



DiMaNN Newsletter

National Disaster Management Network of Nepal (DiMaNN)

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In 2023, the National Disaster Management Network (DiMaNN) played a pivotal role in advancing disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) initiatives in Nepal through a series of impactful events. The organization, in collaboration with various partners, organized workshops on DRR sectoral integration, emphasizing the need for cooperation across diverse sectors. Furthermore, national meetings and interaction programs focused on the localization of DRR shed light on the importance of community engagement and capacity building at the local level. DiMaNN's commitment to humanitarian efforts was evident in workshops addressing the Grand Bargain, leading to the establishment of a National Reference Group to enhance effectiveness and inclusivity in aid response. The organization also facilitated a guest lecture emphasizing fair partnerships and the significance of localization in humanitarian endeavors. A key highlight was the national workshop reflecting on DRRM localization, fostering collaboration among stakeholders and laying the groundwork for a more resilient Nepal. Additionally, DiMaNN oriented stakeholders on disaster governance and the protection of human rights during disasters, underscoring the critical importance of safeguarding dignity and prioritizing vulnerable populations in relief efforts. Overall, DiMaNN's multifaceted approach in 2023 aimed at promoting collaboration, inclusivity, and effective disaster management practices across various domains.

DiMaNN in collaboration with NPDRR organized a Workshop on DRR Sectoral Integration Mechanism



On 24 March 2023, the National Disaster Management Network (DiMaNN), in partnership with the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) under the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), organized a workshop with technical support from Habitat for Humanity and Action Aid Nepal at Hotel Himalaya in Lalitpur. The event was held and focused on the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Sectoral Integration Mechanism. The workshop aimed to bring together key stakeholders from various sectors to engage in discussions and exchange ideas on the mainstreaming of DRR into their respective fields. The gathering provided a platform for experts and practitioners to share their experiences and insights, explore collaborative opportunities, and identify challenges in integrating DRR across sectors.

The program was chaired by Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DiMaNN and Member Secretary of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR), with Mr. Anil Pokharel, Chairperson of NPDRR and Executive Director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), serving as the Chief Guest.

Various speakers presented at the workshop, highlighting the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) into different sectors. Dr. Raju Thapa emphasized the need for cooperation and coordination in sectors such as agriculture, water resources, infrastructure, tourism, and health to improve disaster risk management. He provided recommendations for each sector, including implementing climate-smart practices, building resilient infrastructure, and integrating DRR into planning and policies.

Mr. Raju Chapagain discussed policies and regulations related to shelter from a DRR perspective, emphasizing the importance of safe and secure housing for human dignity and stability. He called for proper land management and housing policies to protect communities from potential disasters.

Mr. Anil Pokhrel highlighted the challenges faced in housing, financing, and loans, and stressed the need to mainstream disaster risk financing. He discussed initiatives for building resilient housing and the importance of local disaster resilience frameworks.

Other speakers, including Mr. Dhruva Bahadur Khadka, Under Secretary and Spokesperson of NDRRMA, Ms. Anita Niraula, Joint Secretary of NDRRMA, and Mr. Shyam Sundar Jnavaly of NDRC Nepal, also emphasized the importance of integrating DRR into development planning and activities across sectors to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance resilience.

During an open discussion session on disaster risk reduction (DRR), several suggestions were put forward to integrate DRR into various sectors. The proposed measures include conducting risk assessments, developing resilience plans, and implementing climate-resilient practices. Sectors such as

agriculture, business, biodiversity, climate, disability, gender, environment, education, food and nutrition, health, irrigation, infrastructure, and roads and transport were all considered. Additionally, the discussion highlighted the need to address specific questions for each sector based on the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). These priorities include understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance, investing in DRR for resilience, and enhancing disaster preparedness and response. The suggested measures aim to involve communities, improve information exchange, build capacity, and ensure coordination among stakeholders. By integrating DRR across sectors and addressing key priorities, communities can enhance their resilience and effectively manage disaster risks.

During the workshop, experts and practitioners emphasized the need for continuous improvement in disaster risk management. They discussed various sectors that should be involved, such as agriculture, water resources, environment, health, education, infrastructure, and many others. Additional sectors discussed included finance, media, gender, humanitarian aid, and indigenous knowledge. The workshop highlighted the challenges faced in accessing safe housing and stressed the importance of proper land management and housing policies for disaster protection. Key messages from the speakers emphasized the impact of disasters on businesses and the economy, the importance of anticipatory action, and the need for improved data collection and analysis. Other important themes included mental health and psychosocial support, the role of the media in disseminating

information during disasters, and the integration of disaster planning for women and children. The speakers also emphasized addressing the needs of vulnerable populations and tackling the root causes of vulnerability.

DiMaNN Organizes National Meeting and Interaction Program on Localization of Disaster Risk Reduction



On April 8, 2023, the National Disaster Management Network (DiMaNN) held a national meeting of DiMaNN members and an interaction program on the localization of disaster risk reduction (DRR). The event, which took place at Alpha House in Baneshwor, Kathmandu, brought together forty-seven DiMaNN members from across the country. The program aimed to share experiences, learnings, and perspectives on the effective implementation of DRRM at the local level, emphasizing coordination and collaboration with local government and other stakeholders.

Program

The program was chaired by Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DiMaNN, who welcomed all the members and emphasized the importance of DiMaNN and its role in policy advocacy, awareness, and capacity building for DRRM at the local level. Mr. Thapa highlighted the significance of localization and urged

Highlights:



members to focus on its effective implementation for DRRM and sustainable development.

Dr. Raju Thapa, a DiMaNN Board member and Vice Chairperson of DPNet, delivered a presentation on the current status of disasters in Nepal. He emphasized the role of civil society organizations and their efforts to improve disaster risk reduction through localization. Dr. Thapa underscored the importance of incorporating local knowledge, technologies, and resources to reduce the impact of disasters.

Ms. Chetana Loksham from The Relief Trust (TRT) discussed the significance of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in DRRM. She highlighted the need to prioritize mental health in overall development and DRRM, emphasizing the high prevalence of mental health issues in Nepal. Ms. Loksham called for awareness, training, counseling, and policy development to address mental health in disaster contexts.

Mr. Daya Sagar Shrestha, Secretary of DiMaNN, emphasized the interlinkage between DRR and sustainable development. He explained how DRR and climate change align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and urged network members to be aware of the DRR actions that contribute to specific SDGs. Mr. Shrestha also highlighted the opportunities available for DiMaNN within the National Platform for DRR (NPDRR), chaired by the Executive Director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA).

Open Floor Discussion:
During the open floor discussion, participants highlighted several key points and issues. They expressed the fruitful nature of the national meeting,

emphasizing the importance of networking, coordination, collaboration, and information sharing among member organizations. Capacity building, knowledge updates, and the review of laws and policies related to disaster, crisis, social justice, and human rights were considered essential.

The participants stressed the need to prioritize MHPSS and advocated for its inclusion in local development plans and budgets. They also discussed the integration of DRR in all development programs and emphasized the importance of awareness sessions, regular interactions, and sharing meetings to disseminate updates and information among DiMaNN members.

Conclusion:

The national meeting and interaction program organized by DiMaNN provided a platform for members to share experiences and insights on the localization of disaster risk reduction. The program emphasized the importance of coordination, collaboration, and partnership between various stakeholders at the local level. Localization, social inclusion, and sectoral integration were identified as crucial aspects of effective DRRM. The participants highlighted the need for capacity building, knowledge updates, and the review of relevant laws and policies to strengthen DRR efforts. Mental health and psychosocial support were identified as key areas that require prioritization in both development and disaster contexts. The discussions reinforced the importance of networking, coordination, and awareness sessions to enhance the collective efforts of DiMaNN and its members in promoting community resilience and sustainable development.

DiMaNN organized a workshop on Grand Bargain and National Reference Group in Nepal



Summary: A significant workshop on the Grand Bargain and the establishment of a National Reference Group (NRG) took place in Lalitpur on May 24, 2023. The workshop was organized by DiMaNN and DPNet in collaboration with ActionAid Nepal, Tearfund, and NEAR. The event highlighted the importance of disaster management, women's inclusion in leadership roles, involvement of women's groups in humanitarian efforts, local leaders' value in response strategies, and the achievements of the Grand Bargain. The workshop concluded with the decision to form a National Reference Group comprising members from various organizations. DPNet was appointed as the coordinator of the committee, which will focus on coordinating initiatives, devising terms of reference, and future plans for the NRG. The workshop aimed to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian aid, promote collective bargaining power, local leadership, and inclusivity in all humanitarian actions.

News in Detail: A thought-provoking workshop addressing the Grand Bargain and the establishment of a National Reference Group (NRG) was recently held in Lalitpur, Nepal. The workshop,

facilitated by DiMaNN and DPNet in partnership with ActionAid Nepal, Tearfund, and NEAR, aimed to promote effective humanitarian response, disaster management, and inclusivity. Distinguished speakers emphasized the need for transparency, efficiency, community involvement, women's leadership, and local leadership in humanitarian aid efforts.

The workshop, chaired by Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DiMaNN/DPNet, commenced with welcoming remarks. Sujeeta Mathema from ActionAid Nepal stressed the importance of disaster management and called for women's inclusion in leadership roles. Mr. Pratap Maharjan of ActionAid highlighted the significance of involving women's groups in humanitarian efforts. Ms. Shahida Arif from NEAR emphasized the value of local leaders in crafting effective response strategies. Mr. Hasta Bahadur Sunar from Tearfund shed light on the achievements of the Grand Bargain. Dr. Raju Thapa shared feedback from DPNet's virtual discussion platform, emphasizing the need for improved transparency, efficiency, and community involvement in disaster aid management. Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha from NEAR explained the origins and structure of the Grand Bargain and highlighted the future role of the NRG.

Formation of the National Reference Group: The workshop concluded with the decision to form a National Reference Group comprising representatives from various organizations, including DiMaNN Nepal, DPNet, NGO Federation, NFDN, RDN, WFDA/FEDO, NSET/NEAR, ActionAid, and Tearfund. DPNet was appointed as the coordinator of the committee, responsible for overseeing its activities

and playing a crucial role in developing the NRG. The committee's focus will be on coordinating initiatives, devising terms of reference, and planning for the future of the NRG.

Collective Vision: The workshop emphasized the collective vision of enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian aid, promoting collective bargaining power, local leadership, and inclusivity in all humanitarian actions. Participants stressed the importance of transparency, accountability, and community involvement in disaster management. The establishment of the NRG and coordination among various stakeholders were seen as key steps toward achieving these goals.

Looking Ahead: The workshop provided valuable insights into the Grand Bargain, the NRG, and the importance of inclusive and transparent humanitarian aid. It set the stage for further discussions and actions to improve the humanitarian aid system in Nepal. The next steps include developing the NRG's terms of reference and future plans.

DiMaNN organizes Guest Lecture on Grand Bargain, Localization, and Its Significance in the Humanitarian Field



May 30, 2023 DiMaNN, in collaboration with DPNNet, NEAR, and Samarpan Academy Institute of Crisis Management Studies (ICMS), recently

organized a guest lecture session focusing on the significance of the Grand Bargain and Localization in the humanitarian field. The event featured Ms. Sahida Arif, a respected humanitarian and resilience expert, who shared insights as the Regional Representative at NEAR (Network for Empowered Aid Response). The session aimed to promote fair partnerships, empower local actors, and improve humanitarian aid systems.

Lecture Details: The lecture, held on May 30, 2023, was attended by esteemed individuals, including Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DiMaNN/DPNet; Mr. Sanat Kumar Basnet, Retired Inspector General of APF Nepal and Chairperson of ICMS; Dr. Raju Thapa, Vice Chair of DPNNet and Member of Board of Directors, ICMS; Mr. Bishnu Pd. Timilsena, General Secretary of DiMaNN; and Mr. Pratap Maharjan from Action Aid Nepal. The program, moderated by Dr. Kishor Adhikari, Principal of ICMS, saw the participation of 44 individuals from various organizations, including ICMS.

Presentation Highlights: Dr. Kishor Adhikari commenced the session with a warm welcome and an introduction to the program. Ms. Sahida Arif then delivered an insightful presentation, starting with an overview of the NEAR network. She highlighted the network's objective of promoting fair partnerships within the aid system and emphasized the importance of local participation in development and disaster management. Ms. Arif underlined the critical role played by local organizations in responding swiftly to crises and saving lives during emergencies.

Moreover, Ms. Arif shed light on the Grand Bargain, an agreement that originated from the World Humanitarian Summit preparations in 2016. She

explained that the Grand Bargain is a partnership between major donors and humanitarian organizations committed to improving the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of humanitarian action. Ms. Arif discussed the evolution of the Grand Bargain, including the endorsement of the Framework and annexes for the Grand Bargain 2.0 in 2021.

Ms. Arif elaborated on the priorities of the Grand Bargain 2.0, which include achieving better humanitarian outcomes through enhanced efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability. She emphasized the importance of quality funding and support for local responders' leadership, delivery, and capacity, as well as the participation of affected communities. The Grand Bargain has grown from involving five major donors and six UN agencies to having 66 signatories, including member states, NGOs, UN agencies, Red Cross/Red Crescent movements, and intergovernmental organizations. These signatories are actively implementing commitments across five workstreams, covering areas such as transparency, local and national responder support, joint needs assessments, participation revolution, and harmonized reporting requirements.

Discussion and Conclusion: The session concluded with an open discussion, where participants raised questions about the capabilities of local NGOs, the involvement of local actors, and mechanisms to enhance their capacity. Ms. Sahida Arif provided insightful answers, referring to core documents such as "How to Implement the Grand Bargain Commitments at The Country-Level?" and "The Grand Bargain 2.0 Endorsed framework and annexes."

Dr. Kishor Adhikari summarized the session, highlighting the significance of Ms. Arif's lecture in promoting effective humanitarian aid delivery at the local level. He expressed gratitude to Ms. Arif for her valuable insights and acknowledged the crucial role played by local communities in addressing challenges.

In closing, Ms. Anita Dhakal, a student from ICMS, delivered a vote of thanks to Ms. Arif for her enlightening session. She expressed gratitude for sharing expertise and providing valuable insights. Ms. Dhakal also extended appreciation to all the participants for their active engagement and presence in the program

National Workshop Explores 'Reflection on DRRM Localization and Way Forward'



Kathmandu, Nepal - August 15, 2023, in a concerted effort to bolster Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) initiatives at the local level, a significant step was taken with the organization of the National Workshop on 'Reflection on DRRM Localization and Way Forward.' The workshop, held in Kathmandu, Nepal, on August 15, 2023, was a collaborative effort orchestrated by ARSOW Nepal in conjunction with DiMaNN, TGH, NFN,

DPNet and Nepal SDG Forum. The event served as a crucial platform for key stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and disaster management experts, to converge and deliberate on strategies for enhancing DRRM efforts with a focus on localizing initiatives. Recognizing the need to strengthen resilience at the grassroots level, the workshop aimed to facilitate a comprehensive reflection on current practices, challenges, and potential pathways forward. Key themes addressed during the workshop included community engagement, capacity building at the local level, and leveraging technology for improved disaster response. Participants explored innovative approaches and best practices, laying the groundwork for a collective vision of a safer and more resilient Nepal. The National Workshop on 'Reflection on DRRM Localization and Way Forward' concluded with a commitment to continued collaboration and concerted efforts in advancing DRRM initiatives. The shared vision is to create a more robust and responsive disaster management framework that prioritizes the unique needs and challenges faced by local communities across Nepal.

DiMaNN organized orientation on “Disaster Governance and Protection of Human Rights during Disaster”



On December 16, 2023, the National Disaster Management Network of Nepal (DiMaNN), in collaboration with its member organization, the Association for Rural Social Welfare (ARSOW – Nepal), organized an orientation session with a presentation entitled "Disaster Governance and Protection of Human Rights during Disaster." This session took place during the annual general meeting of the NGO Federation Karnali province in Surkhet, Nepal.

Mr. Bishnu Prasad Timilsina, General Secretary of DiMaNN, underscored the importance of human rights in the phases of disasters, emphasizing their pivotal role in safeguarding the dignity, safety, and well-being of individuals and communities facing crises. He stated that, during such challenging times, the fundamental right to life became a cornerstone, necessitating comprehensive measures from governments and humanitarian entities to ensure people's protection and safety. Mr. Timilsena highlighted the critical significance of rights such as adequate housing, healthcare, food, and water, particularly in the aftermath of disasters, as integral components for preventing further harm and facilitating recovery. Moreover, he stressed the need to prioritize vulnerable populations, ensuring that women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities were afforded equitable protection. Mr. Timilsena emphasized the principles of non-



discrimination and equality, asserting that relief efforts had to be distributed impartially, with a keen focus on preserving the dignity and respect of those affected.

Mr. Jit Ram Lama, ARSOW Nepal stressed the vital importance of various aspects of human rights especially in the aftermath of disasters, as essential elements for preventing further harm and facilitating recovery. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of prioritizing minorities and vulnerable groups, ensuring fair protection for women, children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. Mr. Lama repeated the principles of non-discrimination and equality, asserting that relief efforts must be distributed impartially, with a careful focus on upholding the dignity and respect of those impacted.

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