

Report on Nepal Participation in HNPW 2023, Geneva

Nepal's DiMaNN and DPNet Team has been actively participating in the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) in-person meeting in Geneva, which was held from 24th to 28th April, 2023. The team comprises of Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa (Chairperson DPNet/DiMaNN) and Dr. Raju Thapa (Vice Chair DPNet and Board Member DiMaNN). HNPW is an annual event organized by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, providing a forum for humanitarian aid workers to collaborate on challenges and solutions in their field. The event has been



organizing since 2015 and takes place in Geneva. On April 18th, DPNet conducted an online session on the localization of the Sphere Standard during NHPW online week. On the event, DPNet and DiMaNN, in collaboration with Sphere Association, World Jewish Relief, and UNDP Nepal, set up a market booth at the Sphere Event, drawing the attention of visitors. They showcased Nepal success in raising awareness of the Sphere Standard among 19,500 officials across all 753 local governments in Nepal, using a government-led training program and innovative methods like folk songs and drama to engage with community stakeholders cost-effectively. Such efforts of Nepal was appreciated by many visitors in the market place.



During HNPW, the Nepal Team attended various sessions. One session focused on the role of militaries in civil defense organizations in natural, environmental, and technological emergencies. Team found it to be very informative as Nepal frequently face various disaster where role of militaries in civil defense is very vital. The team also participated in a session about humanitarian suppliers and their code of conduct, which aimed to develop a common framework for humanitarian organizations to integrate

environmental and social governance into everyday practice. It was another interesting session for team to learn about humanitarian vendor's accountability. Another session they attended was about Revision of Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), which is going to be revised on 2023. Team Nepal requested CHS to consider the feedback they provided generated from National Level Workshop in Nepal. The Nepal Team also participated in a session titled "The Shift to a New Humanitarian Paradigm." This session highlighted the importance of adapting to new challenges in the humanitarian sector and embracing a more inclusive, sustainable, and collaborative approach to humanitarian assistance.

On the 25th, the team participated in a session about Protection Preparedness in Climate Change and Disasters, which aimed to create awareness around the issues and responses related to climate change and disaster risk management. They also attended a session called "Looking back, looking forward - crisis trends and the impacts of climate change," which examined the emerging challenges in humanitarian crises and the growing influence of climate change on these situations. On 26th Team participated in panel discussion on nature based solutions for climate resilience in humanitarian context and shared their experience of low cost landslide mitigation technology and pond construction in disaster vulnerable zone. Panelists provided their insights to blend traditional and scientific knowledge in humanitarian settings to develop more resilient community. Similarly, team participated in the session titled 'how are donors influencing environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation in humanitarian action?' This session provided some insights to the team to understand complexity of the humanitarian fund and possible way to harness resources.

Team also attended the Sphere 25 Years Celebration Program on 27th, where they shared their extensive experience in translating Sphere standards since 2004. They discussed learning from other Sphere focal points in order to institutionalize Sphere standards in their respective countries. DPNet has translated four companion standards: Education, Market Recovery, Economic Analysis, and Inclusion. They have also conducted international training, developing a well-trained workforce in this area. Team



shared that DPNet has engaged in numerous programs to collect feedback from over 3,000 stakeholders on the upcoming new CHS version, providing comprehensive feedback to the CHS Alliance. Last year, they sensitized more than 19,500 local government officials on Sphere standards through government-led training programs and distributed over 3,000 handbooks to all local governments. To engage the community, DPNet has used innovative tools like Sphere dramas, folk songs, and storytelling. They highlighted Nepal's recent localization efforts as a significant achievement in the history of Sphere standards. The team suggested creating a community of practice to discuss and share lessons learned and

best practices so that all focal points can benefit. The team encouraged finding creative and innovative ways to sensitize communities, rather than relying on bulky publications. They emphasized that Sphere standards should be simple and easy for any community member to understand. Finally, the team suggested that engaging disaster-prone and populous countries like India is crucial in order to cover mass populations. This would further expand the reach and impact of Sphere standards and contribute to more resilient communities worldwide.



On the evening of the 27th, a session titled "Perspective from China in the New Normal" was held, featuring representatives from various organizations across China, Singapore, the United States, Canada and ICVA. They discussed the increasing demand for humanitarian assistance, particularly following large-scale disasters. Representatives from the Chinese government, academia, and the China Civil Network for International Humanitarian Assistance shared their experiences and partnerships in this area. During the session, DPNet/ DiMaNN Chair Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa shared the organization's activities and requested the Chinese government as well other representatives to consider Nepal's best practices, which involve adopting a whole-of-society approach through their National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR). Thapa emphasized the potential of such platforms for fostering international networking and collaboration among humanitarian agencies.

He suggested that the Chinese government and other organizations could form partnerships with organizations like DPNet and DiMaNN to exchange insights and implement innovative and impactful programs. Thapa expressed confidence that the Chinese government and other organizations would continue to include Nepal in its future international initiatives, recognizing its valuable contributions and the importance of collaboration.

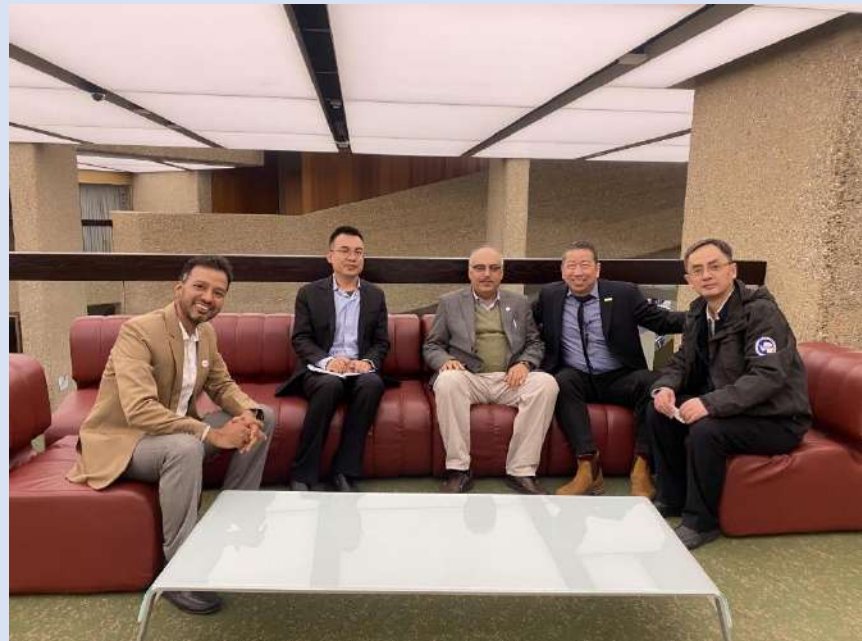


During HNPW, team visited the NHPW marketplace, networking with various stakeholders, and learning from the issues showcased by different organizations. The team also had a side discussion with Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, the OCHA Chief of Emergency Response Section and INSARAG Secretary. Team informed him about the collaboration between DPNet and DiMaNN in policy, advocacy,



coordination, and collaboration with DRR stakeholders in Nepal. Team requested Mr. Sebastian's support for existing DRR networks to strengthen capacity in times of disaster, especially when electricity and communication means are scarce. Mr. Sebastian was very happy to find Nepal Team in NHPW 2023 with support of various agencies like Sphere Association, UNDP Nepal and World Jewish Relief. Mr. Sebastian informed that considering the disaster vulnerability of country, Nepal always in his priority. He also assured that he will communicate with UN Bangkok Team to explore further possibilities for the effective collaboration and cooperation with DPNet and DiMaNN.

Additionally, the team met with Mr. Winston Chang, Head of INSARAG, and the Chinese Team, led by Mr. Zhao Ming, Director General of the Ministry of Emergency Management, PRC, Department of Earthquake and Geological Disaster Rescue. They discussed possible support for Nepal in Inter External Classification (IEC) and Search and Rescue Support. The Chinese Team proposed that the Nepal Team facilitate contact between the Nepali and Chinese governments for possible collaboration in the



future. Mr. Chang expressed his commitment to help Nepal develop its capabilities for INSARAG certification, making it a priority.



Furthermore, the Nepal Team had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Bonaventure Gbetoho Sokpoh, Senior Advisor on CHS and Outreach. They informed him about their work on the localization of the Sphere Standard and CHS in Nepal. The team shared their recent efforts in organizing a revision discussion on the CHS, which aimed to gather input from stakeholders in the Nepal humanitarian sector and government agencies. To involve a

wider range of stakeholders in the CHS revision process, DPNet initiated a virtual discussion a week prior to the workshop, circulating the notice to over 3,000 stakeholders through a mass email. The team also highlighted how they raised awareness of the Sphere Standard among 19,500 officials across all 753 local governments in Nepal, using a government-led training program and innovative methods like folk songs and drama to engage with community stakeholders cost-effectively. Mr. Sokpoh expressed his happiness in learning about these achievements and committed to inviting the Nepal Team to other international forums to share their experiences. This would enable other Sphere focal points to learn from Nepal's localization efforts of the Sphere Standard and CHS. He further suggested DPNet and DiMaNN to be a CHS member earliest as possible. The team had a meeting with the Peaceland Foundation Team, a renowned organization dedicated to addressing global humanitarian issues. Mr. Tina Liu, who serves as the Representative for the Geneva, Thailand Office, led the Peaceland Foundation Team, while Prof. Dr. Quang Zhang, an esteemed expert from Beijing University's Innovation Center for Risk Governance, also participated in the discussions.



During the meeting, the Peaceland Foundation expressed a keen interest in working with DPNET and DiMaNN, particularly in the realm of civil society engagement, which could potentially lead to fruitful collaborations in the future.

The team attended a networking dinners organized by UNOCHA and Connective Business Initiative (CBI), where they had the opportunity to introduce DPNET and DiMaNN to other potential partners. They discussed the organizations' expertise and experience in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and humanitarian sectors, emphasizing their work in Nepal. The team highlighted their desire to establish collaborative relationships with like-minded organizations and stakeholders, in order to collectively address the challenges of DRR and humanitarian work in the region.

Nepal Team's participation in HNPW 2023 benefited them in several ways, including:

Exposure to global best practices: Engaging with various humanitarian organizations provided the team with insights into best practices and innovative solutions from around the world. This exposure can be instrumental in enhancing their programs and strategies in Nepal.

Knowledge and skill development: Participating in HNPW allowed the team to attend various sessions and workshops, enabling them to acquire new knowledge and skills in areas such as climate change adaptation, protection preparedness, and environmental sustainability.

Networking opportunities: The event served as an excellent platform for the Nepal Team to build relationships with a diverse range of stakeholders, including international organizations, government representatives, development partners, private sector partners. These connections can lead to future collaborations and support.

Showcasing achievements: The Nepal Team had the opportunity to present their accomplishments in localizing humanitarian standards and implementing Sphere in Nepal. This exposure can help attract more support and resources for their work.

Fostering cross-sector collaborations: The team learned about the potential for partnerships between humanitarian actors and the private sector, which could lead to new initiatives and joint efforts to address humanitarian challenges in Nepal.



Influencing international policies and standards: By actively participating in discussions and providing feedback on initiatives such as the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) revision, the Nepal Team contributed to shaping global policies and standards in a way that reflects the unique needs of their context.



Gaining insights into humanitarian funding: Attending sessions about donors' influence on environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation in humanitarian action helped the team understand the complexities of humanitarian funding and explore ways to harness resources more effectively.

Learning from other Sphere focal points: The Nepal Team's engagement with other Sphere focal points allowed them to exchange experiences, lessons learned, and best practices, contributing to a more robust understanding of Sphere standards' localization and implementation.

Strengthening capacity for disaster response: Meetings with representatives from INSARAG and other organizations focused on search and rescue support provided the Nepal Team with insights into enhancing their capabilities for disaster response and preparedness.



Facilitating international cooperation: The team's interaction with various international actors opened up

possibilities for future partnerships and collaborations that could lead to more effective humanitarian and disaster risk reduction efforts in Nepal.

Key Learnings

The Nepal Team learned the importance of adapting global humanitarian standards to local contexts, ensuring that they are effective and relevant in addressing the specific needs and challenges of communities.

They recognized the value of working with diverse partners, including the private sector, in order to address humanitarian challenges and maximize the impact of joint efforts through synergistic collaborations.

The team gained insights into embracing a more inclusive, sustainable, and collaborative approach to humanitarian assistance, in response to the changing landscape of challenges, such as climate change, complex emergencies, and increasing vulnerability.



They learned about developing a common framework that enables humanitarian organizations to incorporate environmental and social governance principles into their everyday practices, ensuring sustainability and accountability.

The team understood the importance of integrating protection strategies in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, with an emphasis on safeguarding vulnerable populations.

They examined emerging challenges in humanitarian crises and recognized the growing influence of climate change on the frequency, intensity, and complexity of these situations.

The team explored the potential of combining traditional and scientific knowledge in humanitarian settings to develop innovative, nature-based solutions that enhance community resilience to climate-induced hazards.

The team gained knowledge on enhancing national and local capacities for disaster response, such as search and rescue support, through international cooperation, knowledge exchange, and certification processes like INSARAG.

They understood the importance of actively participating in global policy discussions and international forums to influence humanitarian policies and standards in ways that reflect the unique needs and contexts of the communities they serve.

The team capitalized on the opportunity to establish connections with other humanitarian actors, organizations, and stakeholders, fostering a collaborative ecosystem that facilitates knowledge sharing and joint initiatives.

They gained insights into the complexities of humanitarian funding and learned strategies to harness resources effectively, which can support the implementation of humanitarian projects and programs in Nepal.

The team utilized international platforms like HNPW to showcase Nepal's achievements in localizing humanitarian standards, disaster risk reduction, and response efforts, contributing to global knowledge and inspiring other countries to adopt similar approaches.

In a nutshell, with the support of the Sphere Association, UNDP Nepal, and World Jewish Relief, the Nepal Team had the opportunity to participate in the HNPW, a platform for networking and sharing their achievements in localizing humanitarian standards. The team participated in various events and learn from different sessions, networking with various stakeholders to return to Nepal with key takeaways. The Nepal Team's active participation in HNPW



showcases their dedication to improving humanitarian aid in their country. By sharing their experiences and learning from others, they aim to continue strengthening their capacity to address the challenges and impacts of disasters and crises more effectively. Their commitment to localizing humanitarian standards demonstrates the importance of adapting global frameworks to suit the specific needs and contexts of the communities they serve.

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