

DPNet eBulletin

JULY-AUG 2022



Summary

This e-bulletin highlights a series of vital engagements and discussions organized by the DPNet throughout July and August 2022, focusing on enhancing DRR efforts in Nepal. A significant highlight was the Media Engagement program on Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting Systems, held on 10th July, aimed at empowering journalists with the knowledge and tools to accurately disseminate information on hydro-meteorological disasters. This program, supported by the Flood Resilience Alliance members Mercy Corps and Practical Action, highlighted the crucial role of early warning systems in reducing vulnerabilities and the need for evidence-based planning and investments in resilience measures.

The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) Participation Preparatory Discussion Meeting on 12th July marked another key milestone, setting the stage for Nepal's proactive participation in the upcoming conference in Australia. The meeting, which attracted 76 participants, outlined the thematic focus of the conference and Nepal's contributions, including presentations, marketplace showcases, and ignite stages. A notable outcome was the creation of a basket fund under the NPDRR Secretariat to support APMCDRR-related activities, emphasizing a collaborative approach to showcasing Nepal's DRR achievements and learning from international practices.

The alarming situation caused by the Saptakoshi flood in July prompted DPNet to organize a discussion on the emergency response required for the affected communities in Sunsari and Udaypur districts. The meeting highlighted the immediate need for tents, sanitation materials, and other humanitarian aid for the displaced families, showcasing the collaborative effort between NDRRMA, local disaster management committees, and various humanitarian organizations.

In August, a discussion meeting further delved into APMCDRR preparatory work and other contextual issues, including the celebration of World Humanitarian Day and addressing urban flooding in Kathmandu. The meetings emphasized the importance of inclusivity, evidence-based advocacy, and the need for a unified national voice in DRR efforts. A significant proposal was the establishment of a National Volunteer Bureau to streamline volunteer management and enhance disaster response efficiency.

The World Humanitarian Day celebration on 19th August was a touching reminder of the sacrifices and contributions of humanitarian workers in Nepal. The event not only honored the frontline workers but also shed light on the challenges and opportunities in Nepal's disaster risk governance. The discussions underscored the importance of localizing DRR efforts, empowering communities, and ensuring the safety and rights of humanitarian workers. Throughout these events, DPNet has demonstrated its commitment to strengthening Nepal's DRR framework through strategic discussions, capacity-building initiatives, and fostering partnerships.

Media Engagement on Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting Systems for Reducing Disaster Risk in Nepal



The program entitled Media Engagement on Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting Systems for Reducing Disaster Risk in Nepal was coordinated by DPNet-Nepal with the financial and technical support of Flood Resilience Alliance members Mercy Corps and Practical Action on 10th July, 2022. The program was facilitated by Dr. Raju Thapa, Acting Chair of DPNet.

Major Highlights

Dr. Raju Thapa, Acting Chair, DPNet

Early warning systems have been recognized as an effective tool to reduce vulnerabilities and improve preparedness and response to natural hazards. Timely and effective information, through identified institutions, helps individuals exposed to hazard to take action to avoid or reduce their risk and prepare for effective response. If we integrate risk assessment studies and action plans, early

warning systems can lead to substantive benefits. In recent years, we have institutionalized various dedicated government institutions and specialized agencies to generate precise hydro-meteorological information. Similarly, we have numbers to free open sources to generate precise forecasting. However, most of the media personnel working in the field of disaster and climate are not familiar with all these systems. Considering this fact, we conducted an orientation program for journalists a few weeks back. Most of the participating journalists in that program requested us to conduct a half day orientation program. So, we are conducting this program to orient journalists intensively on hydro-meteorological forecasting systems. We are in touch with various development partners to extend this program in all seven provinces of Nepal to sensitize provincial level journalists as well.

*Mr. Sajjan Neupane, Mercy Corps, Policy
Advocacy Specialist/Coordinator,
AINTGDMCC*

Various Governmental and Non-governmental agencies have been working in Nepal to reduce the loss and damage caused by hydro-meteorological disaster. Yet current investment in flood resilience at the local level, where people are most affected by flooding, is inadequate. Evidence-based planning and investments in various risk reduction measures such as early warning systems, resilient infrastructures, financial protection, adaptive agricultural practices, and community capacity-building can help vulnerable populations to better prepare, mitigate, adapt, and respond to flood events. Considering this fact, The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance (ZFRA) is trying to find practical ways to help communities to strengthen their resilience to flood risk. During our project, we have found that multi-sectoral partnership is very important to build flood resilience so the role of media is equally important to save lives and property due to flood events.

*Dr. Dharam Uprety, Thematic Lead Climate
and Resilience, Practical Action*

The climate is changing due to rise in global temperature and concentration of carbon dioxide. This concentration of CO₂ is increasing due to industrialization and deforestation with major effects on public health, livestock, biodiversity, ecosystem and agriculture. It has been affecting poor, marginalized women/girls and people with disabilities. It's very important to get informed earlier about the weather situation, so, EWS plays an excellent role for disseminating the information. The localization and community based EWS is an important aspect. Everyone should be aware of risk knowledge, risk monitoring, risk communication and

community capacity building. Since the impact of rainfall is on visibility of flight, flooding in core areas, highway damages, riverine flooding and others, it's very important to get pre-informed. There are different sources to get pre-informed (EWS) such as global forecast, website of ministry of energy, water resources and irrigation, department of hydrology and meteorology, India meteorological department, and various social media pages of these websites. Journalists should know how to use these free sources to extract hydro-meteorological data. Today's intensive orientation program for journalists is the continuation of our effort to manage hydro-meteorological knowledge on a wider scale.

Major Questions and Suggestions

Mr. Anish Mijar, NAN

What is the level of effectiveness of EWS in a particular area of Nepal? If our forecasting and now casting systems are precise, journalists can play a vital role to disseminate information to the community to save lives and property.

Mr. Amrit K.C

DHM generally disseminates the hydro-metro related information in Province Level. Due to the climate change impact, the same Local Level's receive rainfall in a different way in different places. In this context, the hydro-metro forecast taking the whole province as a unit doesn't make sense.

Ms. Indira Aryal, Rising Nepal

The accuracy of the forecast system is quite low, the authority should provide very accurate data to the media. I have many bitter experiences when we publish the news, tomorrow there will be a heavy rainfall but in reality, it just goes opposite of what we say. So, generally people do not rely on what we disseminate via the media. In order to provide precise hydro-metro information, journalist also need to cross check the information via hydro-metro open online platform.

Ms. Shova Ghimire, Nepal F.M.

The DHM should also take strong initiatives to provide accurate information considering Local Level as a unit. DHM webpage should be vibrant, informative and efficient. Media houses also need to strengthen the capacity of existing journalists regarding hydro-metro related bits.

Ms. Sogana Timilsina, CIN

Sometimes, there are cases of mis-information of weather, which creates trust issues in readers. How can anyone take initiative to minimize the flow of mis-information? Such programs help journalists to assess the reality of the information they receive.

Ms. Kamala Panthi, Radio Kantipur

The authentic weather information should only be disseminated by the media. For this the DHM should also provide the authentic data information. We should also focus on media empowerment. Plus such programs should target provincial level journalists as well.

Ms. Sujana Dhakal, Setopati

The frequency of dry landslide, other disasters should be studied more. We need to work on research and technology. Government has spent a lot on EWS but the existing information dissemination system is not efficient enough to disseminate such vital information at the community level. We journalists should also study and update on it so that we can disseminate accurate lifesaving information to the community people.

Mr. Krishna Adhikari, National News Agency (RASASA)

Media personnel and media houses should be sensitized on the overall aspect of disaster management. If the journalist conveys accurate early warning messages to the community, it will help to save the life and property, which ultimately contribute to mitigating rescue,

relief, reconstruction, rehabilitation related activities that generally burden the Government. Such programs should continue to orient more and more journalists in the days to come.

Mr. Om Prakash Ghimire, Netizen Media

The credibility of media content should be strong so that the reader would trust the media. Media Personnel should check the authentication and reliability of the news and cross check. The information from DHM should be trustworthy but its unit of information is for the Province Level. It should be of municipal level so that trustworthiness of the news and early warning will be more acceptable by the general public.

Ms. Krishna Poudyal, Editor, News Agency Nepal

Media should not always take in a negative way only. Sometimes the understanding of the reader and level of news do not get matched which create mis-conception about the media. The level of accuracy also needs to be cleared through the media. Each bit of the media that covers hydro-metro related information should be empowered. Such orientation programs should continue and the disaster management community should onboard media in every sphere of activity to build a resilient society.

Other activities

Dr. Dharam Upreti, Dr. Raju Thapa and Mr. Sajjan Neupane tried to address the concern of the journalist and committed to extend such orientation program upto province levels in a near future. Dr. Dharam Upreti conducted a practical session with the journalists to make them capable of generating hydro-metro related data from various sources.

Closing

Dr. Raju Thapa thanked Mercy Corps, Practical Action and Flood Resilience Alliance for the

financial and technical support and thanked all the participants for active participation and formally closed the program.

APMCDRR Participation Preparatory Discussion Meeting

The APMCDRR Participation Preparatory Discussion Meeting organized by DPNet Nepal on 12th July, 2022 virtually. Dr. Raju Thapa, Acting Chair of DPNet facilitated the program whereas Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Executive Chief of NDRRMA, Mr. Pradip Kumar Koirala, Chief of Disaster and Conflict Management Division, Ms. Anita Niroula Joint Secretary of NDRRMA and Mr. Rishi Raj Acharya, Under Secretary of MoFAGA were the representatives from the Government institution. 76 participants from different organizations and individuals joined the program.



Major Highlights

Dr. Raju Thapa shared the presentation about the Asia- Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2022. The conference is going to be organized on 19-22nd September, 2022 in Australia. The presentation included the themes and cross cutting themes including the working, ignite, market and learning labs. This time DPNet as NPDRR secretariat, Youth Innovation Labs and MGCY will organize Market Place and Atullya Foundation, Mercy Corps (Zurich Flood Alliance) and Dr. Raju Thapa will have an ignite stage in the conference. The basket fund for this event was created under NPDRR Secretariat to support various activities related to APMCDRR. The timeline for registration deadline is 31st August, 2022 and international delegates are requested to apply 8 to 10 weeks before the conference.

Major Comments:

Mr. Sanjay Sharma

How will the conference be inclusive in nature?

Mr. Dilli P. Poudel from SIAS

Is there any chance of doing collaboration with an already accepted market place/ignite stage in the conference?

Mr. Jagdish Kharel

What are the provisions for formation of a preparatory committee? And what are the contents and who will take ownership of the video?

Dr. Raju Thapa (comments incorporated)

The participation from Nepal will all be inclusive in nature and follow ‘no one leaves behind’ approach, so the position paper and official statement has been prepared / will be finalized with the interaction of a wide range of stakeholders. The market place from Nepal will be portrayed as single Nepal’s DRRM contents and every participant from Nepal can contribute to it. 10 to 15-minute-long DRR related videos will be prepared to display in the marketplace.

Mr. Pradip Kumar Koirala

This time NEOC and NDRRMA small team will join APMCDRR. This time also the official statement and position paper will be prepared same way as GPDRR accommodating wider stakeholders. Market Place should be in collaborative way so that it would not be hectic. The pre departure consultation should be organized well and share everything in it so that there would be better understanding. The lesson

learned from GPDRR should be incorporated in this APMCDRR. DPNet has coordinated well by forming the Basket fund so everyone should support this as possible.

Mr. Anil Pokhrel

Thanked Dr. Raju Thapa for coordinating. The market place from Nepal should be on collaborative way and the basket fund created

Koshi Flood Emergency Discussion

DPNet has organized a discussion on rainfall triggered Saptakoshi flood which effects more than 2500 households in Sunsari district’s Barakhhetra Municipality and Udaypur districts Bekla Municipality. The Koshi river has shifted its channel to old course toward the west side after 40 years. The local people have already rescued to the safer zone. The displaced families require safer materials and immediate support. The objective of the program was to discuss about the status of area and relief distribution. The program was chaired by Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet whereas the Special Guest of the program were Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Executive Chief of NDRRMA. The participants from various organization participated the program and altogether 46 participants joined the webinar.



Major Highlights

Dr. Raju Thapa, Vice Chairperson of DPNet – shared presentation about ‘Koshi Flood- 2079’ There is the record of Koshi river shifting its channel. The Sapatakoshi flood has affected around two thousands and five hundred families in Belka Municipality and Barakhhetra Municipality. This flood has affected the people in Shrilanka Tapu as well. The area is suitable of agriculture and the locals are not ready to leave the area and is highly vulnerable in recent

from NPDRR secretariat is supporting APMCDRR event from Nepal, so it would be better if donor agencies supported the basket fund.

The whole content is in:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5JepqKgYk4>

scenario. NDRRMA press note has shared the status of the area and relief distribution status. DHM has also shared the monsoon status. Central level, Provincial level and local level had organized a joint meeting and identified the immediate needs of 500 tents, 500 sanitation materials to the 1500 family in Belka Municipality and 1000 family in Barakhhetra Municipality. The objective of this program was to discuss the role of authority, civil society organizations and humanitarians in this situation.

Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Executive Chief of NDRRMA

NDRRMA had collaborated with Local Disaster Management Committee and District Disaster Management Committee for emergency flood fighting before the disaster and provided some support a year ago. So this also helped somehow in minimizing the disaster risk. Koshi river now has shifted its channel causing the flood. Since, the agriculture and poultry has been affected in this region. The emergency shelter has been prepared at 6 places, NRCS has mobilized the tents, but now it’s necessary to focus on snake bites, sanitation, drinking water, medicines, emergency power in shelter and other humanitarian needs. Special thanks for CARE Nepal, VCN and Red Cross for immediate support in the flood affected area. We are seeking same type of promptness from other development partners in times of disaster events.

Open Floor Discussion

Mr. Binod Bhattarai, Transparency International

NDRRMA has a good experience of relief fund distribution so this should be continued. Last year also India worked on shifting the channel so this should be inspected.

Mr. Suraj Shrestha, CARE Nepal

The relief materials such as tarpaulin, Piyush water guard and Jivanjal has been sent by CARE to the flood affected area and we will analyze the situation to provide further materials.

Ms. Dipa Dahal from Volunteer Corps Nepal (VCN)

VCN team has already sent the relief materials such as hygiene materials, tarpaulin, emergency shelter crop products, kitchen items to help the displaced people. Again it will be assessed about the need of people and work on it.

Mr. Sher Bahadur Karki from Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS)

District level volunteer are alert in the affected area. Since NRCS has been actively working on relief distribution and rescue, there will be

further action from NRCS by organizing meetings with stakeholders.

Mr. Hari Bandu Aryal from INF

INF is also planning to organize a health camp considering the WASH and health related problem in the flood affected area.

Closing

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet

Four wards of Belka Municipality and two wards of Barahachettra Municipality are highly affected by flood. We need to focus on snake bites, sanitation, drinking water, medicines, emergency power in shelter and other humanitarian needs. Vulnerable people like people with disability, pregnant, lactating women need to be addressed and counseling is necessary. The health sanitation may lead to epidemic. The major concern is the locals are not leaving the vulnerable site. We need to now focus on collaborating and working together in this vulnerable situation. All the development partners should analyze the situation and help the affected community through one door system. He finally gave vote of thanks to every participant and formally closed the program

Discussion Meeting on APMCDR Preparatory Work and Contextual Issues

The discussion meeting on APMCDRR preparatory work and contextual issues was organized by DPNet in collaboration and coordination with AINTGDMCC on 11 August, 2022. The program was chaired by Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Executive Chief of NDRRMA. The special guests of the program were Ms. Anita Niraula, Joint Secretary of NDRRMA, Mr. Tulsi Prasad Dahal, Chief of Disaster Management Section, MoHA.



Dr. Raju Thapa

Dr. Raju Thapa, Deputy Chair of the DPNet highlighted the agenda of the program that were about the preparation of APMCDRR, NPDRR plan, about World Humanitarian Day celebration and urban flooding in Kathmandu.

He further informed the APMCDRR preparatory work played by DPNet as secretariat of NPDRR. DPNet has booked a marketplace in APMCDRR, where Nepal can showcase good practices and lessons learned from Nepal in the marketplace. Special

attention should be given to prepare position papers, official statements and videos.

Discussion

- The video should include about the loss and damages done by disaster in Nepal, reconstruction and resilience and about flood, earthquake, landslides and COVID.
- It would be better if we got a chance to showcase our video in the main event.
- The video should be about the theme ‘crisis to resilience’ and include about the three pillars and cross cutting issues.
- We should review the commitments from Nepal during the previous position paper and work in it.
- We have done a lot of effort in position paper preparation during GPDRR 2022. So, this may not need a lot of time and add regional references.
- We should also ensure the ownership of video.
- The climate fund couldn’t get proper utilization in case of disaster risk reduction.
- We need to learn other’s achievements and should showcase Nepal’s achievements.
- There may be many sessions that are relevant to Nepal. If we know about those sessions and schedule, it would be easier to participate.
- The conference is all about networking and coordination.
- The video should be inclusive and evidence based.
- We should be clear about the issues/ central point to raise in the conference.
- Meeting decided to form eight members APMCDRR Preparatory Task Force comprising, 1. Anita Niroula, NDRRMA, 2. Dr. Dijan Bhattarai, NDRRMA 3. Tulsi Prasad Dahal, MoHA, 4. Dr. Raju Thapa, DPNet 5. Dinesh Gurung NPDRR INGO Group 6. Sajana Neupane, AINTGDM, 7. Sunita Kayastha, UNICEF, 8. Dinanath Bhandari, DR Expert

Humanitarian Day Celebration

Humanitarian Day is celebrated each year on 19th August, 2022. It would be better if the day is celebrated in person and online (hybrid model) both ways in coordination and collaboration with many stakeholders.

Discussion

- The civil society practices should be presented in the event.
- We should felicitate the frontline workers.
- One organization and one presentation would be a better idea.
- It would be effective if there is panel discussion.
- If we go on a hybrid model, we should try to include participants from municipal levels online.
- DPNet should coordinate to organize the event successfully.

NPDRR further action plan

The logo, letterhead and branding should be made for the NPDRR subjective committee which resembles all the nine thematic groups. The action plan of NPDRR should include around 53 activities including NPDRR subjective group meetings, NPDRR subjective monthly meetings, meetings with stakeholders, committee engagement meeting and ground breaking research.

Discussion

- It was discussed about strengthening the NPDRR and secretariat.
- The Action Plan about NPDRR should be reviewed every year and it should focus on uplifting all thematic groups.
- Platform should focus on discussion and comments rather than organizing events.

Urban Flooding

There is flood in the Kathmandu area affecting 800 households having 1500 families (unofficial). There is the problem of tents and open space. There is another problem of drainage overflow in flood in Bansighat, Tripureswor area and there has been issues

generally in urban emergencies.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa

Urban refugees have been a political issue as well. On the other hand, NPDRR has a clear objective and we need to focus on these objectives rather than focusing on others. While we share stuff on an international platform we should review and ensure this earlier.

Ms. Anita Niraula

The position paper prepared during GPDRR should be reviewed for the APMCDRR and the commitments during previous international events should be incorporated this time. It is very important to have the NPDRR logo, letter and branding and a 5-year action plan should not be duplicated with organization's events. There should be a committee of certain

members to work on humanitarian day celebration. It would be better if the humanitarian day was celebrated in a hybrid model.

Mr. Anil Pokhrel

We should have a separate space for the NPDRR workforce. We should have a separate logo, letterhead and branding from NPDRR. The action plan is very important and the documentation of each event is mandatory. NPDRR has a collective identity. So, it requires enough resources and technical support to organize programs and events. For APMCDRR we should merge all the marketplace from Nepal and make wider space. This time also we have to create a WhatsApp group to communicate. It's better to celebrate humanitarian day in a hybrid model by forming the taskforce group

Celebration of “World Humanitarian Day 2022”



The celebration of world humanitarian day 2022 was organized by National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) in coordination with Disaster Preparedness Network Nepal (DPNet) and in collaboration with AIN Task Group on Disaster Management and Climate Change (AIN-TGDM CC) on 19th August, 2022 on Hotel Himalayan. The program was chaired by Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Executive Chief of NDRRMA and the Special

Guests of the program were Mr. Pradip Kumar Koirala - Chief of Disaster and Conflict Management Division, Ms. Anita Niraula, Joint Secretary of NDRRMA and Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet. Altogether 55 participants from DPNet Board, DPNet Advisory, NDRRMA, nine thematic group coordinators of NPDRR, AIN-TGDMCC and other relevant stakeholders.

Major Highlights:

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet

Welcomed everyone in the program. World Humanitarian Day has been celebrating in close coordination with NDRRMA and various stakeholders. Since the country is prone to disaster, women are more vulnerable to disaster and the humanitarian workers have played a vital role in DRRM for a very long time. We should also focus and ensure the rights of humanitarian workers. The security force has also played a very important role during and

after the disaster. We need to give tribute to those humanitarian workers who lost their lives during the service.

Ms. Anita Niraula, Joint Secretary of NDRRMA

Nepal is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world, so it requires the effective disaster preparedness and response mechanism. Many people have lost their lives during the disaster and more areas are vulnerable to disaster. The emergency preparedness and response assessment 2022 – 2030 has been carried out to provide a comprehensive work plan for this year to strengthen the emergency preparedness and response system in Nepal. The findings of the report were about the equipment and information about technologies used in disaster and financial analysis about the disaster. There are the innovations such as establishment of national disaster training academy, strengthen disaster training school, local government organizing EPR trainings, providing insurance for EPR personnel and volunteers, basic first aid and relief trainings, basic EPR, CADRE, MFR and CSSR trainings needs to be integrated into general training of security agencies. The national volunteer bureau formation and mobilization platform was to maintain a robust database that houses records of volunteers, manage volunteers, to implement user centric approach and customizable web platform for flexibility and functionality and to support local level involvement in managing and maintaining volunteers. The major plan of this bureau is to increase volunteers in prompt disaster response, build long lasting relationships with volunteers, more effectively track their involvement and user-friendly solutions to identify the most valuable volunteers. There is a platform for volunteers where the registration of volunteers, platform of features and components and sign up for volunteers was shown.

Mr. Govinda Rimal, Technical Advisor of DPNet

The humanitarian principles are humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. The

study about the decentralization disaster risk governance in Nepal: ground reflection was carried out in support of Action Aid. The objective of the study was to review the roles and responsibility delivered by the local level, to document the challenges and opportunities experienced by the local government during DRRM development plans, to assess the changes experienced by the vulnerable communities and to document about DRR governance decentralization to local and vulnerable communities promoting transparency and accountability and promoting youth and leadership in DRRM. The study was carried out in 16 municipalities of 3 provinces about DRRM funds, enforcing building codes, formation of disaster response communities, conducting emergency mock drill, maintaining fire brigade, establishing EOCs and developed DIMS and about maintaining and updating records of the disaster lost, damaged and destroyed data during disaster. The study focused on addressing the issues of the vulnerable communities, studying about the shifting power to the provincial and local levels, knowledge about the accountability mechanism at the local government, about adoption of new approaches and initiatives, harmonization of climate change and disaster risk reduction. As per the finding of the study the federal and provincial government should provide technical support to local governments to roll out the provision of the DRRM act, guidelines and regulations. Provide technical and financial support to pilot new technology and skills, enhance the coordination role for better planning and budgeting, map the plan, policies and guideline on DRR/CC and formulate an integrated planning tool for DRR/CC endorsed and owned by the ministries. The local government invest in institutionalization of an inclusive DRR structure at palika, ward and community levels, operationalize LDMC, CDMCs and task forces developing an annual plan to promote youth and leadership, promote community's traditional knowledge and skills for DRRM, pilot new approaches and techniques like cash transfer and so on.

Comments for the presentation

Ms. Luna Khadka, WVI

Among all the emergency operation centers, DEOC is comparably weaker. What are the responsibilities of a development partner to strengthen DEOC? The disaster data in the websites are still not updated.

Dr. Basanta Adhikari, Pulchowk Campus

Urban code and settlement are totally different terms in the presentation. It would be better if NDRRMA use new Nepal's map.

Mr. Man Bahadur Thapa, ADPC

We are preparing a National Disaster Report every two years. Now we should plan to prepare the 'National Humanitarian Report' in the gap years. There are many documents related to DRRM but these should be practical. The recommendation part should be in practice as well.

Mr. Devraj Gautam, CARE Nepal

There should be clear structural mechanisms in DRRM intervention. Women empowerment, capacity building, training for people with disability and raise voice mechanisms should be focused more.

Mr. Jagarnath Kurmi, NCDMC

Disaster affected communities should be involved in every disaster related program. We should not forget that women empowerment has not been completely achieved and we should work more on this further. MoHA, NDRRMA should address the voice of the affected community and these communities should be trained more. The local levels should be monitored closely and frequently. Flood related insurances should be ensured.

Mr. Bishnu Prasad Timilsina, DiMaNN

We need to ensure DRR localization. Volunteers should not be influenced by any political parties and they should be impartial. Every palika should have good access to fire brigades and safety measures.

Mr. Shyam Sundar Jnavaly from NDRC

The program should be always focused on the theme. The objective of world humanitarian day should be a major highlight of the program. The content of other disaster days should not be mixed. We should talk about the capacities of humanitarian workers. Now we should focus on preparing humanitarian reports.

Mr. Kilash Rijal, DPNet

Everyone should be aware of humanitarian principles. Security forces along with civilians should be trained about disaster preparedness. The volunteers should have knowledge about the DRRM and should meet the criteria of minimum humanitarian standard. We should also ensure the volunteer's safety.

Ms. Chetana Lokshum, Technical Advisor of DPNet

We specifically prioritize physical health only but we should address the mental health situation as well. Disaster directly affects mental health as well so we should go on a holistic way.

Ms. Shakti Gurung, DPNet

There is still a gender gap in LDMC, this should be addressed.

Ms. Anita Niraula (comments incorporated)

The development partners can help in logistics and other necessity items for EOC. The information on the website will be updated timely. The National Humanitarian Report was a great idea. Women empowerment has not been achieved so we should work on this. The local team should be more dedicated and stronger during and after the disaster. The role of the volunteers should be remarkable. The skilled volunteers should be identified and managed. We should also understand the importance of humanitarian day. Humanitarian training should be standardized and mental health also should be included. GEDSI should be in a holistic way.

Mr. Govinda Rimal (comments incorporated)

The policy documents in local government are usually copied from the sample policy formulated by the Federal Government. We

should identify the priority of the area and prepare different local policy level documents. We should also ensure the inclusiveness of WDMC and LDMC. Psychological counseling has been started at the municipal level.

Panel Discussion

The panel discussion session was carried out where there were seven panelists and one moderator. The seven panelists were: Mr. Sanjib Oli from Bigu Rural Municipality, Mr. Umesh Dhakal from NRCS, Mr. Sanu Ram Dahal from Fire Brigade, Bhaktapur, Mr. Thakur Bhandari from FECOFUN, Mr. Santosh Gurung from Nepal Army, Mr. Amit Singh from Armed Police and Mr. Kuber Kadayat from Nepal Police. Mr. Daya Sagar Shrestha from National Campaign for Sustainable Development was the Moderator for the discussion. The panelist shared their experiences and recommendations related to disaster.

Mr. Daya Sagar Shrestha

The frontline humanitarian has contributed a lot during and after the disaster. The experiences and learnings from humanitarian frontline workers will be helpful in upcoming days.

Mr. Sanjib Oli

During the initial phase of working, there were ambulance standards to mobilize during the disaster period. The most trained humanitarian was APF and Nepal Army, so we should focus on mobilizing their skills and the training schools should also be organized. There are critical moments during the disaster and the first responder of the disaster is local so the effective relief policy should be built on the local level and start working from there. Sometimes the relief is given too late, this should be addressed. People tend to get lost during disasters which sometimes could not get recorded, so some reliable policies should be implemented.

Mr. Umesh Dhakal

Nepal Red Cross Society was formed in 1863 with the aim of helping people during and after the disaster. At the initial phase, NRCS focused on relief. The community is affected first and they are the first responder, so NRCS focus on

community level. NRCS has globally the largest number of volunteers. Now we should focus on resilience, emergency, WASH, cash and voucher assistance, strengthening logistic capacity and other balanced approaches. We should have knowledge about both natural and human induced disasters and focus more on national and international coordination. If we properly mobilize the internal resources with technical capacity, this only may be enough. NRCS has always worked and is always ready to work on all three levels.

Mr. Sanu Ram Dahal

Bhaktapur Municipality has focused on Fire Brigade management training, rescue and relief during the disaster. It has worked on emergency response as well.

Mr. Thakur Bhandari

There is always confusion whether to count animal attacks as a disaster or not. The disaster should be identified differently. Disaster has affected the wildlife as well. Forest fire, animal attacks have affected the community. There should be insurance for animals as well. The central, provincial and local government should work in different ways but first priority should be given to the local level.

Mr. Santosh Gurung

Nepal Army has always played a vital role in disasters as a front liner. Nepal Army has worked in a productive and effective way. It has worked strongly in rescue. Now we should focus on manpower production and mobilize urban rescue and search teams.

Mr. Amit Singh

It is very difficult to record the civilians and provide compensation that were lost during the disaster. Now our priority should be mobilizing national level schools for disaster, first aid effective training, volunteer training and other humanitarian training.

Mr. Kuber Kadayat

Everyone panicked at first glance of the disaster and there was a lack of coordination at first. For this, a safe place should be identified before and marked, strong communication should be built and rescue should be provided. The minimum requirement during the disaster document is being prepared. Every police force should be trained with minimum humanitarian standard training. The training should be drilled and updated from time to time. It would be better if the DRRM course is included in the school syllabus.

Open Discussion:

- The firefighter is a very risky job. We need to ensure proper equipment and uniform are used during firefighting.
- Animal attacks should also be addressed. The proper plan and policies for the conservation of flora and fauna need to be designed.

Felicitation:

Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Executive Chief of NDRRMA, Ms. Anita Niraula, Joint Secretary of NDRRMA and Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa provided felicitation to six organizations.

Nepali Army, Army Headquarters, Bhadrakali, Kathmandu

The felicitation was given for the role played by the Nepali Army in the forefront of disaster risk reduction and management. The entire ranks of the Nepali Army who worked round the clock to provide humanitarian aid during various disasters and in the management of the Covid-19 epidemic and who were injured, maimed and sacrificed their lives while performing their duties.

Nepal Police Head Office, Naxal, Kathmandu

The felicitation was to appreciate the role played by the Nepal Police family in the forefront of national disaster risk reduction and management. The entire ranks of the Nepal Police Organization, who worked round the clock during the disaster to provide humanitarian aid and provide civil protection, and those who were injured, maimed and sacrificed their lives while performing their duties.

Armed Police Force Nepal, Head Office, Halchok, Kathmandu.

The award was for appreciating the role played by the Armed Police Force Nepal, Head Office in the forefront of national disaster risk reduction and management. All members of the armed police force who worked round the clock during disaster management and those who were injured, maimed and sacrificed their lives in the course of performing their duties to provide humanitarian aid.

Juddha Barun Yantra Office, Bhaktapur.

The award was given for the role played by the Juddha Barun Yantra in the forefront of national disaster risk reduction and management. The humanitarian service is rendered here in the role of protecting the people's wealth by being always ready during the disaster risk created by fire and by leading the fire control work by showing presence in response during disaster risk.

Nepal Red Cross Society, Kathmandu.

The highly appreciative of the role played by NRCS in being at the forefront of national disaster risk reduction and management was awarded. The incomparable humanitarian service rendered by trained volunteers from here and there in disaster preparedness, search, rescue and relief during disaster and post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction at every stage of disaster risk reduction was

appreciated. NRCS has always been prepared and disaster prepared during disaster risk.

Shukraraj Tropical & Infectious Disease Hospital, Kathmandu

Shukraraj Tropical & Infectious Disease Hospital has highly appreciative of the role played by them in being at the forefront of national disaster risk reduction and management. The incomparable humanitarian service rendered by all the health workers and health volunteers involved in the preparation, response and vaccination management of the epidemic disaster risk reduction including covid seen in the health sector.

Remarks:

Mr. Sajan Neupane, Coordinator of AINTGDMCC

Different communities are affected differently in disaster. Women and people with disabilities are highly affected during disasters. AIN has been focusing on capacity enhancement, localization and humanitarian principles for a long time.

Mr. Umesh Bhatta, Secretary Member of NARMIN

We always say the local government should do this and that but proper authority and resources are not given. Local government has worked a lot during COVID pandemic but the relief fund has not been released in time. The risk and difficult work have always been assigned to the local government without proper equipment and resources.

Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Executive Chief of NDRRMA

In recent years, we have lost 28 humanitarian workers from various sectors. We have lost many volunteers, Army, firefighters and Nepal police during disasters like earthquake, landslides, floods and forest fires. We have lacked prioritizing the safety of humanitarian workers. The early warning system in case of flood is good but there are no such systems for landslides and lightning. From now onward we need to focus more on resilience, reconstruction and providing reliable training. He then finally thanked everyone for participating and formally closed the program.