



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Home Affairs

Crisis to Resilience: Transforming Through Disaster Risk Reduction and Management



Position Paper

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Executive Summary

Nepal is prone to multitude of disasters. For last seven years of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) and Paris Agreement (2015) for climate change management, Nepal has been facing big disasters such as mega earthquake (2015), flood (2017), windstorm (2019), COVID-19 (January 2020 onwards), landslides (2020-2021) and unseasonal heavy rainfall (2021) and suffered heavy casualties, damages to assets and economic losses.

Due to impacts of climate change, hydro-meteorological and climatic hazards have become more frequent and destructive, and they have extended to new geographic areas (i.e., flood in high altitude - Manang, Mustang and in upper reaches of Melamchi River watershed) where they did not exist in the past. New hazards are emerging and becoming major hazards (i.e., COVID-19, Dengue). The country is susceptible to unprecedented hazards like tornadoes, unseasonal heavy rainfall, pandemic and insect pest outbreak like locust.

Human casualty due to floods has been decreased thanks to early warning systems and raised awareness among local communities. However, death rate is increasing due to lightning, landslides, road accidents and unprecedented disasters like COVID-19, unseasonal heavy rainfall, dengue.

There has been significant progress in policy, set up of institutional structures as well as plans and guidelines at national, sub-national and local level on disaster risk reduction and climate change management. However, the respective governments and agencies are struggling to implement them due to lack of resources including technology, human resources, and finance.

There is progress in vulnerability and risk assessment and mapping of different hazards like earthquake, landslides, and floods. Integrated database systems such as DRR Portal, BIPAD Portal, Integrated Health Information Management System and Integrated Education Management Information System are in place.

Nepal satisfactorily managed COVID-19 and earthquake reconstruction involving concerned communities and stakeholders and mobilizing support from development partners, private sector, civil society organizations and communities, which reflects potential of enhancing coping and resilience capacity of the country.

Along with the efforts to capacity development of security forces for disaster rescue, Nepal has adopted Humanitarian Cluster Approach in disaster preparedness and response involving all relevant stakeholders from various sectors. The network of the Clusters has been extended to sub-national and local level with necessary operating guidelines fostering harmonized initiatives in preparedness, response and recovery.

The Government of Nepal is committed to implement international commitments on DRRM and climate change i.e., Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030), Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Sustainable Development Goals (2030) and the national policies, strategies and plans have been aligned with these commitments.

Regional nature of many hazards, compounded impacts of climate change are major challenges while lack of adequate financing, technology, human resources and pressing needs to invest on basic development infrastructure issues for the government to focus on the DRRM. Nepal needs technical, technological, and financial support to develop its capacity to cope with impending disasters and build disaster resilient capacity at national scale.

The Government has been working in whole of society approach and is committed to continue coordination and collaboration with neighboring countries, regional and international development partners, UN and international as well as national agencies to develop capacity in multiple sectors at national, provincial and local level.

1. Introduction

This position paper has been prepared for the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) being held in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia from 19 to 22 September 2022. This paper provides brief overview of disaster impacts on lives, natural resources, infrastructures and economy of Nepal and updated status on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) around the themes of the APMCDRR, including the implementation status of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR, 2015-2030) in the country.

A Nepali delegation comprising participants from different sectors across the government, UN and civil society organizations (CSOs) are attending this APMCDRR. This conference is an important forum to share country updates, experiences, on-going and planned initiatives as well as to exchange learning with the regional community on various DRRM related issues. The Conference also provides an opportunity to learn and exchange ideas ahead of the mid-term review of the implementation of Nepal's National DRR Strategic Action Plan (2018-2030), which is in line with the SFDRR.

Nepal, a mountainous country nestled between two big neighbors —India and China — lies on the southern slopes of the central Himalayas. Boasting a diverse geography, its topography ranges from an altitude as low as 59 meters to 8,848.86 meters, earth's highest point. Within less than 200 km of horizontal air distance, the climate varies from sub-tropical in the south to polar frost (extreme cold) in the north. The preliminary result of 2021 census shows that Nepal has a total population of 29,192,480 of which 14,901,169 are female (51.04 per cent) and 14,291,311 are male (48.96 per cent)¹. Nepal's national Human Development Index (HDI) score stood at 0.587 in 2019, which puts the country in the medium human development category².

2. Overview of Disasters in Nepal

Nepal is highly prone to range of multiple hazards, including frequent earthquakes, floods, landslides, debris flows, droughts, thunderbolts, heat waves, cold waves, avalanche, hailstone, snowstorms, and windstorms. The active seismic faults generate high magnitude earthquakes like the Gorkha earthquake in 2015. Over 80 per cent of the total hazards by number are of hydro-meteorological origin. The intensity and frequency of these disasters are increasing with rapid change in weather conditions. Weather induced hazards are seasonally confined but in recent years, these hazards are unexpectedly unseasonal and untimely leading to unprecedented significant impacts on lives and livelihoods of people by damaging crops and other belongings. The hydrological and meteorological hazards in Nepal are influenced or linked with regional weather and hydrological conditions across the borders.

Disasters affect men and women differently. Likewise, people of different livelihood strategies are differently exposed to and affected from disasters. The nature-based livelihoods, especially agriculture and natural resources dependent population have high exposure and sensitivity to different hazards. Exposure to hazard is also driven by encroachment in the right of way of rivers, settlement in marginal lands because of poverty and exclusion, rapid urbanization and internal migration to hazard-exposed areas.

¹ Preliminary result of national census 2078 (2021), CBS/ NPC, Nepal

²GoN (2020). Nepal Human Development Report, 2020. Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Resource gap on technical aspects and some enforcement issues to comply with national building codes, and risk-informed infrastructure development, constraints to streamline DRRM governance and its mainstreaming, poverty and exclusions are some of the factors and challenges behind the country's vulnerability to disaster.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has revealed that service-based livelihood, which was assumed to be relatively resilient is also highly vulnerable to disaster. It has disclosed how the whole-of-system including the health and economy are interconnected and can be exposed to unexpected risky circumstances.

On an average, Nepal faces over 3,000 disaster events annually (Table 1) that range from small to large scale³resulting in loss of physical infrastructures human lives. In respect to disaster events in recent years, Nepal faced 2015 earthquake, 2017 flood, 2020 and 2021 landslides, and 2021 post-monsoon rainfall. Between 2015 and 2021, Nepal lost 12,315 lives due to various disasters of which 53 per cent are female and 47 per cent male (Table 1)⁴. The 2015 earthquake had the highest number of casualty (8,790), one third of whom were children and injured (22,300). It is attributed that the earthquake also induced landslides in the following years.

During 2019 – 2021, landslides killed 567 people and other 106 are missing. Thunderbolt/lightning (231), fires in building and homes (234), flood (178 and 98 are missing) and animal incidence (116) which occurs almost annually also cause higher casualties.

Table 1: Disaster Incidents and Impact (2015-2021)

Year	No. of Incidents	Dead	Injured	Affected Family	Private House Destroyed		Estimated Loss (USD 1@NPR120)
					Partial	Complete	
2015	978	9,304	22,661	1,073,914	299,378	773,936	7,871,579*
2016	2,370	486	764	13,241	1,222	3,428	23,436,490
2017	2,460	490	737	19,073	14,427	1,927	20,806,545
2018	3,919	478	2,902	8,180	1,880	2,505	36,182,433
2019	4,538	489	2,452	25,264	6,873	4,939	39,245,919
2020	3,770	559	1,175	11,314	3,330	1,959	14,676,841
2021	4,215	509	1,773	6,583	1,580	2,044	21,190,103
2022 till 31 August	2,687	259	690	3462	1008	809	14,907,371
Total	22,250	12,315	32,464	1,157,569	328,690	790,738	163,409,909

<http://drrportal.gov.np/> accessed on 1 September, 2022

* The economic impact excludes the loss incurred during 2015 earthquake, which was estimated at US\$14.3 billion⁵

National disaster database maintained at the DRR Portal reveals that the highest recurring hazard was fire (15,550) followed by landslide (2,251), thunderbolt (1,901), heavy rainfall (1,387), flood (1,159) and windstorm (724) between 2015 and 31 August 2022. Incidents of fires (forest as well in houses) are in increasing trend. Road accident has highest fatality and injury rate with above 2,500 deaths per

³ NPC 2019, Fifteenth Five Year Plan (2019/2020-2023/2024), GoN Nepal

⁴ MoHA, NEOC, DRR portal accessed on 1 September 2022

⁵GoN (2015). Nepal Earthquake 2015: Post Disaster Needs Assessment Vol. B: sector reports. Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

year and is in increasing trend with the expansion of road network across the country. Snake bites, cold and heat waves are other major incident occurring and affecting people annually. Meanwhile since 2020, COVID-19 has killed 12,001 people until August 31, 2022.

Disasters have differential impacts on different social groups. Specifically, vulnerable groups including women, children, elderly citizens, people with disabilities and marginalized communities are the most susceptible to these disasters. More women died (55 per cent) than men (45 per cent) in 2015 earthquake in Nepal⁶. Heavy rain and floods affect mud and mortar houses more than concrete ones⁷. Similarly, fire affects houses made with wood and thatch, which can catch fire easily, thus making poorer population more vulnerable.

Disasters slow down development process and make the future susceptible costing millions of dollars to Nepal's economy each year. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate dropped to 2 per cent in 2015 from 6 per cent in 2014 and further dropped down to 0.4 per cent in 2016 after the devastating 2015 earthquake. Similarly, the GDP growth rate dropped down to -2.12 per cent in fiscal year 2019/20 due to COVID-19⁸. This is the lowest in the last two decades which is severer than that of the devastating earthquake of 2015. Before the COVID-19, the growth rates were 7.6 per cent in 2018 and 9 per cent in 2017⁹, which was a gaining momentum after the earthquake.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had wide ranging impacts on different development and service sectors in addition to the direct health impacts. The cumulative COVID-19 caseload reached 997,346 people with 12,001 deaths (as of 31 August 2022) since the first case was recorded on 23 January 2020. The highest casualty was witnessed among the 60-69 age groups (Figure 1). Of the total infected cases, 58.8 per cent were male and 41.2 per cent female. From the age group indicator, the highest number of cases was in the 21-40 years age group. Coordinated efforts in coping with the pandemic have limited the death rate to 1.20 per cent. As of 31 August 2022, total 7,248,588 COVID-19 tests (5,890,203 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test and 1,358,385 antigen) were carried out in which 997,346 were tested positive. Of the total infected, 98.48 per cent of the infected are recovered while 0.32 per cent (3,194) are active cases (as of 31 August 2022) as per the SitRep of the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP)¹⁰.

According to the UNDP Rapid Assessment Survey in 2020, 41 per cent of women lost their jobs during the lockdown compared to 28 per cent of men¹¹. Owing to the negative growth rate, the GDP dropped to NPR 2,064.60 billion (US\$ 17.21 billion) in 2019/20 from NPR 2,109.26 billion (US\$ 17.58 billion) in 2018/19¹². (Calculated exchange rate US \$1 =NPR 120)

Figure 1: Death due to COVID-19 by Age Group

⁶GoN (2015). Nepal Earthquake 2015: Post Disaster Needs Assessment Vol. B: sector reports. Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

⁷GoN (2017). Nepal Flood 2017: Post Flood Recovery Needs Assessment. Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

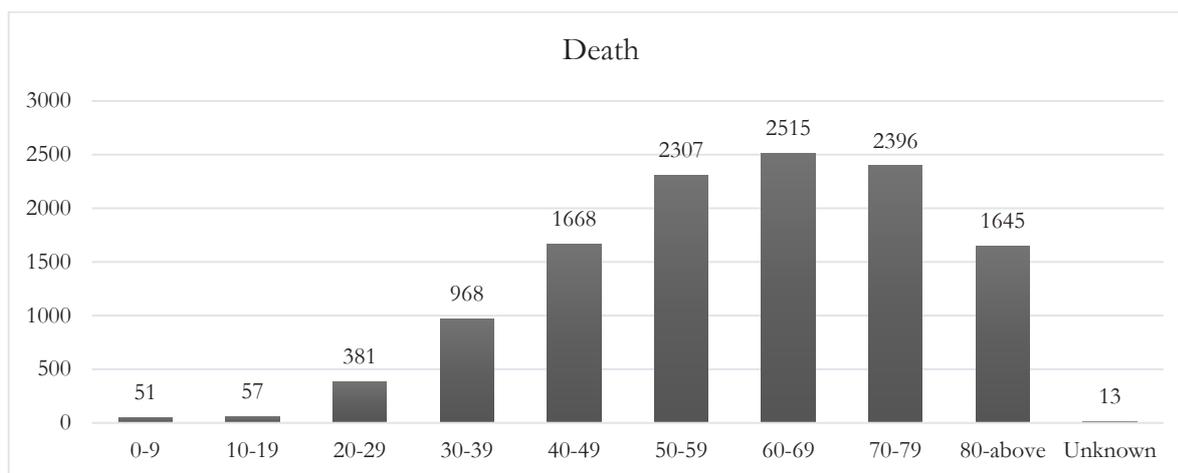
⁸ Government of Nepal, Ministry of Finance, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Economic Survey 2020/21

⁹ International Monetary Fund, April 2021 as quoted in Government of Nepal, Ministry of Finance, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Economic Survey 2020/21

¹⁰MoHP. Situation Report (SitRep) about COVID-19 related response. Published on 1 September 2022.

¹¹ Rapid Assessment of Socio-Economic Impact of Covid-19 In Nepal, United Nations Development Program, UN House, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal

¹² Government of Nepal, Ministry of Finance, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Economic Survey 2020/21



Source: <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/> Data accessed on 1 September 2022.

3. Progress in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Commitments

Nepal participated in the previous ministerial conferences such as in Delhi, India (02-05 November 2016) and in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (03-06 July 2018) with high priority. The Ulaanbaatar Conference issued a 28-Point Declaration¹³ and Action Plan (2018-2020)¹⁴ of the Asia Regional Plan for the implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 and related international agreements¹⁵. The National Strategic Action Plan on DRR (2018-2020) had prioritized regional as well as national and local actions focusing on achieving SFDRR priority actions and targets at national and regional levels.

Worldwide impact of COVID-19 pandemic affected smooth implementation of the action plan. Amid COVID-19, Asia-Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (APP-DRR) Forum was organized on 8 - 9 December 2021 in Brisbane, Australia by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Government of Australia. The APPDRR Forum was attended by 168 delegates from across the region and launched Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021-2024 for the Implementation of the SFDRR¹⁶. The plan has stipulated regional, national and local actions in each priority action of the SFDRR.

In line with these global and regional efforts and commitments, Nepal has continued its efforts to disaster risk reduction and management through the improvement of policy, institutional structures, plans and programs. These efforts were also shared and discussed in the last Global Platform for DRR (GPDRR) held in Indonesia on 23 - 28 May 2022.

Reflecting on past conferences and actions plans as mentioned above, this section attempts to provide brief synopsis of progress following the themes of the APMCDRR 2022 while also embracing with the SFDRR as a mountainous country.

¹³https://www.preventionweb.net/files/56219_ulaanbaatardeclarationfinal.pdf Accessed on 30 August 2022.

¹⁴https://www.preventionweb.net/files/56219_actionplan20182020final.pdf. Accessed on 30 August 2022.

¹⁵ For example: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the Agenda for Humanity, the New Urban Agenda, the SIDS Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

¹⁶<https://www.undrr.org/publication/asia-pacific-action-plan-2021-2024-implementation-sendai-framework-disaster-risk>. Last accessed on 03 September 2022.

3.1. Update on Implementation of Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030)

Nepal has made satisfactory progress on implementation of the SFDRR. The Government of Nepal (GoN) prepared the National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) on DRR in 2018 in line with the SFDRR. Table 2 presents summary of key achievements in SFDRR priority areas. The following section highlight Nepal’s progress in disaster risk governance (section 3.2), DRR financing (section 3.3), disaster response and build-back-better for resilient cities and settlements (section 3.4), localization and inclusion (section 3.5), COVID-19 recovery and its lessons (section 3.6), SDGs and climate actions (section 3.7), leave no-one behind (section 3.8) and science, technology and knowledge (section 3.9).

The GoN has initiated process to carry out mid-term evaluation of the implementation of SFDRR in 2022-2023. The evaluation will provide detailed reflection of the progress and strategies for the remaining period until 2030.

Table 2: Summary of SFDRR Progress

SFA Priorities	NSAP Priorities	Current Status (2022)
1. Understanding disaster risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazard wise assessment of risk Inter-agency coordination of multi-hazard risk assessment Development of effective Disaster Information and Management System (DIMS) Capacity Building for Understanding risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landslide Risk Mapping of 14 districts out of 77 DRR Portal and Databases Plan and budget for Structural Integrity Assessment of all schools and public facilities Revision of national probabilistic seismic hazard map of Nepal. Geological Studies in 35 sites affected by landslides and risk zones delineated. Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity Assessment at federal, provincial and local level. 33Municipalities developed Local Disaster Resilience Framework Regular TV programme, Bulletins, PSAs and audio-visuals via social media.
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing and Strengthening Organizational Structures Developing Legal and Regulatory Frameworks Collaboration and Partnership for Disaster Risk Governance Ensuring Inclusiveness in Disaster Risk Reduction Guidelines for DRRM operationalization at federal, provincial and local level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of NDRRMA DRRM organizational structure at province and local level National DRR Policy 2018 Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Plan of Action 2018-2030 DRM localization manual LDCRP guideline Local Development Planning Guideline Guideline for landslide risk assessment Volunteer Bureau Formation and mobilization Guideline

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for DRRM integration into different development sectors • Guidelines for different aspects of disaster response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction • Province and Local Governments have set up institutional structures and policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster Management Fund Mobilization Guideline • Monsoon and Fire Induced Disaster affected Private house reconstruction and rehabilitation guideline • Guideline for landslide risk assessment • Operational Guideline for National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction • Guidelines for civil society organizations and volunteer mobilizations to DRRM
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Investment for Building Resilience • Promoting Public Investment in DRR • Promoting private investment in DRR • Increasing Disaster Resilience through Risk Transfer, Insurance and social Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster Risk Financing Strategy • Disaster Management Fund Mobilization Guideline • Crop Insurance, Health Insurance, Group Life Insurance • COVID-19 Insurance • Sectoral Budget • Central DM Fund established and DM Fund at Province (7) and Local Level (753). • National System for Volunteer Information Management • Building Integrated Platform and Data Portal (Bipad Portal) and other sector databases • Communication and IT system for DRRM. • Monsoon and Fire Induced Disaster affected Private house reconstruction and rehabilitation guideline
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Disaster Preparedness for Effective Disaster Response • Development of Multi-Hazard EWS for Disaster Preparedness • Promoting CBDRR • Strengthening Communication and Dissemination system for Disaster Preparedness • Capacity Building for Search and Rescue • Promoting “Build Back Better” approach in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction Completed; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 704,341 private houses • 6,647 school buildings • 1,197 Health facilities • 920 cultural heritage sites, • 415 government buildings • 216 security agencies buildings • 598 National level responders are trained (MFR, CSSR, HOPE and CADRE). • National Resource Mapping System for Disaster Preparedness and Response • Guidelines of Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA) • Annual Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan • Mass Casualty Ambulances and A grade ambulances at seven Provinces and in Kathmandu

Various government and non-government agencies have initiated policies and technical guidelines as well as e-learning platforms to enhance knowledge and skills on disaster risk understanding, strengthening governance, disaster preparedness, response, recovery, build back better and Gender, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in coordination and facilitation of the NDRRMA and concerned sector agencies.

3.2. Disaster Risk Governance

In 2015, Nepal adopted a federal setup with the provision of federal, provincial and local governments. The DRRM governance has also been crafted in line with the changed structure.

Policy and Legal Framework: Nepal's 2015 Constitution defines the roles and responsibilities of three tiers of government: federal, provincial and local. The country has implemented the National Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2018 which is supported by the National Strategic Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2018-2030 in line with the SFDRR. Province and Local Governments have developed essential legal instruments and established institutional set up for DRRM.

The DRRM Act 2017 and Local Government Operations Act 2017 have established DRRM institutional structures and provided them with mandates of delivering in the spirit of the constitution at various levels. The federal government agencies such as the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) and National Planning Commission (NPC) have been supporting local governments by providing guidelines and sample policy documents to enhance local DRRM. Documents such as, local DRR Strategic Action Plan Guidelines 2021¹⁷ and Guidelines for Local Level Planning 2021¹⁸ guide local plans and actions initiated by local governments. There are several other documents to support local governments and stakeholders about disaster preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction. Guidelines and Templates for Preparing Local DRRM Act, Local DRRM Strategic Plan, Local Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP), Local Emergency Operation Guideline, Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plan (LDCRP), Local Environment and Natural Resource Protection Act are a few of them.

Institutional Structures: Nepal established the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) in 2019 to coordinate, facilitate, operate and manage DRRM activities in the country. The DRRM National Council, the apex disaster risk management body, is chaired by the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister. The council provides strategic direction and approves disaster related policies and formulates strategies. Under the National Council, the Executive Committee (EC), which is chaired by the Home Minister and it takes care of operational affairs including guidelines, plans and executive decisions and deliveries related to DRRM. The EC coordinates with line ministries for formulation of DRRM policies and strategies. The NDRRMA is the Secretariat to both the National Council, and the EC. Provincial and local governments have their own disaster risk reduction and management structures and arrangements to manage disasters and carry out DRR initiatives at respective levels.

The National Platform for DRR (NPDRR) has been established with its operational guidelines to enhance the coordination among all the stakeholders of DRRM. The Chief Executive of the

¹⁷ MoFAGA 2021. Local DRR Strategic Action Plan Guidelines 2021. <https://mofaga.gov.np/news-notice/2407>

¹⁸ National Planning Commission 2021. Guidelines for Local Level Planning 2021. <https://npc.gov.np/images/category/220106044450Guideline%20for%20LP%20Planning.pdf>

NDRRMA Chairs the National Platform. The platform has nine thematic groups involving various stakeholders – government, semi-government, UN and bilateral partners, international non-government organizations (INGOs), national and local non-government organizations (NGOs), media, disaster affected communities, academia and private sector.

To coordinate disaster preparedness and response activities, the GoN and respective agencies have built a network of Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs). The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) has a National EOC and district EOC exists in all 77 districts. The Provincial governments have their Provincial EOCs and operate in coordination with national EOC and district EOCs. A few municipalities have also established EOCs. However, these EOCs need to be equipped with essential human resources and equipment. Additionally, Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) has Health EOCs (HEOCs) at national and province levels. These HEOCs played a crucial role in containing COVID-19 pandemic. The GoN has established ten Humanitarian Staging Areas (HSA) in major air and land ports, and four HSAs in strategic locations considering their geographic coverage. The government plans to expand these facilities across the country.

Risk integration and mainstreaming: The 15th National Development Plan (2019/2020-2023/2024) of GoN has recognized the need of multi-hazard risk information and integration and mainstreaming of DRRM across the sectors at federal, provincial and local level. Land Use Policy-2015 has been implemented with one of the key objectives to reduce and manage disaster risk that arise due to unplanned land use practices. The government is in the process of developing framework for risk sensitive land use planning as a guiding document for the local government to help them develop and deliver risk sensitive municipal development plans. The National DRR Policy 2018 and Strategic Action Plan (2018-2030) have also stressed on Risk Informed Development.

The government is mapping and consolidating information from multi-hazard risk assessments countrywide such as landslide and flood risk mapping. Identification of risk exposed vulnerable settlements and social groups for relocation is ongoing. The government has initiated Structural Integrity Assessment (SIA) to ensure resilience of the key public physical infrastructures. Sectoral assessments including gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), vulnerability and risk assessment framework for climate change has been developed that provides conceptual guidance to the practitioners for managing risk due to climate induced hazards.

The government is committed to make use of advanced technologies such as satellite imageries, remote sensing and GIS in disaster risk assessment. Use of drones in DRRM is recognized as potential technology for risk assessment and disaster response.

Risk communication and dissemination: The DRR Portal (<http://drportal.gov.np/>) and Disaster Information Management System (DIMS) (<https://bipadportal.gov.np/>) provide real time information about hazards and disaster events, affected population and casualty. Similarly, nodal agencies for different sectors have operated sector specific database systems such as Integrated Health Information Management System¹⁹ and Integrated Education Management Information System^{20, 21}

¹⁹<https://dohs.gov.np/information-systems/health-management-information-section/> and <http://hmis.gov.np/>. Accessed on 10 September 2022.

²⁰<http://iemis.cehrd.gov.np>. Visited on 10 September 2022.

²¹ UNESCO and UNICEF (2021). Nepal Case Study: Situation Analysis on the Effects of and Responses to COVID-19 on the Education Sector in Asia. Page 48/68. <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/16616/file/Nepal%20Case%20Study%20.pdf>

which integrate sector specific database as well as disaster management information. These database management systems support all three tiers of government and stakeholders in sharing early warning information, risk mapping, response and emergency operations that help agencies to coordinate and carry out timely disaster management activities.

Nepal has established a good practice of communicating hydro-meteorological hazards (<http://hydrology.gov.np/> and <http://mfd.gov.np/>). The systems provide real-time and three-day rolling information and warning of risk due to hydro-met hazards like rainfall and flood.

Nepal is promoting impact-based Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) to cover all hazards, simplifying risk communication to all media and all stakeholders and preparing to adopt Common Alert Protocol (CAP) aiming to increase lead-time for the MHEWS. The EWS is supported by enforcement of real-time all hazards monitoring mechanisms through seismic stations, hydro-metrological stations, lightning detection centers, all the major glacier lakes monitoring and regular assessment. The EOCs play vital roles in dissemination of emergency information for rescue and response at the time of disaster events.

Nepal is developing a risk communication strategy, and integration and localization of DIMS (BIPAD portal) for further enhancing the disaster management communication system. The expanded mass media outreach, especially radio, TV and online news portal have contributed to produce and disseminate DRR content. Media's attention and investment is increasing to produce the content on DRR while paying attention to GESI considerations. A recent study indicates that there are 8,953 mass media outlets in Nepal. Of them, 4,789 are print media outlets, 880 FM radio stations, 164 TV channels and 3,120 online portals²². It shows there is a huge potentiality to increase the media's role to produce and disseminate quality and comprehensive DRRM information. The NDRRMA has enhanced risk communication through the BIPAD portal, social media, regular TV program and facilitating interactions among stakeholders on a regular basis.

3.3. Disaster Risk Financing

The 15th National Development Plan (2019/20 – 2023/24) also provisions for creating a budget line for DRRM. The plan directs to invest revenue from natural resources and increase public, private and community investment in DRRM. In line with 15th plan, Nepal produced and implemented the National Strategy for Management of Disaster Risk Financing 2078 (2021). The strategy aims at mobilizing the fund for overall DRRM and has identified 15 strategic areas and actions.

National Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2018 aims at allocation of a certain percentage of annual budgets of federal, provincial and local governments in DRRM. It also lays the foundation for establishing disaster management funds at all three tiers of government. In line with the DRR Policy, the federal government has established a Disaster Management Fund of NPR 1 billion (USD 8 million).

Nepal allocates significant amount (11.53 per cent) of annual budget in social security for the most vulnerable people including elderly citizens, elderly single women, Dalit children below 5 years, people

²² Center for Media Research Nepal (2022). Media in Provinces in Nepal 2022. Center for Media Research Nepal

with disabilities, marginalized and endangered communities²³. Attempts have been made to expand the scope of social security benefits to address DRRM's needs of the beneficiaries.

Nepal has introduced and adopted risk transfer models and insurance mechanisms for risk financing. Over three dozen micro-insurance policies exist in the sectors of agriculture, livestock and health among others, which cover losses from disasters. Nepal responded to COVID-19 by introducing insurance policy schemes. Resources from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) have been mobilized to cover the DRRM cycle to increase public-private finance in DRRM. In addition, Nepal has initiated practice of cash-based assistance for DRRM.

Nepal's two telecommunication companies, Nepal Telecom and Ncell are providing the hydro-meteorological warning message for free. They have been supporting the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) to disseminate the alerts and warnings of hydro-meteorological hazards to the subscribers of each company in specified geographic area when there is high risk of disaster.

3.4. Disaster Response and Build Back Better for Resilient Cities and Settlements

Nepal implemented an earthquake reconstruction program by following Build Back Better (BBB) principles. The program adopted a people centered and owner-driven approach, led by the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA). Based on the learning from the 2015 Earthquake damages reconstruction and recovery program, Nepal has produced frameworks, manuals and guidelines related to the BBB and reconstruction of private houses. Similarly, reconstruction guidelines for multiple hazards have been developed. Nepal shared its experiences and learning on earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation by organizing "International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction (ICNR)" in December 2021.

Nepal is one of the fastest urbanizing countries in the South Asia region²⁴. Urbanization must ensure that risk reduction and resilience is paid due consideration. However, this remains challenging. The GoN has planned to set up 10 model cities across the country to increase resilient settlements. The Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) has taken several initiatives that include preparation of the National Plan of Action for Safer Buildings, Guidelines and Procedures for the Safe Settlements and Integrated Settlement following the learning from the reconstruction program. The ministry has developed 185 Integrated Urban Development Plans (IUDP) to address the multi-hazard risk. The MoUD has also prepared the National Urban Development Strategy (NUDS 2017), Safer Building Code, and Guidelines along with the necessary modifications in line with the BBB principles. The Safer Settlement Implementation Procedure, 2019 has been implemented in 73 districts out of 77 which has replaced 170,000 thatched roof houses. The National Building Code (Seismic Design NBC 105:2020) has been revised after 2015 Gorkha Earthquake²⁵.

For effective response and build-back-better, Nepal has developed and implemented relevant policies and programs, including Integrated Procedure for Grant to Disaster Affected Private Houses, Building Code Enforcement. The NDRRMA coordinates reconstruction activities by managing multi-donor

²³ Estimated expenditure for fiscal year 2078/89 (2021/2022). MoF, GoN 2078 (2021)

²⁴ Various Sources of which 2 are cited here.

https://twocircles.net/2012may09/nepal_fastest_urbanizing_country_south_asia_world_bank.html and <https://gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/HDQ1294.pdf>

²⁵ DPNet (2022). Proceedings: Learning and Sharing National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (NCDRR)

Reconstruction Trust Fund, JICA-Rural Recovery Project, World Bank (WB) supported Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia (CARE) project and GCF supported project. The GoN has initiated development of Trauma Centers along major highways to respond health emergencies in case of road accidents.

3.5. Localization and Inclusion

Disaster risk reduction and building resilient communities' initiatives are only successful when the plans and actions are owned by local communities, led by local governments, and informed by local knowledge and expertise. Nepal has adopted inclusive and bottom-up approach in disaster risk reduction, preparedness and reconstruction through policy, structures and capacity building measures. Constitution has mandated local governments with sole authority to the DRRM as well as shared roles and responsibilities between federal, provincial and local level. Participation of vulnerable groups including children, person with disabilities, elderly and women for the identification of disaster risk and its mitigation actions is crucial and important to make community resilient. These groups especially children, young people and women can play as agent of change to make community better prepare and address disaster and climate risk.

The MoHA, the nodal ministry for DRRM, has been initiating a policy process to unpack these provisions and bring clarity in the delineation of roles, responsibilities and accountabilities between three levels of the government along with the coordination between them for disaster risk reduction, response and reconstruction. National Planning Commission (NPC) has issued guidelines to integrate DRRM into local governments annual development plans. Similarly, the MoFAGA has prepared and shared Local DRR Strategic Action Planning Guidelines (2021) to localize SFDRR at local level.

The GoN has been working with UN organizations, INGOs, NGOs and individual experts to help local governments to rapidly take up their roles and mandates provided by the Constitution and Local Government Operations Act 2017. The MoFAGA has been supporting the local governments with model policy documents. Local Governments have utilized these models as example to prepare their own policies. As the result:

- All 753 local governments have their own local laws and policies on the DRRM.
- All Local Governments have been operating Disaster Management Fund for disaster preparedness, response, reconstruction, and resettlement. Estimated total fund mobilized by the local governments altogether is about US\$ 16 million. During the time of COVID-19, the local government effectively utilized these funds to overcome the pandemic.
- Local EOCs have been operated by 116 Local Governments.
- 319 Local Governments prepared Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan.
- The Humanitarian Cluster Approach is also in the process of localization through appropriate guidelines and institutional structures.

Besides, the MOFAGA is coordinating nationwide DRRM orientation program to the Local Government leaders. Newly elected leaders from 353 Local Governments were provided orientation training through this program till 31 August 2022. This program aims to cover all 753 Local Governments in 2022.

Governments, civil society actors including private sectors and international organizations have worked together who represent in the planning and execution through formal committees, humanitarian clusters and various task groups. Emphasis will be placed on showcasing how local and indigenous knowledge in disaster risk reduction and management planning can improve outcomes and build inclusive resilience.

3.6. COVID-19 Recovery

The Government of Nepal promptly and strategically responded to COVID-19 to save lives. Among the response measures, following three strategies are important.

- I. Focus on 10 pillars of response to COVID-19²⁶.
- II. Adopt cluster approach to respond to COVID-19 with the support from the UN in Nepal²⁷. All the clusters for humanitarian response were activated to the level they needed. The health cluster had an additional nine sub-clusters
- III. Response through budgetary mechanism. The government increased the Health Sector budget from 5.11 per cent in fiscal year 2019/2020²⁸ to 7.8 per cent in 2020/2021²⁹. The total budget, however, was reduced by 3.8 per cent in 2020/2021. The government also coordinated internationally to access international financial and technical supports.

On COVID-19 response and vaccination with the aforementioned strategic action points, the GoN performed the response competently with 98.8 per cent recovery limiting the death rate to 1.2 per cent (as of 31 August 2022). Nepal carried out tracing, testing, isolation, treatment and vaccination measures. On vaccination, Nepal has used Covishield, Vero Cell, Moderna, J&J and Pfizer vaccines. Nepal has so far vaccinated 95 per cent with first dose and 92 per cent with full dose for above 12 years population (Figure 2). Nepal reached the milestone of vaccinating 70 per cent population with second dose on 20 July 2022 and reached the landmark of administering more than 50 million COVID-19 vaccine doses on 13 August 2022. From 23 June 2022, Nepal has started COVID-19 vaccination for the 5-to-12-year population, which will be completed in two phases.

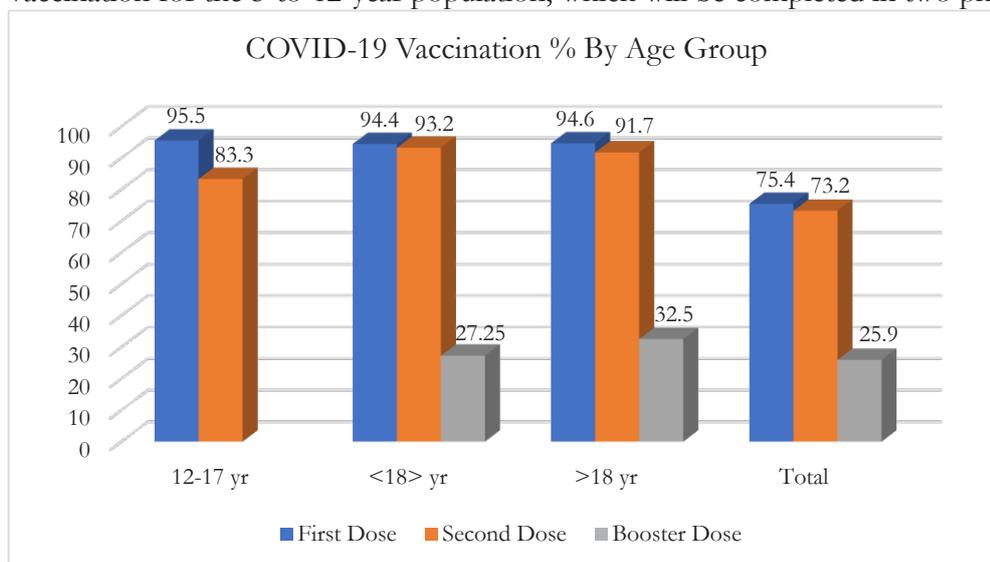


Figure 2: Vaccination Against COVID-19 by Age Group

Source: <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/>Data accessed on 1 September 2022.

²⁶MoHP. (2021). Responding to COVID-19: Health sector preparedness, response and lessons learnt. Ministry of Health and Population, Kathmandu

²⁷ COVID-19 Nepal: Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP), UN Nepal, Jan2021

²⁸ Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2019/2020, Government of Nepal, Ministry of Finance, 2019

²⁹ Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2020/2021, Government of Nepal, Ministry of Finance, 2020

Learning from COVID-19

Following are Nepal's learning from COVID-19³⁰³¹

- The health sector preparedness need improvement to manage pandemic like COVID-19. Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans (DPRP) prepared at national and sub-national levels focused primarily on recurrent health problems. The capacity to anticipate a pandemic like COVID-19 was inadequate. It is imperative to build a sustainable health emergency preparedness system to deal with pandemics as well. Learning from the COVID-19, Health Cluster has included the pandemic into its DPRP. Other clusters such as Education Clusters has included plans and strategies to continuing school education and learning for children and adults during pandemic into its DPRP.
- Investing in resilience and preparedness is essential and governments at national to local levels must play a key role to ensure adequate investment and necessary capacity building. The current investment for health facilities and capacity was inadequate to respond to the pandemic, impacts of which can cost higher compared to the investment. It is essential to invest in national health and research systems to enhance laboratory capacity and that of the workforce and boost up their morale.
- Joining hands with the private sector is vital for their potential roles in finance, technology and supplies among others.
- Uniform and integrated data and reporting systems and its use played crucial roles. Management and sharing of real-time and right risk information to the right person by using advanced technology is of utmost need for community trust.
- Strong coordination among three tiers of government and community engagements are imperative. Despite the existence of institutions in all levels, there is a need for a clear coordination mechanism among those institutions across both horizontal and vertical. The local governments have played crucial roles to manage the holding centers and isolation camps to respond to COVID-19.
- Multi-sectoral approach is crucial and important to be better prepare and timely and effective response. It is not only limited to health emergency as it impacted on social, economic and livelihood of people.
- International support for skill, technology and funding are vital. Social cohesiveness and volunteerism have helped the country to tackle the pandemic.
- Women leaders' capacity has enhanced to deal with pandemics at the local and provincial level.
- Changes in personal behavior, such as hand-washing, wearing face masks, isolation and sanitization helped stem the tide of infections.
- Initially, Nepal considered COVID-19 pandemic as a common health issue. As a result, Nepal missed to address the pandemic with a comprehensive disaster response right from the beginning.

³⁰MoHP. (2021). Responding to COVID-19: Health sector preparedness, response and lessons learnt. Ministry of Health and Population, Kathmandu

³¹ Nepal Human Development Report 2020. Beyond Graduation: Productive Transformation and Prosperity Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

3.7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Climate Action

Disaster Risk Reduction National Policy (2018) has the long-term vision to contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by making the nation safer, climate adaptive and resilient to disasters. The policy has special focus on flood, inundation and drought resistant and climate change adaptive agricultural systems. Most DRRM actions aim to build resilience to climate induced disasters and adaptive capacity to climate change.

The Climate Change Policy (2019) has eight sectoral focuses and four cross-cutting focuses. Of them, DRRM is one. National Adaptation Plan (NAP) has been formulated in line with the policy to help integrate CCA and DRRM in practice. At the action level, NAP intends to promote shock responsive practices, multi-hazards EWS, development of federal and provincial strategies and action plans on mitigation of climate induced disasters, development of regulatory framework for domestic and industrial fire control and mitigation and promote culture of safety and build climate resilience through land use planning³². One of priorities of adaptation component of Nepal's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 2020 is to establish multi-hazard monitoring and early warning system covering all the provinces by 2030³³.

At the local level, the local governments prepare integrated DRRM and climate change plan by using Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience Planning Guideline. The Local Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (LDPRP) also address the issue of climate change in DRRM. Application of climate change risk assessment tools, methodologies and guidelines informs the climate risk to development programs from local to federal level.

Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is focused about gender equality. Nepal's SDG targets for climate action are gender sensitive and focus on climate smart villages, climate smart farming, climate change education and GHG mitigation³⁴. It intends to integrate climate change measures into policies, strategies and planning to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of people and stakeholders to natural and climate-related disasters.

Nepal's SDG target for poverty reduction has witnessed remarkable achievement. But it is challenged by disasters such as COVID 19³⁵ and the earthquake. Without addressing disaster and climate risk in all the targets, the SDG achievement will be strenuous. The federal government has prepared a resource book for Localizing SDGs, 2020 ³⁶ that helps the local governments assess the potentials while they deliver the SDG targets.

Under federalism, significant responsibilities have been delegated to local governments for development and the DRR. However, most development works at local level including road construction fail to meet prescribed standards³⁷. It is essential that the local governments rightly understand the risk of disaster to development, and they rightly address the issues at local level.

³²GoN, National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2021-2050, Summary for Policymakers

³³GoN, 2020. Second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Government of Nepal, Kathmandu

³⁴ NPC, 2017. NEPAL Sustainable Development Goals, Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030. NPC, GoN

³⁵ NPC (2020). Nepal's Sustainable Development Goals Progress Assessment Report 2016–2019, NPC, GoN

³⁶ NPC 2077 (2020). Resource book for localizing SDGs, NPC/ GoN

³⁷ NPC, 2017. NEPAL Sustainable Development Goals, Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030. NPC, GoN

3.8. Leave No One Behind (LNOB)

Nepal's DRR policy and the subsequent DRR action plan provide the representation and meaningful participation of women, children, senior citizens, people with disabilities and people from economically and socially marginalized communities in all steps and structures of disaster risk reduction. The policy states that the public physical infrastructure should be friendly to senior citizen, women, children and people with disabilities.

People including lactating mothers, pregnant women, girls and boys, children, senior citizens, marginalized groups and communities, and people with disabilities should not be left behind as per the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle. These people are not only vulnerable but also change agent and champions for climate action and DRR. DRRM Act and sector policies such as education sector policies and plans³⁸ have provisions to minimize vulnerabilities, empowering children, enhancing school based DRR approaches with knowledge, technology as important strategy to strengthen community resilience.

The objective of having global humanitarian clusters at national, provincial, district and local level is to effectively address the issues of different group of people and their specific DRR requirements. The NPDRR has set up nine thematic groups to ensure none of the stakeholders is excluded in national dialogues. The specific guidelines and procedures prepared for disaster preparedness, response, reconstruction and relief distributions have included criteria and processes to identify and select the most vulnerable and the affected people and communities. The DRR finance strategy also ensures the access of most vulnerable communities to disaster insurance.

3.9. Science, Technology and Knowledge

Nepal has put efforts to enhance science, technology and harness knowledge including indigenous knowledge. DRR has been included into the school and university curricula and in the last 10 years, university graduates and researchers have contributed to risk informed DRRM planning across the sectors including climate change adaptation.

The GoN has started using the latest technologies and devices such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Virtual Reality (VR), and Augmented Reality (AR) for multi-hazard risk assessment, communication and response. Use of the UAV (commonly known as drones) and computer aided technologies are introduced in hazard risk mapping, analysis, modeling and database management. Both government and NGOs are utilizing satellite imageries to mapping and analysis of hazards such as landslides, floods, earthquakes and fires. However, such initiatives need to expand to all parts of the country and demand technical competencies and resource.

Similarly, there is now increased access to weather forecasting technologies through regional and international cooperation. The DHM and the NDRRMA have implemented Impact Based Forecasting (IBF) as pilot and aim to expand it in future.

There has been significant improvement in the use of communication technologies in the DRRM. Real-time communication technologies have improved flood early warning systems and disaster

³⁸GoN, (various dates). Education Sector Policy, 2076. Education Sector Plan 2021-30. Comprehensive School Safety Minimum Package, 2018.

response, which has contributed to reduce loss of life, properties and livelihoods in a few major river systems. Agencies have been implementing forecast based anticipatory actions enabling vulnerable communities to take precautions before the disaster would hit the area.

Nepal Army, Nepal Police, and Armed Police Force Nepal have improved their response capabilities with search and rescue technologies, equipment and training. Focus is given to the response of persisting hazards such as earthquake, flood, landslide and accidents as well as pandemic like COVID-19. Health sector has improved its COVID-19 surveillance and response capacity by using advance technologies.

However, the multi-hazard vulnerability including changing climate system has warranted huge requirement on science and technology. There is huge gap between need and existing country capacity. Therefore, the country needs strong technological and financial support for research and development in the field of DRR and resilience including impacts of climate change.

4. Capacity Development

Nepal aims to reduce disaster related deaths, injuries, affected families and increase resilience from local to national levels through a pool of well trained and motivated human resources at all levels. Such human resources are expected in line agencies of the government, NGOs, communities including vulnerable groups and private sectors in a whole-of-society approach.

Nepal is currently focusing on the capacity development of province and local level governments on DRRM that include technical, formulation of relevant policy and legal documents and mainstreaming and integrating DRRM in development plans and programs. Innovative approaches like the E-learning Platform are being promoted. Some specific training and capacity building activities include climate change risk assessment, protection against lightning (PaL), community action for disaster response (CADRE), hospital preparedness for emergencies (HOPE), training of rescue divers, drills and simulation training to district emergency operation centers (DEOCs), impact-based multi-hazard early warning system.

National capacities on DRRM need to adhere to the international standards. For example, UN accredits Search and Rescue (SAR) skills that meet its standards. For such skills, the government needs to collaborate with international partners such as INSARAG (International Search and Rescue Advisory Group). Recently, Government has initiated accreditation process for INSARAG Medium SAR Team of Nepal Army's disaster management unit and has requested formally to expedite the process. DRRM research and training program are the areas that need strengthening for effective delivery of DRRM objectives as envisioned by the DRRM policies and strategies.

For strengthening the capacity of both communities and stakeholders the GoN has been undertaking several initiatives including following:

- Technology for multi-hazard risk mapping, monitoring, early warning and disaster response,
- Building local government capacity on DRRM,
- Building capacity of women, people with disability and local communities to plan, prepare and response to disasters including climate change and unforeseen pandemic like COVID-19,
- Strengthening national DRRM Database,

- DRRM in different levels of school curriculum,
- Mock-drills and simulation exercises for different hazard induced disaster response,
- Development of Search and Rescue (SAR) teams as per INSARAG Standards,
- Fire brigade with advance technologies including Robotic Fire Fighting,
- Emergency logistic capacity including infrastructure, technology, equipment and human resource,
- Sensitization on Core Humanitarian Standard, and right based and inclusive DRRM,
- Awareness on protection against lightning and electric fire safety,
- Training and Planning as per Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE),
- Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE) Training,
- Disaster risk financing including effective and efficient risk sharing and risk transfer including innovative schemes such index-based insurance, pool and bond,
- Strengthening indicator-based disaster resilience measurement tools – such as Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC).

5. Challenges

Nepal's key challenges to deliver DRRM objectives include the following.

- I. The overall challenge for Nepal is to effectively deliver its DRRM strategic action plan and meet the targets within the stipulated timeline. Despite adoption of significant number of policies and strategies for DRRM, achieving targets is challenging. Local and provincial governments are comparatively new institutional set up under the federal structure of governance and they require huge technical and trained human resources to take over DRRM responsibilities.
- II. National capacity to respond to mega disasters need improvement. Nepal responded and managed the recent mega disasters like 2015 earthquake, COVID-19, and floods and landslides events, but with great efforts and support from all levels of national and international partners and at the cost of development. Therefore, Nepal needs skills like SAR operations, emergency preparedness capacity for response, and others at par with the international standards.
- III. Nepal's capacity to anticipate mega disasters with high confidence and prepare for them is inadequate. Such mega disasters could be due to economic shocks, biological hazards, and climate events, seismic or geological hazards. Our recent past experiences including from the COVID-19 event have given lessons like this.
- IV. Disasters in Nepal have regional and international linkages. It is very true for climate events as the air and the flood travel across the borders with cross-border impacts. There is a high need for regional coordination and collaboration to address the trans-border impacts of disaster. Regional weather and trans-border river monitoring and sharing of information are equally challenging.
- V. Financing DRRM is another challenge for Nepal. Firstly, the overall resources available to the government from its revenue are limited, and secondly, priority for financing DRRM is always secondary to the development, especially the infrastructure development programs.

6. Ways forward

For Nepal, the tasks ahead are to deliver the policies in action across the three tiers of government and stakeholders. Key areas of focus in the coming days for DRRM include the following.

- I. Nepal will focus on strengthening DRRM governance and technical capacity at federal, provincial and local levels. Working documents including guidelines for localizing national DRRM strategic action plans, multi-hazard risk assessment tools and methodologies, preparing risk sensitive development plans and embedding risk in investment decisions, etc. will be developed and adopted.
- II. Nepal will continue to put gender equality and social inclusion in high priority in policy, planning and actions of all phases, stages and processes of the DRRM. We will continue to work together with civil society organizations, especially with those focused on gender, disability and social inclusion to build on overall capacity for inclusive DRRM.
- III. NPDRR will be strengthened, and the platform will be established at local levels to enhance the coordination between stakeholders at grassroots levels including engagement of vulnerable communities. The NPDRR will enhance participation of development partners including the private sector, and vulnerable communities especially women and people with disability in programing and planning of DRRM and their delivery. The coordination across the tiers of government will be strengthened by developing and implementing guiding document in line with DRRM Act and Regulation.
- IV. The disaster information management system (DIMS) initiated in 2019 will be fully strengthened, maintained, systematized and operationalized in all 753 local levels (nationwide) for real time data sharing. DIMS will ensure disintegrated information by social groups (gender, age, disadvantaged and marginalized groups, indigenous people, disability, etc.) in addition to hazards and impacts to different sectors at various levels in different geographical locations.
- V. Nepal is committed to strengthen disaster risk governance, increase investment and nurture national and international partnerships and disaster risk financing to build a disaster-resilient nation. We are also committed to implement global and regional frameworks for DRR and on building resilience, leaving no one behind. Furthermore, to enhance risk-informed programming for both humanitarian and development, we are equally committed to make our policies and plans risk-informed and child-sensitive in order to mainstream multi-hazard disaster risks and climate actions into local government's period plans. We believe that the learning from this platform APMCDRR will enable us to pave our path toward achieving the targets of SFDRR to build disaster-resilient communities.
- VI. Nepal will enhance and strengthen regional and global coordination and collaboration, especially with its immediate neighbors, China and India, with whom we share the regional climate change issues that are linked by air and water.
- VII. International coordination will also be enhanced with UN and relevant partners for building national capacity to bring it to international standards as for example in SAR and accessing international funds for DRRM. We expect a separate international funding mechanism for

DRRM under the UN System for the poor and the most vulnerable countries to help them achieve the SFDRR targets.

- VIII. GoN has commitment to invest in DRRM research and education to build national capacity to enhance knowledge and skill on understanding risk. Assessment of multi-hazard disaster risk at national, provincial and local levels will be a focal area for providing risk information to the development programs.
- IX. Nepal anticipates that the APMCDRR will be a crucial to enhance capacity of poor and vulnerable countries, robust strategies to manage unanticipated emergencies like COVID-19 and adverse impacts of climate change in the Asia Pacific region. Regional cooperation will help create incremental capacity to face unanticipated disaster risk and associated challenges successfully.
- X. As Nepal is one of the at risk country as per climate impact, unprecedented rise in nature and scale of disasters are ascribed to climate change. The Climate funds need to be utilized in risk mitigation and other DRR measures, for which much more advocacy to come up with it as a common agenda for safer world.

Supporting Agencies:



This position paper has been prepared in consultation with nine thematic groups of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) namely, i) Government, ii) Semi-Government, iii) UN and Donor Agencies, iv) INGO, v) NGO, vii) Media, viii) Academia and, ix) Affected Communities. NPDRR reached more than 2600 individuals and stakeholders of these groups to get feedback on this position paper.