Fostering Knowledge on Disaster

DPNet Nepal eBulletin

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Summary

This quarterly report highlights DPNet Nepal's key initiatives and engagements from May to June 2025, focusing on enhancing provincial disaster governance, multi-stakeholder coordination, and climate risk management.

On 2 May, DPNet Sudurpaschim Province Committee coordinated a provincial workshop on the Gap Analysis of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) in Dhangadhi. Chaired by Ministry Secretary Rajendra Kumar Hamal and attended by Hon. Minister Hira Sarki, the workshop identified capacity gaps, resource constraints, and data deficiencies. Recommendations included improving technology use, expanding communication infrastructure, enhancing private sector engagement, and strengthening joint provincial-local planning for inclusive resilience.

A national stakeholder consultation on 20 May reviewed the Draft Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan (MPRP) 2082. Organized by NDRRMA in partnership with DPNet and Oxfam, over 70 participants discussed integration of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), mental health, and climate projections. The consultation emphasized decentralized, legally backed response systems, role clarity, and community-led preparedness to finalize a concise, multi-hazard inclusive plan.

On 25 May, NDRRMA facilitated a Provincial Disaster Dialogue on Heatwaves in Madhesh Province, supported by DPNet and humanitarian partners. The event gathered over 70 stakeholders to address heatwave risks, urging coordinated, multisectoral interventions to protect vulnerable populations in the Tarai.

DPNet, with the Institute of Himalayan Risk Reduction, hosted a workshop on 30 May in Kathmandu to refine the Humanitarian Response Training Manual Framework. Supported by AWO International and Aktion Deutschland Hilft, the consultation stressed scenario-based learning, safeguarding, GEDSI integration, and alignment with Nepal's federal structure to build a skilled humanitarian workforce.

Nepal's 38-member delegation, led by Home Secretary Gokarna Mani Duwadi, contributed at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) in Geneva from 2–6 June, highlighting Nepal's disaster governance progress, climate finance advocacy, and community-led approaches. The delegation received international recognition and regional cooperation commitments.

Finally, on 20 June, DPNet Koshi Province Board met with Chair Dr. Raju Thapa to review progress and reinforce the shift from project-based activities to provincial coordination. Dr. Thapa urged prompt establishment of the Provincial Platform for DRR (PPDRR), coordinating nine thematic stakeholder groups. The board committed to annual DRR conferences and leading key disaster awareness events.

Provincial Gap Analysis on DRRM Sharing Workshop

A provincial-level workshop on the Gap Analysis of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) was organized in Dhangadhi on 2nd May 2025 in coordination with DPNet Sudurpachim Province Committee. The program was chaired by Mr. Rajendra Kumar Hamal, Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, Sudurpaschim Province. Honorable Minister Hira Sarki, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, graced the event as Chief Guest, while Mr. Sher Bahadur Basnet from DPNet attended as a special guest.

In his remarks, Chief Guest Minister Hira Sarki expressed sincere appreciation to all supporting agencies including ECHO, People in Need (PIN), Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC), and DpNET for their collaborative efforts in this important initiative. She emphasized the need for strengthened joint collaboration to enhance the province's and local levels' DRR capacity and ensure timely and effective response mechanisms. Furthermore, she underlined the significance of private sector engagement and stated that the provincial government is committed to including the private sector in all planning processes related to DRR.

Chairperson Mr. Rajendra Kumar Hamal shared that the ministry is committed to incorporating the recommendations of the gap analysis report into the province's planning and implementation processes. He urged all ministries to prioritize disaster risk reduction in their work. He also pointed out key challenges faced by the province, particularly the lack of capacity, limited resources, and insufficient data and evidence, which hinder effective planning and execution. He called for the increased use of technology to improve DRR and management efforts.

Additional feedback and insights shared during the workshop included the urgent need for HF radio sets in the District Emergency Operation Centers (DEOCs) of Bajhang, Bajura, and Darchula, where the current budget allocation of NPR 1 million is insufficient. Participants stressed the importance of developing a provincial-level corporate sector strategy to foster public-private partnerships and resource mobilization. Cost-sharing mechanisms between provinces and local governments (Palikas) were recommended to collectively address similar disaster types. Moreover, the need for coordinated joint planning among neighboring provinces and Palikas was highlighted. For early warning systems (EWS), the use of SMS remains vital, but integrating Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technology and establishing robust upstream and downstream linkages can add greater value to timely information dissemination.

The workshop concluded with a collective commitment to address identified gaps and enhance the resilience of communities across Sudurpaschim Province through inclusive, data-driven, and coordinated DRR efforts.

Stakeholders Discuss Draft Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan 2082

The Discussion Program on the Draft Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan (MPRP) 2082, held on May 20, 2025, in Kathmandu, brought together a diverse range of stakeholders from government agencies, security forces, and technical experts to civil society, INGOs, private sector actors, and local representatives to review, reflect, and provide feedback on Nepal's preparedness for the upcoming monsoon season. Organized by NDRRMA in coordination with DPNet-Nepal and supported by Oxfam in Nepal, live broadcasted through NDRRMA Facebook page, the event emphasized the urgent need for a more inclusive, decentralized, monsoon preparedness and response plan. Key discussions focused on lessons learned from past disasters like the Kathmandu Valley flood and Til permafrost-release flood, gaps in inter-agency coordination, institutional role clarity, integration of gender and inclusion, urban risk factors, mental health, and community-led action. Numerous suggestions called for strengthened local capacity, pre-positioning of resources, improved early warning dissemination, integration of multi-hazard risks, legal reforms, and greater involvement of non-government sectors. Participants urged for the MPRP 2082 to be concise, actionable, federalism-aligned, and focused on preparedness rather than response, incorporating both seasonal forecasts and local realities.

Program Details

1. Opening Session

On May 20, 2025, in Kathmandu, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) organized a Discussion Program on the Draft Monsoon Preparedness and

Response Plan 2082. The event was conducted in coordination with the Disaster Preparedness Network-Nepal (DPNet-Nepal) and was supported by OXFAM in Nepal.

The event was chaired by Mr. Dinesh Prasad Bhatt, Chief Executive of the NDRRMA, and was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Rupa B.K., State Minister for Forests and Environment, as the Chief Guest. Distinguished guests included Mr. Sabin Pratap K.C., Lieutenant Colonel of the Disaster Management Directorate, Nepal Army; Mr. Bhuwaneshwor Tiwari, Superintendent of Police of Disaster Management Division, Nepal Police; Mr. Mohan Bahadur Chhetri, Superintendent of Armed Police Force; Ms. Pratibha Manandhar, Senior Divisional Meteorologist of Department Of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM); Mr. Binod Parajuli, Senior Divisional Hydrologist of DHM; Dr. Raju Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet-Nepal and Member Secretary of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR); Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Immediate Past Chairperson of DPNet-Nepal; and Dr. S.P. Kalauni, Chairperson of the Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN).

The program was attended by a diverse group of participants, including government officials from various federal and provincial ministries and departments, representatives from security agencies, semi-government organizations, UN agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, academia, research institutions, donor agencies, I/NGOs, private sectors, DRR experts, and media personnel. Many of the attendees were members of the NPDRR, representing various sectoral groups.

Mr. Suraj Gautam, General Secretary, DPNet Nepal (Master of Ceremony)

Mr. Gautam welcomed the guests and invited the chairperson and dignitaries to take their seats. In his remarks, he reflected on the Third National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (NCDRR-3), where there were in-depth discussions on lessons learned from previous monsoon seasons. He emphasized that it is now high time to incorporate these lessons into the Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan (MPRP).

Mr. Gautam also recalled major monsoon-related disasters from previous years, including the Simaltal bus accident, the Birendra Lake outburst following an avalanche in the Manaslu region, and various cloudburst events. Referring to the Statement from the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF) regarding the 2025 Southwest Monsoon Season, he noted that above-normal rainfall is most likely across much of South Asia, including Nepal.

With these reflections and the seasonal outlook from SASCOF and further forecasts from the DHM, he expressed hope that the program would offer valuable suggestions for pre-positioning resources and actions according to caseload while finalizing the MPRP 2082.

He also shared that the preparedness efforts are being coordinated across federal and provincial ministries, departments, security forces, semi-government organizations, UN agencies, development partners, civil society, academia, research institutions, donors, I/NGOs, private sector stakeholders, DRR experts, and associations like the Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) and the National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN).

The session was then followed by a security briefing and the national anthem.

Mr. Ram Bahadur K.C., Under Secretary and Spokesperson, NDRRMA

In his welcome remarks, Mr. K.C. greeted all the distinguished guests and participants on behalf of the organizers. He noted that, with the monsoon season only a few days away, it is important to reflect on the disasters experienced during past monsoons. He highlighted that about 80% of Nepal's annual rainfall occurs during the monsoon season, and approximately 40% of total annual disasters take place during this period.

He emphasized that Nepal is a disaster-prone country, highly vulnerable to various hazards. To address this, the Draft MPRP 2082 has been under preparation since the month of Chaitra, through broad consultations with cluster leads, co-leads, and security agencies. He mentioned that the draft is now ready and that suggestions are being sought to ensure its effective implementation and to minimize the impacts of monsoon-related disasters.

He added that the upcoming Monsoon Forecast and Outlook from the DHM will help further align the plan with anticipated climate conditions. Once finalized, the plan will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval and implementation.

He concluded by stating that this year's plan provides a roadmap for collaboration and calls for joint efforts to strengthen the document and reduce the impact of monsoon-related disasters. He expressed hope that all participants would provide valuable inputs to improve the draft plan.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa

Mr. Thapa mentioned that DPNet-Nepal has long been coordinating with the Ministry of Home Affairs to organize discussion programs on the MPRP, even before the establishment of NDRRMA.

As monsoon-induced disasters such as floods and landslides recur annually, this program aims to facilitate experience-sharing, review of existing resources and preparations, and to strengthen collective efforts in preparedness in order to minimize impacts. He expressed satisfaction that this pre-monsoon workshop is now being led by NDRRMA.

He emphasized that DPNet, being an umbrella organization of all institutions working in disaster risk reduction, collaborates with stakeholders to reduce disaster impacts. He shared that the Task Force formed to draft the MPRP 2082 is led by a Joint Secretary of NDRRMA and includes representatives from various government agencies. However, he suggested that non-government sectors, including civil society and the private sector, should also be part of such task forces, as the implementation of preparedness plans requires coordinated efforts from both government and non-government sectors.

Reflecting on past disasters, he noted that many challenges were encountered, and several sessions have been conducted to facilitate learning and review. He emphasized that even small interventions can significantly reduce overall disaster impact. For instance, he recommended conducting hazard zoning in risk-prone areas and pre-positioning rescue items, food supplies, and medicine, especially considering Nepal's challenging geography.

He highlighted the need for improving the road network, ensuring the availability of dozers and operators, and other interventions to improve accessibility during emergencies. He shared an example from Dolpa, where road disruption could have been resolved with a minor intervention, but was prolonged due to the unavailability of a dozer operator. This example illustrates how small preparedness actions and local knowledge can significantly reduce disaster impacts, especially during the preparatory stage. He requested all participants to actively contribute their suggestions during the program.

2. Technical Session

After the formal program concluded, the technical session commenced with expert presentations and in-depth discussions on the Draft Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan 2082. This session focused on analyzing past disasters, reviewing the plan's components, identifying gaps, and gathering technical and field-based recommendations to enhance the effectiveness and inclusivity of the MPRP.

Ms. Pratibha Manandhar

Ms. Manandhar stated that the Seasonal Climate Outlook for Nepal will be officially released by the DHM on May 21, 2025. Referring to a preliminary summary, she shared that above-normal rainfall is most likely during the 2025 monsoon season (June–September) in Nepal. She shared that the Lumbini, Karnali and Gandaki will receive more rain. She also noted that above-normal minimum temperatures are expected over most parts of Nepal, and seasonal maximum temperatures are also likely to be above normal. Western part of Nepal will experience more temperature. Furthermore, she pointed out a shifting rainfall pattern in recent years, with intense

rainfall occurring over short time periods, a trend likely to continue this year. She also shared that the first two months of the monsoon will have higher rainfall than later two months.

Ms. Manandhar emphasized that preparedness actions should align with the forecast to minimize the impacts of the upcoming monsoon. She added that although above-normal rainfall may boost agricultural productivity, it also increases the risk of disasters, and thus extra attention and preparedness are essential.

Mr. Rajan Ghimire, Emergency Management Lead, Oxfam in Nepal

Mr. Ghimire emphasized that we share a common responsibility and objective, to reduce the impact of disasters and protect our communities. He stated that they are exploring how the lessons learned from the Kathmandu Valley Flood of 2024 can inform the Draft MPRP 2082.

He shared that the findings from their research on the 2024 flood primarily focused on communication, coordination, and collaboration during and after the event. He noted that the identified causes and impacts from the study can provide valuable input not only for the current monsoon plan but also for future disaster preparedness efforts.

Mr. Subigya Prabhat Wagle, Green Graduates Development Consultant Pvt. Ltd

Mr. Wagle in his presentation titled *"*Analysis of Kathmandu Valley Flood 2024 through a Watershed Management Perspective*"* shared that the September 2024 floods in Kathmandu Valley were primarily caused by intense monsoon rainfall, unplanned urban growth, and inadequate infrastructure. According to him, various studies of the valley's watershed suggest that rapid urbanization has significantly altered the natural water balance, resulting in increased surface runoff, heightened flood risks, and reduced groundwater recharge. He emphasized that human-induced factors such as blocked and poorly maintained drainage systems, river encroachments, unmanaged land use, excessive sand mining, and deforestation in upstream regions have further exacerbated the impacts. He also shared that the study is currently ongoing and will incorporate further data and insights, including from the recent flood event. He informed that the research is being conducted using Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), field observations, and various secondary sources.

He presented that the September 2024 flood was among the most devastating in recent decades, severely impacting both core urban and peri-urban areas. Between September 26 and 28, extreme rainfall was recorded at 25 stations across 14 districts, with Tribhuvan International Airport registering 239.7 mm in 24 hours surpassing the previous record of 177 mm in 2002.

He urged stakeholders to recognize the anthropogenic factors worsening flood risks. Sharing a comparative photographic timeline from 2004 to 2024, he illustrated how encroachment on floodplains and river channelization such as the use of concrete walls Nakhkhu areas and flow of debris from construction sites from Lele to Nakhu have reduced river widths and altered natural flow patterns. This has led to increased sediment accumulation and flood inundation, even during relatively short periods of rainfall. The trend of developing roads along riverbanks has also contributed to flooding, as these roads are often submerged due to reduced channel capacity.

He further highlighted that built-up areas in Kathmandu Valley increased from 22% in 2000 to over 60% by 2022. Rapid urban expansion, the establishment of informal settlements along rivers, and the construction of flow regulators, roads, and other infrastructure within floodplains have significantly modified the hydrological behavior of rivers, diminishing their flood-carrying capacity.

From a hydrometeorological perspective, he cited that the Bagmati River and its tributaries exceeded their carrying capacity during the September flood, with water levels reaching 7.23 meters at the Khokana station. Additionally, he noted the influence of the Melamchi Drinking Water Project, which currently adds 170 million liters of water per day to the valley's system, with plans to expand up to 510 million liters. He urged that the additional water load could strain Kathmandu's aging drainage infrastructure and increase the risk of localized flooding unless comprehensive upgrades are undertaken.

On policy and governance, he reviewed the current disaster management framework. He highlighted that while the NDRRMA leads national disaster responses, effective coordination remains weak. For example, although the DRRM Act 2017 assigns the Chief Executive of NDRRMA a leading role in disaster response, it does not grant the authority to mobilize security forces or resources independently, necessitating coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs. He noted a lack of clarity and overlap in institutional responsibilities among agencies such as the High-Powered Committee for Integrated Development of the Bagmati Civilization (HPCIDBC), the Kathmandu Valley Development Authority (KVDA), and local governments. Although HPCIDBC focuses on Bagmati corridor development, upstream-downstream coordination remains limited due to gaps in the legal framework.

He stressed that local governments often lack technical capacity and role clarity, and suggested that forums like the Mayor's Forum and a 24-hour functioning Local Emergency Operations Center (LEOC) could be better utilized. He further observed that while various disaster risk reduction policies exist, their implementation and monitoring are fragmented. He recommended integrating multi-hazard considerations into building codes and ensuring policies such as the Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA) and Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Framework (LDCRF) are effectively operationalized.

He concluded by identifying key intervention gaps, including poor community-level early warning communication, inadequate risk zone mapping, weak enforcement of zoning regulations, and a general reliance on reactive rather than proactive measures. He also emphasized the need for greater investment in nature-based solutions, such as the sponge city concept, and urged the integration of flood return periods into the design of embankments. Finally, he highlighted the importance of mobilizing local resources and ensuring political commitment to reduce flood risks in the Kathmandu Valley.

Dr. Arun Bhakta Shrestha, Senior Advisor at ICIMOD

Dr. Shrestha shared a preliminary analysis of the Til flood event, which occurred at 10 p.m. on the night of May 15, 2025, in the village of Til, located in the Limi Valley. He highlighted that within the broader scope of the cryosphere which includes glaciers, snow cover, ice caps, ice sheets (such as those in Greenland and Antarctica), sea ice, permafrost, and frozen rivers and lakes, permafrost is often less studied. However, emerging evidence shows that it plays a significant role in contributing to disaster events, and its study is equally important.

He shared that preliminary findings suggest the Til flood may be related to permafrost degradation, similar to other recent events such as the South Lhonak Lake Outburst Flood in Sikkim, and partially in events observed in Melamchi (Nepal) and Chamoli (India). Dr. Shrestha noted that ongoing studies, including those from a University in Germany, have documented six similar glacial drainage events in the past. He also referenced comparable incidents in Afghanistan in 2017 and in Austria, both of which involved the influence of degrading permafrost.

He emphasized that satellite imagery alone cannot provide conclusive evidence about the causes of such events, particularly due to cloud cover, and that field visits are necessary for detailed assessment although conducting such visits in remote, high-altitude areas remains highly challenging. He also warned that such events are likely to increase in frequency in the future. The early warning system currently in place in Halji, he noted, cannot cover the entire catchment area and is therefore insufficient to mitigate risks comprehensively.

Mr. Sudan Bikash Maharjan, Remote Sensing Analyst

Mr. Maharjan further elaborated on the use of remote sensing and local data to analyze the Til flood event. He shared that cracks observed in the field indicate drainage through these fissures. Satellite imagery has identified rock glaciers and permafrost features in the affected location, with one particularly prominent flood point being visible. However, the exact flow point and water movement process remain unknown, largely due to cloud cover and limitations of satellite-based analysis.

He shared that in the past year, ICIMOD, in collaboration with NDRRMA, organized a workshop demonstrating seasonal monitoring of such cryosphere hazards. Drawing from international experiences in Austria and Afghanistan, he echoed that field observations remain the most reliable method for detailed assessment of floods and landslides caused by permafrost and related phenomena.

According to him, current assessments suggest that 18 households are at risk in the affected area. Mr. Maharjan reported that two lakes in the vicinity have remained stable in size over recent years. These lakes, formed by accumulated snow and ice melt, sit atop loose, unconsolidated glacial debris typical of periglacial landscapes. He pointed out a significant presence of degrading permafrost, which could have contributed to hydrostatic pressure beneath the frozen surface. This pressure may have exploited thermokarst features, landforms created by thawing permafrost allowing water to drain invisibly and unexpectedly. He shared that water may have been released from the bottom of a thermokarst feature approximately 300 meters downstream of the lakes. Given these characteristics, the Til flood does not resemble a typical Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) and based on current understanding, the event could be more accurately described as a Thermokarst Flood or Permafrost-Release Flood.

Mr. Ram Bahadur KC, NDRRMA

Mr. KC presented the overall status and process of formulating the MPRP, 2082. He shared that the National Taskforce for this purpose was officially formed on 2081 Chaitra 19, with the Joint Secretary at the NDRRMA, as the coordinator. The taskforce included members from key ministries and included a representative from the security forces and various departments who is directly involved in disaster risk reduction and management. He informed that the taskforce quickly initiated its engagement process. On 2082 Baisakh 8, letters were dispatched to all lead and co-lead agencies, security forces, provincial governments, and other concerned bodies requesting necessary inputs and updates. On the same day, invitations were also sent out for the first task force meeting, especially targeting missing leads and co-leads.

Mr. KC explained that several meetings were then conducted to engage with these agencies. He emphasized that a major interactive session with leads and co-leads was held on 2082 Baisakh 14, and this was followed by a dedicated task force meeting on 2082 Baisakh 15. In that meeting, the taskforce decided to form a dedicated five-member drafting committee to lead the process of compiling and integrating all the collected inputs into a draft action plan. The draft was developed collaboratively and shared regularly within the group comprising taskforce members, lead and co-lead representatives for feedback and refinement. He highlighted key interactions that fed into the planning process. In 2082 Baisakh 24, an interaction was organized focusing on the role of communication in managing monsoon-induced disasters. Additionally, in 2082 Baisakh 26, the

Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, together with the Early Recovery Cluster, hosted a discussion that contributed further insights into the planning process.

Mr. KC referred to the 31st meeting of the Executive Committee, which acknowledged the heavy losses from past monsoon-induced disasters and directed to develop Monsoon Preparedness and Response in accordance with DHM forecast. He then discussed the about the Secretary-Level Meeting held on 2082 Jestha 5, which made two key decisions that mandated the Ministry of Home Affairs and NDRRMA to urgently consult with all relevant stakeholders, line ministries, UN agencies, development partners, private sector, civil society, and municipal associations to finalize the plan. Also, this meeting mandated all agencies to ensure that logistics, early warning systems, and communication mechanisms under their jurisdiction were ready and in place.

He shared that the core drafting work for the plan was nearly completed. Only a few elements remained such as incorporating DHM's official monsoon forecast expected by 2082 Jestha 7, along with finalizing certain topics and annexes. He informed that ongoing discussions with civil society, and other stakeholders were being conducted to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive plan. Mr. KC mentioned that various discussions would be organized to collect feedback and refine the plan before it is submitted to the Executive Committee for approval, after which editing, design, and publication will follow.

Mr. KC detailed the major components of the draft MPRP, 2082. The first section focuses on the introductory part where it included its objectives, forecasting potential risks by analyzing past data, assigning responsibilities to relevant institutions, and defining coordinated actions for effective response. He emphasized that trend analysis revealed an annual average of 842 monsoon-related disaster events, floods, landslides, lightning, and heavy rain, resulting in around 274 deaths (including missing persons). A rising trend in both disaster events and fatalities has been observed over the past decade.

He presented detailed statistics from 2072 to 2081 B.S., where landslides accounted for 3,532 incidents and 1,296 deaths, while floods caused 1,614 incidents and 539 deaths. Lightning and heavy rain also caused significant damage, with 385 and 97 deaths respectively. In total, 8,418 monsoon-related disaster events occurred in the past ten years, leading to 2,317 deaths, 419 missing persons, and widespread damages to infrastructure, livestock, and homes.

Reflecting on 2081, Mr. KC reviewed lessons learned from that last year's monsoon. A total of 2,138 disaster incidents occurred, resulting in 495 deaths, 66 missing persons, and 522 injuries. He shared specific cases such as the record-breaking rainfall (624mm) in Dodhara, Kanchanpur on 2081 Ashadh 24 the highest in 77 years. He acknowledged that although infrastructure damage was significant, early warning systems were effective in preventing large-scale human casualties. Another major incident occurred on 2081 Ashadh 28 when two buses fell into the Trishuli River

due to landslide debris, leading to 24 confirmed deaths. He also highlighted a glacial lake outburst on 2081 Shrawan 32 in Thame, which devastated local settlements. A special taskforce was immediately formed to assess the damage and ongoing risk.

He further reported that extreme weather events between Ashwin 10–13, 2081 brought heavy rainfall, floods, and landslides. During this period alone, 2,435 disaster incidents were recorded, with 535 deaths and over 6,000 damaged cattle sheds. This highlighted the increasingly volatile nature of monsoon-related hazards and the need for robust preparedness.

From these experiences, Mr. KC emphasized several critical lessons. He urged stronger coordination among responsible agencies and stressed the need for timely and effective warning dissemination, especially for at risk areas. He highlighted the importance of continuous monitoring and role clarity, along with ensuring the readiness of emergency operation centers and security agencies.He also noted that the official DHM monsoon forecast for 2082 is still not officially released, but preliminary indications from SASCOF suggested higher-than-average rainfall and temperatures compared to the previous year. This makes readiness all the more critical.

Mr. KC outlined the specific responsibilities of various institutions. He explained that federal ministries and the NDRRMA are expected to take the lead in coordination, while provincial and local governments must operationalize the plans at the ground level. He urged all agencies, including security forces and emergency operation centers, to maintain active readiness and efficient coordination mechanisms. The action plan also outlines the structure and duties of the Monsoon Response Command Post and includes responsibilities for the private sector, media, and civil society organizations to ensure a whole-of-society approach to disaster preparedness and response.

Mr. KC shared a detailed overview of the Monsoon Response Command Post, emphasizing its critical role in leading and coordinating Nepal's disaster response efforts during the monsoon season. He began by explaining the composition of the Command Post, highlighting that it is chaired by the Executive Chief of the NDRRMA, who acts as the coordinator. Other members include high-level representatives and directors from key ministries and departments and Representatives from the Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, and the National Investigation Department as integral members. He noted that the Chief of the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) serves as the Member-Secretary, and that subject matter experts may be invited as necessary to support the post's functions.

He elaborated on the key responsibilities of the Command Post, noting that it leads the overall response during monsoon-induced disasters and issues directives to ensure effective response mechanisms are in place. He shared that the Command Post is established at the onset of the monsoon and remains operational throughout the season, continuously monitoring weather

conditions. Mr. KC urged that weather forecasting and the dissemination of early warnings be prioritized, as these actions are fundamental in reducing the risk of disasters. Additionally, the Command Post is responsible for verifying whether preparedness activities, as outlined in the national plan, have been completed by the concerned agencies, and for taking necessary corrective actions where gaps are identified.

He emphasized the role of the Command Post in coordinating and leading the mobilization of resources, managing information flow during disasters, and assessing potential damages and affected populations. Furthermore, he highlighted its responsibility in informing relevant sectoral agencies about the type and quantity of relief materials required and instructing them to prepare accordingly. He also mentioned that the Central Command Post would provide necessary advice to the Executive Committee and Council, while Provincial, District, and Local Command Posts would play similar advisory roles within their jurisdictions.

Mr. KC then moved on to the Sectoral and Institutional MPRP, beginning with the role of the NDRRMA. He outlined the twelve sectoral clusters and their respective lead and co-lead agencies responsible for preparedness and response. For example, he explained that the Logistics Cluster is led by the Ministry of Home Affairs and co-led by the World Food Programme (WFP), while the Early Recovery Cluster is led by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration and co-led by UNDP. Similarly, clusters addressing Health and Nutrition, WASH, Shelter, Food Security, Protection, Education, and Emergency Communication involve a range of government ministries and international partners such as WHO, UNICEF, IFRC, IOM, FAO, Save the Children, and UNHCR. He also presented the preparedness and response plans of other relevant agencies, including the DHM, the Department of Water Resources and Irrigation, and the Nepal Electricity Authority. He noted the importance of timely data and functional infrastructure in these sectors during disaster events.

Mr. KC elaborated on the security agencies' roles in monsoon preparedness and response. He detailed the contributions of the Nepal Army, Nepal Police, and Armed Police Force, Nepal, citing their responsibilities in terms of manpower, rescue equipment, and deployment plans. For instance, he highlighted that Nepal Police has over 10,000 personnel on standby for rescue operations and has positioned disaster-specialized units across provinces. He emphasized that the Armed Police Force has mobilized more than 8,000 trained personnel, divers, boats, and heavy equipment, and is equipped with relief material containers and mass casualty vehicles.

He further acknowledged the crucial support provided by the Nepal Red Cross Society and other humanitarian organizations. He shared that the Red Cross has prepositioned relief materials and maintains a trained volunteer database across the country, ensuring a rapid response capacity during emergencies.

Mr. KC highlighted the importance of robust coordination mechanisms by presenting the detailed contact information of disaster focal persons at various levels from ministries and departments to provincial and district administrations, as well as security agencies. He emphasized the need for clear lines of communication before and during monsoon-related disasters.

In the annex section, he drew attention to the comprehensive data compiled on emergency stockpiles and skilled manpower across different clusters and regions. This includes stock details for food, health, shelter, and communication clusters; available manpower for emergency response; and details of skilled personnel and logistical readiness. He also outlined the departmental data from agencies such as the Department of Roads and Department of Water Resources and Irrigation, including information about road supervision offices and Bailey bridge deployments.

Lastly, he presented data on emergency response funds available at federal, provincial, and district levels, along with a list of essential relief items that must be managed immediately to support at least 10% of the expected caseload during monsoon disasters.

Throughout the presentation, Mr. KC requested all stakeholders to internalize their roles and responsibilities and to work collaboratively in anticipation of the monsoon season. He concluded by stressing that proactive planning, effective coordination, and timely resource mobilization are imperative to minimizing the impact of monsoon-induced disasters and protecting lives and property across the country.

3. Open Floor Discussion

Dr. Thapa initiated the Open Floor Discussion by providing an update on the recent flood and landslide that occurred in Til Village on May 15, 2025. The incident was assessed by a study committee led by the Deputy Mayor of Namkha Rural Municipality in Humla district. The affected area consists of a population of 32 individuals, 21 women, 9 men, and 2 children highlighting a notably lower male population in the village. Initially, the rural municipality's study identified the event as a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), but more recent assessments suggest a different cause either a Thermokarst Flood or a Permafrost-Release Flood. The disaster caused significant damage to infrastructure, including the Til Gaun Hydropower Project (15 MW) and associated power station, resulting in an estimated financial loss of NPR 1.20 crore. Additional damages included the approach road to the Gumba and the Gumba itself, partial damage to 15 houses, destruction of 5 timber bridges, a water supply system, 60 ropani of farmland, and 4 irrigation canals, leading to a total estimated economic loss of around NPR 2 crore. Notably, this event occurred while the country was hosting the international Sagarmatha Sambad dialogue.

Dr. Thapa emphasized that all relevant inputs from the discussion should be incorporated into the MPRP 2082. He also urged participants to continue sharing suggestions and feedback through DPNet's virtual discussion platform.

Mr. Shankar Prasad Koirala, Former Secretary, Government of Nepal

Mr. Koirala explained that the Pre-Monsoon Workshop was initiated by DPNet around 2008 or 2009, and that the Ministry of Home Affairs actively participated in it from the beginning. He shared his experience of how the Ministry of Home Affairs gradually took ownership of the workshop, organizing it at the central level and in all five development regions.

He also reflected on his experience of finalizing the disaster strategy within a tight timeframe of just three months. Mr. Koirala noted that in the early years of the workshop, there was participation from ministers and the chiefs of security agencies. However, he observed that such high-level engagement has declined in recent years. He stressed that the participation of Chief District Officers (CDOs) from the Kathmandu Valley and other responsible officials is essential to ensure the effectiveness of such workshops.

Emphasizing the importance of coordination, especially in the field of disaster management, Mr. Koirala urged NDRRMA to enhance coordination mechanisms and to regularly organize similar discussions with disaster focal persons and cluster leads. He highlighted the need to minimize misinformation and disinformation during disasters, referencing instances experienced in the past year. He recommended that NDRRMA organize similar discussions in all seven provinces, involving the respective CDOs of all districts within the province. He further requested NDRRMA to support CDOs in border areas by facilitating dialogue with authorities of neighboring countries to address cross-border disaster issues.

Mr. Dinanath Bhandari, Technical Advisor, DPNet Nepal

Mr. Bhandari pointed out several typographical and language errors present in the draft version of the MPRP 2082. He emphasized that these issues must be resolved before the document's official release. He also stressed the importance of incorporating emerging multi-hazard risks such as heatwaves and *loo* (hot, dry wind) into the plan. Additionally, he noted the need to clearly define the roles of each tier of government, specifying which level of government should take responsibility based on the scale of the disaster. This clarity, he said, is essential for effective implementation and increased accountability.

Mr. Bhandari further recommended that the role of the Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) in responding to health-related hazards should be addressed in the plan. He concluded by

emphasizing that legacy systems and behavioral patterns must evolve to meet the demands of disaster situations more effectively.

Dr. S.P. Kalauni, Chairperson, Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN)

Dr. Kalauni emphasized that disasters remain one of the most pressing concerns for humanitarian actors, yet their unpredictable nature makes preparedness inherently challenging though no less essential, as preparedness is often lifesaving. He highlighted the importance of taking an inclusive and broad-based territorial approach to disaster response and preparedness, involving all stakeholders. He shared that over 45% of AIN's member organizations are engaged in disaster-related work and to strengthen efforts in this domain, AIN has established a dedicated Working Group on Disaster Management and Climate Change.

Dr. Kalauni highlighted a major challenge faced is the lack of inter-agency coordination within the government. While I/NGOs organizational workflow involves coordination with the Social Welfare Council and the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, disaster-related work necessitates engagement with additional bodies such as the Ministry of Home Affairs and the NDRRMA. This, he noted, often creates administrative and procedural complications and suggested to address these coordination gaps, Dr. Kalauni recommended that appropriate legal provisions and institutional mechanisms be introduced to streamline collaboration between INGOs and the various government agencies involved in disaster risk management.

Mr. Jagannath Prasad Kurmi, Former President, National Community Disaster Management Committee (NCDMC) / Member, DPNet Nepal

Mr. Kurmi highlighted that although numerous plans and policies have been formulated for disaster risk reduction and development, their implementation remains unsatisfactory. He strongly urged for the effective implementation of the Draft MPRP 2082.

Reflecting on his experience, he noted the inefficiency in infrastructure specifically citing the prolonged travel time between Kathmandu and Butwal due to issues in the road network. He emphasized that such critical infrastructure concerns must be addressed promptly.

Mr. Kurmi stressed the importance of coordination among government and semi-government agencies, such as the Nepal Electricity Authority, Nepal Telecom, and the Water Supply Corporation, for sustainable development. He pointed out that effective development cannot occur without proper inter-agency collaboration.

He reminded stakeholders that responsibility lies with everyone and that all plans and policies must be truly community-oriented. While documents such as the Local Adaptation Plan of Action

(LAPA) and the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Planning (LDCRP) exist, he noted with concern that these are often not implemented. He advocated for the implementation of such documents in a manner that addresses the real problems faced by communities.

Further, Mr. Kurmi mentioned that even disaster-affected communities are charged for electricity meters by the Nepal Electricity Authority, highlighting the need for better coordination and community-sensitive service provision. He also advocated for the recognition of snakebite incidents as disasters, recommending that those affected be provided with appropriate relief.

Ms. Luna Khadka, DRR and HEA Lead, World Vision International Nepal / Coordinator, AIN Task Group on Disaster Management and Climate Change (AINTGDMCC)

Ms. Khadka expressed concern over the Draft MPRP 2082, stating that although it incorporates lessons learned from past disasters and identifies key gaps, it lacks concrete recommendations for future action. She noted that while roles and responsibilities have been assigned to various authorities, the monitoring mechanism remains undefined. She recommended that provincial and local governments be provided with clear, actionable responsibilities, and that each concerned authority be well-informed of its mandate. Ms. Khadka emphasized the importance of inter-cluster and intra-cluster coordination, as well as the need for efficient, non-duplicated information channels. She further stressed the necessity of mainstreaming protection issues within the disaster management framework and ensuring that the protection cluster's roles are well-defined and implemented.

Moreover, she suggested monitoring the effectiveness of early warning messages disseminated by service providers like NTC and Ncell, to ensure they reach the intended communities in a timely manner.

Mr. Ramesh Dhakal, Representative, NARMIN

Mr. Ramesh Dhakal raised a critical issue related to administrative leadership gaps at the municipality and rural municipality levels, particularly after the end of the fiscal year. He noted that such gaps often hinder effective operations during disaster events. He stressed the urgency of addressing this issue to ensure that local governments are fully functional and capable of managing disaster response and recovery operations efficiently.

Mr. Deepak Poudel, Advisor, DPNet Nepal

Mr. Poudel shared that exposure, hazard, and sensitivity are higher this year than last year. There needs to be close coordination between DHM, NDRRMA, and CDOs of each district. Based on

the seasonal outlook that provides district-wise forecasts, coordination must be done with respective district CDOs for effective preparation for relief and rescue.

He pointed out that past data shows 560 deaths last year, which is controversial since it was assumed that deaths were fewer during monsoon. As the seasonal outlook is updated weekly, every 3 days, and daily, updates should be considered regularly and preparedness should be made based on catchment areas of districts, with proper assignment of boats and close coordination with CDOs.

Even though the Terai and lowlands are currently less impacted, they should still be considered this year. He also raised concern that all three highways connecting the capital are vulnerable and should be addressed by the Divisional Road Office, DHM, and NDRRMA. He emphasized the importance of mobilizing private and non-government sectors.

Mr. Ramchandra Neupane, Advisor, DPNet Nepal

Mr. Neupane pointed out the portfolio clash and coordination gap between federal, provincial, district, and local governments. He emphasized the need for a response plan that defines which level of government should manage which level of disaster. The documents prepared at the federal level still do not address the mandate of federalism. He stated that although the NDRRMA Chief is designated as the Incident Commander, the role should involve giving instructions rather than only issuing press releases.

Mr. Dhruba Bahadur Khadka, Former Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal

Mr. Khadka shared that the workforce included in the MPRP should consist only of trained personnel capable of responding to monsoon-induced disasters. He observed that relief distribution is duplicated across all three tiers of government and the non-government sector, while recovery and reconstruction remain unsolved due to funding issues. He emphasized the need to mobilize volunteers and maintain storage of relief materials. He recommended including the database of volunteers and stored materials in the MPRP to make implementation easier.

Mr. Pitambar Aryal, Advisor, DPNet Nepal

Mr. Aryal noted that it would have been better if the discussion had been held after the official release of the Monsoon Outlook to provide a broader regional perspective backed by technical data. He emphasized that urban disasters like inundation should be addressed through drainage cleaning which is small interventions with high importance. He stressed that protocols should not hinder the mobilization of armed and security forces. He also mentioned that canals like the Gandak are filled with silt and boulders and need cleaning, including on the Indian side, which should be facilitated by the federal government.

Mr. Govinda Rimal, Advisor, DPNet Nepal

Mr. Rimal shared that roles and responsibilities in the draft MPRP are still duplicated and should be clearly defined. Learnings and gaps should be addressed properly before the official release of MPRP 2082.

Janak Karki, SAP Palcha

He emphasized that each local government should focus on preparation and must have basic equipment such as life jackets and ropes ready for rescue. The disaster management committee is currently more post-disaster oriented, but preparation is equally important. Sharing the experience of September 2024 rainfall, he mentioned rural road networks being damaged and causing landslides. These impacts can be reduced by constructing proper drainage systems.

Ms. Chetana Loksum, Technical Advisor, DPNet Nepal

Ms. Loksum highlighted that mental health issues are not included in the draft MPRP 2082. She recommended integrating mental health across all disaster phases; pre, during, and post along with MHPSP, mobilization, and training of community-based psychosocial workers and counselors. She emphasized that mental health should not be ignored.

Mr. Bimal Gadal, DRR Professional

Mr. Gadal shared that during a mock drill in 2024 in Mahakali, a woman was swept away by the river, and participants were unable to rescue her, but a local person succeeded. This highlighted the need for mobilizing local volunteers and maintaining a volunteer roster. He suggested adopting Forecast-Based Financing pioneered by the German Red Cross and customizing parametric insurance for floods (like in Peru) for Nepal. He also pointed to automated drainage systems in Singapore as a potential model for Nepal.

Mr. Shyam Babu Kattel, President, NCDMC

Mr. Kattel pointed out the coordination gap between the three tiers of government and said it should be addressed soon. He emphasized that programs should not be Kathmandu-centered and must reach the provincial level. He recommended organizing a virtual meeting with CDOs before finalizing the draft MPRP 2082.

Dr. Basanta Raj Adhikari, Technical Advisor, DPNet Nepal

Dr. Adhikari shared that the draft MPRP is again more response-focused and similar to past years' plans. He emphasized that preparedness should be location-specific rather than following a blanket approach.

Mr. Binod Ghimire, Private Sector Representative

Mr. Ghimire stated that the private sector is working at the ground level with cash vouchers, warehouse management, and converting cash to goods. He urged for finalization of the previously drafted Cash Transfer Plan of Action, which would formally include the private sector in disaster management.

Dr. Giri Panthi, Central Management Committee Member, Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN)

Dr. Panthi explained that drought is also part of the monsoon and needs to be considered in response planning. He noted unusual rainfall in Mustang, a rain-shadow area, and emphasized the importance of such anomalies. He suggested introducing alternative farming methods in areas prone to inundation and including agriculture insurance in the plan.

4. Remarks

Remarks by Chief Guest: Hon'ble Rupa B.K., State Minister for Forests and Environment

Hon. State Minister B.K. remarked that the workshop is highly contextual, insightful, and of great importance. She expressed her best wishes for the successful implementation of the MPRP 2082.

She highlighted that, as a landlocked country, Nepal is striving to deliver services and development to the doorsteps of the people through the federal structure with its three tiers of government. However, the country continues to face various unexpected disasters. In this context, she stated that the workshop would contribute to identifying effective measures for disaster preparedness.

She emphasized that the Draft MPRP 2082 should incorporate lessons learned from past disasters and shift its focus from rescue to preparedness. The plan should also be public-friendly and environmentally sound. As the Ministry of Forests and Environment is closely linked to disaster issues, she expressed happiness in being part of the program.

She stressed that the valuable feedback and insights shared during the workshop must be incorporated into the plan in a standardized and comprehensive manner to support practical implementation. She also highlighted the need to dispel the misconception that the government is

inactive in disaster management, something that can be addressed through the effective execution of this plan.

Hon. Minister B.K. appreciated the use of virtual platforms for facilitating wider stakeholder participation and collecting suggestions. She requested that the feedback shared during the workshop also be conveyed to the Ministry of Forests and Environment, so that relevant inputs can be implemented where applicable. She concluded by wishing success to the CEO and expressed hope that the plan would be effectively implemented.

Closing Remarks by Mr. Dinesh Prasad Bhatt, Program Chair

Mr. Bhatta shared that the program was basically focused on gathering input from the non-government sector, as the government sector is already involved in the task force formed to prepare MPRP 2082. He also mentioned that NDRRMA is regularly consulting with the government sector, with the next meeting scheduled in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. In order to increase ownership, NDRRMA is ready to conduct diverse discussions before finalizing any document.

He shared that for effective small interventions in the road network, NDRRMA is consulting with the Department of Roads for the use of dozers, and with the Rafting Association for the mobilization of extra rafting boats in coordination with the Armed Police Force. He stated that the forecast of above-normal rainfall and maximum seasonal temperatures are both alarming conditions, as they may remind us of extreme precipitation and the recent Til flood events. He emphasized the need for a proper dissemination mechanism for information and that decisions and actions must be based on such information to reduce impacts, such as in the case of the Simaltar accident, which highlighted the importance of proper coordination and cooperation.

He mentioned that 24-hour operation of the Local Emergency Operation Center (LEOC) is being considered, just as the District Emergency Operation Center (DEOC) is already activated for 24 hours. He thanked ICIMOD for conducting research on the Til Village flood and landslide and appreciated the effort of the Armed Police Force, who reached the affected area as government representatives and informed him with photographs. He shared that he had requested ICIMOD for quick preliminary research using satellite images, and the research outcome was presented within two days. A meeting was organized by the local government at the Til area, as shared earlier in the program. A school is being used as a temporary shelter, and it is very difficult to conduct research and damage assessments in such areas.

NDRRMA is mobilizing structural engineers, disaster risk specialists, geologists, and hydrologists. He stated that the MPRP should be comprehensive yet concise, likening it to the Bhagavad Gita, and should be made more compact where necessary. He also emphasized that local government is

responsible, and he is closely observing the local government's actions in the Til Village event. Referring again to the Til Village event, he stated that the local government and the District Disaster Management Committee are actively working, and that the NDRRMA expert team is mobilized. He added that he is not interested in helicopter visits or disaster tourism, but in actual problem-solving, as local and district-level authorities are capable of addressing the recent issues.

To make local governments more responsible for disaster management, warehouses are being established at the local level, and local volunteers are being trained by security forces. Disaster funds have been established in each district with appropriate funding before the end of the fiscal year. Discussions and cooperation will be conducted regularly by NDRRMA. Inter-agency coordination will be facilitated through proper collaboration. He stated that if there is a portfolio crash at the district level, he is ready to facilitate resolution.

NDRRMA is organizing meetings with CDOs of each district, district security professionals, provincial-level authorities, and all 753 local levels. Lastly, he thanked all participants, saying the issues raised during the program are of high importance and will be included in the draft plan. He thanked everyone for their voluntary and active participation and closed the event.

Heatwave Special: Provincial Disaster Dialogue Program Madhesh Province

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) organized a Provincial Dialogue Program on Heatwaves on 25th May, 2025 in Janakpurdham, Madhesh Province. This program was conducted with the support of key humanitarian and development partners including Start Fund Nepal, Mercy Corps Nepal, CARE Nepal, Rain Project, and DPNet Nepal in collaboration with Ministry of Home, Communication and Law. The objective was to bring together relevant government agencies, experts, civil society, and humanitarian actors to address the growing threat of heatwaves in Madhesh Province and to declare a set of coordinated commitments for preparedness and risk reduction.

The dialogue was chaired by Mr. Bed Nidhi Khanal, Under Secretary of NDRRMA, and graced by Dr. Gangalal Tuladhar, former Minister of Education and Member of the Constituent Assembly, who currently serves as an expert member of the National Council for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. Other special guests included Mr. Madan Bhujel, Principal Secretary at the Office of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers of Madhesh Province; Mr. Bimal Prasad Baral, Secretary of the Ministry of Home, Communication and Law; and Mr. Kedar Neupane, former Secretary of the Government of Nepal, DPNet Chair, Dr. Raju Thapa.

The program was attended by over 70 participants representing various sectors, including government departments (health, agriculture, education), provincial and local disaster management authorities, humanitarian agencies, development partners, academia, media, and civil society. The presence of diverse stakeholders reflected a shared concern and growing awareness about the emerging threat posed by rising temperatures and intensifying heatwaves in the Tarai

plains. The dialogue was facilitated by Mr. Suraj Gautam, General Secretary of DPNet Nepal. The formal session began with a security briefing, seat arrangements, and the National Anthem. The session then moved forward with a warm welcome speech by Mr. Bimal Baral, who contextualized the need for urgent and structured interventions against heatwave risks in Nepal.

DPNet facilitates Workshop to Improve Humanitarian Response Training Manual Framework

DPNet, in collaboration with the Institute of Himalayan Risk Reduction (IHRR), facilitated a stakeholder consultation workshop on 30th May 2025 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 International and National 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. Considering the importances of the two pillars of DPNet; Knowledge Management and Capacity Building, DPNet has planned to develop the training manuals and organize trainings on a regular basis. Mr. Suraj Gautam highlighted the objective of the program and requested active participation from the participants while Dr. Raju Thapa presented on the skeletal framework of the ToT Manual.

One of the major recommendations was to introduce a practical and interactive training focused on scenario-building and real-time decision-making for Humanitarian Response Manager. Emphasis was placed on ensuring duty of care, along with safety and security protocols for frontline workers. Participants also highlighted the need to integrate early warning systems and anticipatory action frameworks within the training curriculum. Issues related to safeguarding, protection, gender in emergencies, and GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion) were discussed extensively. The need to identify existing safeguarding challenges within the current response mechanism was underscored, along with calls for real-time monitoring and structured After Action Reviews (AAR).

Strengthening local ownership through community-based organizations (CBOs) and locally grounded actors was another key area of focus, reflecting the federal structure of Nepal. Institutions such as the Local, National, and Health Emergency Operation Centres (LEOC, NEOC, HEOC) were recognized as essential to building a more responsive system.

Further discussions explored better integration of existing guidelines like the Disaster Management Fund Mobilization Guideline 2021, and the importance of coordinated, sectoral (cluster-based) responses. Suggestions included addressing the challenge of duplication in humanitarian activities through better accountability mechanisms, improved Complaint and Feedback Mechanisms (CFM), and stronger coordination across agencies.

Similarly, the participants, provided insights on the importance of developing Situation Report (SitRep), structured report writing, and scenario-based targeting. Emphasis was also placed on digital integration for training modules, alongside the need for better understanding of handover/takeover procedures during emergencies. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to build a skilled humanitarian workforce, strengthen early response mechanism, and ensure real-time scenario analysis for effective disaster response and anticipatory action.

Nepal's Unified Delegation Leaves Mark on GPDRR 2025 Outcomes

Geneva, Switzerland, June 6, 2025: The eighth edition of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR 2025), recognized by the UN General Assembly as the leading multi-stakeholder forum for assessing global progress on the Sendai Framework, concluded successfully today in Geneva. Organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and hosted by the Government of Switzerland, this biennial event from June 2-6 brought together more than 3,400 delegates from 166 countries.

GPDRR serves as an important global forum where governments, UN agencies, civil society, academia, and the private sector converge to review progress, share insights, identify gaps, and forge pathways to enhance disaster resilience globally. This year's theme emphasized urgent, integrated action toward risk reduction, innovative financing, and inclusive governance to address escalating climate-induced hazards.

Nepal made a substantial and highly visible impact at the GPDRR. The 38-member Nepalese delegation, led by Home Secretary Gokarna Mani Duwadi, included key figures such as Dinesh Bhatt, Executive Chief of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), and was coordinated by Dr. Raju Thapa of DPNet under the National Platform for

Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR). The delegation actively engaged in multiple sessions, effectively showcasing Nepal's strategic initiatives, policy advancements, and robust disaster preparedness frameworks.

Months of meticulous preparation preceded Nepal's participation. The delegation presented a comprehensive position paper developed through extensive consultations with over 5,000 stakeholders nationwide. Remarkably, this document was made accessible in print, digital, and Braille formats, a pioneering initiative praised widely by international participants, including UNDRR officials. Secretary Duwadi effectively communicated Nepal's present situation, highlighting significant challenges and achievements.

In the Ministerial Roundtable, Secretary Duwadi highlighted Nepal's vulnerability to multiple natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, glacial lake outburst flood and cloudbursts, exacerbated by climate change. He vividly illustrated this through the tragic cloudburst incident in Kathmandu in September 2024, which caused 56 fatalities and inflicted over USD 460 million in economic damages. Highlighting a severe fiscal gap identified through recent assessments, Duwadi emphasized Nepal's urgent need for innovative financial solutions, including catastrophe bonds and parametric insurance mechanisms tailored to the nation's distinct risk profile.

Secretary Duwadi also drew attention to the rapidly worsening climate crisis in the Himalayas, emphasizing that melting glaciers significantly threaten mountain communities. Referring to the recently held Sagarmatha Dialogue in Kathmandu, he reiterated Nepal's demand for global climate justice and better access to international climate finance tools like the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, and the Loss and Damage Fund. These resources, he argued, are important for building resilience and implementing long-term adaptation strategies.

In his address to the Multistakeholder Plenary, Duwadi elaborated on Nepal's commitment to strengthening disaster governance through the establishment of the NDRRMA in 2019 and aligning national development policies with the Green Resilient and Inclusive Development (GRID) initiative. He highlighted the country's achievements in conducting multi-hazard risk assessments, integrating community participation, and employing advanced technologies like artificial intelligence and real-time data systems to improve early warning and risk communication. The Secretary stressed the importance of inclusive disaster planning, ensuring marginalized groups have access to digital solutions informed by indigenous knowledge.

At the High-Level UNDRR-BIMSTEC event, Secretary Duwadi presented Nepal's progress under the Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Plan of Action (2018–2030). He emphasized steps made in reducing disaster mortality, infrastructure retrofitting, localizing DRR strategies, and improving social protection standards. Duwadi urged the creation of a unified BIMSTEC disaster mechanism to harmonize risk assessments, monitor Sendai Framework implementation, and

establish a dedicated regional DRR fund. His appeal for joint innovation and accountability was warmly received.

Similarly, Inspector General Raju Aryal of Nepal's Armed Police Force (APF) highlighted the importance of community disaster volunteers and emphasized high-level training and community participation for effective disaster management. He detailed the establishment of Nepal's Mountain Rescue Training School and disaster management training academy as vital steps toward national resilience. Aryal strongly advocated for collective global effort and inter-agency coordination, reinforcing that isolated actions are insufficient for managing disasters effectively.

Nepal's delegates actively participated in various question-and-answer sessions, showcasing good practices and lessons learned. At the Ignite Stage, Dr. Raju Thapa presented Nepal's success story in cost-effectively adopting and localizing the Sphere Minimum Humanitarian Standards following major crises, notably after the devastating 2015 earthquake. His practical and cost-efficient approach drew significant international attention, inspiring delegates from countries facing similar disaster challenges.

Vinod Prasad Parajuli and his team's innovative integration of science, technology, and indigenous knowledge for disaster preparedness at schools was specially acknowledged by UNDRR. This achievement significantly contributed to showcasing Nepal's capacity to effectively merge modern technology with traditional knowledge.

Nepal's inclusive participation drew extensive praise, prompting UNDRR head Kamal Kishore, in his closing remarks, to encourage delegates worldwide to learn from Nepal. Kishore shared significant global progress in disaster risk reduction, noting considerable decreases in disaster-related deaths and widespread adoption of national DRR plans. However, he highlighted the urgent need for increased preventive investment, recommending broader engagement from private investors, climate finance mechanisms, and national governments to close financing gaps.

Christian Frutiger from SDC delivered the Geneva Call for Disaster Risk Reduction at the closing session, outlining a clear roadmap emphasizing collaborative action, ethical use of emerging technologies, inclusive governance, comprehensive risk data collection, school safety frameworks, and scaled early warning systems. He characterized the Geneva Call as an appeal urging urgent, intelligent, and united action.

In a nutshell, Nepal's participation at GPDRR 2025 exemplified effective disaster governance, significantly elevating its global standing and influence in the disaster risk reduction discourse. Delegates returned with reinforced international recognition, potential collaborations, and renewed commitment to advancing national resilience.

Monsoon Preparedness Sensitization Workshop Held in Koshi Province

The Koshi Province Monsoon Preparedness Sensitization Workshop, held on 6 Ashadh 2082 (20 June 2025) in Biratnagar, convened provincial and local officials, security agencies, humanitarian partners, technical experts, and community organisations to align on the Provincial Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan 2082. Organised by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law (MoIAL) with support from DPNet Nepal, PLAN International, and DEPROSC Nepal, the event aimed to forge a shared, action-oriented understanding of Koshi's heightened flood- and landslide-risk as Nepal's primary monsoon gateway. Opening remarks from the Hon. Chief Minister and MoIAL leadership highlighted the province's commitment to evidence-based planning, decentralised coordination, and climate-resilient development.

Five technical presentations set the agenda. Former Secretary Kedar Neupane outlined past, present, and projected monsoon trends, urging multi-layered preparedness that begins at household level and scales to federal institutions. Dr Raju Thapa reviewed the 2081 monsoon's in picture, highlighting gaps in early warning, response, infrastructure resilience, and public awareness.

Senior hydrologist Rudra Bahadur Pariyar projected 45–55 percent above-normal rainfall in high-altitude districts, while Under-Secretary of NDRRMA Goma Devi Chemjong detailed the federal Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan emphasizing early-warning dissemination, pre-positioned supplies, and Incident Command Systems. Disaster expert Ram Kumar Dahal introduced Koshi's Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan 2082, featuring eight thematic clusters, digital risk mapping, Quick Response Teams, and cross-border coordination to address riverine hazards.

Group discussions deepened the dialogue, calling for GEDSI-sensitive risk maps, school-based DRR education, community disaster drills, integration of DHM's alert service, and stricter controls on riverbank encroachment and resource extraction. Stakeholders highlighted the value of trained volunteers (e.g., NRCS, Nepal Scouts, APF initiatives) and advocated relocating high-risk riverbank settlements while shifting budgets from reactive relief to proactive DRR investment.

The workshop closed with unanimous endorsement of a 13-point Implementation Commitment for Koshi Province. Pledges include an agile community-centred early-warning chain, stockpiled relief supplies, round-the-clock search-and-rescue readiness, transparent aid distribution, gender- and disability-inclusive approaches, critical-infrastructure protection, safe-shelter management, continuity of essential services, accelerated recovery, a strengthened disaster fund, multi-level coordination, continuous monitoring, and regular training drills. These commitments, secured in the signed action plan, guide all provincial actors in translating technical insights into concrete, field-level results in 2082 monsoon season.

Program in details

The monsoon season poses substantial risks to life, property, and infrastructure in Nepal, with Koshi Province being particularly vulnerable due to its diverse topography, river systems, and high incidence of floods and landslides. A dialogue on the Provincial Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan 2082 was held in Koshi Province, organized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law (MoIAL) in coordination with DPNet Nepal, and supported by PLAN International and DEPROSC Nepal aimed at strengthening inter-agency coordination and enhancing preparedness for the upcoming monsoon season.

The dialogue brought together key stakeholders, including provincial and local government representatives, disaster management authorities, humanitarian agencies, development partners, technical experts, and community-based organizations. The event provided a platform for sharing experiences, reviewing existing preparedness measures, identifying operational gaps, and formulating actionable recommendations to improve response mechanisms at all levels. It highlights the importance of proactive planning, early warning systems, institutional coordination, and community engagement in building resilience against monsoon-induced disasters in Koshi Province.

The overall objectives of the Koshi Province Monsoon Preparedness Sensitization Program was to build a shared, action-oriented understanding among provincial stakeholders for proactive, well-coordinated monsoon preparedness and response.

Synopsis of the Event

The opening session commenced with the national anthem. The event was chaired by the Honorable Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, Koshi Province Government, highlighting the provincial administration's commitment to disaster preparedness and governance. The Honorable Chief Minister of Koshi Province graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, highlighting the provincial government's prioritization of monsoon-related risk mitigation and inter-agency coordination. The Special Guests included the Chief Secretary of Koshi Province, representing administrative leadership; the Division Commander, Eastern Division Headquarters, Nepal Army, emphasizing military support for disaster response; and Secretaries of Provincial Ministries, ensuring cross-sectoral alignment. Additional guest comprised the Chief District Officer of Morang, local governance representatives, and senior security officials: The Deputy Inspector General of Police (Nepal Police) and Deputy Inspector General (Armed Police Force, Nepal), reinforcing the integration of law enforcement and emergency services. The gathering highlighted a unified approach to monsoon preparedness, reflecting the collaborative framework outlined in Koshi Province's disaster management strategies.

Chairperson: Rewati Raman Bhandari, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, Koshi Province Government

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, Koshi Province Government, has demonstrated robust preparedness for the monsoon season by finalizing all essential DRR-related documents, including a comprehensive DRR Strategic Action Plan. These DRR policies outline clear protocols for risk mitigation, early warning dissemination, and community engagement, aligning with Nepal's federal disaster management frameworks. The provincial government has established strong coordination mechanisms with local levels, ensuring decentralized implementation of preparedness measures such as resource allocation, emergency drills, and infrastructure safeguarding. The collaborative efforts with agencies like the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) and security forces (Nepal Army, Police) further strengthen real-time monitoring and rapid response capabilities. By integrating local stakeholders and prioritizing data-driven decision-making, the ministry aims to minimize monsoon-induced risks, particularly for vulnerable populations, while fostering resilience through systematic planning and multi-agency synergy.

Mr. Ram Prasad Acharya, Secretary, MoIAL, Koshi Province

The Provincial Government of Koshi Province, through its Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, convened a dialogue to launch the Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan, emphasizing collective readiness as the monsoon season officially began on Jestha 18, 2082. The provincial government highlighted its comprehensive preparedness, including the development of a strategic action plan (2018–2030) and digital mapping to identify vulnerable sites at heightened risk due to heavy monsoon rainfall. With the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) confirming active monsoon conditions, authorities underscored the threat posed by intense rainfall in Tibet Province, China, which could exacerbate flood risks in the Saptakoshi River and its tributaries. The proactive measures include localized early warning systems, resource allocation for rescue operations, and cross-border coordination to mitigate transboundary impacts. The plan integrates climate resilience into long-term strategies, ensuring Koshi Province is equipped to address monsoon-induced disasters through institutional preparedness, community engagement, and data-driven risk management.

Technical Session on MPRP Dialogue

Technical Presentaiton 1: Monsoon Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, Kedar Neupane, Former Secretary

The monsoon preparedness strategy for Koshi Province outlines a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach involving coordination across federal, provincial, and local levels to enhance resilience against seasonal climate risks. With the 2082 monsoon season expected to bring above-average rainfall, the province, already highly vulnerable to floods, landslides, and waterlogging, must prioritize proactive measures to mitigate potential damage. At the federal level, institutions such as the NDRRMA and the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) should be standby. At the provincial level, efforts include risk mapping, budget planning, and policy formulation. Locally, preparations focus on establishing emergency relief warehouses stocked with essential supplies such as medical kits, tents, and water purifiers, along with the formation of community-based volunteer teams.

A major concern highlighted in the plan is the increasing impact of climate change, which has contributed to erratic and excessive rainfall patterns. Human activities such as unplanned road construction, illegal blasting, and deforestation further exacerbate natural hazards by destabilizing slopes and increasing flood risks. The strategy calls for urgent action to address these environmental stressors and restore ecological balance to minimize future damage. Currently, the majority of DRR funding is allocated to relief and rehabilitation efforts, with minimal investment in preparedness. To build long-term resilience, the plan emphasizes that preparedness must begin at the individual and family level, scaling up through community, municipal, district, provincial, and federal levels.

Key components of the preparedness framework include:

- Engineering interventions like gabion walls and eco-friendly slope stabilization techniques to reduce landslide risks.
- Community-led initiatives, including the establishment of "Rapid Response Teams" for localized disaster management.
- Early warning systems utilizing mobile alerts, FM radio broadcasts, and social media platforms, linked with 24/7 emergency helplines and integrated command centers.
- Infrastructure protection, particularly for critical assets such as bridges, which face heightened risk due to debris accumulation during floods.

The post-disaster response protocols emphasize swift rescue operations, temporary shelter provision, psychological support, and long-term recovery measures such as housing grants and livelihood restoration programs. The strategy also underscores the importance of legal frameworks for enforcement, public awareness campaigns, and the integration of indigenous knowledge and local resources into disaster risk reduction efforts. These combined actions aim to create a sustainable, climate-resilient future for the flood-prone and landslide-vulnerable regions of Koshi Province.

Technical Session 2: 2079 B.S. Monsoon review (Pictorial Presentation) Dr Raju Thapa, Chair, DPNet

It was highlighted on the severe impacts of monsoon-related disasters in Nepal, particularly in Koshi Province, during the 2081 monsoon season. It reports widespread casualties, including 535 deaths, 66 missing, and 675 injuries, alongside significant economic losses: NPR 11 billion in infrastructure damage, NPR 6 billion in agriculture and livestock, and NPR 3.5 billion in drinking water systems. The floods, landslides, heavy rainfall, and lightning strikes affected 6,389 families, damaging 2,242 homes and 6,079 livestock shelters. The key incidents include catastrophic floods in the Kankai River, landslides in Sindhuli and Dhading (e.g., Jhaphlekhola landslide killing 35), and infrastructure failures like Hewa Bridge collapse. Challenges identified include inadequate flood/weather monitoring networks, lack of public awareness, gaps in landslide and flash flood early warning systems, and insufficient coordination among stakeholders. Presentation emphasizes the urgent need for improved disaster preparedness, community engagement, and integrated infrastructure resilience to mitigate future monsoon risks.

Technical Presentation 3: Nepal Monsoon Forecast 2082, Rudra Bahadur Pariyar, Senior Divisional Hydrologist, DHM

Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), operating under the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation, plays a critical role in monsoon forecasting and disaster preparedness. With regional offices in Kathmandu, Dharan, and Pokhara, the DHM manages a network of 47 weather stations and 26 river-level monitoring sites, utilizing tools like Automatic

Weather Stations (AWS), radar sensors, satellite rainfall maps, and global systems like GLOFAS and RIMES. It employs numerical weather prediction (NWP) models and hydrological simulations (e.g., HEC-HMS, Mike11) to generate flood forecasts, disseminating alerts via SMS, social media, websites, and a 24/7 toll-free helpline (1155). For the 2082 monsoon season, projections indicate above-average rainfall in Koshi Province (eastern Nepal), particularly in high-altitude areas like Taplejung and Solukhumbu (45–55% higher than normal), increasing risks of flash floods, landslides, and riverine flooding due to rising temperatures and erratic precipitation patterns. Despite advancements, challenges persist, including insufficient monitoring infrastructure, limited public awareness, gaps in landslide and flash flood early warning systems, and the need for integrated disaster management collaboration. Initiatives like the Regional Monsoon Forum 2082 and expanded real-time monitoring aim to enhance preparedness, emphasizing community engagement and multi-agency coordination to mitigate monsoon-related hazards.

Technical Presentation 4: Federal Monsoon Preparedness & Response Plan 2082, Goma Devi Chemjong, Under Secretary, National Disaster Risk Reduction And Management Authority (NDRRMA)

The Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan 2082 outlines a comprehensive strategy for disaster preparedness and response during the monsoon season. It emphasizes multi-agency coordination, involving federal ministries, provincial and local governments, security forces (Nepal Army, Police, Armed Police), and humanitarian organizations like the Nepal Red Cross Society and UN agencies. The key priorities include early warning systems (via SMS, social media, sirens), real-time weather and flood monitoring, and timely dissemination of alerts to at-risk communities. The plan details resource allocation, including pre-positioned emergency supplies (tents, blankets, water purifiers) and equipment for rescue operations (boats, heavy machinery). It also highlights capacity-building measures, such as training personnel in search-and-rescue techniques, establishing incident command systems, and enhancing community resilience through awareness campaigns. The challenges identified include insufficient flood monitoring infrastructure, gaps in landslide early warning systems, and the need for improved public awareness. The strategy stresses integrated disaster management, with regular monitoring, post-disaster reviews, and collaboration with international partners (e.g., WFP, UNICEF) to ensure effective response and recovery. The overarching goal is to minimize casualties and economic losses by strengthening preparedness, rapid response, and resource mobilization across all levels of governance.

Technical Session 5: Koshi Provincial Monsoon Preparedness & Response Action Plan 2082, Mr. Ram Kumar Dahal, Disaster Expert and Member of Province Disaster Management Executive Committee (PDMEC)

The "Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan" emphasizes a structured, multi-tiered approach to disaster risk management across federal, provincial, district, and local levels. It highlights the

establishment of 8 thematic clusters, including emergency shelter, health, WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene), education, and logistics to coordinate targeted interventions during monsoon-induced disasters. Key strategies include digital mapping to identify vulnerable sites, pre-positioning of relief supplies (e.g., medical kits, tents, water purifiers), and deploying Quick Response Teams (QRTs) and Incident Response Teams (IRTs) for rapid rescue operations. The plan underscores the importance of inter-agency collaboration, integrating security forces (Nepal Army, Police), humanitarian agencies, and local governments to ensure efficient resource mobilization and real-time monitoring. The emphasis is placed on the community engagement, capacity-building for local volunteers, and leveraging technology (e.g., SMS alerts, social media) for early warning dissemination. Challenges such as sedimentation in rivers like Keshaliya, cross-border flow obstructions, and unplanned infrastructure development are noted, with recommendations for eco-friendly engineering solutions and policy reforms to enhance climate resilience. The framework aligns with Nepal's broader disaster risk reduction goals, prioritizing inclusive preparedness, equitable resource distribution, and adaptive strategies to mitigate monsoon-related hazards.

Yas prasad Subba, Member, PDMEC

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law (MoIAL), Koshi Province, has developed a digital risk map to identify vulnerable areas prone to monsoon-induced disasters, such as floods, landslides, and riverbank erosion. This tool integrates geospatial data to prioritize high-risk zones, enabling targeted preparedness measures like pre-positioning relief supplies, deploying Quick Response Teams (QRTs), and strengthening community early warning systems. During recent events, such as the Sunsari district disaster response, a localized disaster map was shared to coordinate real-time rescue and relief operations. This map highlighted affected settlements, infrastructure vulnerabilities, and evacuation routes, facilitating swift collaboration between security forces, humanitarian agencies (e.g., Nepal Army, Red Cross), and local governments. These initiatives align with Koshi Province's broader strategy to enhance climate resilience through data-driven decision-making, cross-agency coordination, and community engagement, ensuring timely interventions to mitigate monsoon-related risks and protect vulnerable populations.

Hikmat Karki, Chief Minister, Office of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers

Disaster resilience must guide Nepal's growth. Many recent problems such as floods, landslides, bridge failures and rising road traffic accident happen because of careless hillside digging, poor engineering that ignores nature and earthquakes, and weak safety rules. The collapse of a 70-metre Hewa River Bailey bridge and the yearly closure of the Ilam highway show that shortcuts are too costly. May be very citizen should learn basic disaster safety skills, perhaps even before receiving a citizenship card. Simple actions like door to door monsoon-awareness visits, better road-safety rules and a province-wide network that links government, security forces, aid groups and communities can save lives.

Unplanned construction, climate change and carelessness already cost the country huge amount of money each year and could erase recent development gains as Nepal leaves the Least Developed Country list. Disaster-risk reduction must appear in every policy, building rule and public institution. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law should lead close cooperation among federal, provincial and local level. Local governments need to map hazards, run public-awareness drives and train young people so that adults have the skills to protect their families. Security forces should support with quick rescues and regular community drills.

Real safety demands early investment. Koshi Province can set aside NPR 100 million to NPR 200 million right away to improve disaster management and build local response teams. Teaching disaster awareness in every school will create a culture of preparedness from childhood. Using solid science, careful planning and active communities, Nepal can limit human-induced disasters and let development and safety progress together.

Group Discussion on the Technical Session

Goma Devi Chemjong, Under Secretary, National Disaster Risk Reduction And Management Authority (NDRRMA)

The integration of the Koshi Province Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Portal with the national NDRRMA DRR Portal is critical to ensure seamless data sharing, real-time monitoring, and coordinated disaster response across federal and provincial level. This linkage will enhance situational awareness, enabling targeted resource allocation and early warning dissemination, particularly for high-risk areas prone to monsoon-induced floods and landslides. The equally vital is the incorporation of GEDSI (Gender, Equity, Disability, and Social Inclusion) principles into digital risk mapping, which currently lacks granularity in identifying disabled individuals at the household level. By embedding GEDSI frameworks into mapping tools, authorities can ensure equitable preparedness, prioritizing vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, elderly populations, and marginalized communities, in evacuation plans, shelter allocation, and relief distribution. This dual approach not only strengthens systemic resilience but also aligns with Nepal's commitment to inclusive, rights-based disaster management, ensuring no one is left behind during crises.

Mr. Krish Ray, Nepal Scout

The community-level disaster preparedness in Nepal's Koshi Province requires simulated disaster drills to build local resilience, ensuring households, schools, and vulnerable groups are equipped to respond effectively during monsoon-induced crises like floods and landslides. The school must prioritize Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) education, integrating safety protocols, evacuation practices, and climate-awareness programs to empower students as agents of change within their families and communities. The Nepal Scouts , with over 30,000 members nationwide, including 75 trained DRR volunteers in Koshi Province and 500 nationally, play a vital role in grassroots

response efforts. Their Quick Response Teams (QRTs) can be rapidly mobilized for search-and-rescue operations, early warning dissemination, and distributing relief supplies during emergencies. This aligns with provincial strategies emphasizing multi-agency collaboration, digital early warning systems, and community-led initiatives to address gaps in flood monitoring and landslide risks. By leveraging trained volunteers, institutional networks, and localized drills, Nepal aims to strengthen its disaster response ecosystem, reducing casualties and economic losses while fostering a culture of preparedness in high-risk regions like Koshi.

Mr. Bahadur Saday, Progam Manager, Dalit Janajagran Yuwa Club

The monsoon preparedness and response plan must prioritize child-focused strategies at the ward level, ensuring children are informed and protected through localized disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives. For individuals without access to mobile phones, alternative outreach methods, such as community loudspeakers, radio broadcasts, printed materials, and door-to-door campaigns led by local volunteers, are essential to bridge communication gaps. Schools can serve as critical hubs for disseminating DRR knowledge by integrating disaster preparedness into curricula, conducting emergency drills, and training teachers to educate students on early warning signs and safety protocols. This multi-layered approach fosters inclusivity, leveraging existing social networks and institutions to empower vulnerable groups, including children and marginalized communities, while strengthening grassroots resilience against monsoon-related hazards.

Mr. Rudra Pariyar, DHM

The monsoon preparedness and response plan has overlooked the inclusion of the DHM in its strategic framework, leading to a critical gap in coordination with Nepal's key agency responsible for weather forecasting and flood monitoring. This omission risks undermining the integration of DHM's expertise in real-time data sharing, early warning systems (e.g., the 1155 toll-free helpline), and localized risk assessments. To address this, the plan must prioritize orienting 1155 monsoon-related alerts toward every community, ensuring accessible, multilingual communication via SMS, social media, and public broadcasts. By embedding DHM's insights and tailoring warnings to local contexts, such as high-risk areas identified in Koshi Province, the response can enhance public awareness, bridge coordination gaps, and ensure vulnerable populations receive timely, actionable information to mitigate monsoon-induced disasters.

Ms. Mamata Shah, Participant

The monsoon season poses heightened risks for vulnerable populations, including the elderly, disabled individuals, and single women, who are disproportionately affected by flooding, landslides, and displacement. Ensuring their safety requires collective engagement across communities, governments, and organizations to strengthen inclusive disaster preparedness. Proactive measures, such as accessible early warning systems, community-based rescue operations, and targeted relief distribution, must prioritize their unique needs. Integrating SADD

(Support for At-Risk and Disadvantaged Groups) into monsoon response plans is critical to address systemic gaps in protection and resource allocation. This aligns with broader strategies outlined in Nepal's provincial disaster frameworks, which emphasize multi-stakeholder collaboration, localized risk mapping, and empowering marginalized communities through tailored interventions. By embedding SADD into monsoon planning, authorities can ensure equitable resilience-building and safeguard the most vulnerable during climate-induced crises.

Mr. Kedar Shah, SDRC, Technical program Advisor

Establishing DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) Volunteer Champions at the community level can empower localized resilience by training individuals to educate and mobilize residents on preparedness measures, early warning systems, and response protocols. Complementing this grassroots approach, integrating digital data into mobile applications can enhance accessibility to real-time disaster-related information, such as weather alerts, evacuation routes, and resource distribution points. This combination of community-driven leadership and technology-driven solutions ensures inclusive, timely, and actionable engagement, particularly for vulnerable groups like the elderly, disabled, and marginalized populations, fostering a proactive culture of safety and collective accountability during monsoon and other climate-induced crises.

Mr. Bramahadev Yadav, Asman Nepal

The effective utilization of local-level resources is critical in monsoon preparedness and response, particularly in high-risk regions like Nepal's Koshi Province. The local governments, community-based organizations, and trained volunteers, such as the Nepal Scouts (with over 30,000 members nationally and 75 trained DRR volunteers in Koshi), play a pivotal role in early warning dissemination, search-and-rescue operations, and distributing relief supplies. the schools and community centers serve as hubs for disaster risk reduction (DRR) education, equipping residents with evacuation protocols and safety measures. Digital tools, including SMS alerts via the 1155 helpline and social media, enhance real-time communication, while localized risk mapping identifies vulnerable areas for targeted interventions. Local infrastructure, such as emergency shelters and pre-positioned relief materials (tents, water purifiers), ensures rapid response. However, challenges persist, including gaps in flood monitoring networks and public awareness, underscoring the need for stronger coordination between provincial authorities, security agencies (e.g., Nepal Army, Police), and grassroots networks. By empowering local communities through capacity-building, inclusive planning, and leveraging traditional knowledge, Koshi Province can build resilience against monsoon-induced disasters like floods and landslides, reducing reliance on external support and ensuring faster, context-specific action.

Ms. Sita Sharma, Koshi Province, DPNet Nepal

The Koshi Province , highly vulnerable to monsoon-induced disasters like floods and landslides, requires proactive relocation of riverbank communities during high-risk periods to minimize casualties, as highlighted in recent reports of catastrophic events such as the Jhaphlekhola landslide (2081) and Kankai River floods. While the province allocates significant funds for disaster management, such as NPR 11 billion in infrastructure repairs post-2081 monsoons, the focus must shift from reactive response to preemptive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) investments , including resilient infrastructure, early warning systems (e.g., SMS alerts via the 1155 helpline), and community-based training programs. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law (MoIAL) should prioritize institutionalizing DRR preparedness by redirecting budgetary resources toward hazard mapping, eco-friendly engineering solutions (e.g., gabion walls), and school-level DRR education. Additionally, MoIAL must formally engage DPNet Koshi , a key coordination body, to strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration, integrate localized risk data, and ensure alignment with federal and provincial response frameworks. By embedding DPNet's expertise in digital monitoring, resource mobilization, and community engagement, Koshi can transition from crisis management to systemic resilience-building, addressing gaps like sedimentation in rivers (e.g., Keshaliya) and unplanned development that exacerbate vulnerabilities. This approach aligns with Nepal's broader goal of graduating from LDC status while safeguarding developmental gains against climate-induced setbacks.

Mr. Bajrang Bali Shah, Participant

Nepal's Koshi Province faces escalating risks as unplanned encroachment into riverways disrupts natural drainage systems, exacerbating flood and landslide impacts during monsoon seasons. Deforestation, illegal sand mining, and infrastructure development along riverbanks, such as roads and settlements, have heightened vulnerabilities, as seen in catastrophic events like the 2081 Jhaphlekhola landslide (35 deaths) and Kankai River floods. These human-induced disasters underscore the urgent need to enforce ecological boundaries and integrate climate-resilient engineering into development plans. To mitigate such risks, local-level emergency response teams must be established and trained to lead evacuations, coordinate rescue operations, and disseminate early warnings. Initiatives like Nepal Scouts' Quick Response Teams (QRTs), community volunteers, and digital tools (e.g., SMS alerts via the 1155 helpline) can empower grassroots preparedness. Strengthening these localized capacities, aligned with provincial strategies like the NDRRMA Monsoon Plan 2082 , ensures rapid, inclusive action, particularly for marginalized groups (e.g., disabled individuals, elderly populations). By prioritizing riverway protection, enforcing land-use regulations, and investing in trained local responders, Koshi Province can reduce casualties and economic losses, safeguarding developmental progress against climate-induced setbacks.

Mr. Kumar Neupane, DIG, Armed Police Force (APF)

The Armed Police Force (APF) in Nepal is implementing an 18-day training program in Jhapa Khecklalan and Bedana municipalities to build capacity among community-based disaster volunteers. This initiative aims to strengthen local resilience by equipping residents with skills in disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and response mechanisms. The program emphasizes leveraging these trained volunteers at the local level to enhance community-led disaster risk reduction efforts, ensuring timely and effective action during emergencies such as floods, landslides, and other monsoon-related hazards. By fostering grassroots engagement, the APF seeks to empower municipalities to address vulnerabilities through localized, trained human resources.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Indradev Yadav, CDO, Morang District

The District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) in Morang consistently updates the District Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP) at the local level to enhance resilience against monsoon-related disasters. National and feeder highway Quick Response Teams (QRTs) and Incident Response Teams (IRTs) are actively deployed to ensure uninterrupted traffic flow during emergencies. Historical floods, such as the Sunsaru 2078 Karktik 1 flood (which impacted 14 districts) and the Ashad 2078 Chitwan district flood (where a Simtal-bound bus was swept away), served as critical lessons, prompting coordinated efforts led by Koshi Province's Chief Minister to mobilize all available resources. During the Asoj 11–13, 2081 flood, timely forecasts and travel advisories were issued, with Chitwan district demonstrating prompt action. However, a tragic landslide in Jhyaple, triggered by a vehicle traveling from Tanahun district, highlighted the unpredictable risks despite preparedness measures. Digital documentation and accessible systems have proven vital for efficient disaster management, enabling real-time updates, coordination, and resource allocation to mitigate impacts and save lives.

Pitambar Prasad Acharya, Executive Director, DEPRSOC Nepal

Nepal's Koshi Province faces heightened monsoon-related risks, including floods, landslides, and infrastructure damage, exacerbated by climate change and unplanned development. The DHM predicts above-average rainfall in 2082, particularly in Koshi's high-altitude regions, necessitating urgent preparedness. Multi-agency coordination, as outlined in the NDRRMA MPRT, real-time flood monitoring, early warning systems, and pre-positioned resources like rescue boats and emergency shelters. Community-based initiatives, such as training local can bridge the gaps in disaster response. Challenges persist, including sedimentation Koshi river, illegal extraction of river materials and cross-border river flow obstructions by Indian infrastructure projects. Digital tools, school-based disaster education, and nature-based solutions should be prioritized to enhance community resilience, while intergovernmental collaboration remains important to address transboundary challenges and ensure equitable, data-driven disaster management.

Mr. Jibacha Kumar Ray, Chair, Barju Rural Municipality

At the local level, disaster risk reduction (DRR) awareness programs have been conducted in three wards to enhance community preparedness. The Keshaliya River, however, faces significant sedimentation issues, with excess silt carried into India but remaining underutilized locally for agricultural or developmental purposes. Illegal sand and gravel extraction activities were reported along the riverbanks during nighttime, exacerbating environmental degradation. Systematic land-use planning is urgently needed to clearly demarcate agricultural zones and infrastructure development areas to avoid encroachment and resource conflicts. Additionally, Nepal experiences recurrent flooding due to river flow obstructions caused by roads constructed by India along the border, which disrupt natural drainage patterns and inundate downstream areas. Addressing these challenges requires cross-border coordination, stricter enforcement against illegal mining, and integrated watershed management to balance ecological health with community needs.

Mr Kamal Bahadur Thapa, Under-Secretary, MoIAL

The efforts of the presenter were warmly acknowledged, highlighting the DHM for its effective monsoon projections and forecasting, which have proven critical in anticipating and mitigating climate-induced risks in Koshi Province. The Chief Minister emphasized strong provincial support for DHM's work, pledging sustained collaboration to align local preparedness with national forecasts. The NDRRMA Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan 2082 is priased for its comprehensive framework, with Koshi Province integrating its DRR strategies, including digital risk mapping, into the national DRR Portal for enhanced coordination. Dr. Raju Thapa's pictorial presentation illustrated the disparity between policy commitments and ground realities through visual storytelling, urging the province to bridge implementation gaps. The provincial government is actively partnering with security agencies, particularly the Armed Police Force (APF), to conduct disaster simulation exercises, ensuring rapid, coordinated responses to floods and landslides. These efforts highlight a unified approach to resilience-building, combining technological tools, inter-agency collaboration, and actionable insights to address monsoon-related challenges in one of Nepal's most vulnerable regions.

Implementation Commitments for the Koshi Province Monsoon Preparedness and Response Provincial Action Plan 2082

After gathering structured feedback from participants during the closing session, the organizing team consolidated the most urgent recommendations into a single action framework. This consensus document was formally endorsed on-site as the "Implementation Commitments for the Koshi Province Monsoon Preparedness and Response Action Plan 2082," detailing concrete tasks, timelines, and responsible agencies. The commitments guide all provincial stakeholders in turning

the workshop's technical insights into coordinated, on-the-ground results. Agreed commitments unofficial translation is as below:

- **Agile, community-centered early-warning system:** We will deliver hazard alerts and warnings to at-risk areas and communities on time, making maximum use of both indigenous knowledge and modern information technology to strengthen the early-warning chain.
- **Stockpiling and regular updates:** As part of monsoon readiness, we will procure, service and pre-position essential rescue, relief and equipment. Provinces and districts will keep adequate reserves of food, medicines, tarpaulins and other critical supplies, updating and monitoring those stocks regularly.
- **Rapid search-and-rescue capacity:** Personnel, equipment and resources needed for immediate search-and-rescue operations will remain in a constant state of readiness. We will expand volunteer rescue teams in high-risk zones, build community volunteer numbers and skills, and maintain a well-functioning Incident Command System across all security forces.
- **Fast and transparent relief distribution:** We will ensure timely, equitable and transparent delivery of relief items to affected people. An efficient system will be in place for distributing food, safe drinking water, temporary shelter materials, clothing and first aid.
- **Gender equality and social inclusion:** Every phase of disaster management will prioritise gender equality and social inclusion. Special protection and assistance will be arranged for women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable groups, guaranteeing their participation and leadership in decision-making.
- **Infrastructure and structural protection:** We will focus on reinforcing critical infrastructure to reduce flood and landslide risks. Measures such as river-bank protection, effective embankment construction and safe-settlement development will be adopted to minimise future disaster losses.
- **Safe shelter management:** Each local government will pre-identify temporary safe shelters and update their details regularly. All shelters will include adequate sanitation and disability-friendly facilities so displaced people can be housed safely when needed.
- **Continuity of essential services:** Even during disasters, we will keep basic services running wherever possible. Specific action plans will restore water supply, health care, power and telecommunications quickly if they are disrupted.
- **Speedy recovery and rehabilitation:** Post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation will be swift and effective. We will rebuild housing for affected families, restore livelihoods

through employment and income programmes, and offer necessary psychosocial support to ensure sustainable recovery.

- **Dedicated budget and funds:** Adequate financial resources for disaster management will be arranged in advance. A strengthened disaster fund will allow rapid disbursement of emergency budgets and relief payments when disasters occur.
- **Coordination with multiple stakeholders:** We will maintain close coordination and information exchange among federal, provincial and local levels. Clear division of roles and cooperative action with security forces, local bodies, the Red Cross and development partners will ensure a joint response.
- **Continuous monitoring and evaluation:** All preparedness and response activities under this plan will be monitored and evaluated regularly. Lessons learned will guide corrective actions to guarantee effective implementation.
- **Stakeholder participation:** Meaningful participation of stakeholders and communities will be ensured at every stage of disaster risk management. Partnerships with the Nepal Red Cross, NGOs, the private sector, academic institutions, local communities and youth volunteers will drive preparedness and response efforts with shared ownership.
- **Training and drills:** Regular training, drills and simulation exercises will be conducted to maintain readiness for emergencies. Community capacity will grow through ongoing awareness campaigns and rescue-focused training at local and community levels.

DPNet Koshi Province Board Meets with National Chair

On 20 June 2025 the DPNet convened a full-board meeting of its Koshi Province Committee, in the presence of DPNet Chair, Dr Raju Thapa. Provincial board members opened the session by outlining recent organisational milestones, ongoing partnerships and emerging challenges. After listening to these updates, Dr Thapa commended the team's energy but urged them to pivot from isolated, project-level interventions toward a broader role as the province's hub for coordination and collaboration in DRR.

He reminded participants that, at the federal tier, DPNet serves as the Secretariat to Nepal's National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR). Building on that mandate, the central committee now plans to help every province set up a Provincial Platform for DRR (PPDRR). Dr Thapa therefore asked Koshi board members to study the NPDRR Guideline in detail, brief provincial authorities on its provisions and advocate for swift establishment of a PPDRR. Under the envisioned structure, the Provincial Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law (MoIAL) Secretary would chair the PPDRR, while DPNet Koshi Province would assume the secretariat role.

Once formed, the PPDRR will need to coordinate nine thematic stakeholder groups: government line agencies, semi-government bodies, UN entities and donors, international NGOs, national NGOs, media outlets, academic and research institutions, the private sector, and disaster-affected communities. Dr Thapa stressed that Koshi Province should start mapping these actors and cultivating relationships now, so the platform can function smoothly from day one.

To reinforce learning and visibility, he further requested the board to organise at least one province-wide DRR learning-and-sharing conference each year. He also encouraged the chapter to lead the province's observances of International Day for Disaster Reduction (13 October) and World Humanitarian Day (19 August), using both events to promote risk-informed development and honour frontline responders.

Speaking on behalf of the Koshi board, the provincial chair Sita Sharma thanked Dr Thapa for the strategic guidance and pledged full commitment to the outlined priorities: supporting the PPDRR's formation, arranging stakeholder coordination, and hosting annual knowledge-sharing and commemorative events. The meeting concluded with expressions of appreciation from Dr Thapa to all attendees for their dedication to building a safer, more resilient Koshi Province.