

Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (2018-2030)



**Disaster Preparedness Network Nepal
(DPNet-Nepal)**

April 2, 2018

1. Introduction:

The DpNet-Nepal has been registered with the DAO, Kathmandu on 2064/02/25 (BS) under the NGO Registration Act, 2034 B. S. Prior to it, the DpNet-Nepal was a loose network since its inception in 1996.

The DpNet-Nepal is a network of organizations and individuals engaged in Disaster Risk Management (DRM). The Network aims to assist organizations and individuals to develop their capacity to prepare for and respond to and recovery from disasters. The DpNet-Nepal covers its DRM activities for both natural and human-induced disasters. The DpNet-Nepal works closely with the Government of Nepal (GoN) to promote coordination, communication, exchange of experiences, the flow of information and creation of a conducive environment to make Nepal a disaster-resilient nation.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM), apex body and composed of its institutional and individual members, governs the DpNet-Nepal. The AGM meets annually to review and agree on DpNet-Nepal's program and budget. The AGM elects Executive Committee members in every two years comprised of Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer and members. The EC meets once every two months or as required to steer, monitor, advise, mobilize resources and to oversee all decisions of the Network. The DpNet-Nepal will establish State level DpNet in all seven states once states are well established. To successfully implement its day-to-day activities and to implement the decision of the EC meetings, the DpNet-Nepal will have one secretariat at the center level, comprised of Program Coordinator, Finance and Administration Officer and Office Assistant. The DpNet-Nepal will have DpNet in each state. Moreover, the DpNet-Nepal also mobilizes its members voluntarily for specific activities and recruits project staff to implement activities agreed in the project.

2. Rationale of the Strategic Plan:

To review its on-going initiatives to achieve its goals and objectives and in line with the establishment of a federal structure in Nepal, the DpNet-Nepal realized the revision of its existing strategy. Moreover, in the changed context of federal structure, utilizing the strengths of its members can contribute towards making the country safe from all kind of disasters:

1. To proactively engage with key stakeholders at multiple levels to develop "Culture of Safety" and to mainstream DRR/M in the country's all strategic development plans and policies through better coordination, networking, capacity building and constructive engagement as indicated in its Charter and Constitution. (need to unfold)
2. To develop and implement short, medium and long term strategic plan to coordinate for meeting the emerging needs of its members and the nation,
3. To monitor its performances regularly in terms of delivery over time periods, efficient use of resources and also to adopt a clear-cut road map of its actions.
4. To support its members to achieve the SFDRR activities effectively.
5. Strategic engagement with the GoN at all levels to integrate issues of DRR/M in the development plan, policies, programs and projects.

This Strategic Plan will be a guiding document for DPNet-Nepal and its members to identify the appropriate courses of actions to make Nepal a disaster-resilient nation through the establishment of DPNet-Nepal as a democratic, well representative, well established, professional and responsible DRR Network in Nepal.

3. DPNet-Nepal's Vision, Mission and Objectives:

Vision:

Safe communities, safer Nepal.

Mission:

To strengthen disaster resilience of community and institutions through coordinated and collaborative planning, community action, and policy advocacy.

Objective:

The main goals of this strategy are:

1. To enhance knowledge and skills on DRR/M through creating comprehensive DRM/R knowledge hub, sharing and learning opportunities, and pursuing empirical researches and studies on disaster risk management practices that will ultimately enable us to make Nepal a disaster-resilient nation,
2. To advocate and lobby with government and relevant institutions for adequate policy provisions and revision, institutional set-up; and disaster and climate risk-informed development which will enable Nepal to achieve sustainable development goals by 2030,
3. To strengthen coordination for synergy with all stakeholders (government, UN agencies, members and relevant organizations) for improved disaster risk management/ reduction and to create safer and resilient communities and nation,
4. To enhance the capacity of government agencies, non-government agencies, member organizations and relevant stakeholders for effective disaster risk management/ reduction through several capacity development initiatives and coordinated approaches
5. To expand and strengthen networking at global, regional, national and state levels and enhance its institutional capacity through several trainings and learning initiatives.

4. Program Activities:

- 1. To enhance knowledge and skills on DRM through creating comprehensive DRM/R knowledge hub, sharing and learning opportunities, and conducting empirical research and study on disaster risk management and reduction practices. (SFDRR-Priority-1)**

- ✓ Design and implement empirical researches on DRR and its linkages with poverty reduction, climate change adaptation, etc. together with academia,
- ✓ In close coordination with government develop a comprehensive website for DRR/M as one-stop knowledge and information hub, ensure access/inputs from all stakeholders, and update as needed,
- ✓ Prepare and regularly update a resource directory of institutions and individuals who can be available as resource person/s for government and non-government institutions that need support in the areas of the sustainable disaster risk management and reduction,
- ✓ Publish and disseminate news, views and experiences of the DPNet-Nepal and its members in Nepali and English languages regularly,
- ✓ Develop itself as a knowledge repository particularly on DRM/R strengthening and the establishment of its websites and archive system,
- ✓ Coordinate with its members to collate and publish best practices on DRR, newsletters publication on a regular basis,
- ✓ Regularly/ annually publish DRM/R related information and knowledge including National Disaster Report in close coordination and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, MoHA and its partners,
- ✓ Establish gender-disaggregated database and make available publicly prior to any emergencies,
- ✓ Organize sharing and learning dialogue (SLD) to share new approaches and best practices with wider participants regularly,
- ✓ Organize at least one national level event in every two years to share its members' experiences, challenges and opportunities on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, urban resilience, humanitarian response among policy makers, development and humanitarian practitioners, media, the private sector and community.

2. To advocate and lobby with federal, state and local government level and relevant institutions for linking disaster risk reduction (DRR) and into the sustainable development goals and policies and conduct policy advocacy initiatives (Advocacy). (SFDRR-Priority-2)

- ✓ Organize advocacy and lobbying activities for new DRR policy and guidelines formulation at federal, state and local level,
- ✓ Support governments to set up institutional mechanism, review of existing policies and guidelines and implement existing policies and guidelines at all levels,
- ✓ Advocate with relevant ministries and local governments to include DRR and CCA into sectoral and local level planning process,
- ✓ Advocate with governments at all levels to include DRM in formal and non-formal education curricula,
- ✓ Engage with academic institutions and the private sector on research on DRR, and linking DRR and CCA with their plans,
- ✓ Continue advocating with the local government, federal and state government, parliamentarians, and relevant stakeholders on the formulation of required

policy/legislation, and its implementation, harmonize DRR with climate change and development,

- ✓ Explore measures against inundation issue especially in the Terai, support the implementation of national Building Code (NBC) and promote Build Back Better principles,
- ✓ Work closely with state and local government to strengthen disaster governance system.

3. To strengthen coordination with government, members and relevant organizations for disaster risk management and creation of safe and resilient communities (Coordination and Information Management). (SFDRR-Priority-4)

- ✓ Mapping of "Who is doing what, where" with regard to DRR and CCA, harmonize and build synergy with government and relevant stakeholders,
- ✓ Devise a mechanism to strengthen relationship with federal and state ministries, local government, donors and its members,
- ✓ Establish and strengthen relationship with global and regional network working in the field of DRM,
- ✓ Explore possibilities to foster partnership with new organizations, academic institutions, private sector organizations and media,
- ✓ Collate, update and share DRM-related information with its partners on a timely manner,
- ✓ Establish and enhance partnership with state governments,
- ✓ Support state government for effective and quality response through promoting coordinated humanitarian response mobilizing cluster approach as required,
- ✓ Promote engagement with non-member organizations as required.

4. To enhance the capacity of government and its member organizations / partners on disaster risk reduction (Capacity Building). (SFDRR-Priority-4)

- ✓ Conduct capacity mapping to identify capacity gaps and institutional strengths of government, relevant stakeholders and DPNet internally and frame out an action plan to improve program delivery performances,
- ✓ Sensitize policy makers on the need of policy, strategic action plan and guidelines,
- ✓ Expand its linkages with similar networks at global and regional levels and establish a roster of DRM professionals/pool of resources. The list of DRM professionals /resource persons shall be posted on the DPNet website.
- ✓ Work closely with national and state training institutes for capacity building. Capacity building initiatives include:
 - Quality humanitarian preparedness and response programming,
 - Disaster risk governance and leadership development,
 - International standards such as SFDRR, CHS, CSSF, etc.
 - Risk-sensitive development planning,
 - Mainstreaming DRM and CRM into development,
 - Inclusive community-based disaster risk management,
 - School-Based DRM

- ✓ Support the development of harmonized and coherent training manuals, web-based program, network strengthening
- ✓ Organize workshops, seminars, learning and sharing events at all levels where relevant.
- ✓ Organize talk program/interaction program on pertinent issues,

5. To strengthen internal capacity (technical and management) at federal and state level on disaster risk reduction (Institutional strengthening).

- Establish and operationalize DpNet State Committees (DpNet-SC) in all States.
- Explore possible ways to work in partnerships with the private sector, media and academic institutions in the areas of risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery work.
- Proactively revisit its legal documents, programs, finance and administration policies and revise as per the need and local context.

5. Approaches:

The DpNet-Nepal will adopt the following approaches to maximize its impact on the lives of women, children and men and to promote a “culture of safety” and preparedness at various levels.

a) Right based approach

There is a mindset that the disaster-affected people are the recipient of the support in the form of relief or any other packages during or after the occurrence of the hazards. However, many studies have revealed that the disaster-impacted persons are the agents of change, not passive recipients of relief assistance. The 2015 Gorkha earthquake revealed that they are the first responders, first rescuers and providers of first aid services to people in need.

To make humanitarian and risk reduction action more effective, many of the actions have adopted strategies to shift the focus from needs to rights. This is the only way that the disaster survivors be given a voice and transform them into active participants. Disaster risk reduction and humanitarianism should not be about charitable giving but about upholding the rights of project participants.

b) Disaster Risk Governance

The governance has been the key area, which is noticeable for the lapses in preparedness as well as responding to the immediate and post-disaster needs. Therefore, DP Net will sincerely offer its services to contribute to the area of preparedness. Whereas, if requested, it will also come forward to offer its expertise for the works that are related with other stages of a disaster.

c) Promoting a culture of partnership

DPNet-Nepal shall promote strategic partnership with government, national and international organizations including local government. The strategic partnership is based on mutual respect, recognizing identity and respecting each other's policy. DPNet-Nepal is accountable towards its funding partners, donors and especially with governments and communities.

DPNet-Nepal identifies and promotes partnership based on capacity and core areas of competencies to maximize the impact to the most vulnerable women, children and men. While organizing activities, the DPNet-Nepal will also ensure to have an equal participation of women, children and vulnerable groups in all of its activities. DPNet-Nepal aims to contribute towards empowering local community, youth, children, women, men and disadvantaged groups of people as well as enhancing their capacity through the promotion of active participation in the disaster risk management activities and process.

d) Coordination and collaboration:

DPNet collaborates does not compete: DPNet-Nepal is a member-based organization, and will only engage in activities that will complement, not duplicate with its member's efforts in the disaster risk management. Develop DPNet-Nepal as a strong coordinating agency at the center as well as at the state level and act as a focal point organization to coordinate DRR activities during pre, during and post-disaster scenario and establish linkages with other institutions and networks in the country.

DPNet-Nepal adopts two-pronged modality for the implementation of its program: 1) executes program by its central and state secretariats, 2) works in partnership with its members for program implementation.

6. Cross-cutting Agenda:

DPNet-Nepal has committed to appropriately incorporate the following cross-cutting agenda in its entire program. Cross-cutting agenda includes:

(1) Gender and Social Inclusion:

Many empirical studies, reports and existing database clearly indicate that the women, children and marginalized groups are mostly impacted or killed by multiple hazards. Despite this fact, the DRR activities are hardly focused on women, children and the marginalized and vulnerable sections of a society/ community. Therefore, the DPNet-Nepal commits that it advocates with government and its members to ensure their meaningful participation at all levels and their voices are heard by the decision makers at federal, state and local levels GESI responsive budgeting. Capacity Building Programme for all concerned stakeholders through GESI responsive training package and materials.

(2) Governance and accountability:

DPNet-Nepal advocates for decentralized planning and policies based on Local Governance Act (LGA) and strengthen the local mechanism for program and budget

related information sharing publicly in a transparent way. DpNet-Nepal through its state structures promotes the establishment of complaint mechanisms at all levels and handle it appropriately.

7. Sustainability:

7.1 Relationship with its members, partners, and stakeholders:

- a) The DpNet-Nepal is an institutional and individual (professionals) membership-based network organization. With an aim to attain self-sufficiency, DpNet-Nepal will actively foster its relationships with its members and non-member partners and also with a range of potential donors.
- b) DpNet-Nepal will always prioritize strategic partnership with national and international organizations, UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, the private sector and media to define activities and implement them in a coordinated manner.
- c) DpNet-Nepal shall emphasize fundraising in coordination and partnership with its members and/or strategic partners.
- d) DpNet-Nepal will use its full capacity to foster relationships with potential partners and donors. DpNet-Nepal will explore and identify permanent solutions for its secretariats at center as well as state level to be established and strengthened. It gives opportunities for institutionalizing DRR and knowledge management effectively.

7.2 Fundraising plan:

DpNet-Nepal will have following sources of income that will be used to run program activities approved by EC on an annual and quarterly basis. This will be detailed out in its fundraising plan that will be developed and implemented by DpNet-Nepal.

- a) Membership fees,
- b) Sale of the publications, reports, souvenir, etc.,
- c) At least 25% to 40% of consultancy fees (if deployed by DpNet-Nepal) shall be deposited into the DpNet account when non-EC members and professionals are mobilized by DpNet-Nepal as consultant's,
- d) Institutional Development Fund (IDF) from project, national and international training and learning program conducted by DpNet-Nepal,
- e) Recruit national and international volunteers based promoting volunteerism to conduct research and or learning event/project for certain period,
- f) Explore the possibility to set up and manage a 'Trust Fund/ Endowment Fund' for its long term sustainability – partners, members, Government, the private sector, and donors will be approached,
- g) Promoting strategic partnership with state and non-state actors
- h) DpNet-Nepal will develop a roster of professionals and mobilize them for specific tasks. While mobilizing such professionals, DpNet-Nepal will charge certain amount from the consultancy fees. Based on EC's decision, this amount shall be used.

7.3 Transparency Plan:

- a) DpNet-Nepal will prepare half yearly and annual financial reports which shall be shared with all of its members and partner organizations to ensure that it is accountable to its members and partners. This ensures transparency and accountability in actions which helps gain the confidence of its members and partners to the DpNet-Nepal.
- b) DpNet-Nepal will strengthen its relationship with members and non-members through regular engagement, organizing at least two meetings on an annual basis, sharing half yearly and annual reports.
- c) DpNet-Nepal shall share its social and financial audit report to all of its members, partners and supporters on a regular basis.

8. Operational structure of the organization:

- a) DpNet-Nepal will have an Executive Committee at central level and one Executive Committee (EC) in each state. The EC is an organized group of elected people with the collective authority to control and foster the institution that is usually administered by a qualified executive and staff called Management Team, operated under the umbrella of its constitution and strategy.
- b) The constitution, administration and financial manual, program strategies, and code of conduct are key policy documents that are important to govern DpNet-Nepal at central and state level. State level DpNet will be accountable to central level DpNet-Nepal and central level DpNet shall also be accountable to the general assembly.
- c) DpNet-Nepal will have its central office in Kathmandu likewise it will have state offices in all states. All state level Executive Committee of DpNet-Nepal will be accountable to its AGM as well as to the central DpNet-Nepal.

9. Roles of Executive Committee and Management Team:

In order to develop DpNet-Nepal as a viable universally oriented proactive network, the DpNet-Nepal aims to be proactive and professional network organization through:

- Establishing an effective and strong working relationship between the Network's secretariat and its members and partners;
- A membership and program that is fully mobilized and represented by the individuals and organizations working in the field of DRM;
- Excellent planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation throughout the organization.
- In brief, the executive committee makes the decisions and the management team carries them out. The EC may take a stronger interest in day-to-day management activities because of the ensuing impact on its fiduciary responsibilities. The EC needs to be informed of how the organization is being managed to protect its legal responsibilities, but the EC role should not cross over into performing management duties.

- The strategy implementation mechanism for DRR towards a safer Nepal will include following key elements:
 - Publishing good practices report of its partners based on the review of its past achievements, developing and sharing its strategy and action plan
 - Strengthening its local networks and association with other regional and global level networks and organizations – foster linkages with like-minded organizations,
 - Advocating to integrate the issues of DRR and CCA,
 - Monitoring, evaluation and impact analysis.
- The DpNet-Nepal will have two program strategies: core program strategy and project strategy. The core program strategy includes core activities DpNet-Nepal shall pursue regularly. In addition, DpNet-Nepal will pursue project-based interventions. DpNet-Nepal identifies core activities that shall be executed utilizing its core fund in case the project funds are dried up. These activities include sharing and learning dialogue, coordinating with the government to organize national and state platform and other strategic meetings, advocate for the formulation and/or execution of national and state DRR policy & guidelines.

10. Core Values and Principles:

Core values and principles are described below. The DpNet-Nepal will:

- ✓ Serve as role model in the society in terms of zero tolerance to corruption, avoiding conflict of interest, empathy to the disaster survivors, accountable to the country and its members, serve the nation without any vested interest and nepotism,
- ✓ Work in partnership with others to strengthen a civil society movement for improving the resilience of people living in highly vulnerable conditions, especially women, children, persons with disability, elderly people, Dalit and socially excluded women and men to achieve their rights with dignity as full citizens,
- ✓ Be accountable to its members and partners and work with them for holding duty-bearers accountable for their responsibilities,
- ✓ Commit to openness and transparency about how decisions are made regarding program management and partnership and establish regular consultations and communications with partners,
- ✓ Generate income only from work that is in line with its values as a Network and not compete with its members,
- ✓ Seek sustainable and cost-effective solutions while maintaining the quality of its work and financial stability,
- ✓ Commit to gender and social inclusion of people both within the organizations and among those we work with, in terms of age, caste, ethnicity, gender, class and religion.

The DpNet-Nepal is committed to maintaining self-reliance and is also destined to work towards attaining sustainability. A detailed plan will be developed to assist the DpNet-Nepal secretariat to continue fund raising and execution of DpNet-Nepal's programs.