

## Program on “Localizing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Enhancing DRR Governance” at Madhesh Province

On September 21, 2024, Janakpur, Madhesh Province, served as the venue for a crucial discussion program titled "Localizing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Enhancing DRR Governance," organized collaboratively by DiMaNN, DPNet, and ARSOW. The event was chaired by Mr. Sanjaya Singh, Chairperson of the NGO Federation Nepal in Dhanusha District, with the chief guest being Mr. Ram Singh Yadava, former Health Minister of Madhesh Province. Notable attendees included Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chair of DiMaNN and Immediate Past President of DPNet, along with prominent representatives from various NGOs and civil society organizations.



During his presentation, Mr. Thapa provided a comprehensive analysis of Nepal's disaster management landscape, highlighting the specific vulnerabilities faced by Madhesh Province, such as floods, road accidents, heat and cold waves, and wildlife attacks. He stressed the urgent need for proactive disaster preparedness and the importance of empowering local communities, particularly in urban areas, to take ownership of disaster resilience efforts. Mr. Thapa also called for increased investment in DRR initiatives and emphasized the close link between climate change and natural disasters, advocating for the implementation of climate adaptation programs alongside DRR efforts.



The program featured an open floor discussion where participants identified key areas for improvement in disaster governance. They underscored the necessity of regular training programs for government officials and community leaders to strengthen capacity and improve coordination. Attendees also highlighted the need for comprehensive data collection to enhance post-disaster management and decision-making. Furthermore, they emphasized the importance of involving local communities, including marginalized groups, in planning and monitoring DRR activities to ensure inclusive governance.



Participants made several recommendations, including integrating DRR into all phases of development planning and establishing multi-stakeholder platforms to foster collaboration among government agencies, civil society, and the private sector. The program concluded with a strong call for action, urging all stakeholders to address the gaps identified during discussions and enhance disaster preparedness and governance in Madhesh Province. Overall, the event was a significant step towards building a more resilient future for the region, providing valuable insights for participants and stakeholders alike.