

***Notes of a Round Table Meeting
Of
Sphere Practitioners in Nepal***

Organized by DpNet-Nepal

15 May 2013

Kathmandu

On 15th of May 2013 Disaster Preparedness Network-Nepal (DPNet-Nepal) organized a Round Table Meeting of Sphere Practitioners in Nepal at Hotel Orchid, Kathmandu. The main objective of the meeting was to promote and institutionalize Sphere project in Nepal through a rigorous discussion amongst the sphere practitioners/humanitarian workers in Nepal.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Pitambar Aryal, Vice Chairperson of DpNet-Nepal. Mr. Deepak Poudel, Executive Member, DpNet-Nepal delivered welcoming remarks and highlighted the objectives of the meeting. Mr. Poudel welcoming all the guests and participants, emphasized on the promotion and institutionalization of Sphere Project in Nepal. He expressed that though DpNet-Nepal has been facilitating and coordinating some sphere related activities in Nepal but one core group is needed to institutionalize sphere in Nepal. Nineteen participants from 13 organizations attended the meeting.

Mr. Ram Chandra Neupane, General Secretary, DpNet-Nepal presented a draft guideline for Sphere Nepal. The participants provided their feedbacks; suggestions and ways forward on the needs and importance of Sphere Focal Point in Nepal.

- Most of the participants emphasized on the formation of sphere coordination group in Nepal to coordinate and facilitate different sphere related activities in collaboration of various humanitarian partners/ actors in Nepal. The sphere coordination body can communicate with Global sphere and organize various advocacy and awareness programs in Nepal to ensure the quality and accountability of humanitarian actors/workers in emergency response.
- The participants also focused on the uniformity and harmonization on the standards of Government and humanitarian partners. The consent and endorsement of government is essential on the standards developed by humanitarian partners or on the standards of sphere project. The two standards can't exist and not practicable in one place, so the humanitarian partners need to sit with Government Authorities and decide before contextualizing the sphere standards in Nepali Community.
- Participants also highlighted that the role and responsibility of Government Authorities and other stakeholders needs to be defined in the Guideline of Coordination body in Nepal. DpNet-Nepal, being a common forum of various NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies, Government and humanitarian agencies can coordinate and facilitate the Sphere Focal point in Nepal. Since the coordination body can't deny the Terms and Conditions maintained by Sphere Project in global level, it can facilitate

and operate its activities independently in close coordination with DpNet-Nepal, Government and humanitarian partners in Nepal.

- Mr. Pradip Koirala, Under Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Chief of Disaster Management Section stated that the feedbacks and suggestion made by the participants needs to be incorporated in the draft guidelines and needs to be shared to the participants before finalizing it. Government of Nepal can play a supervisory role to ensure the quality and accountability in humanitarian response.
- The meeting decided to form a Coordination committee of Sphere Practitioners in Nepal to facilitate and carry out the sphere related activities in Nepal. The initial committee was formed including the representatives from DpNet-Nepal, Red Cross Movement, UN agency, INGOs, NGOs and Individual Practitioner. The 11 member initial committee comprises the representatives from the following agencies and professional:

1. DpNet-Nepal - Mr. Ram Chandra Neupane, Coordinator
2. Red Cross Movement - Mr. Dharma Raj Pandey, Deputy Director, Nepal Red Cross Society
3. UNICEF - Ms. Rita Thapa (Alternate Name : Mr. Asim Shrestha)
4. Plan Nepal- Mr. Shyam Sundar Jnavaly
5. LWF - Mr. Gopal Dahal
6. Care- Mr. Rajesh Shriwastav
7. Oxfam- Ms. Sunita Sharma
8. NSET- Ms. Bhubaneswari Parajuli
9. Caritas- Ms. Arpana Karki
10. World Vision- Mr. Surendra Babu Dhakal
11. Mr. Daya Ram Pokharel- Professional

- The meeting also decided to hold a meeting of the initial committee soon (date not confirmed) and the committee will prepare the detail ToR and guideline for the functioning and operation of sphere related activities in Nepal. The committee will also design and organize some sphere trainings and capacity building activities with the aim of increasing awareness and capacity building of humanitarian practitioners in Nepal.

The meeting was concluded with the closing remarks of Mr. Pitambar Aryal, chair of the program. Mr. Aryal highlighted that it's a good initiation and needs to be focused on capacity building and awareness rising of humanitarian workers and other concerned stakeholders to ensure the quality and accountability in humanitarian response in Nepal.

Participants in the meeting

| S.N | Name | Organization |
|------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Mr. Pitambar Aryal | DPNet-Nepal/NRCS |
| 2. | Mr. Pradip Koirala | MoHA |
| 3. | Mr. Bamsi Acharya | MoHA |
| 4. | Ms. Bhubaniswari Parajuli | NSET |
| 5. | Mr. Ram Chandra Neupane | DPNet-Nepal |
| 6. | Mr. Rajesh Shrivastav | CARE |
| 7. | Mr. Shyam Jnavaly | Plan Nepal |
| 8. | Mr. Deepak Paudel | DPNet-Nepal |
| 9. | Mr. Gopal Dahal | LWF |
| 10. | Mr. Daya Ram Pokhrel | Professional |
| 11. | Mr. Bikram Limbu | UNICEF |
| 12. | Mr. Laxman Thapa | APF |
| 13. | Mr. Laxmi Raj Joshi | Caritas Nepal |
| 14. | Mr. Manoj Manandhar | Oxfam |
| 15. | Mr. Surendra Dhakal | World Vision |
| 16. | Mr. Tirtha Raj Joshi | NRCS |
| 17. | Mr. Safal Khatiwada | DPNet-Nepal |
| 18. | Mr. Bhesh Parajuli | DPNet-Nepal |
| 19. | Mr. Bikash Shrestha | DPNet-Nepal |