute problem among Dalits and marginalized people. Due to landlessness, they are also unable to get citizenship certificates. Without citizenship certificate, they become unable to get rehabilitation and other humanitarian services from the agencies.

Partnership with non-government organizations and private sectors for DRR action is also vital. The possible strengths of such partnership has not been fully recognized and utilized.

Therefore, I would like to urge to governments to be addressed access of resources and prioritize of vulnerability of victims of disaster.

Thank you for your attention,

.....

Mr. Trilok Chand Vishwas V. K.
National President of Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NNDSWO)
Bakhundol, Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Nepal

Some Fact on Disaster of Nepal:

Nepal is highly prone to disasters such as floods, landslides, fires, extreme weather events and earthquakes. Nepal has been facing emergency situation after the Earthquakes of 25th April 2015. The devastating earthquake with a magnitude of 7.9 with its epicenter in Barpak village of Gorkha district and hundreds of after-shocks killed and injured thousands of people, and millions of populations are displaced from their settlements. The disaster destroyed the entire villages in different parts of Nepal. The most affected districts are Gorkha, Dhading, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Sindhuli, Okhaldhunga, Makwanpur, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur and many other districts. The earthquake was not only displaced the settlements but as well destroyed the ancient monuments and heritage of Nepal which were enlisted in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. There had been continued aftershocks occurred throughout Nepal which also has devastating effects and the created a stage of fear amongst the people. The Nepal earthquake killed nearly 9,000 people and injured nearly 22,000. Many of the people were undergone psychological pressures and trauma, and the children were not able to recover from the fear of aftershocks. Social infrastructures like schools and hospitals were also destroyed. Due to the size of the disaster, it is almost impossible to respond by the state alone. National and international government official were engaged in rescue and relief.

The Terai region of Nepal is always at risk of floods during the summer season. As usual, there was heavy rainfall in Terai belt on 2nd week of August i.e. on 11th August, 2017 and consequently affected almost 35 out of 75 districts of Nepal, causing huge floods across Terai and landslides in different hilly districts. According to the official records of Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), flood and landslide caused the deaths of 143 people, 30 missing and 43 injured. Furthermore, the initial reports mentioned that almost 80,000 houses were completely damaged whereas 1,44,444 houses were partially damaged (Source MoHA Press Release dated 20th August). From this devastation, there was urgent need of humanitarian assistance from the humanitarian agencies. Emergency shelter kits complemented with kitchen utensils and WASH initiatives were the primary needs in the affected areas.