



Photo Credit: NDRC

Strengthening Risk Governance and Localizing Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Nepal

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Disasters & Impact

Nepal faces over 3,000 disaster events annually . Water-induced disasters, namely floods, and landslides, are at the top of a long list of climate impacts. Droughts, lightning strikes, heat and cold waves, avalanches, hail, snow, windstorms, and earthquakes are other disasters in terms of frequency. During the last decade between 2011-2021, the 2015 earthquake, 2017 flooding, 2018 tornado/ windstorm, 2020 and 2021 landslides, and 2021 post-monsoon rainfall are among the most prominent of those events. The risks associated with disasters not only result in periodic crises but also exacerbate existing vulnera-

bilities, making it hard for families to ever escape the cycle of calamity.

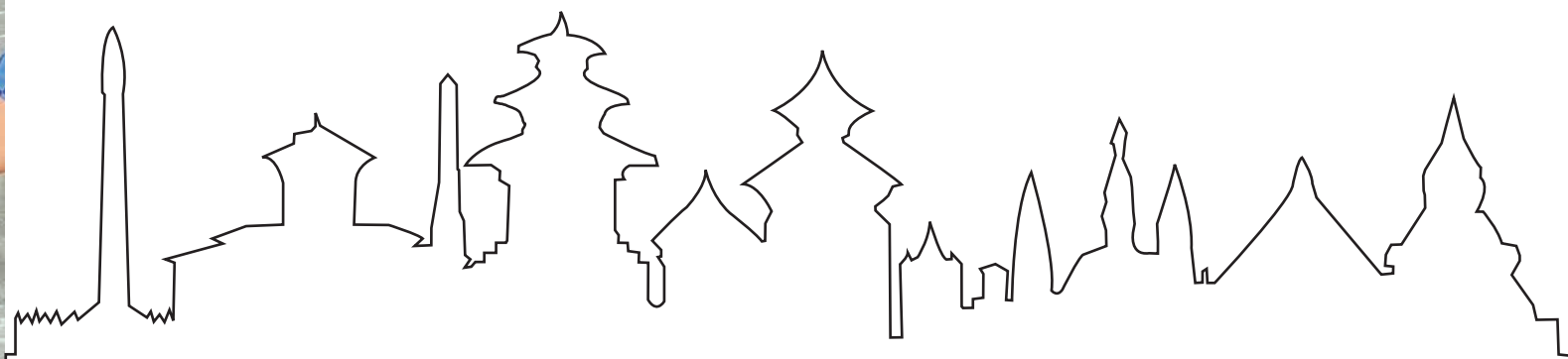
More than 80% of the disasters that strike Nepal have a hydro-meteorological origin. With the increasing climatic variability, the intensity and frequency of disasters are increasing. Weather-induced disasters were once seasonal, but they now increasingly strike when they are least expected, badly damaging crops and other assets. Unseasonal disasters also greatly impact people's lives and overall well-being and cause huge losses and damage.

Disasters are responsible for huge

losses and much damage in Nepal, including declines in the gross domestic product (GDP). Several studies revealed, that after the devastating 2015 earthquake, the GDP growth rate dropped from 6% in 2014 to 2% in 2015 and then to just 0.4% in)2016. COVID-19 then caused growth to plunge to negative 2.12% in the FY 2019/20 after strong growth in 2017 and 2018, at rates of 9% and 7.6% respectively .

Disaster and Climate-Resilient Planning in the policy landscape

In Nepal, the MoHA leads disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM),



Between 2019-2021, Landslide claimed 567, Lightning 231, Fires 234, Floods 178, COVID19 12,020 lives and 116 from wild animal attacks.

Between 2011 and 2021, in 5,825 water-induced disaster incidents, 2,362 died, 880 missing, 1,646 injured, 78,811 families were impacted, and NPR 19 billion assets lost.

Between 2015-2022, Fires 15,550, floods 1,159, landslides 2,251, lightning 1,901, rainfall 1,387, and windstorms 724

Between 2015 and 2021 12,315 died from disasters, with women making-up 53% of the fatalities.

Source : DRR Portal

whereas the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) is the focal ministry for climate change and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), for its part, coordinates the development of guidelines for the integration of climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) into the planning process. Though DRR and CCA share the common goal of building the resilience of communities and dealing with exposure, vulnerability, and capacity to address disaster risk; the policies, regulatory framework, and planning guidelines for DRR and CCA are different. Due to the absence of clear legal mandates, despite similarities in terms of approaches and interventions at the local level, agencies involved in DRR and CCA have endeavored in silos.

For local disaster management, LDCRPs are paving the way for integrating DRR and CCA as realized in Nepal's fifteenth five-year plan, the SDG status paper on climate change, and DRRM policies. There is a need of integrating DRR and CCA in making efficient use of scarce resources, safeguarding development efforts, transforming people's risks into resilience, and ensuring a resilient future. The LDCRP guidelines clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders and are, therefore, considered a bottom-up, inclusive, and decentralized DRR and CCA planning process. It promotes effective investment in resilience through risk analysis that ensures adaptation capacities will be built and that mainstreams climate and disaster issues in local development plans and programs in order to reduce loss and damage.

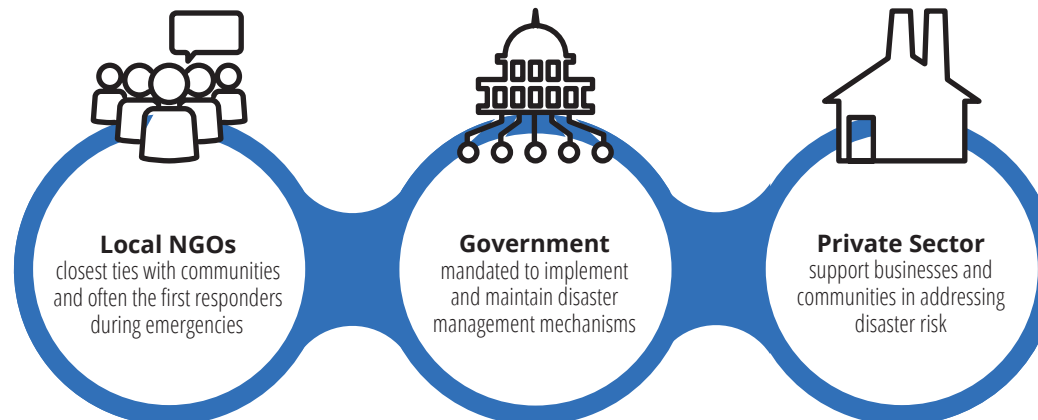
The APProach

The Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP), established by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), is a unique multi-stakeholder regional partnership that includes countries from South and Southeast Asia to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the foundation) and the United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA), the partnership strives to improve stakeholder

coordination and dialogue between governments, local humanitarian organization networks, and the private sector for enhancing capacities through partnerships, knowledge resources, training, and networking opportunities.

APP's goal is to promote safer and well-prepared communities through locally-led disaster risk management (DRM) actions, so that disaster impacts on at-risk communities of Asia will be reduced.

APP on localization: "A process whereby local, sub-national and national humanitarian actors, namely governments, civil society and non-government organizations, the private sector, media, academia, etc., take a lead role, in a collaborative manner to plan and implement priority actions in disaster preparedness, humanitarian response, and recovery through mobilizing internal resources and external humanitarian funding."





Engage, Expand & Empower a Multistakeholder System

Disaster and resilient planning in Nepal had been provisioned and guided by the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (2017), Local Government Operation Act (2017), and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy (2017). These policy provisions authorize each local government to develop a local disaster and climate resilient plan (LDCRP) by mobilizing available local resources and capacities. The LDCRP involves comprehensive risk assessment at the municipality level, a disaster profile, key action priorities against identified local-level risks, and plan priorities for addressing identified disaster risks in municipal sectoral planning.

With due guidance from the NPP-NSC, NPP has assisted in the development of five LDCRPs. Initially, seven municipalities that were considered highly vulnerable to disasters were identified. NPP coordinated and consulted these municipalities to determine their willingness and collaboration to formulate the LDCRP. Following these consultation meetings, five municipalities were selected in Chitwan District.

The municipalities in the Chitwan district have also been chosen because they are fragile and extremely vulnerable, with complex topography. Extreme weather events associated with heavy rainfall, deforestation, and over-encroachment of natural ecosystems cause water-induced disasters. More than 16 different types of hazards are active in the municipalities, among them, floods have been the most severe to trigger incidents, followed by wild animals, thunderbolts, river bank eroding, fire, and landslides and many river systems have annually inundated settlements, and farmlands. Human casualties, loss, and damage are consequently increasing.

NPP in consultations and recommendations from MOFAGA initiated a series of coordination meetings to identify and assess the need, interest, and commitment of the five local governments in the Chitwan district to develop LDCRPs of local governments. Based on this, five local governments agreed to lead and collaborate to develop their respective LDCRPs. Comprehensive disaster planning in the given disaster scenarios should enable to address the extremeness of disaster vulnerability and gradually improve the human and financial resources, policy harmonization and implementation and be exemplified as a model for other municipalities to follow.

Key takeaways from the LDCRP formulation process

Through the participatory LDCRP formulation process, NPP enabled changes in the capacity, perception, understanding, and essentiality of LDCRP planning among the community, ward, and local-level authorities. The primary impacts during the formulation process have been summarized as below:

- Community and local government stakeholders are more aware of hazards, risks, vulnerabilities, exposure, the distinction between hazards and disasters, differences among people's different vulnerability and exposure, multiple risks and their mitigation measures, and the interrelationship among hazards, risks, vulnerabilities, and exposure as a result of the participatory plan formulation process.
- Through the LDCRP formulation process, awareness

about how climate change drives disaster risks among disaster-affected communities has increased. Local communities are capable of analyzing the possible losses and damage as a result of disasters as well as their possible adverse effects on the lives and well-being of disaster-affected people and communities.

- Participation in the local level risk assessment has enabled locals to observe, development through a risk reduction lens. DRR and CCA have begun to be mainstreamed into local-level plans through inclusive disaster and climate resilience planning processes and have contributed to increasing local ownership enhancing meaningful coordination, strengthening local capacities, and fostering the sustainability of DRR- and CCA-led activities.
- The LDCRPs developed have aided in reducing possible risks of resource duplication and better investment and resource allocation for risk reduction activities, with the initiation of leveraged co-funding and co-financing from other agencies for the operationalization of LDCRPs. Overall, the risk governance of local governments has grown stronger.
- Local governments have taken a step forward to document local indigenous knowledge, wisdom, and values related to coping with and managing extreme events and their possible impacts. In recent decades, however, indigenous knowledge has been continuously eroding due to improper conservation and protection.



Nepal Preparedness Partnership (NPP)

The Nepal Preparedness Partnership (NPP) is an initiative led by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in collaboration with various partners, including the Government of Nepal, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and private sector entities. The partnership aims to enhance Nepal's disaster preparedness and resilience through a multi-stakeholder approach. The NPP focuses on four key areas: strengthening community resilience, enhancing institutional preparedness, promoting private sector engagement, and facilitating knowledge management and learning. The partnership works to achieve these objectives through various activities such as capacity building, risk assessment, knowledge sharing, and advocacy. The partnership operates at national, provincial, and local levels and works closely

with stakeholders from various sectors, including disaster management agencies, local governments, civil society organizations, academia, and private sector actors. The NPP initiatives intend to strengthen Nepal's disaster preparedness and resilience.

In summary, the NPP is a collaborative initiative that brings together diverse stakeholders to enhance Nepal's disaster preparedness and resilience. The partnership's multi-sectoral approach and focus on community resilience, institutional preparedness, private sector engagement, and knowledge management make it a valuable platform for promoting disaster risk reduction in Nepal.

Nepal Preparedness Partnership National Steering Committee

Joint Secretary, Disaster and Conflict Management Division, MoHA- Chairperson
Private Sector (FNCCI)- Member
Academia (Tribhuvan University)- Member
Local Government (Mayor)- Member
NDR Net- Member
NPP implementing Agency (NDRC Nepal)- Member
ADPC Nepal-Member

5 Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans (LDCRP) Formulated Ratnanagar, Kalika, Madi, Rapti and Khairahani Municipality

5 DRR Focal Person Trained on LDCRP formulation.

67 Community Level Orientation on LDCRP organized.
1495 (1107M/388F)





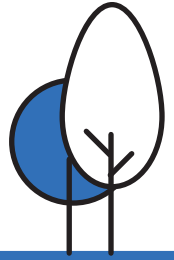
NPP Milestones 2017-2023

2017

May 2017
Project Socialization
Workshop

June-July 2017
Baseline Assessment
in 30 Districts

December 2017
Assessment Report
Shared



December 2017
NPP-NSC Formed

2021

December 2020
6th APP Regional
Steering Committee
Nepal (Virtual).



September 2020
NPP Phase II Sub
Grant Agreement.

June-December 2020
Risk Communication Ma-
terial developed / NEOC
and PHEOC coordination

June 2020
Three proposals
developed for
COVID

December 2020-March 2021
Strengthening Local Health pre-
paredness and response through
the Private Sector Engagement

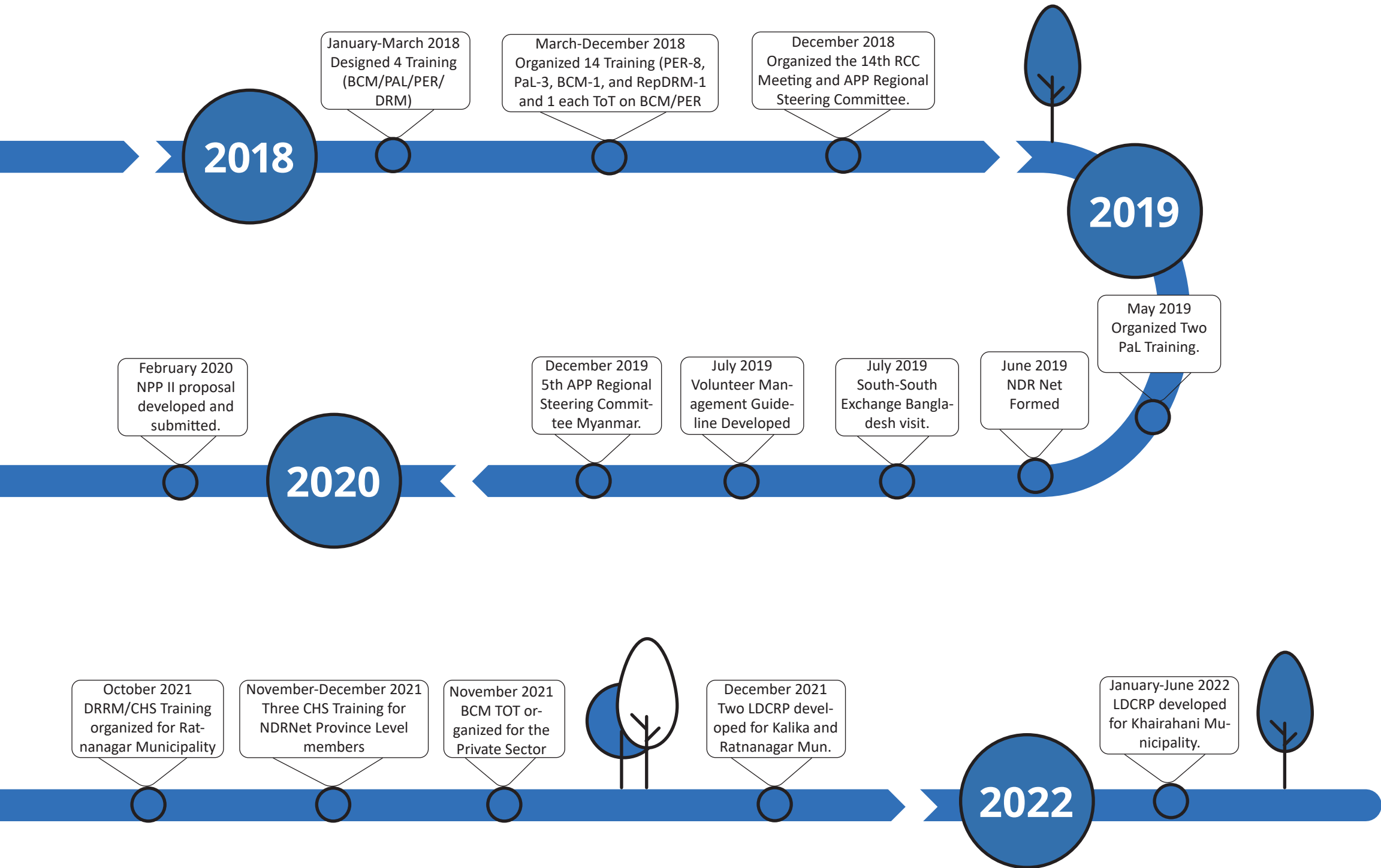
January-March 2021
Organized Eight prov-
ince-level orientations on
Pandemic management.

March 2021
Health Sector date
included in BIPAD
Protal.

April-June 2021
CHS Training Manual
Developed
Three Online Orientation

June 2021
PaL Approach Paper
Developed and Shared
on ILS Day 2021

September 2021
Basic TOT on Core
Humanitarian Stan-
dard organized



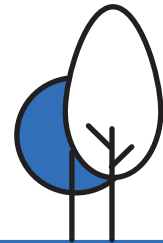
March 2022
BCM TOT organized in collaboration with TA-YAR-Nepal/ USAID

June 2022
EWS Messaging Orientation for Media

June 2022
PaL and Electric Fire Safety Standards (EFSS) and Training Curricula validated,

July 2022
TOT on PaL and Electric Fire Safety Standards (EFSS) organized

July-August 2022
BCM Orientation to Province FNCCI in collaboration with FNCCI



August-September 2021
Risk Assessment of 11 Wards in Kalika Municipality

June-July 2021
Risk Assessment of 16 Wards in Ratnanagar Municipality



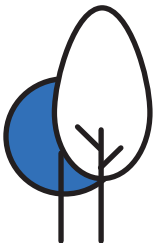
March-December 2021
Two LDCRP developed for Ratnanagar and Kalika Municipality



2021

September 2021
Formulated LDCRP shared with Ratnanagar Municipality

November 2021
Formulated LDCRP shared with Kalika Municipality



November-December 2021
LDCRP's of Ratnanagar and Kalika Municipalities endorsed

2022

January 2022
Risk Assessment of 13 Wards in Khairahani Municipality



August 2022
DRRM/CHS Training
organized for Kalika
Municipality

October 2022
CSR Guideline for Pri-
vate Sector Investment
in DRM developed.

December 2022
BCM Manual
Translated into Nepali
Language

December 2022
National Conference on "In-
novation and Enterprise for
Disaster Resilience in Nepal"

NPP Milestones in Local Level Disaster Management Planning

2023

January-February 2023
LSAR Equipment
handed over to 6
municipalities.

June 2022-January 2023
Two LDCRPs developed for
Rapti and Madi Municipality.

May 2022
LDCRP Shared with
Khairahani
Municipality



June-September 2022
Risk Assessment of 22
Wards in Rapti and Madi
Municipality.

2023

January 2023
LDCRP of Madi and Rap-
ti Municipality finalized
and

January 2023
LDCRP of Rapti
Municipality endorsed.

January-February 2023
LSAR Equipment pro-
vided to 6
Municipalities

Reflections



Disaster Management Section Head, with 3 years of working experience in disaster management including risk reduction and response. He is currently responsible for coordinating with multiple stakeholders including government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, local volunteers, and social administrators to develop disaster preparedness and response plans, raising disaster awareness, and post-disaster response. He maintains healthy relations with development actors. for disaster risk reduction and management.

Bal Govinda Neupane,
*DRR Focal Person,
Madi Municipality*

“While working as a DRR focal person and with the responsibility to coordinate and plan for safety and risk reduction of the municipality for the past 3 years at Madi Municipality. I was always preoccupied with the thought that something had to be done to reduce the risk of vulnerable terrains and people’s perceived mindset on the disaster. Precisely around the same time, NPP had been organizing various DRRM training for all municipalities in the Chitwan district, where I got the opportunity to be introduced and participate in the partnership program. After the initial training, Madi Municipality and NPP jointly assessed the need and gap together to capacitate and strengthen the municipality in the DRRM process through several consultation meetings to assess our need and commitment to NPP initiatives. After this, the municipality and NPP mutually agreed to advance ahead in a collaborative manner to support the policy and planning, capacity development, strengthening, and equipping of the DRR section was carried out. The partnership with NPP has enabled us with a clearer insight into understanding disaster management and strengthening our capacities through knowledge and skills transfer and motivated us to improve our duties and responsibilities. The key changes from this partnership must be taken as formulation of disaster risk reduction and management policies and plans, with which, the municipality now has a focused plan of actions and guidelines to work along. Municipality

staff has better knowledge of taking up DRRM in their normal line of duty. The capacity in terms of understanding and ability of the elected representatives, staff, and community have improved to facilitate DRRM action. Community awareness and realization of their participation and contribution to risk reduction and management issues have increased.

NPP has provided understandings that have been useful to understand and analyze the local level situation for reviewing and updating the policies. The capacity-building initiatives like orientations and training and technical support through NPP have played a big role in strengthening the network and organization. Forums, discussions, and interactions are held with the participation of local government, LHOs, the private sector, academia, etc, at the inter/municipality, district, and national levels. Regular internal and external coordination meetings have increased with disaster management as a key agenda. Disaster focal persons and the section heads are now better knowledgeable about inclusive disaster management and the capacity to plan and address issues efficiently, because of the new political restructuring, which has made the local level more responsible for disaster management. NPP contributed to orienting the local disaster management committee members, municipal body, staff, and community on DRRM and LDCRP process. This has supported improving the preconceived and response-centric perspectives to develop a common understanding among the decision-makers and stakeholders to prioritize DRRM activities in the municipality. We now feel capable to manage our skills and knowledge to take up the responsibilities in the essence of the constitution and advocate with the province and federal levels to become more accountable towards us.

In the LDCRP formulation process, supported by NPP and led by the municipality, a series of risk assessments were carried out at the ward level, with active participation from the diverse community. The LDCRP process was very educative for me as it provided skills and knowledge on the benefits of participatory practices in the planning process, and a better understanding of the community reality, gaps, and constraints in policy implementation. The whole process was very participatory and empowering, as it assisted in educating the community to realize and review their roles and responsibility along with the past drawbacks and ways forward. It also provided the municipality, wards, and communities to reflect and discuss the on-ground situations and plan accordingly. Tools and methods like Social and Vulnerability Mapping, KII/FGD, Timeline, and Stakeholder Analysis proved beneficial to extract information and build awareness side by side and verify and validate the information. All the information was then analyzed and compiled to prepare the Municipal level Risk Profile which was coordinated with the municipal authorities to formulate the response plan based on the assessment findings and then the final document was processed by the municipality for endorsement from the Municipal Council. The experienced technical team of NPP has educated and trained us on the use of various approaches and tools during the process. With the skills acquired, we feel knowledgeable to replicate and update corresponding information by ourselves, and without NPP this would not have been possible as we lacked the knowledge and skill, but now we are capable of building on it.”



Head of Administration and Disaster Management Section, with 5 years of working experience in disaster management. He is currently responsible for coordinating with multiple stakeholders including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, developing and implementing disaster preparedness and response plans, conducting simulation exercises, managing rescue and relief works and establishing local-level emergency operation centre, and strengthening the disaster management information system.

Mr. Mukti Paudel,

DRR Focal Person

Rapti Municipality

“I have been working as the head of the Administration and Disaster Management Section in Rapti Municipality. In the beginning, I was not aware of the various features of disaster management, we were very limited to assuming only rescue and relief distribution as disaster management. In the course of time, the municipality was invited to participate in the disaster management capacity-building programs organized by NPP. The training was my motivational factor as it provided me with a clearer picture of disaster management concepts and the role of the local level and it was also our introduction to the partnership program. Along with this, NPP initiated bilateral meetings with the municipality to orient us on the NPP programs and assess our capacity needs and interest in disaster management. Based on the mutual understanding between the municipality and NPP, both agreed to begin a partnership venture to improve the capacity at the local level for disaster management. The programs under the NPP partnership have provided a thorough insight of disaster management to improve the knowledge and skills of the local disaster management committee, municipal authorities and staff, and community on DRRM and LDCRP process to better the existing inadequate perspective, skilled human resources, and priority of disaster management initiatives.

Through the partnership, the municipality now has developed its disaster risk reduction and management policies and plans, by mainstreaming disaster into the annual sectoral development plan of the municipality. LDCRP is one of the documents which was formulat-

ed under the municipal leadership and technical support from NPP. The process was new to us but with the technical and stepwise guidance and facilitation, it was made easy to understand despite the process being very rigorous. The LDCRP process should be taken as an example of how participatory planning should be conducted. This has boosted us to develop and review DRM plans and design capacity-building activities at the community level. We have been educated with better knowledge from the tools and techniques used during the process. The whole process for me was an opportunity for the municipality officials to understand the community and their reality with respect to disaster. I realized that if effective methods and tools are used, time, cost, and effort will be reduced for primary information collection. The risk assessment information collected from the ward-level assessment was analyzed and compiled and was then shared with the municipality officials for validation and to address the disaster issues through ward-level and sectorial-level plans. The final draft of LDCRP was handed over to the municipality for approval from the municipal council. In the absence of NPP, the LDCRP would not have been formulated as we had a different understanding of disaster previously, but after now we feel capable to take up the future steps. The capacities of elected representatives, staff, and the community have been boosted and disaster risk reduction and management issues are becoming prioritized agenda in regular discussions. The municipality is now more capable to analyze disaster scenarios and respond accordingly. NPP has supported the municipality with knowledge, understanding, and technical skills through which we feel that we have the confidence to implement and enforce plans and regulations supported by sufficient local resources.

Having said this, the municipality still requires all available support from federal, and provincial governments and development partners. This involves proper and smooth coordination and cooperation, which at present is a bit inconsistent among the three levels under the new constitution in spite of each other's roles being clearly outlined. Responsibility-wise necessary input is not invested at the local level to address gaps in skilled human resources and operational knowledge to formulate and implement plans and policies at the local level. This is also why we were keenly interested in partnering with NPP to support us in improving our operational capacity to carry out our responsibility. NPP has supported knowledge and technical know-how at the local level, which is enabling us to review and update the policies. On the other hand, NPP has an important role in strengthening the network as it has facilitated reviews and joint interactions with multiple stakeholders at the inter-municipality, district, and national levels which have provided us with an opportunity to press forward on and with our issues by documenting and sharing experiences and lessons learned at various meetings, seminars, and forums. This practice started at the network meeting of Chitwan district and the national sharing workshop at the national level.”



Asian Preparedness Partnership



Sources

NPC 2019, Fifteenth Five-Year Plan (2019/2020-2023/2024), National Planning Commission, Nepal

Government of Nepal, Ministry of Finance, Singh Durbar, Kathmandu, Economic Survey 2020/21

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