



Ministry of Home Affairs

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Enhancing Disaster Resilience in Nepal with Eyes on 2030



Position Paper
**Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), 2024**

Manila, Philippines
14-18 October, 2024

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

On 8 July 2024, Kanchanpur District in western Nepal experienced an unprecedented rainfall of 624 mm in 24 hours. It was the highest ever rainfall in Nepal's recorded history and caused devastating floods in the region. Three months later, from 27 to 29 September, another spell of record rainfall brought massive destruction to more than 20 districts of central Nepal, including the capital city, Kathmandu. Landslides and floods claimed 246 lives, with 18 people still missing, and children accounted for a significant number of the total fatalities.

Both these extreme rainfall events led to widespread flooding, inundation, and landslides of varying scales across the country. According to the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), 77 out of 222 rainfall measurement stations recorded heavy rainfall on 28 September, with amounts exceeding 200 mm in a day. The DHM also reported that this was the highest recorded rainfall in the Kathmandu Valley's history, surpassing the previous record set in 2002. Rainfall at the Tribhuvan International Airport station in Kathmandu reached 239.7 millimeters in 24 hours, compared to the previous record of 177 millimeters in 2002.

According to Loss and Damage Assessment reports published by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), the combined damage and losses from the Kanchanpur flooding and the September floods and landslides exceeded US\$ 354 million.

These floods and landslides primarily affected socially marginalized groups, as their settlements were destroyed and their livelihood was impacted. Moreover, the disaster caused significant damage to the physical infrastructure. Critical infrastructure was severely impacted, with road networks wiped out, water supply systems damaged, electricity and communication systems disrupted, villages swept away by landslides, and settlements inundated by flooding, making rescue and relief efforts extremely challenging.

In another turn of events on 18 August, a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) swept through Thame village in Nepal's Everest region. The flood destroyed a settlement of over 55 households and wiped out a school, health center, and the local hydropower facility. This event, attributed to rising temperatures in the Himalayas due to climate change, drastically altered the landscape of the picturesque village en route to Mount Everest.

Climate Change has made floods and landslides in the Nepal Himalayas more destructive. The above case examples for the year 2024 highlight the struggles of landlocked, mountain, poor, vulnerable, countries like Nepal as it grapples with the impacts of climate change. Already a hazard-prone country, Nepal has been facing a multitude of disasters, including earthquakes, floods, landslides, forest fires, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). Nepal's disaster risk profile is significantly influenced by its unique geographical and climatic factors. Socio-economic vulnerabilities further exacerbate this risk, as a predominantly rural population relies on rain-fed agriculture, and high poverty levels limit disaster preparedness and recovery capacity. Rapid, unplanned urbanization has led to informal settlements in hazard-prone areas, while social and gender disparities further increase susceptibility to disasters.

Climate change has further exacerbated these challenges by intensifying rainfall, causing prolonged droughts, and creating erratic weather patterns. As we cross the midpoint of the

2030 Sendai Targets, accelerating disaster risk reduction efforts is crucial to safeguarding vulnerable communities from these growing threats.

1.2 Significance of APMCDRR 2024 Theme for Nepal

The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2024 arrives at a crucial moment for Nepal, as the country grapples with the urgent need to enhance its resilience against escalating disaster risks. This theme underscores the importance of accelerating efforts to meet the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) targets by 2030, particularly in light of the growing challenges posed by climate change.

Participating in APMCDRR 2024 presents a valuable opportunity for Nepal to share updates and experiences related to disaster risk reduction (DRR), including the challenges faced and best practices adopted. The conference will also serve as a platform for fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration and mobilizing international support to strengthen national capacities. Moreover, the emphasis on enhancing ambition at the conference resonates with Nepal's determination to transform its DRR landscape through innovative solutions, inclusive disaster risk governance, and strategic investments by 2030.

2. Progress on Sendai Framework Priorities

Since adopting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) in March 2015, Nepal has significantly transformed its disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) governance architecture through key constitutional and legal reforms. The country has also made substantial progress in establishing an effective early warning system (EWS) and a robust risk communication framework. Both private and public investments in resilience building have notably increased. Furthermore, Nepal has embraced a "build back better" approach, clubbing the "build back accessible" motto in its post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. However, a significant gap remains with the number as well as the intensity of disasters increasing and the limited coping ability due to several financial and capacity bottlenecks.

2.1 Priority 1: Understanding Disaster Risk

Nepal has made significant progress in improving the understanding of disaster risk and in the hazard risk knowledge through science, technology, and innovation. The National Executive committee has tasked the NDRRMA to collate all risk, hazard, exposure and vulnerability information into a common national platform and make it publicly accessible. All risk information for multi-hazard is housed in the Bipad Portal which allows an easy use of risk information for DRRM decision making.

In early 2019, Nepal developed the Bipad Portal (<https://bipadportal.gov.np>), a homegrown, integrated, and comprehensive disaster management information system (DIMS). The portal consolidates data on hazards, exposures, vulnerabilities, and disaster events from multiple sources. Equipped with analytical tools and dashboards, it aids policymakers, planners, and emergency responders. The Bipad Portal promotes open data sharing among government agencies, researchers, and the public, fostering collaboration and enhancing transparency in disaster risk management. It allows anyone to download datasets in different formats without

requiring a login. The Bipad Portal has been localized in 62 out of 77 districts, all 7 provinces, and more than 400 local municipal governments.

The Risk Information section of the Bipad Portal hosts maps and data on risk, hazards, exposure and vulnerability. The hazard section includes hazard maps and data on usable formats for various return flood and earthquake return periods. Detailed landslide mapping for the 2015 earthquake affected areas are available and visualized time series before and after the monsoon season since the earthquakes. Data of exposure, vulnerability and risk can be seen in the respective sections of the Portal. The visualization of risk and impact based forecasting is also a major section of the Bipad portal which is used for decision support and multi hazard early warning.

The portal serves as a comprehensive disaster information repository, supporting informed decision-making at federal, provincial, and local levels, with the motto of data partnership and data sharing among governments and credible data producers in DRR and climate change. The platform enables all three tiers of government, as well as other stakeholders, to share early warning information, map risks, and manage emergency response operations. For instance, the system called VizRisk (<https://bipadportal.gov.np/vis-risk/>) though has limited coverage, takes into account socio-economic factors of vulnerability, infrastructure resilience, and community capacities, helping to identify high-risk populations and critical assets in need of protection.

The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) employs advanced modeling techniques to forecast weather patterns, monitor climate trends, and predict hydrological events such as floods and droughts. The Department of Mines and Geology (DMG) operates a network of seismic stations that track earthquake activity, providing critical data for risk assessments, building codes, and land-use planning. Additionally, the DMG has been developing landslide susceptibility maps, which are useful for risk-sensitive land-use planning.

The National Disaster Risk Communication strategy has been endorsed through executive order in October 2024. This strategy takes a structured approach of identifying communication gaps for various hazard hotspot locations. It focuses on enhancing public awareness on DRR, design communication to develop the information system, and increase access to and understanding of disaster risk information. With a view to build safer communities from natural and non-natural hazards, the government has identified major barriers to risk communications and undertaken research, capacity strengthening, media production and outreach activities through various communication means to bring in a culture of safety.

Furthermore, with the increased public access to mobile phones and the internet, social media has proven to be an effective tool for wider disaster risk communication. Risk communication through the Facebook page (facebook.com/NDRRMA), X account (https://x.com/NDRRMA_Nepal), Viber Channel (NDRRMA channel), and YouTube channel (youtube.com/@NDRRMA) has helped disseminate information to a wider audience. Through these platforms, informative messages in various forms have been produced and disseminated in multiple local languages to promote inclusion.

2.2. Priority 2 : Evolution of DRR Governance in Nepal.

The 2015 Constitution introduced a major shift by decentralizing DRRM governance, distributing authority across federal, provincial, and local levels, and granting local governments exclusive rights over disaster risk governance. This localized approach that empowers the local government makes Nepal one of the few countries globally to embrace such an approach.

A pivotal development in Nepal's DRRM journey has been the establishment of NDRRMA as per the DRRM Act 2017. This marked a critical shift from a primarily reactive, response-based approach to one focused on proactive risk reduction based on understanding of risks.

The Act decentralizes DRRM governance to all three levels of government. At the federal level the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) National Council, led by the Rt. The Honorable Prime Minister provides strategic guidance and approves key disaster-related policies and strategies. The Executive Committee (EC), chaired by the Minister of Home Affairs formulates integrated and sectoral policies related to disaster risk reduction, response, and recovery, ensuring alignment with the broader national goals set by the Council. Additionally, it defines the roles and responsibilities of various ministries, departments, government bodies, and private and non-governmental organizations, while working to strengthen institutional capacity at all levels of government—federal, provincial, district, and local—for effective disaster management. The NDRRMA acts as the secretariat for both the National Council.

Since the formation of the NDRRMA, the Executive Council has held 26 meetings, approving a significant number of policy documents to strengthen DRRM governance in Nepal. Key milestone policy documents that have helped reinforce DRRM governance across all levels include:

1. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (2017)
2. National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (2018)
3. Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Plan of Action (2018–2030)
4. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Regulation (2019)
5. National Disaster Response Framework (NDRF) (Amended 2019)
6. National Disaster Risk Financing Strategy (2020)
7. Standards for Rescue and Relief of Disaster Victims (Seventh Amendment, 2020)
8. Operational Guidelines for National Disaster Risk Reduction Platform (2020)
9. Volunteer Bureau Formation and Operational Procedure (2021)
10. Disaster Management Fund Operational Procedures (2022)
11. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Mobilization Operational Procedures (2024)
12. Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategic Action Plan (2024)
13. Standards on Grant Disbursement for Construction of Temporary Shelters to Disaster-Affected Households (2024)
14. Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Framework (2024)
15. Disaster-Affected Private Housing Retrofitting, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Procedure (2024)

At the provincial level, the DRRM council is chaired by the Chief Minister of each province. Each province also has a Provincial Disaster Management Executive Committee, led by the provincial Minister for Internal Affairs and Law. The provincial governments have prepared acts and policies aligned with federal guidelines while addressing the specific needs and disaster priorities of each province.

At the local level, each municipality or rural municipality has a Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC) chaired by the mayor or chairperson of the local body, as defined by local laws. The LDMC formulates local DRRM policies tailored to suit the specific needs and priorities of the community. Further, every district has a District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC), chaired by the Chief District Officer (CDO), who serves as the federal government's representative and coordinates with provincial and local authorities on preparedness for response including undertaking search and rescue, relief and response. All 77 DDMCs are operational and play a crucial role in disaster preparedness, response planning, and execution at the district level.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Plan of Action 2018–2030 underpins all the DRRM policy and governance reforms in Nepal. It provides a strategic roadmap to achieve the targets of SFDRR (2015-2030). The plan outlines specific goals, objectives, and priority actions aligned with the four priorities of the SFDRR: understanding disaster risk; strengthening disaster risk governance; investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response.

Similarly, The Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Framework (LDCRF) integrates Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) and climate resilience into local fiscal planning and policies, ensuring that DRR remains a priority. LDCRF is primarily a localized adaptation of the SFDRR, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development (GRID) framework. It ensures the inclusive participation of all sectors, communities, and target groups at the local level. By helping to assess local risks, develop plans, and implement projects, the LDCRF facilitates the integration of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) into the periodic and annual development programs of local governments. This process aims to build resilient and sustainable communities against potential disaster and climate risks, contributing to both the SFDRR and the Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Plan of Action 2018-2030.

2.3 Priority 3: Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

Nepal is actively increasing financial resources for disaster risk reduction (DRR) through strategic measures. A national policy mandates that 5% of the development budget be specifically allocated for DRR activities, ensuring consistent investment in mitigating disaster risks. Disaster Management Funds have been established at the federal, provincial, and local levels, with the Disaster Management Fund Mobilization Procedure (2022) requiring that 70% of resources be directed toward preparedness and risk reduction. Additionally, the federal government encourages sectoral ministries, as well as provincial and local governments, to integrate DRR activities into their annual budgets.

The 16th Periodic Plan of the Government of Nepal outlines a comprehensive strategy for investing in climate change adaptation and DRR, emphasizing the country's commitment to enhancing resilience. Nepal also taps into international funds such as the Adaptation Fund

and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), having received US\$ 112.1 million from the GCF to date for climate adaptation and resilience projects. Innovative financial instruments, like index-based insurance schemes, are being piloted to transfer risk and provide quick financial relief to affected populations. Although these funds are not directly earmarked for DRR, they are expected to contribute to enhancing disaster resilience.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Financing Strategy, 2020 was introduced to garner support from international financial institutions through loans and grants aimed at reducing risks for hazard-exposed communities and vulnerable sectors. Key financial instruments under this strategy include soft loans and the Contingency CAT DDO, both of which enhance financial support for disaster risk reduction initiatives. Furthermore, Nepal has initiated a partnership with the private sector to bolster these efforts.

The private sector has also been playing a key role in DRR. Businesses are encouraged to invest in risk reduction measures, such as reinforcing facilities, diversifying supply chains, and adopting resilient technologies. Many companies are developing Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) to prepare for disruptions, ensuring the continuity of operations and services during disasters. Collaborative projects between the government and the private sector are focused on infrastructure resilience, technological innovation, and community development.

Building codes and standards have been updated to incorporate hazard-resistant designs, especially for seismic and flood-prone areas. Investments prioritize enhancing the resilience of essential services such as hospitals, schools, water supply systems, and transportation networks. Risk-informed urban planning is used to regulate development in hazard-prone areas and promote sustainable land use.

2.4 Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Nepal's Preparedness for Emergency Response Assessment ([https://bipad.gov.np/uploads/publication_pdf/EPR_report_July_2022_Final_V4_\(1\)138720.pdf](https://bipad.gov.np/uploads/publication_pdf/EPR_report_July_2022_Final_V4_(1)138720.pdf)) and the Crisis Preparedness and Gap Analysis (<https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/crisis-preparedness-gap-analysis-nepal-briefing-note>) points to priority areas to strengthen preparedness, and investments to strengthen preparedness across sectors, development of multi-hazard early warning systems and establishment of shock-responsive social protection systems. The overarching conclusion of the analysis is that while Nepal can manage small, localized crises, it is not prepared for large, multisector crises.

The DRRM Act identifies early warning systems and risk communication as integral components in building a resilient society, mandating the establishment of a national early warning system. Nepal is also among the 30 countries identified by the United Nations for implementing the Early Warning For All (EW4All) initiative. In alignment with this, Nepal has shifted from a single-hazard early warning system (initially focused on floods) to a comprehensive Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) that incorporates all key hazards and sectors. Ongoing efforts aim to integrate warnings for various hazards, floods

including glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), lightning, forest fires and extreme weather events.

Impact-based forecasting for landslides has been piloted in most hilly and mountainous districts, improving local preparedness. Additionally, the NDRRMA has installed smart sirens—audio emergency warning and notification systems—in 49 flood-prone locations across the country that can simultaneously transmit alerts and messages in multiple languages. Together with mobile SMS, social media channels, the use of FM radios have enhanced the early warning system communication.

Furthermore, institutional mechanisms have been established to operationalize Decision Support Systems (DSS), transforming hazard information into impact-based forecasts to aid decision-making across multiple sectors such as transportation, agriculture, water management and hydropower sector. To support this, Nepal has developed a Multi-Hazard EWS Strategic Concept Note and an Action Plan that extends through 2030.

Although still in its early stage and not fully equipped, the National Emergency Operations Center (EOC), along with Provincial, District, and Local EOCs, has played a role in disaster preparedness and response.

Furthermore, there are several systems in place to strengthen preparedness for response include:

- Nepal's Disaster Information Management System, the Bipad Portal (<https://bipadportal.gov.np>) has enhanced disaster risk management in Nepal by decentralizing disaster information by integrating local government data. With nine modules that cover real-time monitoring, resource mapping, risk information, incident reporting, loss and damage assessments and visualization of risk (VisRisk) the platform empowers decision-making at the national, provincial, district and municipal levels. The portal fosters community engagement and aligns disaster risk reduction efforts with local contexts, ensuring a more responsive and efficient system. Bipad Portal targets Emergency Operation Centers, and first responders like the Nepal Police, as well as line ministries, the Nepal Army, the Armed Police Force, I/NGOs, research institutions, and the general public. The platform has been contributing to preparedness, communication, emergency response, and coordination after incidents. The portal also supports evidence-based planning by providing data on critical infrastructures such as health facilities, banks, schools, bridges, governance, open space, and road networks. Bipad Portal's integration of hazard, exposure, vulnerability indicators, risk, and climate change datasets also aids in risk-sensitive land-use planning and risk-informed planning and development. The Portal also tracks disaster projects, and budgets, and aligns with the Sendai Framework and the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Action Plan, enhancing transparency and collaboration across sectors.
- The Volunteer Management System (<https://vms.ndrrma.gov.np/>) is a platform designed for the formation and mobilization of disaster volunteers across the country. It facilitates the efficient mobilization of volunteers for DRRM activities. The VMS has been instrumental in supporting the localization of DRRM in Nepal by enhancing local participation, improving volunteer mobilization, and providing training resources. It

strengthens community-based disaster management efforts, ensuring that DRRM is tailored to the unique challenges and capacities of local areas.

- Godam (<https://godam.ndrrma.gov.np/dashboard>), is a module specifically designed for inventory and warehouse management for disaster response operations. The Godam module housed within the Bipad Portal has significantly enhanced the localization of DRRM by providing a robust platform for tracking, managing, and distributing disaster relief resources at the local level. It empowers municipalities and districts to take proactive steps in disaster preparedness, ensure equitable resource allocation, and respond swiftly during emergencies. This localized approach improves the overall efficiency and responsiveness of DRRM efforts in Nepal.

Building on the success of the 2015 Earthquake reconstruction and recovery, Nepal embarked upon a national program for the reconstruction of private houses damaged by floods, landslides and fire and forest fire disasters. The post-disaster reconstruction efforts focus on building resilience through 'build back better' approach using the owner-driven principles. Two major policy documents guide rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts through an owner-driven approach: the *Standards on Grant Disbursement for Construction of Temporary Shelters to Disaster-Affected Households (2024)* and the *Disaster-Affected Private Housing Retrofitting, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Procedure (2024)*. For building temporary shelters, each affected family receives NPR 50,000 (~ US\$ 375) while reconstruction grants range from NPR 300,000 (~ US\$ 2,222) to NPR 500,000 (~ US\$ 3,700) depending on the remoteness and price of construction materials. Affected families whose land are identified as unfit for settlement get an additional grant of NPR 300,000 (~ US\$ 2,222) to buy and resettle in safer land. The NDRRMA's Reconstruction MIS captures the progress on reconstruction and recovery. To ensure resilience in post-disaster reconstruction, both policy documents provide standard building codes and sample designs for homeowners.

3. Promoting Inclusive and Gender-Responsive DRR

The government has prioritized strategic actions to promote inclusivity in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM). Foundational policy and legal frameworks, such as the Constitution of Nepal (2015) and the DRRM Act and policy, emphasize inclusion as the cornerstone of effective DRRM. Nepal has made significant progress in adopting a gender-sensitive and inclusive approach throughout DRRM processes, institutionalizing disaster risk concerns to empower vulnerable groups and fostering their active participation in disaster risk governance.

Moreover, Nepal remains committed to the principle of "Leaving no one behind" in its DRR and resilience-building efforts. The Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Strategic Plan of Action, 2024 is crucial in this commitment, integrating GEDSI principles across the four priority areas of the SFDRR. This includes the development of accessible and inclusive multi-hazard early warning systems, ensuring non-discriminatory participation in DRR activities, and embedding GEDSI into institutional frameworks at all levels of government. The UN agencies, various development partners along with I/NGOs have increased their support in localizing the National GEDSI Strategy at all levels of governments. Additionally, Nepal has drafted the National Standard on Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP), designed to provide social protection to vulnerable populations.

Despite these initiatives, gaps persist in addressing the specific needs of particularly vulnerable groups, such as children, persons with disabilities, pregnant women and lactating mothers, and socio-economically marginalized communities. To bridge these gaps, ongoing policy reviews aim to identify areas for improvement and better integrate GEDSI considerations. Moving forward, GEDSI principles will be embedded in the monitoring and evaluation of DRRM planning, implementation, and progress review across all levels and sectors, with a focus on capacity building, research, and innovation.

4. Multi-stakeholder coordination and Collaboration for Effective DRRM

Nepal has adopted a "whole-of-society" approach to Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM), ensuring collaboration and coordination among government, non-government, and private sector entities. This coordination is facilitated by the National Council and the National Executive Committee, both of which include representatives from government, non-government, and private sectors.

The National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) acts as a key coordinating body and serves as the primary mechanism for multi-stakeholder engagement at the national and Provincial Levels. The Platform brings together government agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, media, and community representatives to facilitate dialogue on DRR policies, strategies, and priorities. This inclusive approach ensures that diverse perspectives are considered in decision-making processes.

By uniting various stakeholders, the NPDRR promotes coordination, reduces duplication of efforts, and improves the effectiveness of DRR interventions. It also organizes knowledge-sharing events to build capacity and disseminate best practices across sectors.

The National Executive Committee has endorsed the NGOs mobilization guideline. The guideline streamlines the work of the I/NGOs in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The NDRRMA coordinates and monitors the work through a self reporting Monitoring for Disaster Strategic Action Plans (<https://mdsa.bipad.gov.np/>) .

5. Nepal as a Least Developed, Landlocked Country facing climate disasters

Nepal's landlocked status poses significant logistical challenges in transporting supplies during large-scale disasters. Additionally, transboundary disasters like glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) and floods necessitate strong bilateral and regional coordination for risk tracking, information sharing, and joint risk reduction and response efforts with neighboring countries and the international community.

Moreover, as a Least Developed Country (LDC) aiming for graduation by 2026, Nepal faces structural challenges in scaling up disaster risk reduction and management. The disproportionate impact of climate change-induced disasters results in significant physical and financial losses, hampering investments in resilience building and recovery.

Bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation is crucial for countries like Nepal in building resilience against disasters. As the climate crisis intensifies, Nepal and other vulnerable nations are disproportionately affected by the increasing frequency of climate-induced disasters. Countries in the Himalayan Hindu Kush region, in particular, face similar challenges and share a common fate, making collaboration essential.

Nepal has consistently advocated for stronger international cooperation to enhance the coping capacity of vulnerable nations. Recently, at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, Nepal's Prime Minister KP Oli urged the global community to "act decisively in ensuring climate justice" based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. He emphasized the need for international collaboration on both climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

6. Conclusion and Way Forward

Small, poor, and vulnerable countries like Nepal are disproportionately affected by climate change-induced disasters. From glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) to unprecedented rainfall, the scale of these disasters has exceeded the country's coping capacity. Despite significant progress in policy and legislative reforms, institutional strengthening, localization efforts, robust early warning systems, and scaling up disaster risk financing, these initiatives have fallen short in addressing the escalating impacts of these crises.

With only six years remaining to achieve the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), significant challenges remain, despite notable progress across all four priority areas. Recurring disasters continue to undermine investments in preparedness, as a substantial portion of funding is diverted to relief and reconstruction efforts after disasters occur. For example, according to the Government's Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report, the 2015 earthquake in Nepal caused an estimated US \$7 billion in loss and damage. Similarly, reconstruction efforts following the earthquakes in Western Nepal (Jajarkot and Rukum West) have yet to begin due to a significant financial shortfall. Preliminary assessments estimate that losses and damage from these earthquakes across all sectors exceed US \$499 million. Likewise, the combined damage and losses from the Kanchanpur flooding and the September floods and landslides surpassed US \$354 million. Disasters such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, fires, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) continue to strain the national budget with staggering financial demands.

Capacity and knowledge constraints have also hindered the effective implementation of the SFDRR. Although Nepal has made exemplary progress in localizing DRRM through legal and institutional arrangements, significant challenges remain at the local level due to constraints in human, financial, and technological resources. Local governments, spanning diverse geographical locations with varying degrees of remoteness, access, and vulnerability, have differing coping capacities. Strengthening these local governments is crucial for addressing the needs of vulnerable communities and individuals at risk.

Access to international financial instruments like the Green Climate Fund and the Loss and Damage Fund is essential to ensure that countries like Nepal receive climate justice. Despite contributing almost nothing to global greenhouse gas emissions, Nepal is grappling with the widespread impacts of climate disasters. Regional and global collaboration is crucial to ensure access to the finances, technology, and capacity needed to cope with the escalating scale of these crises.

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by landlocked and developing countries, Nepal calls for increased financial assistance and collaborative efforts, including accessing funds from mechanisms like the Loss and Damage Financing Facility. Technical support through technology transfer, capacity building, and research is equally critical. Enhanced cooperation on transboundary risks and shared challenges through regional partnerships is also vital. By working together, the international community can support Nepal's efforts to build a resilient future.

Despite challenges, Nepal reaffirms its commitment to achieving SFDRR targets by 2030. The country remains dedicated to implementing priority actions by aligning national strategies with SFDRR objectives. Strengthening partnerships and engaging stakeholders at all levels will enhance collaboration and collective action. Nepal is focused on fostering inclusive, risk-informed, and climate-resilient development at all levels. To achieve this, Nepal aims at enhancing the capacity of federal, provincial, and local governments, as well as non-governmental agencies, to support climate-resilient, inclusive, and risk-informed development. Nepal's participation in APMCDRR 2024 provides an opportunity to reinforce these commitments, learn from other nations, and drive collective DRRM efforts forward.

SUPPORTING AGENCIES



This position paper has been prepared in consultation with nine thematic groups of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) namely, i) Government, ii) Semi-Government, iii) UN and Donor Agencies, iv) INGO, v) NGO, vii) Media, viii) Academia and, ix) Affected Communities. NPDRR reached more than 5000 individuals and stakeholders of these groups to get feedback on this position paper.

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