



eBulletin

NOV-DEC 2024



Summary

This quarterly report highlights DPNet Nepal's key initiatives and engagements from November to December 2024, focusing on strengthening DRR, institutional capacity, and climate resilience in Nepal. DPNet hosted its 16th General Assembly and Monsoon Review and Reflection Meeting on November 22, 2024, in Kathmandu, supported by Oxfam Nepal. The event, chaired by Dr. Raju Thapa, brought together key stakeholders, including NDRRMA's Executive Director, Mr. Anil Pokhrel, DRR experts, and representatives from government agencies, NGOs, and INGOs. Discussions focused on monsoon preparedness, financial challenges, and the need for improved DRR coordination. Recommendations emphasized strengthening early warning systems, enforcing accountability mechanisms, and enhancing disaster preparedness at the local level.

On November 24, 2024, DPNet, in collaboration with the Social Protection Civil Society Network (SPCSN), submitted recommendations on the Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) Standards 2081 to NDRRMA. Key concerns included aligning kilocalorie intake standards with Sphere guidelines, defining clear roles for different levels of governance, and ensuring inclusive communication strategies for disaster-affected communities.

A discussion on strengthening NDRRMA's institutional capacity was held on December 2, 2024, with participation from experts and former government officials. The discussions highlighted staff shortages, coordination gaps, and governance challenges within NDRRMA. Key recommendations included appointing high-level leadership, revising legal frameworks, improving financial resource mobilization, and strengthening inter-agency coordination for disaster response. In commemoration of International Human Rights Day, DPNet organized a national dialogue on December 14, 2024, focused on strengthening stakeholder roles in accessing the Loss and Damage Fund. Supported by SOSEC Nepal and various national and international partners, the event addressed Nepal's climate finance landscape, challenges in fund accessibility, and transparency issues. With 90% of Nepal's climate finance coming in the form of loans, participants emphasized the need for increased grant-based funding, regional cooperation, and stronger representation in global climate negotiations. From December 10–12, 2024, DPNet participated in the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW) in Bangkok, engaging with over 400 participants from 61 countries. DPNet representatives shared Nepal's experiences in localizing DRR solutions, anticipatory action, GEDSI integration, and post-earthquake recovery. The event reinforced the role of community-driven solutions in humanitarian response and resilience-building across the Asia-Pacific region.

The 3rd National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (NCDRR) was held on December 26–27, 2024, in Kathmandu, coordinated by DPNet in collaboration with NDRRMA. Attended by over 300 stakeholders, the conference focused on risk mapping, sustainable housing, climate-smart agriculture, and the integration of technology in DRR. Panel discussions explored inclusive approaches, inter-agency collaboration, and policy recommendations for Nepal's DRR strategy. The Home Minister reaffirmed government commitment to strengthening disaster governance and pledged continued engagement with DPNet in a monthly program like 'Disaster Dialogue with Home Minister'.

DPNet Nepal Host 16th AGM along with the Monsoon Review and Reflection Meeting



On November 22, 2024, DPNet held its 16th General Assembly along with the Monsoon Review and Reflection Meeting at Kathmandu support of Oxfam Nepal. The event was chaired by Dr. Raju Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet, and featured Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Executive Director of the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), as the Chief Guest. The program was graced by distinguished guests, including Prof. Dr. Sangita Singh (Immediate Member, NPC), along with DRR experts from various organizations working on DRR. The Special guests were Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi (Chair, NGO Federation), Ms. Tripti Rai (Country Director, OXFAM), and Mr. Santosh Dahal (HCO at UN). The program was inaugurated with the national anthem and a solemn moment of silence to honor and remember all those who lost their lives due to disasters. The Chief Guest and Special Guest marked the inauguration pouring water into a plant, symbolizing a tribute to nature.

The opening session was followed by the welcome speech of Ms. Shakti Gurung, Vice-chairperson of DPNet Nepal. Ms. Gurung extended a warm welcome to all the participants all our distinguished guests and the chief guest present. Also like to acknowledge and welcome all the dignitaries on the dais.

Objective Sharing by Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, IPP, DPNet Nepal

Mr. Thapa extended a warm welcome to all participants of DPNet's 16th General Assembly, including the Chief Guest, Mr. Anil Pokhrel and representatives from media, NGOs, INGOs, the Nepal Army, and DPNet province chairpersons. He expressed gratitude and respect for their presence, emphasizing

the significance of collective efforts in achieving DPNet's vision of a disaster-resilient Nepal. Since its establishment in 1996, DPNet has worked diligently, relying on collaboration and dedication to address the pressing challenges posed by disasters in Nepal. Despite the annual occurrence of devastating events leading to significant loss of life, gaps in disaster response remain a major concern. Mr. Thapa highlighted that while DPNet operates with limited resources and a small team of three short-term staff members, it has demonstrated remarkable efficiency and capability in managing National/International programs. However, he acknowledged that the lack of financial resources restricts the organization's potential to fully leverage its efforts. To overcome these challenges, he appealed for support to enhance DPNet's capacity and expand its impact. He also has insight into the key contributions made by DPNet, including conducting training programs at local and provincial levels to build disaster response capacity, organizing cultural events like folk song programs to foster awareness and resilience, and implementing monsoon-related initiatives such as media monitoring to gather and disseminate critical information. The address concluded with a heartfelt expression of gratitude to all stakeholders and a reaffirmation of DPNet's commitment to building a safer and more resilient Nepal through collaboration and collective action.

Mr. Suraj Gautam, General Secretary, DPNet Nepal outlined the introduction of DPNet Nepal. He illustrated that the DPNet is a national umbrella organization dedicated to enhancing disaster management in Nepal through coordination, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among national and international stakeholders. It works closely with the Government of Nepal, particularly the Ministry of Home Affairs and NDRRMA, serving as a bridge between governmental and non-governmental agencies. As the Secretariat of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR), DPNet convenes stakeholders to strengthen disaster preparedness and management. With 186 members, DPNet focuses on coordination, knowledge management, capacity building, and policy advocacy to promote effective disaster management practices in Nepal. Mr. Gautam highlighted the key activities including the integration of modern tools like ORC and Virtual DRR Platform in our website, monsoon preparedness initiatives, and weekly updates regularly being updated which ensures consistent information sharing through weekly updates on opportunities with regular communication and publication through bulletins, WhatsApp, email, and online platforms, ensuring transparency and effective information sharing. Additionally, monthly bulletins are published to keep stakeholders informed. DPNet is also enhancing media collaboration with the help of RSS (Rastriya Samachar Samiti) which brings the Monsoon overview from 2081. The organization has expanded its provincial outreach to all seven provinces and is planning to distribute laptops to enhance operational efficiency.

Collaborations with organizations like FAO further strengthen DPNet's initiatives. Looking ahead, the organization has planned to outline a roadmap for 2025 to 2030 to ensure sustainable operations and impactful programs, with plans to present these strategies to stakeholders. Provincial platforms remain pivotal to DPNet's work, and additional support is requested to strengthen these initiatives. Mr. Gautam emphasized that with gratitude for the continued support of all partners and stakeholders, DPNet remains committed to achieving its goals.

Visual Presentation on Monsoon 2024 by Mr. Krishna Adhikari, Chief Reporter, Rastriya Samachar Samiti

The presenter Mr. Krishna Adhikari delivered a visual presentation featuring videos and photographs to provide a comprehensive overview of the monsoon in 2081. The presentation highlighted various aspects of the monsoon's impact, starting with a detailed depiction of human losses suffered during this period. It also showcased news coverage published in multiple languages, aiming to reach and inform diverse audiences. The disaster situation was portrayed with visual evidence, alongside recommendations for mitigation strategies, which have been disseminated as part of awareness initiatives. Additionally, the presentation documented the loss of animals and included photographs illustrating the setbacks to developmental activities caused by the monsoon. The overall goal of the presentation was to provide a thorough understanding of the monsoon's impacts and to outline actionable steps for addressing these challenges in the future.

Mr. Govinda Kumar Jha, Meteorologist, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology

Mr. Jha addressed the challenges faced during the 2024 monsoon season and emphasized the need for future preparedness in his presentation. Speaking on behalf of the department, one of the four key branches under the Ministry of Hydrology and Meteorology, he highlighted its role in monitoring and analyzing weather patterns, disseminating weather reports across Nepal, and catering to various sectors, including agriculture and high-altitude regions. The department also provides detailed updates on lightning and other weather phenomena and has recently launched a toll-free number (1155) to improve public access to weather information. Mr. Jha outlined key weather observations for this year, noting that the monsoon season brought challenges such as heatwaves, lightning, and thunderstorms, which resulted in significant losses. Starting on June 20 and concluding on October 1, the monsoon delivered 80% rainfall across the country, with Pokhara recording the highest levels, and overall rainfall reaching 120% of the annual average. The department had accurately forecasted the monsoon patterns on Baisakh 31 (mid-May). During extreme weather events, red alerts and special bulletins

were issued to NGOs and media outlets to enhance public awareness. He also discussed several challenges and gaps faced by the department. Technological limitations, such as outdated database systems and non-functional software, hinder accurate forecasting. Human resource constraints, exacerbated by budget limitations, impact the department's ability to handle calls and expand its workforce despite the introduction of the toll-free number. Miscommunication by the media, including sensational headlines that caused unnecessary panic, was another concern, with a call for responsible reporting to avoid public alarm. Finally, the increasing frequency and complexity of climate change incidents add challenges to the department's research and forecasting capabilities. Through this discussion, Jha aimed to provide a clear understanding of the monsoon's challenges while emphasizing the need for improved resources, responsible communication, and enhanced preparedness to address future weather-related events effectively.

Ram Prasad Bhandari, DPNet Technical Advisor, and CBDRM Expert, conducted a media analysis on the 2024 monsoon, focusing on priority areas for river basin and flood risk management. The Government of Nepal, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), has been implementing a flood risk management project aimed at integrating small-scale livelihood projects led by NGOs and INGOs into a more unified approach. Reflecting on the Monsoon Watch 2024, Mr. Bhandari questioned why significant challenges persist despite efforts on various scales. His analysis utilized both quantitative data, such as human and property losses reported in the media, and qualitative data validated through cross-triangulation. He emphasized that the field examples highlighted gaps in community awareness and preparedness. In Morang, the Budhikohila flood swept away two houses and claimed one life, with affected individuals fishing near the flood area despite the risks. In Jajarkot, a teacher drowned while fishing at 1 AM, pointing to culturally or livelihood-driven risk-taking behaviors. Similarly, in Rukum West, guidelines restricting movement in high-risk areas were ignored, raising concerns about enforcement and community compliance. The analysis also revealed discrepancies between media reporting and official alerts. While media coverage provided real-time updates, the DHM faced limitations in its SMS alert system, often delivering warnings after disasters occurred. For instance, DHM issued an alert on Baisakh 31 predicting an intense monsoon, but delays in follow-up actions and updates hampered preparedness. Gaps were evident when NDRRMA issued vehicular movement restrictions on Asoj 11 and 12, yet DHM updates on incidents like the Khulekhani Dam lagged behind online media reports. Mr. Bhandari emphasized the need for detailed analyses of damages and losses, supported by visual presentations, to better understand the systemic gaps. The challenges of the monsoon season highlight the importance of faster

documentation, actionable strategies, accurate media reporting, and active local government involvement. By addressing these gaps, Nepal can significantly reduce losses and improve flood risk management.

The Q&A session raised critical concerns about disaster preparedness, climate change, and urbanization, reflecting on the challenges faced during intense monsoon seasons and other disasters:

Mr. Krishna Bhul: Highlighting the increasing intensity of the monsoon due to climate change, he pointed out a major fire incident in Saptari and Siraha on Baisakh 12, where 103 houses were destroyed. Mr. Bhul emphasized the lack of coordination and information sharing among organizations regarding such disasters in the Terai region. He suggested that DPNet could play a crucial role in supporting affected communities and stressed the need for a disaster calendar to better address seasonal risks, particularly for vulnerable small settlements.

Mr. Krishna Govinda Adhikari: Reflecting on this year's monsoon, he noted that significant impacts have been observed since 2028 in history and highlighted the changing patterns of monsoons that may occur in the future. He raised questions about incorporating long-term planning and safety measures in urbanization efforts, especially concerning road construction which can withstand at least up to 300 mm of monsoon rainfall.

Mr. Hari Krishna Shrestha: Mr. Shrestha asked about immediate and long-term actions required to mitigate water flow and flood risks. He questioned the construction of walls blocking rivers and called for clarity on responsibilities regarding river management, flood mapping, and ensuring safe housing locations. He also raised concerns about behavioral responses to DHM alerts, emphasizing the need for clear guidance on evacuation and safety measures for residents in danger zones.

Ms. Krishna Karki: She inquired about positive media responses and the current status of the recovery process, particularly regarding disabilities, women, and children. Ms. Karki sought insights into the challenges and gaps in addressing these issues, underlining the importance of targeted recovery and inclusive planning.

Mr. Jaganath Prasad Kurmi: He stressed that despite substantial investments in developing Local Adaptation Plans of Action, their implementation remains neglected. He observed that engaging or authorizing local leaders, such as ward chairpersons, often results in favoritism toward their past

voters. Furthermore, he highlighted the critical gaps in preparedness and planning at the local level, which hinder effective progress.

Mr. Amit Singh (APF DSP): He pointed out significant gaps in preparedness efforts despite collaborative initiatives. He suggested that DPNet should take a more proactive role in informing all agencies about disaster preparedness. Mr. Singh noted that while technology and capabilities have advanced, the approach to disaster management still resembles outdated practices, calling for a more modern and integrated approach.

Dr. Bishal Nath Uprety: He highlighted the issue of fire hazards and referenced research conducted by Prof. Dr. Jibraj Pokhrel on house modeling. He noted that traditional indigenous structures often used khar (thatch) for roofing, which poses a significant risk of fire spreading throughout the community in case of an outbreak. While these technologies and preventive measures have been introduced at the local level, there remains a lack of proactive engagement from donor agencies and government bodies to adopt and implement preventive approaches effectively.

The session highlighted the urgent need for improved coordination, inclusive planning, and the modernization of disaster risk management strategies to address the growing challenges posed by climate change and urbanization.

Felicitation of Mr. Chanik Lal Tamang for his Heroic Efforts by awarding him Rs. 10,000 and a certificate of appreciation. Mr. Chanik Lal Tamang, shared his personal experience of heroism. On a Saturday at 5:30 AM, he went to observe a river, accompanied by his wife and daughter. In the incident, he described witnessing a person swept down by the river current. Despite his family's disapproval, he save the lives of two people.

Remarks by IGP Sanat Basnet, Chairperson, ICMS

The ICMS Chairperson commended DPNet for its efforts in creating DRR knowledge platform in Nepal. Mr. Basnet emphasized the need for training on disaster-related matters and expressed aspirations to collaborate with various organizations to enhance disaster management.

Remarks by Key Guests,

Ms. Tripti Rai, Country Director, Oxfam

Ms. Rai praised the work performed by local humanitarian leaders like Mr. Chanik Lal Tamang in disaster management. Oxfam, along with other NGOs, focuses on collaborating with local leaders and District Development Committees to enhance data localization and disaster response. She stressed the need to address gaps and learn from other organizations' experiences to improve future disaster management strategies.

Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi, Chair, NGO Federation

Mr. Subedi congratulated DPNet on its 16th General Assembly and lauded Dr. Raju's leadership. He highlighted the importance of preventive measures and raising awareness through civil society, which often acts as the first responder during disasters. However, he pointed out systemic issues such as ineffective Service Delivery Mechanisms (SDM) and delays in fund allocation for affected areas like Jajarkot. He called for disaster learning centers in every ward and municipality, emphasizing the need for aligning budgets with disaster-related goals.

Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Chief Guest

Mr. Pokhrel expressed gratitude to the organizers and praised DPNet for its contributions to disaster risk reduction. Reflecting on the year's experiences, he noted that floods now affect urban areas like Kathmandu, underscoring the need for measures beyond early warning systems. He highlighted efforts such as assisting thousands during disasters, enforcing safety protocols, and publishing disaster preparedness guidelines. Mr. Pokhrel emphasized localizing disaster-related data and expressed confidence in achieving more impactful results through collective efforts.

Prof. Dr. Sangita Singh (National Planning Council)

Dr. Singh acknowledged Mr. Tamang's inspiring contributions and stressed the importance of addressing gaps in urban planning and disaster management. She emphasized the integration of indigenous knowledge, participatory approaches, and research implementation to address risks like collapsed bridges and unsafe housing in vulnerable areas. Ms. Singh illustrated that the student research often stays theoretical, but with collaboration between institutions and civil society, we can achieve tangible results. The key issue is the lack of implementation.

Closing Speech by Dr. Raju Thapa

Dr. Raju Thapa thanked all attendees and acknowledged the knowledge-sharing role of DPNet in disaster management. He emphasized the importance of utilizing academic knowledge effectively during disaster management and encouraged other organizations to collaborate with DPNet in future

projects. He ensures to keep all the comments and suggestions in the guiding document of DPNet Strategic planning. Finally, Dr. Thapa requested all stakeholders to keep DPNet in mind when undertaking disaster-related initiatives to work collaboratively.

Following the opening session of the DPNet AGM, a closed session was held to discuss key agenda items. Members engaged in productive deliberations, addressing organizational priorities and planning for the year ahead. The closed session provided a platform for strategic discussions, fostering alignment among stakeholders on DPNet's goals and objectives.

Recommendations on Future Monsoon

Based on the paper presentation, participant feedback, remarks, and recommendations collected through DPNet's virtual DRR platform, the following consolidated recommendations were developed to address key disaster risk reduction challenges. These insights reflect a collaborative approach to enhancing preparedness, response, and resilience at local and national levels.

- Establish accountability mechanisms by investigating negligence among responsible authorities and taking disciplinary actions to ensure responsibility in future disasters.
- Strengthen early warning systems by integrating real-time data from meteorological stations, river gauges, and mobile alerts for timely dissemination to vulnerable communities.
- Ensure proactive disaster preparedness by acting immediately on weather forecasts without delays caused by "if" or "but" scenarios.
- Develop a national addressing system to improve disaster location reporting and facilitate precise mapping of high-risk areas.
- Enhance resources and capacity of rescue and emergency response teams to address the growing scale and complexity of disasters.
- Enforce traffic regulation policies during extreme weather events to prevent road accidents and damage, as demonstrated by the Narayangadh-Mugling highway incident.
- Promote community awareness and preparedness, ensuring timely dissemination of warnings to prevent losses, as seen in the Chhahnakhel, Kathmandu flood incident.
- Mandate the registration and insurance of businesses, ensuring financial recovery for business owners and banks during disasters.
- Regulate human activities in watershed areas, such as excavation and deforestation, to minimize risks of floods and landslides through sustainable land-use practices.

- Protect and rehabilitate floodplains, preventing encroachment in undeveloped areas and regulating development in built-up zones.
- Conduct regular training and mock drills for local governments, responders, and communities to improve disaster response and preparedness capacities. presence, emphasizing the significance of collective efforts in achieving DPNet’s vision of a disaster-resilient Nepal. Since its establishment in 1996, DPNet has worked diligently, relying on collaboration

Date: Nov 24,2024,

DPNet and SPCSN provides recommendations for Strengthening Nepal’s SRSP Standards.



The Disaster Preparedness Network (DPNet) and the Social Protection Civil Society Network (SPCSN) jointly submitted a set of recommendations on the Draft Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) Management and Grant Distribution Standard 2081 to the Executive Chief of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), Mr. Anil Pokhrel, on November 24,

2024. Presented by a team led by Dr. Raju Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet, these suggestions aim to improve the draft's alignment with international standards, such as those of WHO, UNHCR, and the Sphere Guidelines, ensuring inclusivity and practical implementation.

Dr. Thapa highlighted key technical concerns, including the provision on minimum kilocalorie intake per person per day. The current draft standard sets this at 2,236 kilocalories, exceeding the globally recognized Sphere standard of 2,100 kilocalories. He emphasized that aligning with the Sphere standard would enhance the credibility of Nepal's disaster response framework, ensuring consistency with international humanitarian principles while promoting adequacy and equity in assistance distribution. Other recommendations included defining clear roles across local, provincial, and national levels to avoid overlap and improve coordination during disaster response and recovery.

The recommendations also called for a proactive approach to disaster preparedness, such as pre-stocking essential supplies in strategically located warehouses and integrating disaster management efforts with social protection systems. Temporary eligibility criteria, based on socio-economic indicators, were proposed to address delays in identifying economically disadvantaged households through poor household identification survey process. Moreover, the recommendations advocated for public communication materials to be accessible in local languages and braille formats suitable for diverse audiences, including those with disabilities, to ensure inclusivity.

In response, Mr. Pokhrel expressed his commitment to reviewing the recommendations, particularly technical aspects such as the kilocalorie threshold as per sphere standard, which he noted would be reassessed before finalization. However, he clarified that certain aspects, such as the composition of the SRSP Committee, had already been finalized and would not be revisited. He assured that the draft would undergo further refinement based on relevant inputs and be forwarded to the ministerial cabinet for approval.

Date: Dec 02, 2024,

Discussion Program to Provide Feedback on Strengthening NDRRMA Institutional Capacity



A discussion program aimed at providing feedback on strengthening the institutional capacity of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) was organized by DPNet on 2nd December, 2024. The event, chaired by Dr. Raju Thapa, included Chief Guest Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar and notable participants such as former government secretaries Shankar Koirala and Kedar Neupane. Facilitated by Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa IPP DPNet, the program brought together experts, stakeholders, and practitioners to analyze the challenges and opportunities within NDRRMA's operations.

In his welcome remarks, Mr. Thapa highlighted the importance of institutional reforms to enhance the authority's effectiveness. He outlined the program's objectives, which focused on evaluating NDRRMA's five-year journey, identifying gaps in its functionality, and gathering actionable recommendations for improvement.

Disaster Risk Reduction expert Bamshi Acharya presented a critical analysis of NDRRMA's progress, revealing significant challenges that have hampered its ability to fulfill its mandate. Acharya's

presentation highlighted staffing issues, noting that the number of embedded staff had dwindled from 38 to 20, a reduction that has weakened the organization's operational capacity. He also pointed out that NDRRMA has not facilitated to establish an expert committee in five years, despite its critical role in disaster preparedness and response. The presentation also shed light on institutional gaps, such as the absence of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for NDRRMA, even though other all divisions and branch under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) have such SoP. Additionally, NDRRMA has not prepared annual reports, as mandated, raising concerns about accountability. Acharya noted that the organization lacks the authority to undertake reconstruction activities, a critical component that stakeholders argued should be added to its mandate. Coordination failures during major disasters, including the Jajarkot Earthquake and Monsoon flood 2024, were also discussed. Despite having early warning systems capable of providing 76 hours of advance notice, these were not utilized effectively. Similarly, the National Disaster Response Framework (NDRF), which mandates coordinated actions, was not followed adequately.

During the open floor discussion, participants shared various comments and recommendations regarding NDRRMA's role and effectiveness. Dr. Meen Bahadur Poudel Chhetri emphasized the adverse impact of unsustainable resource management, particularly the over-extraction of river materials, which significantly worsened monsoon-related devastation and relevant authority being mute spectator. He expressed strong criticism of NDRRMA, noting its minimal role since its inception and questioning its relevance. Dr. Chhetri suggested that dissolving NDRRMA could streamline disaster management efforts by reducing bureaucratic layers and saving resources, allowing for a more efficient and effective approach to disaster response and mitigation.

Former Secretary Shankar Koirala emphasized the need for high-profile leaders with the expertise to navigate its complexities. He recommended recruiting Secretary-level officials to helm the organization and called for better engagement with development partners, contrasting the authority's current approach with MoHA's proactive efforts during the 2015 earthquake. Koirala also cautioned against placing NDRRMA under the Prime Minister's Office, arguing that it would introduce unnecessary bureaucratic layers and complicate disaster management operations. Koirala remarked that even an ideal NDRRMA Executive Chief would struggle to achieve a performance score of 60 out of 100 under the current structure, highlighting systemic limitations that need urgent attention. He also advocated for a service-oriented mindset among leadership, suggesting that senior officials should forgo personal benefits to inspire and motivate their teams.

Niva Shrestha highlighted the lack of clarity in the roles and responsibilities among government agencies during disaster response efforts. According to Shrestha, when disasters strike, multiple ministries and government agencies often convene separate meetings with development partners, each providing different instructions. This lack of coordination creates confusion and inefficiency during critical moments. Citing the September floods as a glaring example, Shrestha expressed disappointment in NDRRMA's absence during the crisis, emphasizing its failure to provide leadership and direction when it was most needed

Laxmi Narayan Parajuli, took a broader perspective, proposing the creation of a dedicated disaster management ministry to address the existing coordination challenges. According to Parajuli, the fragmented structure of NDRRMA limits its effectiveness. He argued that a centralized ministry could better integrate disaster management efforts across federal, provincial, and local levels, ensuring a more cohesive and systematic approach.

Ratindra Khatri highlighted a fundamental issue within NDRRMA: its inability to distinguish between risk management and crisis management. Drawing on his decades of experience, starting with the 2045 BS earthquake and spanning disasters like the 2081 BS flood, Khatri expressed frustration at the recurring patterns of inefficiency and inaction. He described NDRRMA as little more than a transitional space for government staff, devoid of expertise and direction. The lack of technical specialists within the organization, according to Khatri, has left it without the capacity to address complex disaster scenarios. He stressed the urgent need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of NDRRMA to eliminate existing ambiguities and provide a clear framework for action.

Shyam Sundar Jnavaly called out the absence of a culture of accountability, which has allowed the NDRRMA to underperform without repercussions. He urged organizations like DPNet to take on a more proactive role as watchdogs, monitoring NDRRMA's activities and providing regular feedback. According to him, the time for complacency is over; stakeholders must demand transparency and results from the institution rather than remaining passive observers.

The lack of progress in disaster response and recovery was a recurring theme, as articulated by Keshav Dutta Bhatta. Comparing the 2008 flood to the 2024 flood, Bhatta noted that despite the passage of over a decade, there have been no significant improvements in the way disasters are managed. He pointed NDRRMA's disconnect from provincial governments, contrasting this with the previously strong coordination led by the MoHA. Bhatta emphasized the importance of engaging expert groups to guide disaster management strategies and questioned whether financial regulations allowed for the

timely mobilization of funds. The inability to deploy disaster management funds within the first 24 hours of a crisis, he said, represents a critical failure in the system.

Bhubaneshwari Parajuli focused on the duplication of responsibilities across federal, provincial, and local levels. This overlap, she argued, creates confusion and inefficiency, with no single entity taking full responsibility for disaster management outcomes. Parajuli questioned whether the establishment of NDRRMA represented a step forward, suggesting that the pre-existing frameworks may have been more effective. She highlighted the high turnover of staff within NDRRMA, describing it as a revolving door that prevents the development of institutional memory or sustained expertise. According to Parajuli, the only way to address these deep-rooted issues is through the appointment of high-level leadership committed to driving meaningful change.

Januka Koirala pointed out a broader issue of accountability, asking whether stakeholders, including those criticizing NDRRMA, had provided adequate feedback to help the organization improve. She emphasized the importance of institutional memory and highlighted systemic gaps in operational practices.

Santona Devkota reflected on the technological advances available today compared to the 2015 earthquake, when there were no tools for online meetings or rapid communication. She acknowledged that when NDRRMA was first established, it introduced an effective communication system. However, she expressed disappointment that the authority had failed to leverage this technology to mobilize stakeholders during disasters. Devkota described NDRRMA as still being in its infancy, stressing that its relevance should not be dismissed due to its shortcomings. Instead, she urged stakeholders to focus on providing regular and constructive feedback to guide the organization's reform and growth.

Lalit Bahadur Thapa raised concerns about legal bottlenecks that delay disaster response projects. He explained how projects require multiple layers of approval, starting from local governments to the Social Welfare Council (SWC) and finally NDRRMA, which often results in delays that render projects ineffective by the time they are cleared. Citing the example of the Doti flood in 2021, he shared how families in need of temporary shelter support were denied immediate assistance due to bureaucratic obstacles. He also noted the absence of a revised needs assessment guideline, which further complicates response efforts and hampers timely decision-making.

Pitambar Aryal pointed out significant lapses in NDRRMA's policies and practices during major disasters, including the Jajarkot earthquake and the 2024 flood. He cited the resource constraints while

simultaneously creating bureaucratic bottlenecks that prevent donor agencies from providing assistance. Aryal stressed the importance of preparedness, arguing that proactive measures could make emergency responses smoother and more effective. He also questioned NDRRMA's failure to address accountability issues, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis, when its lack of coordination was glaringly evident. Aryal concluded by urging NDRRMA to adopt transparent processes and due diligence in its leadership and operations to rebuild public and stakeholder trust.

Kedar Neupane, former head of the disaster management department at the Ministry of Home Affairs, provided a candid assessment of NDRRMA's origins and current state. Neupane reminded participants that NDRRMA was the brainchild of Dr. Gangalal Tuladhar, established through tireless advocacy. However, he expressed disappointment that the authority's leadership had been diluted over time, losing the high-level qualifications and profile initially envisioned. Neupane argued that effective disaster management requires dynamic leaders, citing India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), where leadership includes high-ranking government officials, such as IAS officers. He proposed adopting a similar recruitment model in Nepal to ensure that NDRRMA is led by competent and experienced individuals.

Highlighting the urgency of reform, Neupane called for immediate steps to build a robust National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) with at least 1,000 personnel. He noted that ineffective leadership in NDRRMA had already cost lives, and taxpayers deserve better from such a critical institution. Neupane urged the audience to advocate for merit-based recruitment and to press the government for accountability in appointing qualified leaders to head NDRRMA.

Dr. Gangalal Tuladhar, a DRRM Council Member and a key architect of Nepal's disaster management framework, reflected on the historical journey of disaster management in the country. Tuladhar recalled his experiences interacting with policymakers in countries like Japan and the Philippines, who were instrumental in shaping their respective disaster management acts and institutions. Drawing inspiration from these engagements, he worked to incorporate disaster management provisions into Nepal's constitution and led the creation of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2017. Tuladhar highlighted Nepal's unique position as one of the few countries globally with constitutional provisions dedicated to disaster management.

However, Tuladhar expressed regret that the progress made in policy creation had not translated into effective implementation. He criticized political parties for remaining passive during the 2024 floods, despite having dedicated disaster risk reduction sections within their structures. Tuladhar reaffirmed

his support for the NDRRMA model but emphasized the need for competent leadership to actualize its potential. He called for a critical review of NDRRMA's five-year performance, urging stakeholders to meet with the Home Minister to push for a transparent recruitment process. Tuladhar maintained an optimistic outlook, stating that while NDRRMA has fallen short of expectations, the lessons learned provide an opportunity to rebuild and reform.

Thule Rai, a DPNet Advisor and former AIG of Nepal Police, brought a comparative perspective, discussing the successful models of disaster management in neighboring countries. Rai noted that India's NDMA benefits from a well-trained National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), while Pakistan's Rescue 1122 and Bangladesh's fire and civil defense services operate under dedicated disaster management ministries. He argued that Nepal could adopt similar frameworks to enhance efficiency and strengthen its disaster response system. Rai also emphasized the need for compliance with international standards such as INSARAG certification, which would improve Nepal's capacity for international search and rescue operations. Rai shared about the missed opportunities for NDRRMA to establish itself as a central authority for disaster management. For instance, while the authority had created a volunteer mobilization guideline, volunteers were not effectively deployed during the 2024 floods. He also noted that routine press briefings, a critical communication tool during disasters, have been neglected since the establishment of NDRRMA.

Dhurva Bahadur Khadka, ex-spokesperson of NDRRMA with extensive experience in disaster management highlight on systemic challenges within NDRRMA, focusing on its structural limitations, operational inefficiencies, and the critical need for reform. Khadka began by emphasizing the importance of evaluating NDRRMA's performance over the past five years to identify gaps between its responsibilities and actual practice. He pointed out that while the authority is tasked with significant responsibilities, including mobilizing flying squads and maintaining records of international support, its capacity remains woefully inadequate. For instance, the responsibility of maintaining records of international aid has fallen to the Ministry of Finance, indicating a misalignment of roles. Similarly, while NDRRMA is expected to oversee the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC), no substantial progress has been made toward its establishment in five years. Drawing on his tenure at NDRRMA, where he served for nine months, one of the longest duration of any staff member, Khadka highlighted the issue of high staff turnover. He described a scenario where staff changes occurred so frequently that institutional memory could not be preserved. "There is no proper handover or takeover," he said, noting that this lack of continuity severely hampers NDRRMA's ability to build expertise and maintain consistent operations. Khadka emphasized that this revolving door of personnel, coupled with

inexperienced replacements, undermines the authority's capacity to fulfill its monitoring and operational mandates.

Khadka also shared NDRRMA's difficulty to mobilize key resources, such as security sectors, during disaster events. He remarked that despite the authority's broad mandate, its leadership lacks the operational leverage to coordinate effectively with security forces. This limitation, he suggested, highlights the need to reconsider NDRRMA's structural placement, proposing that it either be brought under the MoHA or established as an independent authority with enhanced autonomy.

Budget constraints were another focal point of Khadka's critique. He revealed that NDRRMA's annual budget is less than 30 million rupees, a sum that primarily covers staff salaries, leaving little room for disaster preparedness or capacity-building initiatives. While funds are allocated for crisis response, a lack of clarity about whether these resources can be utilized for preparedness efforts has led to inaction. Khadka pointed out that while the government has declared emergency zones and taken loans to address disasters, the affected communities often see little benefit, with funds failing to trickle down to those in need. Reflecting on his experience training District Emergency Operations Center (DEOC) staff, Khadka described a cycle of inefficiency, where trained officials would leave their posts shortly after learning the job, only to be replaced by new recruits who required retraining. This lack of institutional stability, he argued, is emblematic of NDRRMA's broader struggles.

Khadka's remarks were candid but constructive. He acknowledged that the floor had given NDRRMA a performance score of 30 out of 100, but he shared that under the current structure, even a new and competent chief executive would struggle to achieve 15 marks. He called for an honest reassessment of NDRRMA's provisions and urged stakeholders to prioritize reforms that address its structural and operational weaknesses. "It's time to think critically about what we want NDRRMA to be and how we can equip it to fulfill its role," he said.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Raju Thapa, Chair of the program, emphasized the significance of the discussion in identifying gaps and actionable steps for strengthening the NDRRMA. He highlighted key takeaways from the session, including the urgent need for capable leadership, better inter-agency coordination, and clear operational guidelines. Dr. Thapa acknowledged the recurring themes of accountability, institutional memory, and resource allocation as areas requiring immediate attention. He stressed the importance of addressing these issues to enable NDRRMA to fulfill its mandate effectively and regain trust among stakeholders.

Dr. Thapa also shared that DPNet has been collecting feedback through its virtual DRR platform, where experts and practitioners have been contributing their insights on NDRRMA’s performance and challenges. Combining these inputs with the invaluable feedback shared during the discussion, DPNet plans to prepare a comprehensive list of recommendations aimed at improving the authority’s institutional capacity and operational effectiveness. Concluding the program, Dr. Thapa thanked all participants for their active engagement and meaningful contributions, reiterating DPNet’s commitment to facilitating collaborative efforts for disaster risk reduction in Nepal.

Date: Dec 14, 2024

Discussion Program Focuses on Strengthening Stakeholder Roles in Accessing Loss and Damage Fund

Kathmandu, December 14, 2024 –

Marking the 76th International Human Rights Day, a national dialogue program titled *"Strengthening Stakeholder Roles in Accessing Loss and Damage Fund"* was organized at the Nepal Tourism Board, Kathmandu. Hosted by DPNet Nepal in collaboration with SOSEC Nepal and supported by multiple national and international organizations including



DCA, DiMaNN, the event aimed to integrate social, economic, and environmental considerations into safeguarding the rights of marginalized communities impacted by climate change.

Dr. Raju Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet Nepal, chaired the program. The event opened with welcome remarks from Ms. Shakti Gurung, Vice Chairperson of DPNet Nepal, who called for united efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of climate-induced challenges. Following this, Surya Bahadur Thapa, Immediate Past President of DPNet Nepal and Chairperson of DiMaNN outlined the program’s objectives. He urged stakeholders to focus on ensuring equitable access to climate funds and fostering resilience, particularly for communities at the frontline of climate change impacts.

Presentation by Kriti Shrestha, DCA

Kriti Shrestha, representing DCA, delivered an insightful presentation on the findings from research conducted in Gulariya and Dullu, focusing on the severe impacts of floods and droughts on marginalized communities. She highlighted how these recurring climate-induced disasters have severely disrupted livelihoods, particularly for communities dependent on agriculture. She pointed out that the lack of adaptive infrastructure and limited access to resources further exacerbate their vulnerability, leaving them trapped in cycles of poverty and disaster-induced displacement.

She emphasized that these challenges are deeply rooted in socio-economic inequities, which hinder the capacity of affected communities to recover and adapt. The research findings highlighted the need for targeted interventions, such as strengthening early warning systems, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and developing disaster-resilient infrastructure. She also stressed the importance of ensuring that marginalized groups have a voice in decision-making processes related to climate adaptation and disaster response, as their lived experiences are crucial for crafting effective solutions.

In her concluding remarks, Kriti supported for a more inclusive approach to accessing the Loss and Damage Fund, ensuring it reaches the communities most affected by climate change. She called for greater collaboration among stakeholders, emphasizing the integration of indigenous knowledge and locally-driven strategies to enhance resilience. Kriti highlighted the potential of these measures to not only mitigate immediate risks but also to empower communities to achieve long-term sustainability and equity in the face of climate challenges.

Presentation by Nawaraj Sapkota

Nawaraj Sapkota presented an in-depth *analysis of Nepal's climate finance landscape*, emphasizing the country's reliance on external funding to tackle climate-induced challenges. He shared critical data revealing that Nepal has received a total of \$5.71 billion in climate finance from 2008 to 2021. This includes \$3.28 billion from multilateral sources, \$1.72 billion from bilateral agreements, \$406.6 million through UNFCCC mechanisms, and \$291.8 million from other sources. Sapkota highlighted that 90% of the funding received by Nepal is in the form of loans, while only 10% comes as grants, creating a significant debt burden for the nation.

Sapkota outlined Nepal's ambitious financial target of \$46 billion by 2030 to address both mitigation and adaptation goals. Of this, a significant portion is required for implementing large-scale projects like renewable energy-powered transport systems to achieve net-zero emissions. He noted that despite

Nepal's efforts, the pledged \$100 billion annual climate finance by developed countries at COP15 in 2009 remains unmet. However, at COP29, wealthy nations agreed to increase this commitment to \$300 billion annually, tripling their support to developing countries like Nepal by 2035.

Regarding specific initiatives, Sapkota pointed out that Nepal is utilizing climate funds to enhance community resilience through water management and sustainable agriculture projects, especially in flood-prone and drought-affected regions. He emphasized the urgent need for Nepal to access more adaptation funds as the frequency of extreme weather events, such as floods and landslides, continues to rise. He called for greater collaboration among government entities, private sectors, and international donors to scale up funding mechanisms, ensuring that the financial resources are not only accessible but also sustainable in the long term.

Presentation by Ngamindra Dahal

Dr. Ngamindra Dahal's presentation on "*Climate Change-Induced Loss and Damage: Issues and Proposal*" highlighted the increasing frequency and severity of climate-related disasters, such as floods and landslides, and their disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations. He emphasized that the limits of adaptation are often breached due to financial, governance, and institutional constraints, resulting in both economic and non-economic losses. The presentation detailed global developments in loss and damage mechanisms, such as the Warsaw International Mechanism and the COP28 operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, while stressing the urgent need for Nepal to align its policies and strengthen frameworks to access these funds effectively.

Dr. Dahal proposed developing a standardized loss and damage (L&D) assessment framework tailored to Nepal's context, addressing challenges such as data gaps, methodological inconsistencies, and limited leadership in international advocacy. He called for leveraging improved databases, such as those of NDRRMA, to quantify both economic and non-economic losses. This, he argued, could enhance Nepal's ability to lobby for its fair share of climate finance. By integrating risk assessments, early warning systems, and resilience-building strategies, the proposed framework would bridge the gap between disaster risk management and climate finance under the UNFCCC architecture.

Feedback from Participants

Participants highlighted several critical issues related to Nepal's preparedness for addressing climate change impacts and accessing international climate finance. A central concern was the lack of scientific research and evidence to substantiate claims about the relationship between disasters and climate

change. For instance, while there is a perceived connection between the Chure hills and the Terai region, no comprehensive studies have validated this relationship. This gap undermines Nepal's ability to build strong arguments for international support or design effective mitigation strategies.

Nepal's vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change, caused predominantly by the actions of other countries, was another major point of discussion. Participants noted that activities such as groundwater extraction in India negatively impact Nepal's water resources, despite Nepal's own focus on groundwater recharge. This highlights the need for regional cooperation and international accountability to address cross-border environmental impacts.

The procedural complexity of accessing global climate funds was a recurring theme. Participants emphasized that securing such funds often feels unattainable due to the bureaucratic hurdles involved. Nepal's reliance on loans, rather than grants, was also criticized. Participants argued that Nepal has the right to climate finance as compensation for damages caused by global emissions, rather than being burdened with debt to address these challenges. They called for a shift toward prioritizing grants over loans to ensure equitable access to funding.

The lack of capacity to meet global transparency and reporting frameworks was also highlighted. Participants observed that these frameworks often require structural provisions at the local level, which Nepal struggles to implement due to resource and capability limitations. This makes it difficult for the country to comply with international reporting mechanisms or access certain funds tied to such requirements. Additionally, the inability to quantify non-economic losses, such as stress, anxiety, and social conflicts caused by climate change, was seen as a major challenge. These intangible impacts are often overlooked in policy discussions and funding priorities, despite their profound effect on communities. We should have prioritized our indigenous knowledge and practice to mitigate climate change impact. Our ancestor had various solution of disaster events but we gradually abandon such which we need to revive. Lastly, participants criticized Nepal's limited engagement in international climate platforms. Attending events like COP for a few days was deemed insufficient to secure meaningful access to global climate funds or influence key decisions. A more strategic and sustained effort is necessary to represent Nepal's interests effectively and ensure that climate finance mechanisms address the country's unique vulnerabilities and needs.

Remarks by Dr. Bhisma Bhusal, Joint Secretary, NDRRMA

Dr. Bhisma Bhusal emphasized the urgent need for Nepal to address gaps in its *approach to climate change vulnerability and disaster management*. He pointed out that while there is increasing

discussion about climate change impacts, Nepal has yet to shift from the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) framework to the more inclusive Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) approach. This paradigm shift is essential because climate change affects different groups in unique ways, often leading to what he termed a "triple disadvantage"—poor living conditions, disproportionate disaster impacts, and systemic discrimination in relief distribution.

Dr. Bhusal also highlighted challenges in managing funds for disaster and climate resilience. He mentioned that Nepal has declared [71 municipalities as emergency zones](#) and accessed funding through the CAT DDO (Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option). However, he expressed concern that such funds, once transferred to the national treasury, often fail to reach the intended municipalities, raising questions about transparency and fund utilization. Additionally, he noted that most grants received are project-based, with a significant portion spent on consultancy fees rather than on-ground interventions.

A key focus of his remarks was Nepal's difficulty in segregating disaster-related losses from climate change-induced losses and damages. Unlike some countries that can attribute specific losses to measurable climate change impacts, such as the rise in sea temperatures forcing fish to migrate in Palau, Nepal struggles to establish such direct correlations. For example, road damage caused by rising river levels is often attributed to poor planning, such as building roads alongside rivers, rather than to climate change. This lack of structural preparedness and scientific evidence limits Nepal's ability to effectively claim climate loss and damage funds from international mechanisms.

Dr. Bhusal concluded by emphasizing the need for Nepal to develop robust frameworks and research capacity to substantiate claims for climate finance. This includes segregating disaster impacts from climate-induced losses, ensuring funds reach the most vulnerable populations, and addressing systemic issues like discrimination in relief distribution. He called for greater accountability, capacity-building, and structural reforms to strengthen Nepal's position in accessing international climate funds.

Remarks by Nawaraj Pudasaini, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Environment

Nawaraj Pudasaini stressed the importance of research-based evidence in addressing climate change impacts, emphasizing that climate change affects multiple sectors, including mental health, workload distribution, and societal stress. However, he cautioned against attributing every issue to climate change without robust research, as doing so could undermine credibility and efforts to secure international climate finance. He called for academic institutions to be mobilized for groundbreaking

research that provides concrete, science-based, and statistical evidence to support claims. Research, he noted, should be outcome-oriented rather than conducted for its own sake.

He shared that climate finance is a right for countries like Nepal that are disproportionately affected by global emissions. However, accessing these funds is extremely complicated due to the procedural and data-driven requirements of international funding mechanisms. He explained that designing a project often takes three years due to the complexity of proposal formats and the need for extensive data collection. The back-and-forth approval process can take an additional two years, by which time funding priorities may shift, making the process even more challenging.

Pudasaini also pointed out the difficulty of segregating climate change impacts in project budgets. For instance, many projects include components related to climate change impacts, but not all are entirely focused on climate change, making it difficult to quantify the actual spending on climate-related activities. He noted that all projects now require climate impact assessments, but overburdening existing local-level staff with additional responsibilities, such as creating focal points for numerous issues, is not a viable solution.

He emphasized the need for diplomatic and strategic representation of climate issues on international platforms like COP, where governments must adopt a measured approach. Civil society organizations (CSOs), such as Dalit and women's NGOs, can play a complementary role by raising issues more assertively. Finally, Pudasaini called for greater mobilization of the private sector in climate finance, proposing win-win solutions to integrate private resources into climate resilience efforts. He concluded that securing grants requires coordinated efforts across sectors, grounded in research and evidence, while ensuring efficiency in fund utilization.

Remarks by Anupam Poudel from the Ministry of Home Affairs

Anupam Poudel from the Ministry of Home Affairs emphasized the vital role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in addressing disaster and climate change challenges. He highlighted that the government alone cannot oversee all aspects, making CSO involvement crucial. CSOs can contribute by conducting research, generating data, and providing evidence to support informed decision-making. Poudel also announced that MoHA is in the process of revising the national relief standards to better address the needs of marginalized communities, with a focus on integrating considerations for both disaster and climate change impacts, ensuring more inclusive and effective responses in the future.

Closing Remarks by Dr. Raju Thapa, Program Chair

Dr. Raju Thapa, Program Chair and Chairperson of DPNet Nepal, concluded the event by highlighting DPNet's ongoing efforts to mainstream disaster and climate change considerations across all sectors. He stressed the importance of prioritizing access to climate finance from a human rights perspective, asserting that Nepal, despite its negligible contribution to global carbon emissions, is disproportionately affected by the severe consequences of climate change. He emphasized that this is a human rights issue, not merely a matter of loans and grants that Nepal should beg for. Dr. Thapa acknowledged the international community's reluctance to fully recognize Nepal's climate challenges due to the lack of credible research in this area. Drawing a metaphor from the "boiling frog syndrome"—where a frog placed in gradually heated water fails to recognize the danger until it's too late—he warned that Nepal risks a similar fate if it does not act decisively. He urged participants to focus on conducting robust research, exploring grant opportunities, and promoting indigenous knowledge and practices. He highlighted the wisdom and ingenuity of Nepal's ancestors, who developed innovative and cost-effective solutions to mitigate environmental challenges using locally available resources. He encouraged the participants to reconnect with communities, tap into their indigenous knowledge, and avoid spending excessive funds on external experts. "Our grandparents were engineers, innovators, and experts in their own right—let's honor their legacy by building on their wisdom," he said.

Dr. Thapa expressed his gratitude to all participants for their active engagement and officially closed the program, inspiring everyone to continue their collective efforts to tackle climate change

Date: Dec 10-12, 2024

DPNet Participates in Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week 2024 in Bangkok



The DPNet team, represented by Chairperson Dr. Raju Thapa, Immediate Past President Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, and General Secretary Er. Suraj Gautam, participated in the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW) Asia Pacific 2024, held in Bangkok from December 10 to 12, 2024. The event, co-hosted by the ICVA, ADRRN), CWSA, and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, brought together over 400 participants from 300 organizations across 61 countries. With the theme “Sparking Global Change through Local Solutions in Humanitarian Action,” RHPW served as a vital platform for sharing best practices, fostering partnerships, and exploring sustainable, community-driven solutions to address escalating humanitarian challenges in the Asia-Pacific region.

As a full member of ADRRN, DPNet also actively participated in the ADRRN General Assembly. DPNet Team also contributed to various sessions during the event. DPNet shared Nepal’s best practices and lessons learned in key areas, including mainstreaming GEDSI in DRR, anticipatory action, shock-responsive social protection frameworks, and the use of indigenous practices and knowledge in DRR. The team also highlighted Nepal’s successful recovery journey following the 2015 earthquake, highlighting the importance of locally led, inclusive solutions in building resilience.

The event featured discussions on important humanitarian issues, such as climate action, gender inclusion, and innovative partnerships to address crises exacerbated by climate change, political complexities, and funding constraints. Participants explored how technology can be leveraged for

resilience and how communities and faith actors play pivotal roles in driving climate action and anticipatory measures. Dedicated sessions emphasized inclusive approaches, amplifying the voices of women, children, and persons with disabilities in humanitarian and climate programming.

A vibrant marketplace added another dimension to the event, offering a space for participants to share tools, insights, and best practices while fostering collaboration across sectors. Key sessions on community leadership and climate-focused initiatives drew significant engagement, reinforcing the importance of grassroots solutions in tackling global humanitarian challenges.

Date: DEC 26-27,2025,

3rd National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (NCDRR) Held in Kathmandu



The Third National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (NCDRR) took place on December 26-27 at The Everest Hotel in Kathmandu. Coordinated by DPNet Nepal and organized by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), the conference focused on synthesizing lessons learned and strengthening the nation's resilience against future disasters. The conference was graced by the Home Minister as the chief guest, chaired by Dr. Raju Thapa, the Chairperson of DPNet, and emceed by Suraj Gautam, the General Secretary of DPNet. The conference attended over 300 participants, including key governmental officials, representatives from various

development partners, NGOs, academia, and the media. It showcased a concerted effort to encompass all societal segments, especially prioritizing inclusivity for women, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable communities, with amenities such as sign language interpretation and close captioning service available.

Focused on deriving actionable insights from the devastation created by the recent monsoon, the conference's agenda was robust, addressing multiple facets of disaster risk through a series of technical sessions and panel discussions, the agenda and overall session were designed as per the guidance of Joint Secretary of NDRRMA Dr. Bhisma Bhusal. One of the key objectives was to share current research and best practices related to risk management in the rapidly changing climate



scenario, enhancing future DRR strategies. Technical sessions delved into understanding various risks, including hydro-meteorological disasters and geological hazards, with a significant emphasis on risk mapping. Another session highlighted the management of risks within the evolving climate dynamics, specifically discussing the impacts on agriculture and the integration of climate change measures into broader DRR strategies. The need for accelerating actions towards sustainable futures was also a focal point, with discussions around sustainable housing solutions, recovery systems, and the potential of innovative technologies such as blockchain for activating early response mechanisms.

Panel discussions provided a platform for diverse stakeholders to share firsthand experiences and lessons learned from the monsoon responses. These discussions spanned across various sectors including health, education, urban planning, and community perspectives, offering a holistic view of the challenges faced and the strategies that proved successful. A dedicated marketplace and lightning sessions further enhanced knowledge exchange, featuring rapid sharing of learnings and DRR interventions. One of the most pressing issues addressed was the vulnerability of the agricultural sector to climate-induced disasters. Recognized as a vital component for national stability, the discussions stressed the need for resilient agricultural practices capable of withstanding extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and erratic monsoon patterns. Experts advocated for the adoption of climate-smart agriculture techniques that could fortify crop resilience and minimize the vulnerability of the food supply chain. The importance of integrating DRR into agricultural planning and policy

frameworks was underscored, ensuring sustainable practices that can endure the impacts of climate change.

Technology's role was also highlighted, with emphasis on the adoption of advanced tools like satellite imagery and weather modeling to enhance the accuracy of weather forecasts and agricultural planning. The conference called for stronger policy support and increased investment in research, urging for a collaborative effort among government agencies, research institutions, and the private sector to foster innovative techniques. Reflecting on the discussions, the conference concluded with policy feedback sessions that generated vital recommendations for integrating gender equality and inclusion in DRR strategies. These recommendations are set to guide the improvement of institutional capacities, particularly those of NDRRMA, to better prepare for and respond to various disaster event.

The Home Minister promised to dedicate at least a couple of hours monthly to discuss disaster management strategies in coordination with DPNet, reflecting a government commitment to ongoing DRR dialogues. Enhanced understanding of the links between monsoon-related risks, climate change, and livelihoods were recognized as outcomes, alongside strengthened collaboration among stakeholders across different sectors. As the conference closed, the collective resolve to use the gleaned insights to inform not only national policies but also to contribute to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025 was substantial.

