

PERSISTENCE AND RESILIENCE COME FROM HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY
TO TACKLE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS.



Image Courtesy of Centre for Poverty Analysis



ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024



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1. LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADRRN	Asian Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Network
APMCDRR	Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
APP-DRR	Asia Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CDRI	Climate and Disaster Risk Insurance
CoP	Conference of the Parties
CPP	Cyclone Preparedness Programme
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSW67	67th Committee for the Status of Women
DiDRR	Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction
DEOC	District Emergency Operation Centre
DN	Duryog Nivaran
DRM	Disaster Risk Mitigation
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EOC	Emergency Operation Centre
FRMC	Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities
GRRIPP Project	Gender Responsive Resilience & Intersectionality in Policy and Practice
GSHG	Gender Stakeholder Group
IBFI	Index Based Flood Insurance
IDMVS	Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LEOC	Local Emergency Operations Centre
MHEWS	Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
SEM	Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism
SIDA	Swedish International Development Corporation Agency
SIDRRA Project	Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance for Climate Resilience in Asia Project
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
ToT	Training of Trainers Programme
UCL	University College London
UDMC	Union Disaster Management Committee
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

2. OVERVIEW

2.1. Message from Duryog Nivaran Chair

Dear Members and Partners,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride in the achievements and progress of Duryog Nivaran. Our commitment to disaster risk reduction and mitigation in South Asia has been unwavering, and our collaborative efforts have yielded significant results. At the same time, rapid changes in the physical and socio-economic environment in the region with increased frequency and severity of extreme weather conditions is posing new challenges and concerns. The socio-economic situation of a large group of vulnerable people in South Asia are seriously affected by these changes. We need to continue our efforts to enhance the capacities of the exposed population (to flooding, severe heat, drought and cyclones) and strengthen their resilience through appropriate and innovative interventions. While this report will give the readers a brief account of our key achievements and activities of the past year, I am happy to note that the current year is going to be even more busy with new initiatives and programmes in the region.

A significant milestone accomplished last year was establishing partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) to explore strengthening inclusive disaster risk governance for climate resilience in Asia. This achievement marks a new chapter in our efforts to address the complex challenges of climate change and DRR through strengthened regional networks, mitigating power imbalances, and facilitating local-level adaptive actions.

Duryog Nivaran has continued to be in the forefront supporting initiatives on gender and social inclusion in resilience building, engaging in several key regional and global endeavors over the last year. Most notably as the lead organisation of the Gender Stakeholder Group of the APP-DRR, DN was instrumental in formulating key messages and recommendations in developing the Gender Action Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR (Sendai GAP).

In the coming year, DN will work towards strengthening the role of networks in promoting community representation in disaster risk governance. DN also hopes to strengthen its outreach and network membership for greater advocacy and influencing policy and programmes.

I am delighted to share that several highly skilled professionals have joined our team this year, strengthening our capacity and enhancing our operational capabilities ensuring the effective implementation of our programs.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our government counterparts, development partners, members and other stakeholders for their unwavering support and partnership. Together, we have made significant strides in building resilient communities and reducing disaster risks.

As we look ahead, I am confident that our collective efforts will lead to even greater achievements in the coming year. Let us continue to work together to create a safer and more resilient South Asia.

Warm regards,



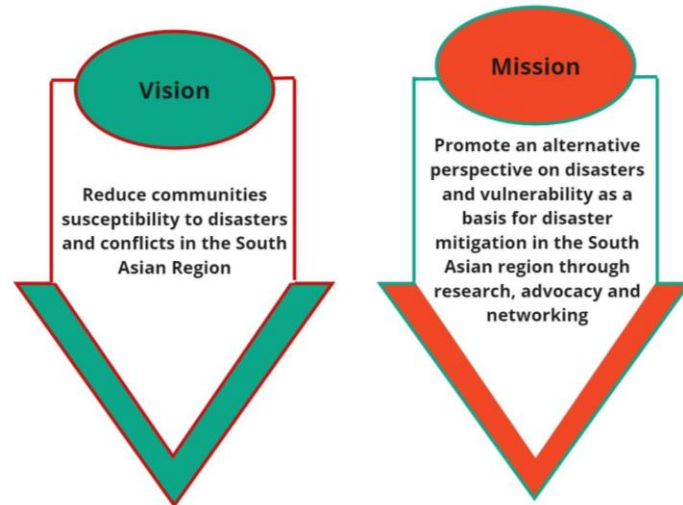
Muhammed Taher
Chair Duryog Nivaran

2.2. Duryog Nivaran at a Glance

Duryog Nivaran (DN) is a network of organizations united by a deep commitment to strengthening disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the South Asian region. Operating as a collaborative structure, DN comprises members, both individuals and organizations, across Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Governed by a seven-member steering committee, DN volunteers its efforts towards realizing its vision and mission.

2.3. Vision, Mission and Key Thematic Areas

At the heart of DN's mission is the promotion of an alternative perspective on disasters, emphasizing that affected communities are active partners in their own resilience and sustainable development. This approach underscores the belief that by addressing underlying vulnerabilities and building resilience, communities can better withstand and recover from disasters.



Strategic Focus Areas

While maintaining its core vision of reducing communities' susceptibility to disasters and conflicts in South Asia, DN has identified three strategic focus areas, as detailed below, and as shown in the image below:

1. Enabling community agency and participation in DRR policy dialogues.

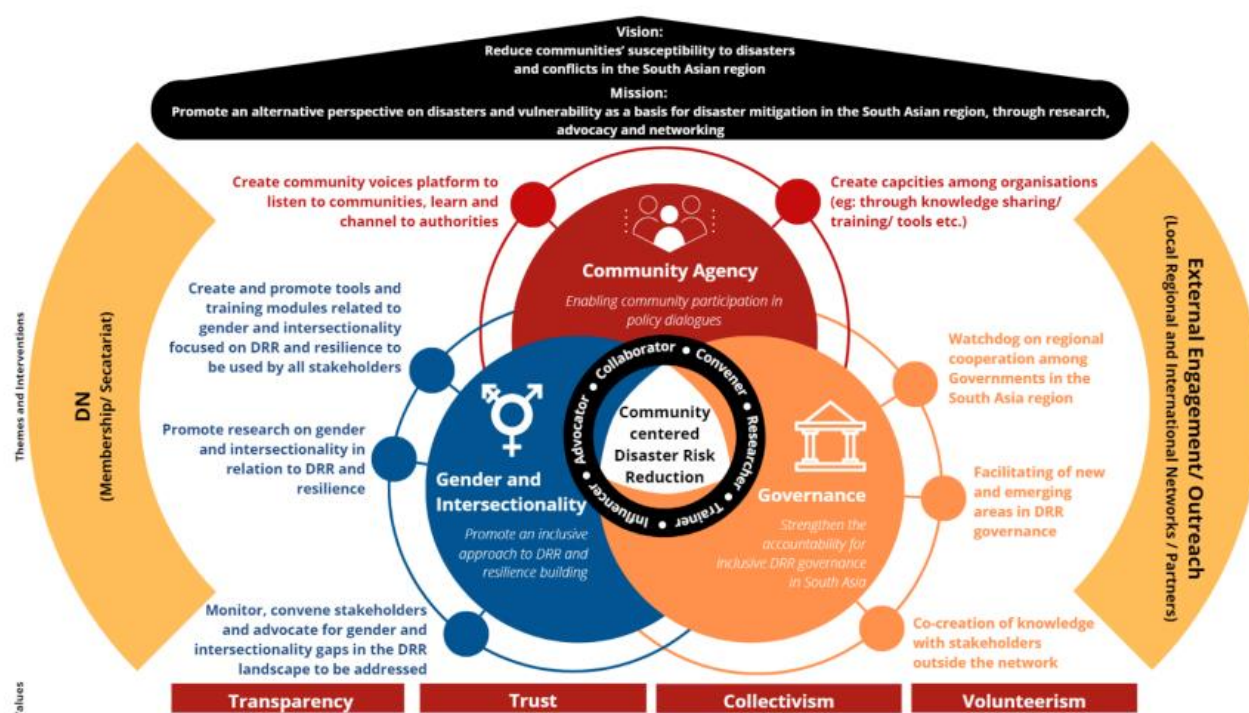
DN facilitates knowledge sharing among regional governments and at-risk communities, enhancing community resilience through collaborative efforts and capacity-building initiatives. Our approach emphasizes inclusivity and effective communication to bridge gaps in DRR governance.

2. Promoting an inclusive approach to DRR and resilience building, emphasizing gender and intersectionality.

DN champions an inclusive approach to disaster resilience, focusing on gender and intersectionality. Through research and advocacy, DN aims to highlight the unique vulnerabilities faced by diverse communities, as well the skills and capacities they hold in facing disaster risk. DN conducts research, action research, gender audits and the like to inform policy and practice, advocating for gender-responsive and socially inclusive strategies in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

3. Strengthening governance and accountability for inclusive DRR governance in South Asia.

DN aims to promote accountable and inclusive governance in disaster risk reduction across South Asia. DN focuses on promoting regional cooperation, engaging with institutions focal for disaster risk reduction and resilient development to monitor progress and advocate for effective governance practices. DN facilitates knowledge exchange among DRR and development stakeholders, addressing emerging challenges such as cross-border disaster impacts and regional cooperation. Through forums and studies, DN encourages governments and development partners to adopt effective policies that mitigate risks and enhance resilience. DN's efforts aim to strengthen resilience through informed governance and collaborative action.



2.4. Steering Committee Members

DN is led by a distinguished 7-member Steering Committee renowned for their expertise in disaster risk and poverty reduction, governance and social inclusion, gender mainstreaming, and intersectionality. Each member brings extensive knowledge and hands-on experience, ensuring DN remains at the forefront of innovation and excellence in these critical areas.

2.5. Duryog Nivaran Team

DN has recently expanded its team, bringing together highly enthusiastic and dedicated individuals with a strong commitment to advancing DN's vision and mission. This team, with diverse backgrounds and specialized skills, collaborates seamlessly to implement DN's initiatives and activities.

3. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT (1 APRIL - 31 MARCH 2024)

3.1. Rollout of the Strategic Plan

During the year DN began implementing its newly developed strategic plan.

Thematic Area 1 - Community Agency

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and strategies formulated at national and regional levels are often not aligned with the needs of the diverse communities. Local entities such as Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and local authorities, operating in close proximity to affected areas, possess valuable insights and lessons learned in building greater resilience. However, they lack appropriate platforms to share and amplify this valuable knowledge and their recommendations at higher national and regional levels. Consequently, the experiences and needs of communities most susceptible to the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters remain insufficiently represented or addressed in high-level policies and practices.

DN facilitates knowledge sharing among regional governments and at-risk communities, enhancing community resilience through collaborative efforts and capacity-building initiatives. Our approach emphasizes inclusivity and effective communication to bridge gaps in DRR governance.

During the year under review,

- **Participation in the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (Dec 2023)**

DN participated in the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week, held in Bangkok in December 2023, which was a forum where the needs and aspirations of communities are highlighted through CSOs and regional organisations. DN was represented on the panel in the session on '*Enhancing Humanitarian Advocacy Through Strategic Partnerships with CSOs and RLOs*', conducted by the International Rescue Committee, speaking from a regional network perspective, focusing on regional advocacy, protection, and addressing gender inequalities and disaster risk governance. DN highlighted best practices for integrating local perspectives into regional advocacy strategies, and expanded on strategies that could be adopted to position local entities at the forefront of advocacy and acknowledge their expertise.





- **Established and strengthened the local emergency operation centre for disaster preparedness and response in the Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality under the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017 - Implemented by Practical Action Nepal**

An active member of DN, Practical Action has provided significant support to the community affected by landslides in Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality, in Nepal. They have established a Local Emergency Operations Centre (LEOC) equipped with essential tools such as screens, desktops, display boards, and power backups. They also developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of local representatives. Additionally, they supplied search and rescue materials to enable timely responses, thus enhancing the community's disaster preparedness and emergency response capabilities. This support ensures better risk communication, dissemination of disaster information, and coordination of disaster risk reduction activities.



- **Strengthening Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Process through Empowerment of Marginalized Communities in Sri Lanka - Implemented by Janathakshan (Sep 2022 - Mar 2025)**

This project, implemented by another member, Janathakshan and supported by the Christian Blind Mission, aims to enhance the resilience of persons with disabilities, elderly people, and marginalized women in Sri Lanka through Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). The specific objective focuses on developing, implementing, and integrating more inclusive and participatory DRR and CCA plans in the

Anuradhapura and Kurunegala districts in Sri Lanka, ensuring these vulnerable groups are better prepared and protected in the face of disasters and climate change impacts.

- **Ground level activities carried out by AIDMI**

AIDMI carried out action research in key states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Ladakh aimed at improving the agency of 200,000 women small and micro farmers as well as their access to resilient livelihoods; and 120,000 small-scale women cotton farmers to adopt climate and disaster-resilient agriculture techniques and achieve livelihood resilience to improve governance of DRR and resilience at farm level. This research worked towards ensuring women farmers are included in building DRR and resilience in the food and agriculture sector.

In addition, AIDMI worked with over 5000 at-risk urban populations in Gujarat to assess their vulnerability to the risk of extreme heat and provide them with sustainable coping mechanisms to enhance community agency and participation in urban extreme heat solutions.

Thematic Area 2 - Gender & Intersectionality

Vulnerabilities to disasters are influenced by a complex interplay of factors such as gender, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and various aspects of identity. These intersecting elements can exacerbate risks and significantly impact how individuals and communities cope with and recover from disasters. Ensuring equitable disaster risk governance necessitates systematically integrating these factors into the discourse of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), with gender intersectionality emerging as a crucial aspect.

DN champions an inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction and resilience building, focusing on gender and intersectionality. Through research and advocacy, DN highlights the unique vulnerabilities faced by diverse communities during disasters and the capacities they are equipped with in living with disaster risk. Duryog Nivaran also continued to lead the Gender Stakeholder Group of the Asia Pacific Platform for DRR (APP-DRR), collaborating with stakeholders in the Asia Pacific region to integrate gender and social inclusion perspectives into regional frameworks like the Sendai Framework, ensuring that resilience-building efforts are equitable and socially inclusive.

The key activities carried out during the year under review,

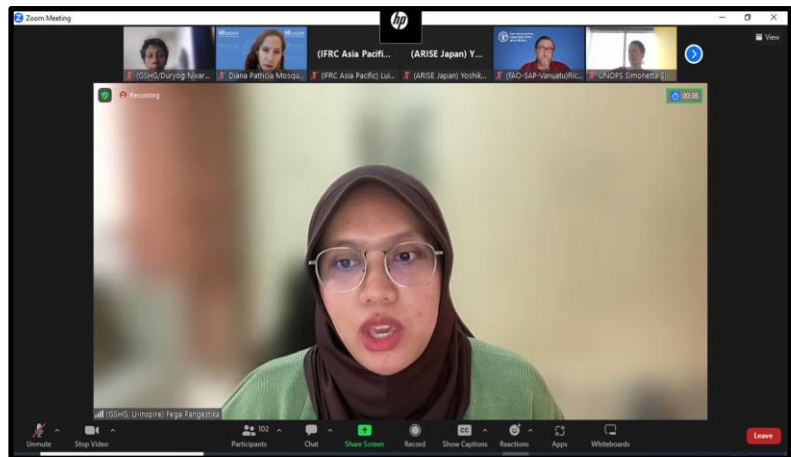
- **Training Programme on ‘Gender and socially inclusive implementation of Sendai Framework for DRR’ developed by UNDRR with the GSHG**

UNDRR in partnership with the Gender Stakeholder Group of the Asia Pacific Platform for DRR (APP-DRR) led by Duryog Nivaran developed a training programme to build the capacity of government officials and other key stakeholders to expedite progress in achieving the gender inclusion goals of the Sendai Framework. Gaps in awareness, methodologies and tools have been identified as significant contributory factors behind the limited progress highlighted by the Mid-term Review and this training programme aims to address this.

During the year under review, the training modules were modified based on the pilot programme held in Pakistan, led by the national Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan and the UN Resident Coordinator’s office. The Gender Focal Points of the UNDRR from the different regions globally were then trained at a 3-day Training of Trainers Programme (ToT). The main objective of the ToT was to guide the Gender Focal Points using the modules in their respective regions. Guided by the ToT, the Modules were finalised with flexibility for customisation for any country/region.

- **Representation at the Asia Pacific Platform for DRR meetings (APP-DRR)**

DN actively participated in all APP-DRR meetings held online throughout the year. At the September 2023 meeting, discussions focused on the first draft of the programme and content for the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) scheduled for October 2024, themed "Eyes Set on 2030: Asia-Pacific United to Accelerate Disaster Risk Reduction." DN coordinated inputs from the GSHG and presented them, with Fega Ayu Pangestika from Indonesia delivering the statement on behalf of the GSHG.



- **Inputs to the Gender Action Plan**

UNDRR led the development of a Gender Action Plan to Support Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 ("Sendai GAP") at the midpoint since the adoption of the global blueprint for DRR. The main purpose of the Sendai GAP is to support governments and other stakeholders to reduce the negative impacts of gender discrimination and inequality in disasters

Duryog Nivaran, as the lead organization of the Gender Stakeholder Group of the APP, contributed to the coordination of the consultations involving member countries in the Asia Pacific region and the non-governmental stakeholders, as well as developing the key messages and recommendations. Duryog Nivarn contribution was made in several capacities:

- i. as the lead of the GSHG
- ii. as part of the Global Expert Group for Gender in DRR
- iii. as part of global Women and Gender Stakeholder Group (WGSG) of the UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM)

In these capacities, DN participated in 3 expert meetings in 2023, facilitated consultations in the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions, and joined the online launch of the GAP at the 67th Committee for the Status of Women (CSW67) in March 2024.

The Sendai GAP, launched at the CSW67 in NY, USA, in March 2024, identifies nine key objectives related to the four priorities of the Sendai Framework and recommends 33 actions that promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in disaster risk reduction.

- **Participation in the 67th Committee for the Status of Women (CSW67)**

The Sixty-Seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) was held in March 2024. In the preparatory discussions towards this, there was the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on the CSW67, that was held in February 2024, in which DN participated and made an intervention. At the CSW67, DN made a contribution to one of the side sessions on Digital Democracy for Disasters organised by the Soroptimist International South East Asia

Pacific (<https://siseap.org/>), a member of the GSHG . DN's intervention was titled '*How do we make DRR Gender responsive and inclusive?*'

- **Gender Responsive Resilience & Intersectionality in Policy and Practice (GRRIPP) Project (Feb 2023 – May 2023)**

DN members participated in a series of GRRIPP events organised in the UK by the University College London (UCL). DN presented the findings from the project component titled "Enhancing public sector accountability and transparency for gender inclusion in response to natural hazard induced disasters and the COVID-19 Pandemic in South Asia". DN also provided inputs to a Climate Change paper developed by the Green Party of the London Municipality drawing from experience of DN's work in Sri Lanka and in India.

In September 2023, 4 members of the DN board also participated in the completion workshop and public events of the GRRIPP project in Dhaka, which was organised by IDMVS (a member of DN and the GRRIPP South Asia Secretariat). The network's experience, as well as findings from the project component carried out by DN was shared during one of the sessions. The South Asia brief developed by DN for this project was also shared at this workshop.

- **Resource persons in a Training programme carried out by JICA**

JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Programs (Group & Region Focus) of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) carries out an annual training course on Gender and Diversity in Disaster Risk Reduction. The three-week course draws participants from a few governments in Asia-Pacific and Latin America, and include: i) government officers in charge of DRR with a gender and diversity perspective, ii) government officers in charge of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of DRR, and iii) representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations. DN has been on the resource panel since 2019. Last year too, DN delivered lectures on "International Trends of gender and diversity & DRR" and were part of the panel that commented on the action plans of the participants.

Thematic Area 3 - Governance

Effective governance in disaster risk reduction is crucial as it determines how policies are formulated, resources are allocated, and how programmes are carried out.

DN champions accountable and inclusive governance in disaster risk reduction throughout South Asia. DN prioritizes national and local governance mechanisms and regional cooperation, engaging with key institutions to advocate for effective governance practices. By facilitating knowledge exchange among DRR stakeholders and development practitioners, DN addresses coordination challenges across different governance layers from regional to local, and lateral, across sectors.

- **Duryog Nivaran's presentation on "*Devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level*" - at the SIDA Partnership week (Sep 2023)**

DN participated at the 2023 SIDA annual partner meeting together with the consortium. DN was a panelist, in one of the learning and sharing sessions, on *Climate finance that reaches local stakeholders*. DN highlighted that the measures in place by the donors and funding partners are usually very complicated and stringent which local

organisations and CBOs are not in a position to comply with, and raised questions as to how financing could be made more accessible to local communities.

- **From Conflict and Poverty to Cooperation and Prosperity: Technical and Governance Innovations for transforming natural resource conflict into peace and prosperity in rural Sri Lanka (CSSF - Sri Lanka) - Implemented by CEPA (Apr 2023-Mar 2024).**

CEPA is part of a research consortium with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and Chrysalis to firstly map vulnerability and climate change driven conflict in the country, and thereafter based on selected criteria to pilot bio-physical, livelihood and governance interventions to reduce inequality and conflict by building community and broader capacities to manage contested natural resource systems within communities. The project considers climate change to be a threat multiplier and will undertake context specific climate change and conflict vulnerability hotspot analysis to inform community-led design and implementation of innovative interventions. Relevant government actors at all scales will form an integral part of this process to support implementation, and also for learning and to build ownership pathways to increase the likelihood of post-project scaling.

- **Consulting Services for the Development of a Climate-Smart Green Growth Strategy for Sri Lanka - Implemented by Janathakshan**

Supported by 'greenwerk', this project focuses on developing a Climate-Smart Green Growth Strategy for Sri Lanka to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The aim is to create a comprehensive strategy that integrates climate-smart practices with green growth principles to enhance Sri Lanka's resilience to climate change while promoting sustainable development. This initiative will support the formulation of policies and actions that align with the GCF's objectives and address the country's climate and environmental challenges.



- **Conducting vulnerability risk analysis of 35 municipalities in Nepal - Implemented by Practical Action in South Asia (Feb 2024 - Mar 2024)**

The Consulting arm of Practical Action conducted a detailed study on the challenges of waterlogging at Satkhira Municipality in Nepal and explored opportunities on possible Nature based solutions (NbS) for this issue.

- **Multi-stakeholder engagement at national level - Carried out by Practical Action (Oct 2023 - Nov 2023)**

The Practical Action team participated at the Early Warnings for All National level consulting workshop organized by the UNDRR and contributed to the strategic gap analysis and recommendations for pillar 3 of the Sendai Framework. Practical Action also organised a National Learning event on the Zurich Flood Resilience Project Phase II which was held with participation from communities, local and national government stakeholders and high-level dignitaries from the MoDMR.

3.2. TRAINING PROGRAMS CARRIED OUT BY MEMBERS

- **Training of Trainers (TOT) for Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness - Conducted by Janathakshan (Jan 2024 - Mar 2024)**

Conducted by Janathakshan and funded by HomeNet South Asia, the training sessions focussed on both self-employed and sub-contracted home-based workers, helping them identify disaster risks, mitigate those risks through adaptive actions, and prepare for adverse environmental conditions. The objective is to empower home-based workers with the skills and knowledge needed to enhance their resilience and preparedness against disasters.



- **Humanitarian Disaster Management Training Program - Conducted by Janathakshan (Nov 2023 - Dec 2023)**

This program aims to enhance the capacity of two local strategic partners of Save the Children for better preparedness and response to humanitarian emergencies through child and gender-sensitive approaches. It seeks to increase participants' skills, knowledge, and experience required to meet a first-phase inclusive humanitarian response. The training introduced tools for child participation, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and gender-sensitive programming. with the goal of increasing the number of skilled staff capable of operating using a child-focused and gender-integrated approach in a humanitarian context, thereby enhancing community resilience through improved disaster preparedness, anticipatory actions, protection, gender considerations, and MHPSS.

- **Training programs on Flood resilience and early warning systems - Conducted by Practical Action in South Asia (Apr 2023 - Mar 2024)**

Practical Action in South Asia carried out several capacity building programmes focussing on resilience to floods and on early warning systems during the year under review. The following were the key programmes:

- Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC) Endline Training (setup and rollout)
- Climate and Disaster Risk Insurance (CDRI) Training to staff of Nepal Insurance Authority, Lalitpur, Nepal
- Index Based Flood Insurance (IBFI) survey training to enumerators (Endline of past project)
- MHEWS EOC Capacity Building Training for 9 DEOCs and 12 Local governments of Sudurpaschim Province in Nepal.
- Training sessions for the Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) members and the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) volunteers were completed, enhancing their ability to disseminate early

warnings effectively through multiple channels. In 2023, 68,269 people benefitted by Early Warning Alert app.

- **Strengthening national networks on dealing with extreme heat - Conducted by AIDMI**

AIDMI worked with national networks to orient over 200 CSOs to observe, plan, prepare and take local actions to deal with extreme heat in key affected states of India.

- **Training program on “Women lead Disaster Preparedness” - Conducted by AIDMI**

AIDMI carried out a training on “Women lead Disaster Preparedness” with participants of the Kashmir team aiming to enhance local results in gender and DRRs at the community level. Training included women’s agency and inclusion of women’s voices in local DRR governance.

3.3. PUBLICATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

- **Practical Action in South Asia**

- Practical Action has developed an impact brief on effective strategies for engaging communities, practitioners, and decision-makers worldwide, based on its experience of working with vulnerable communities to find ways to adapt and prepare for flood events with the aim of making resilience a way of life in Bangladesh- <https://floodresilience.net/resources/item/improved-community-flood-resilience-bangladesh-impact-brief-2018-2023/>
- Practical action also published articles in Prevention Web and Missing Perspectives and Dialogue Earth websites on impact of floods on women and on the importance of resilient recovery from floods (Only resilient recovery can provide long-term protection from climate shocks and stresses | PreventionWeb /Impact of Nepal Floods on Women's Lives and Mental Health - Missing Perspectives / Index-based insurance shrinks payout delays for flooded farmland in Nepal (dialogue.earth))

- **All India Disaster Management Institute**

- AIDMI's recent publications in Southasiadisasters.net focus on key themes in disaster recovery and resilience. The article published in Issue no. 205 titled “Building Back Greener: Environmental Accountability in the Post-Pandemic Context” emphasizes community agency in post-pandemic environmental accountability while the article published in issue no. 208 titled “Strengthening the Humanitarian System: From India to South Asia” explores enhancing the role of communities and inclusive voices in DRR and resilience governance, following DN's work on COVID-19. The article featured in Issue no. 209 titled “Urgency of Heatwave Risk Management” addresses the urgency of heatwave risk management by integrating local community efforts into policy making.

3.4. Events and Inputs to Regional and Global Forums carried out by DN Members

DN actively participated in regional forums such as the APP-DRR, the regional Humanitarian partnership week and at the global level in the SEM of UNDRR as well as the CSW67 during the year under review.

DN member organisations also actively participated in many regional forums:

Practical Action engaged in the COP28: The UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (CoP)- 28 in UAE as well as sharing the learnings from the IBFI project to Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority and NDRRMA.

AIDMI shared learnings from "Heatwaves: Humanitarian Observations from South Asia" with key regional policy sessions underlining the role of local affected populations in national and regional policy making. They also organized the event "Postcolonial Futures for Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia" focussed on promoting alternative local thinking from South Asia on DRR governance. AIDMI held a participatory workshop on climate change resilience for women leaders from various communities to make governance more responsible.

At the national level, all members have been active and engaged in numerous events and forums.

3.5. Fundraising

During the year under review, a considerable amount of time was spent on developing a consortium proposal for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the government agency of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The other partners of the consortium are the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and the Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Network (ADRRN). The proposal was successful, and the project was awarded to the Lead partner IRC in February 2024. DN's recently developed strategy formed the core of DN's component of the project design.

4. PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2024/2025

DN will in the upcoming year, focus on the following activities:

4.1. SIDDRA Project

Funded by The Swedish International Development Corporation Agency (SIDA), DN has formed a consortium with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Asian Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) to implement a project titled 'Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance' (SIDDRA) which will be implemented both at the regional level with ground level activities in a few selected countries.

The project aims to address the complex and interrelated challenges of climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR) through three main approaches:

Strengthening Regional Networks: By building and enhancing regional networks, the consortium will amplify local voices and influence duty-bearers to fulfill their commitments to inclusive climate change adaptation and DRR actions. These strengthened networks will ensure that local communities are heard, and their needs are prioritized in policy-making processes.

Mitigating Power Imbalances: The project recognizes that power imbalances exacerbate the risks faced by women, men, girls, boys, and other at-risk groups. By actively working to mitigate these imbalances, the consortium will promote more equitable and effective responses to climate and disaster risks. This approach ensures that all community members, especially those who are most vulnerable, are supported and empowered.

Facilitating Local-Level Adaptive Actions: The consortium will work with communities, local governments, and other stakeholders to strengthen sustainable local-level adaptive actions. These efforts will contribute to environmental sustainability and ensure that local initiatives are effective and resilient. By focusing on local solutions, the project aims to create lasting and meaningful change at the grassroots level.

While DN will carry out advocacy at the regional level, it will focus its in-depth activities in countries in South Asia. These activities for 2024-2025 include:

- **Stakeholder Mapping:** DN will conduct an independent stakeholder mapping to identify DRR and CCA actors in South Asia, aiming to strengthen stakeholder engagement for activities such as research, advocacy, and training across various countries. DN members in each South Asian country will carry out this activity locally, culminating in a comprehensive map at the South Asia level that includes regional actors and events. Additionally, this mapping will help DN identify potential new members.
- **Scoping Study:** DN will conduct a scoping study to understand how networks are amplifying community voices and to identify gaps in current actions. This will help DN determine where and how to plan its efforts to advocate for stronger community voice and inclusive risk governance. The entire activity will be carried out by CEPA, a DN member, who will apply standard research methodology to ensure its evidence base and validity.
- **Sub grant projects:** DN will invite proposals from members and potential members to implement five sub-grant projects in South Asian countries, with one project dedicated to each country. These will be 2-year projects looking at inclusive governance for DRR concerns at community level.
- **Bi-annual online dialogues:** DN plans to host a minimum of two online dialogues each year based on the identified DN advocacy priorities to facilitate the sharing of the project's learning, experiences, and innovations. These dialogues will address climate risk governance issues and priorities, with a strong emphasis on the inclusion of gender and intersectionality. They will contribute to the wider dissemination of the project's lessons learned and good practices, ensuring that key insights and successful approaches are effectively communicated and considered for replication in various contexts.

4.2. Actioning the Strategic Plan

DN will hold its annual general meeting in September with the participation of current Steering Committee members in person. It will take the opportunity to revisit and refine the strategic priority actions of its strategic plan. A public event will also be held to increase visibility of DN's network activities and to announce the four-year SIDDRA project partnership with IRC and ADRRN, funded by SIDA.

4.3. Development of the DN Advocacy Plan

DN will develop an advocacy plan to enhance its strategy, aiming to become a vibrant network in the South Asia region and to influence necessary policy and systemic changes in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. This collective effort will involve project staff, the DN Steering Committee, and other DN network members. The results of the scoping study and stakeholder mapping will be key inputs shaping the advocacy plan's content. DN will focus on centralizing its advocacy actions on gender and inclusion, its core tenets, and will prioritize amplifying local voices in risk governance actions.

4.4. Representation at Regional and Global Fora

- **APMCDRR Conference**

DN will participate in the APMCDRR conference, collaborating with the gender stakeholder group to organize its activities. DN plans to host two major events: a help desk where experts will assist participants in discussing gender integration in disaster risk reduction and climate actions, and a gender observatory panel that will attend various sessions to evaluate women's participation and contributions.

- **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

DN will also contribute towards planning some of the sessions at the Global Platform for DRR to be held in Geneva in May 2025.

4.5. Strengthening Membership

Membership is a key focus area for DN. DN will be drafting a comprehensive membership strategy and implementing mechanisms aimed at increasing engagement with the member base. This will be achieved through activities planned as part of the SIDRRA project, as well as by reactivating the DN social media channels and getting a mailing list off the ground and actively reaching out to strategic organizations to invite them to become members of DN. This proactive approach will enhance collaboration, strengthen the network, and ensure a more robust and active participation from all members.

5. GOVERNANCE

5.1. Administration, Policies and Procedures

- **Janthakshan (GTE) Ltd** continued to host the Secretariat and provided support in the form of lending office space, technical services and financial and administration support to coordinate the DN Secretariat functions. An MOU with Janathakshan dictates the smooth operational aspects of the Secretariat functions, overseen by Dharshi Indrasoma and Koshali Ekanayake. A percentage of funds raised by projects is transferred to Janathakshan to provide this support.
- **Developing comprehensive policies and procedures** in finance, procurement, safeguarding, and human resources is essential for ensuring consistency, efficiency, and compliance within an organization. While DN currently has some procedures in place, drawing largely from the Secretariat host Janathakshan, it is planned that within 2024, DN will revisit all of these and come up with comprehensive policies on all of these, together with the relevant templates and monitoring mechanisms, ensuring that DN upholds its standards of excellence and integrity