



ITP CHANGE INITIATIVES FROM NEPAL

2023

“together we can make a difference”

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Cover page: Suraj Gautam

About the ITP Program

The MSB ITP Program, or International Training Program in Disaster Risk Management, is a 12-month program that supports organizations in strengthening, adapting, and maintaining capacity over time at the local and national level. The program is implemented by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) on behalf of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The ITP Program targets disaster risk management stakeholders involved in change processes at various levels. The aim of the program is to strengthen the capacity of individuals and their organizations to manage disaster risks. The ITP Program is a blended learning program, with a mix of digital and face-to-face learning. Participants work on a change initiative throughout the program, and receive support from mentors and other participants in developing and implementing their change plan.

The ITP Program is open to technical experts and middle management representatives from any relevant organization, including government agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, and academic institutions. To be eligible for the ITP Program, participants must:

- Hold a strategic position within their organization in relation to the tentative change initiative.
- Have at least five years of experience in disaster risk management or a related field. Be fluent in English, both written and spoken.
- The ITP Program is a competitive program, and a limited number of participants are selected each year.

The ITP Program has been running since 2019, and has trained over 100 participants from over four countries. The program has been praised by participants for its focus on change management, its practical approach, and its supportive learning environment.

Here are some of the benefits of participating in the MSB ITP Program:

- Strengthen knowledge and skills in disaster risk management.
- Develop the capacity to lead and manage change within a participant's organization.
- Build a network of professionals working in disaster risk management around the world.
- Gain access to resources and support to implement change initiatives.

Foreword

Since its inception in 2019, the MSB International Training Program (ITP) in Disaster Risk Management, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) on behalf of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the ITP Program reflects Sweden's initiative to building resilience and strengthening capacities around the globe. This program, a perfect incorporation of digital and in-person learning, has been fundamental in strengthening the competencies of over 100 professionals from four countries. Its unique focus on change management, combined with its pragmatic approach and nurturing learning environment, has received resounding appreciation from its participants.

This collection of change initiatives, prepared with the assistance of DPNet, the Focal Point of the ITP Nepal Alumni Network. Each narrative explores into the essence of the change initiative, documenting the journey and accomplishments of the ITP alumni, while also highlighting on their aspirations for the future.

We pledge to enrich this collection with more pioneering change initiatives initiated by our alumni. Our vision for the ITP Nepal Alumni Network is to foster a dynamic community that collaboratively drives positive change, leveraging the invaluable knowledge and experiences acquired during their time with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

I'd like to express my gratitude to the MSB and SIDA. Their commitment to providing Nepali DRR leaders and practitioners with invaluable training in disaster risk reduction has been truly transformative. Additionally, my sincere appreciation goes to DPNet and Er. Suraj Gautam for shaping this publication. I'm equally grateful to all alumni who contributed by sharing their impactful change initiatives with us.

Dr. Raju Thapa

Coordinator

ITP Nepal Alumni Network

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Emergency Response and Contingency Planning Training to Local Government

Luna Khadka

Progress:

My change initiative was to provide the training to develop the emergency response and contingency plan to the local level (Municipality) with the objective to enhance the knowledge and capacity of Local Government in preparing Emergency Response Contingency Plan.

The two days training were organized where, 27 Participants disaggregated as 14-female and 13 males were trained on developing the emergency response and contingency plan. The local disaster management committee and DRR stakeholders of the Kirtipur Municipality of Kathmandu were benefitted through the CI. More than 50% representation of female participant was observed in the training. As a part of environmental mainstreaming, the practice of using electronic banner and paper cups were used instead of a flex and plastic cups.

During the training phase, the municipality was asked to ensure the participation considering the lens of gender and social inclusion. As a result, there was a participation of 51% female including youths, so called “lower caste” people in the training and their issues and concerns were also included while working in the group, scenario development and drafting the hazard specific contingency plan in the training.

Now, Kirtipur Municipality have drafted their DRR Policy and also have disaster preparedness and response plan.

Future Plan

As a DRR and Humanitarian Professional working in the sector of DRRM, I will continue to work in this sector and contribute in capacity building of local government in different provinces. Furthermore, wherever applicable I will coordinate with all tiers of the Government from Federal to Local level and provide technical support in formulating the legal document and also the implementation part.

Strengthen the local authorities and instigate DRR priorities and implement accordingly in the communities

Pradeep Shrestha, PMO, Tulsi Prasad Dahal, MOFAGA, Binita Dhungel, Nepal Red Cross Society, Bhawana Gurung, HuDeC

Introduction to the Change Initiative

The Constitution of Nepal has provisioned the main structure of the federal democratic republic of Nepal into three levels namely the federation, the province, and the local level and three levels shall exercise Constitutional and Legal Framework in disaster management where Schedule-7, outlining the List of Concurrent Powers of the Federation and the province, and Schedule-8, detailing the List of Local-Level Powers. With this legal framework and being local level as a first responder, there is a need to strengthen local authorities and promote Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) priorities for effective implementation in Nepalese communities. The change initiative encompassed a comprehensive approach aimed at facilitating the development of emergency contingency plans at the grassroots level, ensuring that local communities were well-prepared for potential disasters. Simultaneously, the initiative sought to enhance disaster risk reduction capabilities while raising awareness about Disaster Risk Reduction/Management (DRR/M) within a carefully selected local government in Nepal. Additionally, the initiative emphasized inclusivity and collaboration by involving a wide range of stakeholders. This included active participation from I/NGOs, civil societies, the general public, and partners, who collectively worked towards common DRR goals. To provide practical guidance and support for preparedness, the initiative also involved the creation of sample contingency plans. Furthermore, recognizing the importance of effective communication, the initiative undertook the production of communication materials. Specifically, it focused on developing radio programs tailored to project-implemented areas.

Description of Progress

Two rural municipalities in Dang, namely Gadhawa and Rajpur rural municipalities were selected as site. Through a consultative process, we successfully developed an emergency contingency plan. We organized a three-day workshop in Dang, which engaged 26 participants from various fields at the local level. The workshop provided them with essential knowledge

of disaster risk reduction, response planning concepts, and practical group exercises. Participants gained insights into disaster-related issues, their linkages with DPRP/CP/DM plans, and the role of Local Disaster Management Committees (LDMCs) during emergencies. They also developed a better understanding of data collection needs, response mechanisms, and the importance of the DPRP/CP/Response plan conceptual framework and NRCS working modules. A major achievement of the training was the building of confidence among participants, leading to the drafting of the flood contingency plan, clarifying LDMC roles and responsibilities, EOC management, and information gathering. Importantly, all participants committed to working together with the Nepal Red Cross Society during emergencies.

Looking Ahead

- Expanding our DRR efforts from Gadhawa and Rajpur to other municipalities across the nation.
- Sustaining open lines of communication with a diverse range of government and non-government stakeholders.
- Securing support for the production of radio programs in project areas, enabling us to reach a wider and more diverse audience with vital information.

Localization of the standard practices for the better disaster risk understanding and anticipatory actions for the science based decision making

Er. Suraj Gautam, Institute of Himalayan Risk Reduction

Introduction to the Change Initiative

The local government has been adopting the ad hoc and reactive approaches towards the disaster risk management. The increased exposure towards the hazards and the existing vulnerability has been resulting in the loss of lives and properties. In response to this, the data and information from the multiple sources needs to be integrated into the platform alongside the application of science and technology to assess the hazards, exposure and vulnerability. With the prior information regarding the hazards through the forecasts and risk computations, anticipatory actions for the flood are being explored in Bheemdutta Municipality.

Progress and Results of the Change Initiative

Consultations with the different stakeholders such as Bheemdatta Municipality, DCA Nepal, NNSWA, NAXA, IHRR, etc were made for the initiation and consensus development on the need of hazard, exposure and vulnerability assessments. The importance of data and understanding of risk was highlighted citing the examples of available forecasts and pre hand information for the early action. The community/ward level assessment often undermined the disproportionate impacts faced by each household as the capacity differed from each unit. With the help of Household Survey using Digital and Spatial Technology for Anticipatory Action (DASTAA), the household level risk assessment was visualized. It was also capable of visualizing the hazards, vulnerabilities, thematic maps and overall risk. The platform is also able to integrate the forecast data from the multiple sources such as Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), open weather. With the available hazard, vulnerability and exposure layers, the risk was also visualized alongside the integration of 3-days lead time forecast information. This will thus allow the people in the flood prone region to adopt the early action and be well prepared to the flood disasters. With this initiative, the stakeholders and targeted community will be able to anticipate the risk in advance and have necessary arrangements for the early actions. Similarly, the local stakeholders active in emergency response can also use this system as a baseline to identify the households.

The overall Initiative was classified under the five components summarized as:

Component 1: Understanding Risk

Component 2: Establishing Threshold and Benchmarks

Component 3: Monitoring of Forecast

Component 4: Communicating Triggers

Component 5: Early Action

Ways Forward

As we look ahead, the initiative of science-based decision-making process is making a significant progress. The learnings from the project were embedded to develop a power Digital and Spatial Technology for Anticipatory Action (DASTAA) platform. DASTAA, is evolving as a powerful tool for the risk assessment. The platform is scaling up for the multi-hazard risk assessment and is gaining attention across the country and globe. The nearby municipality, Dodhara Chandani Municipality is also facing the risks of flooding and inundation due to Mahakali River. The household level risk assessment is being carried out and is visualized in the DASTAA platform.

Recently, the tool was also shortlisted as the finalist by the United Nations World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator Program and was invited for the Pitch Event in Luxembourg. The Tool DASTAA has been proposed for scaling in the different geographical context of Niger.

The overall risk assessment process will be made simple and very representative through the use of such technologies so that we can bridge the gap. Similarly, the proactive approaches can be adopted through such evidence-based decision making which will largely contribute towards the risk reduction.

The ITP program has shaped my journey forward, demonstrating the incredible outcomes that can arise when the researcher cum activist receives professional training. The learning through the Vision setting, Fish bone analysis and the interaction with change makers across the globe has made the journey more interesting and simpler. I believe through the networking, coordination and communication, we can make a safer world to live in. At Institute of Himalayan risk reduction (IHRR), we will continue towards promoting innovations and science-based decision making in climate change and disaster risk reduction and management.

Promoting Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal

Dr. Raju Thapa, DpNet Nepal

Summary: Following the devastating 2015 earthquake in Nepal, we recognized a significant oversight in disaster management: the neglect of persons with disabilities. This realization led us to introduce the DIDRR concept in Nepal. Our collective endeavors, were strengthened after participating in the ITP program, engaging stakeholders through DpNet and Atullya Foundation. We embarked on a mission to raise awareness about this vital initiative, culminating in the creation of the DIDRR Guidebook and draft DIDRR Guideline through consensus among stakeholders. This guidebook was then shared across all 753 local governments through MoFAGA's training sessions. Furthermore, we presented the draft DIDRR guideline to NDRRMA, later MoHA endorsed our DIDRR handbook as well. Now MoFAGA is guiding us in developing a DIDRR training manual. As we look ahead, our focus remains firmly on lobbying for the formal adoption and implementation of DIDRR guidelines by the government, to create a more inclusive disaster management environment.

Introduction to the Change Initiative

The modern world faces many challenges, especially from threats like environmental hazards and climate change. For countries like Nepal, which are particularly vulnerable to these events, finding solutions is urgent. I've been working in roles such as the Acting Chair of DpNet Nepal, and as the CEO of Atullya Foundation, to contribute to these concerns. We began a major journey to make a difference after Nepal's devastating earthquake in 2015. This disaster opened our eyes to the unique challenges faced by people with disabilities. With the DIDRR Guideline, we found a path to help. While DIDRR was still new to many in Nepal, we took the lead with DpNet and trained people across the country. Later, with the support of USAID/Tayar, our mission grew stronger. Through all this, our aim was clear: weave the principles of DIDRR into Nepal's main disaster risk management plans.

Identifying the Issue

Nepal often faces natural disasters, but there was a problem in how we responded to them. We noticed that our disaster plans weren't considering everyone comprehensively. People with disabilities, who already face many daily challenges, were being left behind during emergencies. They didn't have the resources they needed and often found it hard to access general disaster help.

Steps We Took

To change this, we rolled up our sleeves and started working on several fronts. At Atullya Foundation, we kicked off an important project focused on DIDRR, marking a major shift in our work towards inclusivity. Collaborating with others was key. We joined forces with various organizations of the PWD and drafted a DIDRR Guideline in a common consensus. Similarly, we developed the DIDRR handbook. Later, we handed a draft guideline to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA). In support of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), leading the DRR training program, we distributed hard copy of the DIDRR Guidebook to all local governments of Nepal. This was a big step, but we needed the support of the government to truly make a change. The Ministry of Home Affairs saw the value in our work and accepted our DIDRR Guidebook. Building on this, Atullya Foundation, with guidance from the MOFAGA began crafting a training manual on DIDRR to prepare a conducive environment so that every local government in Nepal, all 753 of them, use this training manual.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, it's not just about creating these guidebooks and guidelines, but making sure they work and last. Here's our plan:

Talk to People: We will keep the lines of communication open. By talking to stakeholders, we can learn from different experiences and insights.

Push for Change: We want to see our draft guidelines will be formally adopted and introduced by the Government of Nepal. So, we will work with other organizations of the PWD and practitioners, advocating for the importance of DIDRR. Our goal is simple: make sure the government introduces the DIDRR guideline soon.

Keep an Eye on Progress: Once our guidelines are in place, we want to ensure they're making a real difference. We'll monitor their impact, gather feedback, and make any needed changes.

My journey, which accelerated with the ITP program, shows what can be achieved when activists like me are trained professionally and people come together with a shared vision. At DpNet and Atullya Foundation, we will continue working hard to reshape disaster risk reduction in Nepal. We believe that everyone, no matter their physical abilities, should have the tools and support to face nature's challenges.

Local Leads for Localization of DRRM

Ashok Bikram Jairu, NNSWA

Problem Statement

“Localized DRR policies are not in place causes increasing risk of vulnerable communities for resilient”.

Major five Causes:

1. Local Elected Leaders are not fully understanding of DRRM policy to Implement properly.
2. Local Governance Ignore participation of Vulnerable sector/communities for policy development process.
3. Poor budget planning for DRR sector for preparedness or readiness interventions.
4. Community level structures (CDMCs) rarely participate in DRRM intervention.
5. Policies are not localized.

My Efforts to Change Initiative:

1. Support to Municipality for Developing Local Policies on Developed and Updates.

- a) CDMCs Working Guidelines, Mayors’ Forum Working Guideline
- b) LEOC Working Guideline
- c) Volunteer Mobilization in DRRM Guideline
- d) Cash Voucher Assistance (CVA), forecast based Early Warning System and Fire response Guideline were developed in local context of Bheemdatt Municipality
- e) Initiated support through CVA approaches to Flood Affected Community in Bheemdatt and Dodhara Chadni Municipality.

(These Developed Guidelines were Approved by Municipality Council in Bheemdatt and Dodhara Chadani Municipality of Kanchanpur District)

2. Engaging Youth Volunteers in DRRM and Humanitarian Response.

- a) Coordinating with Municipality for agreeing to develop youth volunteer roster in Municipality under DRRM Section and a Resilient Youth Networking (RYN) is formed.

- b) Capacity building training to the Youth volunteers on CCA/DRRM, CHS (Core Humanitarian Standard)
- c) Mobilization Youth Volunteers for preventive intervention of river belt sliding protecting of flooding.
- d) Expanding Youth Networking in each Ward Level in Dodhara Chadani Municipality.

3. Current Situation:

In Organizational Level:

- A team of Human Resources has been implementing CCA/DRRM interventions in Municipality Level in Bheemdatt, Dodhara Chadani, Punarbas Municipalities of Kanchanpur Districts.
- Practices for Localization of all International/National Practices
- Smart Agriculture Farming for Climate Induced Vulnerable Farming Community

In Local Government Level:

- Supporting to Development and Updated DPRP, EPRP and LDCRP
- Providing SLR and EWs Training to the CDMCs
- Support to the DDMC (District Disaster Management Committee) as DLSA (District Lead Support Agency) role in Kanchanpur District
- Established NFI stockpiling in NNSWA office (Locally) for 350 Families including assistive devices for Person with Disability.
- Introducing Youth Volunteer Networking as Resilient Youth Networking (RYN) in other Municipalities
- Preparing Mayors' Forum Meeting as Kanchanpur 3rd Sammelan in Dodhara Chadani Municipality (1st was Held in Bheemdatt -2021, 2nd was held in Punarbas Municipality-2022)

In Community Level:

- Assisting to the Resilient Youth Networking (RYN) in Ward Level of the Municipality
- Empowering Resilient Youth Network for celebrating International Days Innovatively. (In World Humanitarian Day RYN has Support to Repair 3 Houses of

Poor Family in coordination with NNSWA and Municipality. In International Youth Day RYN had work on River Belt Protection through Bioengineering)

- RYN has a plan and execution to clean public places every Saturday. Currently 150-200 Youths are engaging with the RYN.

According to my Change Initiative Title “Local Lead for Localization of DRRM” I am trying to incorporate all possible intervention among the Local Government practices and mobilizing the community people by organizing them in local structures such as CDMCs, LDMCs and Networking for making them resilient to fight with any type of the disasters.

Integration of GEDSI in disaster risk reduction and management

Reena Chaudhary, NDRRMA

At present, I am a government official working under the Government of Nepal since 2015. I am currently working as Environment Inspector cum GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion) Focal person for DRR at National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA). NDRRMA was established in 2019 as a nodal agency to take charge of disaster risk reduction and management in Nepal. Before the establishment of this organization, Ministry of Home Affairs had been identified as a focal ministry for the coordination of disaster response activities throughout the country.

Training provided by SIDA was a great opportunity to learn and share experiences disaster risk reduction and management from different corner of the world. It was a great pleasure to know that people are going great jobs in the sector of DRR at their own places. Besides this, we were able to grow our good networking among the participants of five different participating countries. My change initiative in the training was “Integration of GEDSI in disaster risk reduction and management”. After receiving the training of SIDA MSB, NDRRMA is able to prepare final draft of GEDSI action plan with the engagement of different ministries and departments and I am the member secretary of the task force. It is based on mainly four priority areas of Sendai Framework (2015-2030). NDRRMA is visualizing risk of human vulnerability in household level through VizRisk of BIPAD Portal. Bipadportal localization supports to collect disaggregate data of vulnerable people in each local level for the purpose of effective disaster preparedness and response. My organization is collecting data of affected households in the recently occurred Doti and Bajura district earthquake. We have been trying to integrate GEDSI in Anticipatory Action and Multi-hazard Early Warning System (EWS) through the dissemination of disaster related messages via inclusive videos, IEC materials or SMS. Some of the video consists sign language interpretation, captions and are conveyed in languages of different communities. I had taken the responsibility to draft a training manual for “Accessible home to all for multi hazard perspectives” with the technical support of architect of NDRRMA. NDRRMA has reconstructed 14 earthquake affected houses in the affected districts. Based on the training manual, we have been able to reconstruct their houses accessible. We have also distributed assistive devices to the persons with disabilities viz. wheelchairs, prosthetic limbs based on their needs identified. The assistive devices will help them for preparedness of disaster. My organization is trying to integrate GEDSI in all the phases of disaster i.e., from

risk reduction to resilience. I am also indirectly involved in the preparation of Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) Guidelines. We have prepared several videos which is related to disaster preparedness for vulnerable people viz. senior citizens and persons with disabilities. It will further be used to prepare a training manual for simulation exercise for vulnerable groups. My organization celebrates international day for persons with disability every year to sensitize government staffs and public towards disability. We sensitize the issue of GEDSI in the sector of DRRM through workshops, consultations and interactions in national, province and local level.

NET – Change Initiative

Shyam Jnavaly, NDRC, Mona Shrestha Adhikari, PhD, EMERGE, Suman Shakya, Tangent Waves

The consortium of NET's Change Initiative (CI) on Business Resilience is dedicated to promoting sustainable and resilient business practices that prioritize Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) perspectives. The initiative aims to shift conventional business practices to ones that prioritize sustainability and inclusivity.

NET has identified several challenges that need to be addressed in order to achieve its goals. These include the lack of recognition of DRRM's significance in the private sector, the absence of GESI considerations in business operations, inefficient utilization of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, and limited sustainability and scalability of best practices.

Despite challenges, NET has achieved several key milestones. The Bamboo Series (TBS) has emerged as a focal point of the initiative, fostering interest and forging partnerships. TBS is organized in the form of online/onsite round-table discussions, workshops, seminars, symposiums, conferences, and others. Four events successfully underscored TBS to serve as a platform for discussing and implementing strategies for building resilient and inclusive businesses, with a particular focus on engaging the private sector in DRRM.

NET has also conducted Business Continuity Management (BCM) orientations and training sessions, sensitizing businesses to the importance of disaster preparedness and benefiting over 150 participants, including journalists and prominent business figures. Additionally, NET has established collaborative relationships with government officials and women business organizations have committed to supporting BCM initiatives and crafting policies to strengthen the private sector in Nepal.

Progress has been made to integrate BCM as an elective subject in four educational institutions, contributing to raising awareness and disseminating knowledge. Furthermore, Nepal is set to introduce a startup policy that emphasizes the inclusion of Business Continuity Plans (BCP).

Throughout the course of the initiative, several key learnings have been identified. These include the urgent need for documented BCPs in the Nepalese corporate sector, the importance

of collaboration between the private sector, civil society organizations, and government, and the need for capacity building, technical support, and resource mobilization.

The MSB ITP-DRM Program has played a crucial role in NET's Change Initiative by offering flexible coursework, facilitating regional knowledge exchange, arranging in-person meetings, conducting motivating sessions, and providing access to online tools.

Moving forward, the NET's CI plans to strengthen TBS and expand its reach, develop a sustainable digital presence through a dedicated website and social media page, disseminate knowledge through podcasts or webinars and possibly a TV show or video series, organize an annual symposium. NET will seek to mobilize resources through funding opportunities and corporate partnerships.

NET will conduct research and collect data to gather evidence of impact, build capacity through partnerships with academic institutions and training organizations, foster collaboration with other organizations, provide feedback on policies, and implement a monitoring and evaluation framework.

To ensure the sustainability of the initiative, collaborations with various organizations and sectors will be pursued.