



# eBulletin

## JAN-FEB 2025





## Summary

This e-bulletin highlights DPNet Nepal's continued leadership in advancing disaster risk reduction (DRR), human security, and institutional preparedness through strategic programs, workshops, and coordination meetings held from January to February 2025. These efforts reflect a deep commitment to inclusive, risk-informed, and community-driven development practices, both nationally and regionally.

On January 14–15, DPNet actively participated in the "Integrating Human Security in Development Programming" regional workshop in Bangkok. The event emphasized a shift from traditional state-centric security to people-centered approaches. Representing Nepal, Dr. Raju Thapa shared experiences from community-based disaster recovery and highlighted Nepal's commitment to integrating human security principles into national and local development plans.

Coinciding with National Earthquake Safety Day on January 15, DPNet engaged in commemorative events led by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli. The occasion served to reflect on post-Gorkha earthquake recovery and underscore the importance of earthquake-resistant infrastructure and integrated settlements. DPNet facilitated stakeholder coordination and showcased its initiatives through an information stall, reinforcing its role in public awareness and disaster resilience.

On February 9, a virtual preparatory meeting was organized by DPNet in anticipation of Nepal's participation in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025 (GP2025). Stakeholders discussed coordination strategies, development of a unified position paper, and nominations for the Sasakawa Award. Dr. Raju Thapa emphasized strategic representation at GP2025, while Dr. Bhisma Bhusal urged the formation of a preparatory committee to ensure effective national participation.

From February 14–15, DPNet convened a residential discussion at Bal Kshetra Nepal, Sankhu to finalize the Strategic Plan of Action 2025–2030. This collaborative dialogue focused on four thematic pillars—Policy Advocacy, Coordination and Networking, Capacity Building, and Knowledge Management—with cross-cutting themes of inclusion, climate change, and localization. Participants contributed insights to align DPNet's vision with national frameworks and ensure scalable, community-based DRR strategies.

Further advancing its humanitarian training efforts, DPNet, in collaboration with the Institute of Himalayan Risk Reduction (IHRR), hosted a stakeholder workshop in Kathmandu to refine the Training of Trainers (ToT) Manual for Humanitarian Response Management Training (HRMT). Participants, divided into thematic groups, provided feedback to ensure the manual is practical, concise, and aligned with global standards. Emphasis was placed on case-based learning, simplified language, and real-world applicability to strengthen disaster response capacity in Nepal.

On February 25, DPNet participated in the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) stakeholders' meeting held at NDRRMA. The meeting focused on revitalizing thematic groups, engaging them in the national disaster podcast “Bipad Ka Kura,” and compiling best practices ahead of GPDRR 2025. The platform reaffirmed the importance of structured collaboration and timely preparation for showcasing Nepal’s DRR progress on the global stage.

Collectively, these initiatives underscore DPNet Nepal’s multifaceted role in promoting disaster preparedness, human security, and systemic resilience. Through continued advocacy, training, and coordination, DPNet remains at the forefront of building a safer, more resilient Nepal.

## **Workshop on Integrating Human Security in Development Programming Concludes with Promising Outcomes**



Bangkok, January 15, 2025 – The "Integrating Human Security in Development Programming" workshop, held on January 14 and 15 in Bangkok, concluded on a high note, marking a significant milestone in advancing human security as a cornerstone of sustainable development in South Asia. The event brought together policymakers, experts, practitioners, and academics from Nepal, Bangladesh, and beyond, with a shared focus on developing risk-informed and inclusive strategies to safeguard vulnerable communities. DPNet Chairperson Dr. Raju Thapa was among the key participants, actively contributing to the discussions. The workshop emphasized the urgent need for a paradigm shift from traditional, state-centric security frameworks to people-centered approaches that address interconnected risks and vulnerabilities. Participants explored innovative methodologies to integrate human security into development programming, ensuring that no one is left behind. The opening session featured a keynote address by Sanny Ramos Jegillos, Team Leader of the Disaster Resilience Team at BRH, who highlighted the important role of human security in fostering inclusive development. Drawing on successful examples from South Asia,

Jegillos called for a systematic approach to scaling these practices, particularly in regions like Nepal and Bhutan. Ms. Shahrbanou Tadjbaksh facilitated a thought-provoking session, expanding the concept of human security to include "freedom from indignity" alongside "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want." She emphasized the interconnectedness of economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security, advocating for integrated, multi-sectoral responses to multiple challenges. Participants identified gaps in current development processes, noting that traditional approaches often exacerbate vulnerabilities rather than addressing them. They stressed the importance of proactive, preventive measures and community-centric strategies to tackle multi-hazard risks, climate change, and socio-economic inequalities. The Nepal and Bangladesh teams presented distinct yet complementary methodologies for integrating human security into development programming. Nepal's approach, grounded in disaster recovery experiences, emphasized community-driven interventions and alignment with the country's three-tier governance system. Bangladesh's methodology focused on institutional capacity and area-based piloting in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, integrating human security into existing policy mechanisms. Dr. Raju Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet, shared insights on Nepal's efforts and announced that DPNet will sensitize disaster risk reduction (DRR) stakeholders in Nepal on the new concept of human security, ensuring its integration into national and local development plans.

In the closing session, Sanny Ramos Jegillos and Mr. Arif Abdullah Khan reflected on the workshop's achievements, describing it as the beginning of a transformative journey. They emphasized the importance of implementing the developed methodologies and scaling up pilot projects in Nepal and Bangladesh. The workshop concluded with heartfelt acknowledgments of Jegillos' contributions to the field of development as he prepares for retirement. Participants expressed gratitude for his leadership and commitment to human security, vowing to carry forward his vision of inclusive and resilient development.



## Prime Minister Pledges Effective Earthquake Preparedness on National Earthquake Safety Day



KATHMANDU, January 15, 2025 – Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli emphasized the importance of effective preparedness to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters like earthquakes during the 27th National Earthquake Safety Day commemorations today. Speaking at a major event organized by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), the Prime Minister highlighted the progress made in building safer, integrated settlements following the 2015 Gorkha earthquake but stressed the need for continued efforts to ensure disaster resilience.

The event, held to honor the victims of the 1934 Great Earthquake and the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, saw the participation of high-ranking officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Prakash Man Singh, Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak, and Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport Devendra Dahal. The Prime Minister acknowledged the achievements in reconstruction and rebuilding efforts post-2015 but called for a stronger focus on creating systematic and sustainable settlements.

“Earthquakes are unavoidable, but we can minimize their impact by constructing earthquake-resistant structures and enhancing preparedness,” PM Oli stated. He urged all stakeholders, including experts and communities, to collaborate in disaster preparedness initiatives, assuring that the government would lead these efforts.

The Prime Minister also addressed the challenges faced by integrated settlements, particularly in generating employment and income for residents. He called for innovative solutions to ensure these settlements are not only safe but also economically viable.

The event served as a platform to reflect on Nepal’s vulnerability to earthquakes and the need for continuous efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness. Participants reiterated the importance of community engagement, capacity building, and policy advocacy to build a disaster-resilient nation. DPNet facilitated coordination among stakeholders for the program to ensure wider participation from different sectors. DPNet also set up a stall at the event to showcase its efforts in promoting disaster resilience across Nepal.

## DPNet Nepal Hosts Preparatory Meeting for GP2025 Participation



Kathmandu, February 9, 2025 – In preparation for Nepal’s participation in the upcoming Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025 (GP2025), DPNet Nepal organized a virtual preparatory meeting to discuss Nepal’s collective engagement strategy and coordination mechanisms. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Bhisma Bhusal, Executive Chief of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and Chair of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR). The session brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from government agencies, INGOs, NGOs, and DRR practitioners.

The meeting began with opening remarks by DPNet General Secretary, Suraj Gautam, who welcomed the participants and highlighted the objectives of the gathering. He emphasized that Nepal has a strong tradition of participating in global DRR platforms in a unified way and that the meeting was an important step in ensuring well-prepared and coordinated representation at GP2025. He stressed that DPNet, as the secretariat of NPDRR, is committed to facilitating effective collaboration among stakeholders to enhance Nepal’s presence at international forums.



Following the introductory remarks, Dr. Raju Thapa, DPNet Chair and Member Secretary of NPDRR, presented an overview of GP2025, outlining its significance as a global multi-stakeholder forum that reviews progress on the Sendai Framework and fosters discussions on disaster risk reduction. He provided a detailed breakdown of the event's key segments, including the preparatory days, thematic sessions, high-level dialogues, and multi-stakeholder plenaries. He also explained the informal engagements, awards, and side events that would take place during the conference.

Dr. Thapa elaborated on Nepal's planned participation, emphasizing the importance of attending main sessions and engaging in sideline events. While acknowledging that applications for partner events and learning labs had closed, he requested stakeholders to ensure that Nepal's voice is well-represented in thematic discussions and policy dialogues. He also highlighted the significance of preparing a common position paper and official statement, which have been instrumental in articulating Nepal's DRR priorities in previous international forums.

Additionally, Dr. Thapa spoke about the Sasakawa Award, which recognizes individuals and organizations making outstanding contributions to disaster resilience. He encouraged stakeholders to submit nominations for Nepali DRR champions who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to strengthening community resilience. He also reminded participants about key deadlines, including the nomination deadline on March 28, 2025.

During the open discussion session, participants raised concerns about ensuring effective coordination among stakeholders for meaningful engagement at GP2025. Attendees emphasized the need to reflect on past experiences to improve Nepal's representation, particularly in terms of consolidating inputs from diverse stakeholders and presenting a unified stance. Others highlighted logistical and financial challenges associated with participation and stressed the importance of resource mobilization to support Nepal's delegation.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Bhusal acknowledged Nepal's history of disciplined and impactful participation in global DRR platforms. He stated that despite challenges, Nepal has consistently presented itself as a committed and proactive nation in the field of disaster risk reduction. He

commended the dedication of stakeholders who have worked tirelessly to enhance Nepal's global visibility in DRR discussions.

Dr. Bhusal requested DPNet to recommend a GPDRR Participation Preparatory Committee. He emphasized the importance of a good official statement and position paper, as these documents reflect Nepal's key priorities, challenges, and achievements in disaster risk reduction. He also encouraged stakeholders to think collectively about nominating outstanding DRR champions for the Sasakawa Award, as their contributions could serve as a global inspiration for disaster resilience efforts.

## **DPNet Nepal conducted a residential discussion program to develop the DPNet Strategic Plan of Action 2025-2030**



DPNet Nepal organized a residential discussion program on February 14th and 15th, 2025, at Bal Kshetra Nepal in Sankhu to deliberate on the draft DPNet Strategic Plan of Action 2025-2030. The event brought together DPNet board members, advisors, and technical advisors to refine the organization's strategic direction for the next six years. The program was chaired by DPNet Chairperson Dr. Raju Thapa, with General Secretary Suraj Gautam serving as the Master of Ceremony. Vice Chairperson Shakti Gurung delivered the welcome speech, and Immediate Past President (IPP) Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa outlined the objectives of the gathering.

Dr. Thapa presented the draft strategic plan, which is structured around four thematic pillars: Policy Advocacy, Coordination and Networking, Capacity Building, and Knowledge Management. These pillars aim to address systemic challenges in Nepal's disaster preparedness and response mechanisms by fostering policy reforms, strengthening multi-stakeholder coordination, enhancing capacity-building initiatives, and improving knowledge management systems. The strategy also



emphasizes cross-cutting themes such as gender and social inclusion, climate change adaptation, and localization to ensure that disaster resilience efforts are equitable and community-driven.

Participants engaged in detailed discussions, providing feedback and suggestions to strengthen the document. They focused on aligning the strategic plan with national and global disaster risk reduction frameworks, enhancing coordination among stakeholders, and effectively addressing Nepal's evolving disaster landscape. The discussions also highlighted the importance of policy audits, engagement with policymakers, and evidence-based advocacy to influence policy changes. Emphasis was placed on clarifying the roles and responsibilities of federal, provincial, and local governments to avoid overlaps and inefficiencies in disaster management efforts.

The Coordination and Networking pillar received considerable attention, with participants recognizing the importance of enhancing collaboration among government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector. The strategic plan envisions strengthening DPNet's role in organizing national and provincial DRR platforms, ensuring more effective communication and information-sharing mechanisms. Participants highlighted the necessity of improving coordination between governmental and non-governmental organizations to prevent duplication of efforts and optimize resource utilization in disaster preparedness and response.

Regarding Capacity Building, discussions centered on equipping DRR professionals, local government officials, and community-based organizations with the necessary skills and knowledge to respond to disasters effectively. The plan proposes developing training modules, establishing provincial training hubs, and creating a national roster of trained DRR professionals. Participants stressed the need for a Training of Trainers (ToT) approach to expand outreach and ensure sustainable capacity-building efforts across all provinces.

The Knowledge Management pillar was identified as crucial for DPNet's long-term impact. Participants discussed enhancing DPNet's digital infrastructure, developing online platforms for resource sharing, and promoting research and documentation of best practices in disaster risk reduction. The goal is to create a centralized repository of information that is accessible to all stakeholders, facilitating informed decision-making and continuous learning.

In conclusion, the residential discussion program served as a significant step toward finalizing the DPNet Strategic Plan of Action 2025-2030. The collaborative efforts and insights gathered during the event are expected to strengthen DPNet's role in disaster risk reduction across Nepal, ensuring a more resilient and prepared nation in the face of natural hazards.

## **DPNet and IHRR Host Workshop to Improve Humanitarian Training Framework.**



DPNet, in collaboration with the Institute of Himalayan Risk Reduction (IHRR), conducted a crucial stakeholder consultation workshop at Kathmandu, to discuss and refine the Training of Trainers (ToT) Manual for Humanitarian Response Management Training (HRMT). The workshop was technically supported by AWO International and Aktion Deutschland Hilft. The event brought together humanitarian practitioners, disaster response experts, trainers, and representatives from government and non-government organizations to discuss and provide input on the draft ToT manual. The objective of the consultation was to ensure that the manual effectively addresses key issues in humanitarian response management and remains practical for training future responders.



The workshop commenced with an inaugural session where Dr. Raju Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet Nepal, highlighted the primary objectives of the program. He emphasized the significance of a well-structured ToT manual in strengthening the capacity of humanitarian responders and ensuring a coordinated disaster response framework in Nepal. Following Dr. Thapa's remarks, DPNet's General Secretary, Suraj Gautam, presented the draft contents of the ToT manual, detailing its structure and focus areas. He highlighted the importance of gathering expert opinions to refine the document and align it with global humanitarian standards while keeping it concise and relevant for trainees.

For in-depth analysis and structured feedback, participants were divided into four working groups, each tasked with reviewing a specific section of the ToT manual. The groups were assigned the following thematic areas: Humanitarian Preparedness & Response Fundamentals, Humanitarian Assistance & Standards, Data Collection, Monitoring, and Evaluation, and Training Structure & Capacity Building. Each group engaged in discussions to review, refine, add, remove, or modify the contents within their assigned sections to ensure their relevance, clarity, and alignment with humanitarian response needs.

The first group focused on understanding the Humanitarian Project Cycle, disaster preparedness strategies, search and rescue techniques, relief operations, early recovery, and Nepal's disaster response framework. Key discussions revolved around ensuring that the section adequately covers practical aspects that humanitarian responders would encounter in real-life emergencies. The second group examined the principles of humanitarian assistance, including Sphere Standards, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), needs-based targeting, logistics, warehouse management, and accountability mechanisms in aid distribution. Participants emphasized the need to simplify complex terminologies and provide real-world case studies to enhance understanding.

The third group explored data collection tools such as Kobo Toolbox and AKVO, methodologies for initial rapid assessments, post-distribution monitoring, and ethical considerations in data collection. The discussion pointed out the importance of incorporating practical exercises and case scenarios in the manual for better comprehension and hands-on experience. The fourth group discussed the structuring of the ToT manual, effective training methodologies, engaging stakeholders, scenario-based learning, and aligning content with global humanitarian standards. A

major point of discussion was how to make the training more interactive and participatory rather than relying on theoretical instruction.

A common concern raised across all groups was the risk of overwhelming trainees with excessive information. The participants unanimously recommended that the ToT manual should focus only on essential and directly relevant subject matter to ensure a practical and efficient training experience. Some of the key recommendations included eliminating non-essential theoretical content and emphasizing practical, field-oriented knowledge, reorganizing training modules to prioritize key topics and allow participants to grasp core concepts effectively, enhancing engagement techniques through case studies, role-playing, and scenario-based exercises, incorporating updated local and global best practices to align with evolving humanitarian response strategies, and including simplified language and visual elements for ease of comprehension.

## **NPDRR Stakeholders Meeting Held**



February 25, 2025,- The National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) held a stakeholders' meeting at the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA). The meeting, chaired by (NPDRR) Chairperson and Executive Chief of NDRRMA, Dr. Bhisma Bhusal, focused on strengthening the platform's thematic groups to enhance their effectiveness in disaster risk reduction. Dr. Raju Thapa, Member Secretary of NPDRR, presented updates on the platform's progress and outlined key agenda items for discussion.

The meeting emphasized the importance of making NPDRR's thematic groups more structured and efficient. It was decided that each thematic group would convene within 15 days to finalize their respective ad-hoc groups, aiming to enhance responsiveness and proactive engagement in strengthening Nepal's disaster resilience.

A key decision was the participation of thematic groups in the disaster podcast series, "Bipad Ka Kura," currently being broadcast by NDRRMA. Each thematic group will contribute to the podcast, sharing insights, experiences, and expertise in disaster risk reduction. This initiative is expected to play a vital role in raising public awareness and encouraging community participation in disaster preparedness and response.



Another major agenda discussed was Nepal's preparation for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2025, set to be held in Geneva in June 2025. The thematic groups were assigned the task of compiling best practices and submitting them within a month to NDRRMA. This step aims to ensure that Nepal is well-prepared to showcase its achievements and lessons learned in disaster risk reduction at the global level.