



# eBulletin

## NOV-DEC 2022



## Summary

*This eBulletin highlights DPNet's significant achievements in localizing and institutionalizing Sphere Standards, focusing on the collaborative efforts between DPNet and the Government of Nepal. During a Sphere Regional Focal Point meeting in Bangkok, DPNet showcased how Sphere Standards were integrated into Nepal's disaster risk management practices, notably through MoFAGA's Disaster Risk Management Localization Manual. In 2022, extensive training covered all 753 local governments, reaching over 19,500 local representatives and staff. Innovative strategies, including the translation of Sphere and related standards into Nepali and the use of folk songs and dramas for awareness, were instrumental in these efforts. Furthermore, DPNet's initiative to distribute the Sphere Handbook widely across local government offices and DRR trainers facilitated a broader understanding and application of Sphere Standards. This initiative not only marks a significant stride towards enhancing Nepal's disaster management and humanitarian response but also sets a commendable example for other countries in the adoption of humanitarian standards, with the Sphere secretariat and international community recognizing Nepal's pioneering efforts and dedication to improving humanitarian assistance quality through the Sphere Approach.*

## Nepal Successfully Localizes Sphere Standard with Massive Efforts and Innovative Techniques



Sphere Regional Focal Point meeting was held in Bangkok from 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022, where the DPNepal Vice Chair and Coordinator of Sphere Nepal shared Nepal's tremendous efforts in localizing and institutionalizing Sphere Standards. The meeting was attended by various regional focal points who were impressed by Nepal's success in implementing Sphere Standards.

As the Sphere focal point and Secretariat of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, DPNepal worked closely with the Government of Nepal to institutionalize and localize Sphere Standards in Nepal. One of the remarkable

achievements was the integration of Sphere Standards into the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration's (MoFAGA) Disaster Risk Management Localization Manual through collaboration with government actors. The manual includes an exclusive module on Sphere Standards, which demonstrates Nepal's commitment to ensuring effective disaster management and high-quality humanitarian assistance.

In 2022, MoFAGA organized massive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) localization training, which was conducted in all 753 local governments. Over 19,500 new local people

representatives and staff were trained on various DRR issues, including Sphere Standards. The training helped overcome language barriers, as DPNet translated not only the Sphere Handbook but also the Minimum Economic Recovery Standards (MERS), the Minimum Standard for Market Analysis (MiSMA), and the Humanitarian Inclusion Standards for older people and people with disabilities (HIS) into Nepali. The translation process involved consultations with over 3,000 experts and organizations.

DPNet also used innovative communication techniques, such as folk songs and dramas, to raise awareness and convince local people of the value of Sphere minimum standards. This approach was contextually specific and contributed to the success of the program. DPNet's good coordination and networking skills and collaboration with government actors were also instrumental in the program's success.

## **DPNet's Major Activities in the year 2022**

From January 2022 to December 2022, DPNet conducted a series of different events of importance in the field of disaster management, encompassing a wide range of activities aimed at enhancing engagement, coordination, and capacity building among various stakeholders in Nepal. The year kicked off with significant workshops and discussion programs in collaboration with various stakeholders, focusing on the engagement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in DRRM, alongside specialized discussion programs targeting NGOs, media, academia and research-based organizations, INGOs, and disaster-affected communities, each aimed at fostering collaboration and advancing disaster response approaches. In February, the Learning & Sharing National Conference on Disaster Risk

DPNet's translation and dissemination program for the 2018 edition of the Sphere Handbook was notable for its vast scale and array of outcomes. The program resulted in the printing and distribution of 2,500 copies of the Handbook to all 753 local government offices in Nepal and over 400 DRR trainers.

Moving forward, DPNet will continue to collaborate with government actors and study the impacts of widespread adoption of the 'Sphere Approach' at the field level. The successful implementation of Sphere Standards in Nepal serves as a shining example for other countries to follow. The Sphere secretariat thanked the DPNet team for DPNet passion and perseverance in bringing Sphere and its partner standards to every corner of Nepal. In the meeting other regional focal points also expressed their interest in Nepal's efforts and congratulate Nepal on its successful localization of Sphere Standard.

Reduction (NCDRR) united DRR stakeholders to discuss contextual issues and international conference preparations, featuring a rich agenda of technical sessions and cultural engagements. March continued with thematic meetings and workshops, including private sector engagement in DRR and integrating academia in DRR efforts, highlighting the necessity of inclusive and proactive ground-level work. April's focus shifted towards international preparedness, with a virtual preparatory meeting for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2022, complemented by observance of the 7th Memorial Day of the 2015 Nepal Earthquake and preparations for GPDRR, emphasizing Nepal's commitment to disaster risk governance and financing. May saw the

organization of a pivotal discussion on the Zero Draft GPDRR Position Paper, marking a significant step towards Nepal's active participation in GPDRR, while June celebrated DPNet's 26th Anniversary and reflected on past achievements. The preparation for the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) in July and August involved media engagement on hydro-meteorological forecasting systems and strategic discussions, leading to Nepal's refined presentation at APMCDRR. The year concluded with DPNet showcasing Nepal's accomplishments in localizing Sphere Standards at the Sphere Regional Focal Point meeting in Bangkok in December, highlighting Nepal's leadership in effective disaster management and humanitarian assistance on the international stage. The summary of the yearlong activities are as below:

In the month of January, DPNet undertook a series of important workshops and discussion programs in collaboration with the NDRRMA and other stakeholders, aimed at enhancing the engagement and coordination among various stakeholders in the field of DRRM in Nepal. The activities began with a Provincial Level Workshop on the Engagement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in DRRM, held at Hotel Pokhara Village Resort, Pokhara Metropolitan City, Kaski of Gandaki Province. This event focused on reviewing the capacities, obstacles, and gaps in effective CSO engagement in DRRM, distinguishing between NGOs and CSOs, and underscoring the vital role of CSOs in DRRM activities across various sectors. Subsequent discussions delved into CSO mobilization guidelines, their roles in DRRM platforms, legal provisions in Nepal, and the practical aspects of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in emergencies.

Simultaneously, DPNet, in a robust collaboration with NDRRMA, organized the

NGO Subjective Committee Discussion Program under the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR), which concentrated on the implementation of the NPDRR Guideline and highlighted the importance of NGO coordination in disaster risk reduction and management. This was paralleled by the Subjective Committee Discussion Programs focusing on Media, Academia and Research-Based Organizations, INGOs, and Disaster-Affected Subjective Committee, each targeting the unique roles and contributions of these groups in DRRM. These discussions emphasized the critical need for collaboration across stakeholders, the advancement of disaster responses beyond traditional approaches, and the engagement of media, academia, and INGOs in vulnerability mapping, policy suggestions, and the dissemination of risk information.



In February, the momentum continued with the Learning & Sharing National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (NCDRR), organized by DPNet at Soaltee Hotel, Kathmandu. This conference, supported by various ministries and stakeholders including USAID/Tayar, aimed to unite DRR stakeholders to discuss contextual issues and prepare for upcoming international conferences. Over 200 participants attended the event, which featured technical sessions on Disaster Governance, DRRM Localization, and Good Practices & Learning, alongside a Marketplace for

stakeholders, an essay competition, and a Lok Dohori session to convey DRR messages.



March was marked by a series of thematic meetings and workshops, including the NGO Subjective Periodic Meeting, the thematic periodic meeting of the Media Subjective Group, and workshops focusing on private sector participation in DRR at Hotel Nirvana, Birendranagar Surkhet. These event highlighted the necessity of inclusive, proactive sharing of ground-level work in DRRM, the significance of media in disaster risk reduction, and the vital role of the private sector in disaster management. Additionally, discussions revolved around the integration of academia and research-based organizations in DRRM efforts, highlighting the need for groundbreaking research that integrates indigenous knowledge and evidence-based science.

In the month of April, virtual preparatory meeting for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2022, focusing on the theme "From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development for All in a COVID-19 Transformed World." The meeting aimed to solidify Nepal's stance and contributions towards GPDRR-2022, emphasizing Disaster Risk Governance, COVID-19 Recovery, and DRR Financing. This was complemented by the observance of the 7th Memorial Day of the 2015 Nepal Earthquake, which focused on

disaster preparedness and risk reduction, and the second national meeting of the NPDRR, which concentrated on preparing for the GPDRR, discussing diversities in DRR, disaster risk financing, nature-based solutions, and climate change action. The culmination of these efforts in April was the GPDRR Official Statement Finalization meeting, which aimed to finalize the official statement for GPDRR-2022, incorporating a wide range of agendas including building back principles, risk management, gender equality, and disaster financing, setting a precedent for Nepal's proactive and coordinated approach towards global disaster risk reduction dialogues.

In May, DPNet organized a pivotal virtual discussion program focusing on the Zero Draft GPDRR Position Paper, marking a significant step towards Nepal's participation in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR). This gathering saw the presentation and discussion of the zero draft, prepared with the input of the GPDRR Preparatory Task Group, by a wide array of participants including key figures from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The draft highlighted Nepal's vulnerability to disasters, its pandemic response, and its strides in risk-informed development, calling for a gender-inclusive approach and a focus on climate-induced disasters in the final position paper. The pre-departure meeting for GPDRR-2022 further solidified Nepal's preparedness for the global event, emphasizing a unified stance and comprehensive presentation of Nepal's disaster management efforts on the international stage. Additionally, the establishment of the Province Level Committee in Gandaki Province underlined DPNet's commitment to enhancing DRRM capacities at the regional level.



June saw DPNet celebrating its 26th Anniversary, reflecting on past achievements and future challenges in DRRM. The celebration was accompanied by a GPDRR review and reflection meeting, which provided a platform for sharing insights and experiences from the event held in Bali, Indonesia. This session highlighted the importance of localization, improved coordination, and inclusive participation for future global engagements. Another significant event was the Orientation to the Journalists on "Hydro-meteorological Forecast System," aiming to enhance the role of media in early warning systems and disaster risk communication.

In July, the focus shifted to preparing for the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) with a program titled "Media Engagement on Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting Systems for Reducing Disaster Risk in Nepal." This initiative aimed to deepen journalists' understanding of hydro-meteorological forecasting systems, highlighting the critical role of precise information dissemination in community preparedness. A virtual APMCDRR Participation Preparatory Discussion Meeting further outlined the objectives for Nepal in APMCDRR, emphasizing the importance of showcasing practices, sharing lessons learned, and ensuring inclusivity.

August was marked by strategic discussions and celebratory events. A discussion meeting

on APMCDRR preparatory work and related issues highlighted the need for video content review, commitment evaluations, and the formation of an APMCDRR Preparatory Task Force. The World Humanitarian Day 2022 celebration, organized by NPDRR in collaboration with DPNet and AIN Task Group on Disaster Management and Climate Change, underlined the vulnerability of Nepal to disasters and the pivotal role of humanitarian workers. The event focused on the Emergency Preparedness and Response Assessment 2022–2030, NPDRR's action plans, and strategies for effective disaster intervention, culminating in the felicitation of organizations for their contributions to DRRM.



In September, DPNet played a crucial role in finalizing Nepal's participation in the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR). The organization hosted the APMCDRR Official Statement Finalization Meeting, engaging key stakeholders to refine Nepal's message and commitments to the international DRR

community. The collaborative effort aimed to highlight Nepal's progress in DRRM, emphasizing the integration of indigenous knowledge, community engagement, and the need for sustainable DRR technology. This was followed by a Preparatory Meeting chaired by high-ranking officials, focusing on Nepal's comprehensive preparation for APMCDRR, including feedback on the position paper and logistics for Nepal's Marketplace. A subsequent Pre-departure Meeting convened potential participants, underscoring the importance of presenting a unified stance and the best of Nepal's DRRM practices at the conference.

October was marked by the observance of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, where DPNet, in collaboration with NDRRMA and NPDRR, organized a national symposium. This event underscored the theme "Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and Early Action for All," facilitating discussions on the national concept note and action plan for a multi-hazard early warning system. The symposium highlighted the essential role of

community engagement, cultural considerations, and the necessity for increased investment in disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

December saw DPNet showcasing Nepal's achievements in localizing and institutionalizing Sphere Standards at the Sphere Regional Focal Point meeting in Bangkok. This presentation highlighted the successful integration of Sphere Standards into Nepal's DRRM policies and practices, emphasizing the massive training efforts undertaken to educate local government representatives and staff across all 753 local governments. The efforts highlighted Nepal's commitment to effective disaster management and high-quality humanitarian assistance, setting a model for other countries in adopting the Sphere Approach. DPNet's participation in this meeting illustrated the organization's ongoing dedication to enhancing Nepal's DRRM capabilities through international collaboration and the sharing of best practices.