



eBulletin

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Summary

This report highlights the key activities and discussions held during DPNet's 14th General Assembly and the subsequent revision discussion on the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) with Nepal stakeholders. The General Assembly, conducted on January 20, 2023, at the Everest Hotel in Kathmandu, saw participation from high-level officials, disaster management experts, and organization representatives. The assembly focused on enhancing local community involvement in disaster preparedness and management, with presentations emphasizing the importance of Core Humanitarian Standards, leadership, community participation, gender and social inclusion, and the crucial role of DPNet in fostering a culture of safety across government tiers. The event, enriched with insights from various experts, underscored the need for continuous efforts in disaster prevention, climate change adaptation, and promoting a whole-of-society approach for developing disaster-resilient communities.

Furthermore, a vital discussion aimed at gathering input from stakeholders for the revision of the CHS, supported by OXFAM Nepal. This initiative saw contributions from over 70 participants from the humanitarian sector and government agencies, discussing the CHS revision process through virtual platforms and focused breakout sessions during the workshop. The sessions were structured around the experiences and insights on humanitarian interventions in Nepal, especially reflecting on the 2015 Gorkha earthquake crisis scenario. The comprehensive discussions led to a 29-page report outlining recommendations for revising the CHS, touching on critical themes such as Data Protection and Privacy, Dignified Life for Disaster-Affected People, Localization, Community Engagement, Environmental Sustainability, Gender Equality, and Accountability to Affected Populations. This collaborative effort marks a significant step towards refining the CHS to better align with the specific needs and experiences of the humanitarian sector in Nepal, emphasizing community participation, cultural sensitivity, environmental sustainability, and a more inclusive approach towards disaster risk reduction.

DPNet's 14th General Assembly Held



The Disaster Preparedness Network Nepal (DPNet) held its 14th General Assembly at the Everest Hotel in Baneshwor, Kathmandu on January 20, 2023. The event was chaired by the DPNet Chairperson, Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa and attended by high-level officials, disaster management experts, and representatives from various organizations. The opening session was followed by the welcome speech of DPNet Vice Chair Dr. Raju Thapa.

Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Executive Director NSET, gave a presentation on the role of disaster management networks in Grand Bargains and Localization. He emphasized the importance of local communities and their involvement in disaster preparedness and management.

Dr. Raju Thapa, Vice-chair DPNet, presented the core humanitarian standards (CHS) and requested participants to provide feedback for the revision of the standards.

Ms. Indu Pant Ghimire, advisor WHDRRP, stressed that DPNet should focus on leadership and community participation, gender and social inclusion, and communication strategies in DRR.

Mr. Bhagawan Shrestha, Chairperson, Federation of International NGOs (AIN), expressed his interest in cooperation and coordination between AIN and DPNet. He emphasized the importance of climate change and disaster management in all local governments of Nepal.

Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Executive Chief, NDRRMA, highlighted the DPNet role in promoting a culture of safety in all three tiers of the Government.

Mr. Pradip Koirala, Chief of Disaster and Conflict Management Division, MoHA, recommended DPNet to engage in various lobbying and advocacy activities.

The Chief Guest of the program, *Dr. Gangal Tuladhar*, stressed the need for DPNet in coordination and networking. He cited examples of past disasters in Nepal, such as the Gorkha earthquake and the Koshi flood, and highlighted the importance of preparation and campaigns for disaster prevention. He also called for continued efforts to adapt to the impact of climate change and to focus on related programs.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chair, DPNet, acknowledged the advice of all speakers and shared his thoughts to develop a disaster-resilient community adopting a whole-of-society approach. He finally thanked all and closed the inaugural session, inviting all DPNet members to participate in the internal General Assembly session.

DPNet Organizes Revision Discussion on Core Humanitarian Standard with Nepal Stakeholders



On February 3rd, 2023, DPNet organized a revision discussion on the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) in support of OXFAM Nepal. The discussion aimed to gather input from 70 stakeholders in the Nepal humanitarian sector and government agencies on the revision of the CHS. To ensure the involvement of a wider range of stakeholders in the CHS revision process, DPNet initiated a virtual discussion a week prior to the workshop. The notice was circulated to over 3000 stakeholders through a mass email. As a result of this virtual discussion, numerous feedbacks were collected online and used

to design four breakout sessions in the workshop, during which participants could provide further feedback. The breakout sessions allowed participants to discuss and provide input on specific areas of the CHS. The discussion program provided an opportunity for stakeholders to share their experiences and insights on humanitarian intervention in Nepal, particularly the humanitarian crisis scenario of the 2015 Gorkha earthquake.

The program was attended by various DRRM actors, including Former Education Minister and DRR Expert Dr. Gangalal Tuladhar, Executive Chief of National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Chief of Disaster Management and Conflict Management Department of Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Pradip Koirala, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration Mr. Rudra Sing Tamang, and DPNet Chair Surya Bahadur Thapa.

The discussion program was moderated by Coordinator of Sphere Nepal Dr. Raju Thapa. The input and recommendations provided during the discussion are compiled in a 29-page long report that describes the things to be revised in CHS. This report was presented to the CHS Alliance for their consideration. The key themes that emerged from the discussion were Data Protection and Privacy, Dignified Life for Disaster-Affected People, Localization Private Sector and Community Engagement, Local Actors and Cultural Sensitivity, Community Empowerment, Environmental Sustainability, Gender Equality, Accountability to Affected Populations, Respect for International Humanitarian Law, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, and Capacity Building.

The key issues discussed during the program were Community Participation, Private Sectors Engagement, and Partnership, Cultural Sensitivity, Traditional Practices, Land Rights, Indigenous Languages, Protecting Traditional Knowledge, Access to Technology, Energy and Communication Infrastructure, Environmental Sustainability, Evidence-Based Decision-Making, Innovation and Experimentation, Integration of Technology, Partnerships and Coordination, Protection of Humanitarian Workers, Climate Change, Data Management and Accountability, Human Rights-Based Approach, Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction, Diversity and Inclusion, and Disability Inclusive DRR (DiDRR).

The workshop was a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to provide input on the revision of the CHS, and the report compiled as a result of the discussion will be a valuable resource for the CHS Alliance as they consider changes to the standard. The involvement of a wide range of stakeholders in the revision process is critical to ensuring that the CHS reflects the needs and experiences of those working in the humanitarian sector in Nepal.