



DURYOG NIVARAN

The South Asian Network for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Annual Report 2024/25

Duryog Nivaran: The South Asian Network for Disaster Risk Reduction

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre
ADRRN	Asian Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Network
AIDMI	All India Disaster Mitigation Institute
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
CEPA	Centre for Poverty Analysis
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 Project
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion
GSHG	Gender Stakeholder Group
ITDG	Intermediate Technology Development Group
IBFI	Index-Based Flood Insurance
IDMVS	Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LEOC	Local Emergency Operations Centre
LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (and more)
MHEWS	Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
SEM	Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
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

Message from the Chair



Acyut Luitel
Chair - Duryog Nivaran

"Looking ahead, I foresee DN building stronger regional partnerships and increasing its role in policy advocacy to secure greater resource allocations for disaster risk reduction in the Global South. The network will collectively support environmental sustainability, promote gender inclusion, expand early warning systems, and build the skills of its network members."

I am delighted to share my views on DN's journey over the past three decades and projections for its future. DN is a collaborative network formed in 1994 by organizations and individuals active in the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) space across South Asia with an alternative approach by acknowledging disasters to be treated as an integral part of development, emphasizing resilience building, preparedness, and inclusive development practices focused on marginalized groups such as women and persons with disabilities.

DN plays a significant role in influencing regional DRR policy discussions through evidence-based studies, strategic partnerships, and advocacy. Together with partner networks, DN has made notable efforts to bring grassroots community concerns into policy dialogues at local, national, and regional levels. The network has been an active participant in regional discussions, influencing policy agendas related to DRR, climate resilience, and inclusive governance through participation in high-level forums such as the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR.

A most noteworthy contribution has been DN's promotion of gender equality, community agency, and representation of marginalized groups through conferences, webinars, and strategic engagements. DN has been invited in important platforms for its technical expertise and alignment with international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Community concerns related to disaster management have been systematically incorporated into key reports, including the GRRIPP India and Nepal briefs and regional assessments on the impacts of COVID-19 and disasters on women. These reports highlighted critical community concerns such as gender equality and social inclusion, ineffective governance during crises, gender-based violence, economic insecurity, health service gaps, lack of community participation in governance, and inadequate resource mobilization for gender-responsive disaster risk management (DRM).

The SIDRRA project has provided an excellent opportunity for DN to engage with South Asian communities, bringing their concerns, best practices, and voices to regional and global platforms on disaster risk reduction. Efforts have centered on empowering community agency and promoting gender-responsive disaster risk governance through capacity building for network organizations and creation of gender- and intersectionality-focused tools and training modules.

DN continues to strengthen regional collaboration to amplify local voices in policy dialogues with external stakeholders on inclusive climate adaptation and DRR.

Looking ahead, I foresee DN building stronger regional partnerships and increasing its role in policy advocacy to secure greater resource allocations for disaster risk reduction in the Global South. The network will collectively support environmental sustainability, promote gender inclusion, expand early warning systems, and build the skills of its network members. These efforts will contribute to establishing DN as a lead influencer from the Global South advocating for disaster resilience.

This report highlights DN's continued commitment to inclusive, evidence-driven DRR and climate resilience across South Asia, with demonstrable progress in gender-responsive policy engagement and organizational sustainability.

Acyut Luitel
Chair - Duryog Nivaran

Duryog Nivaran in Brief

Who We Are

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.

Our 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.

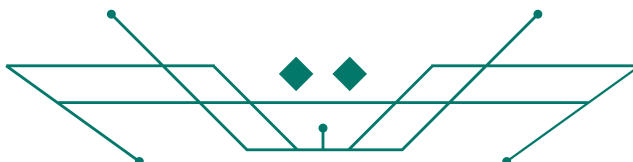
DN was set up in 1994/1995 as a research, training, and advocacy network committed to promoting disaster risk reduction in South Asia at the policy and community level, to fill a void in cross-border dialogue and experience sharing among organizations (governmental or otherwise), working in the world's most disaster-prone region. The network has to its credit several initiatives that have contributed significantly to the regional understanding of disasters.

Vision

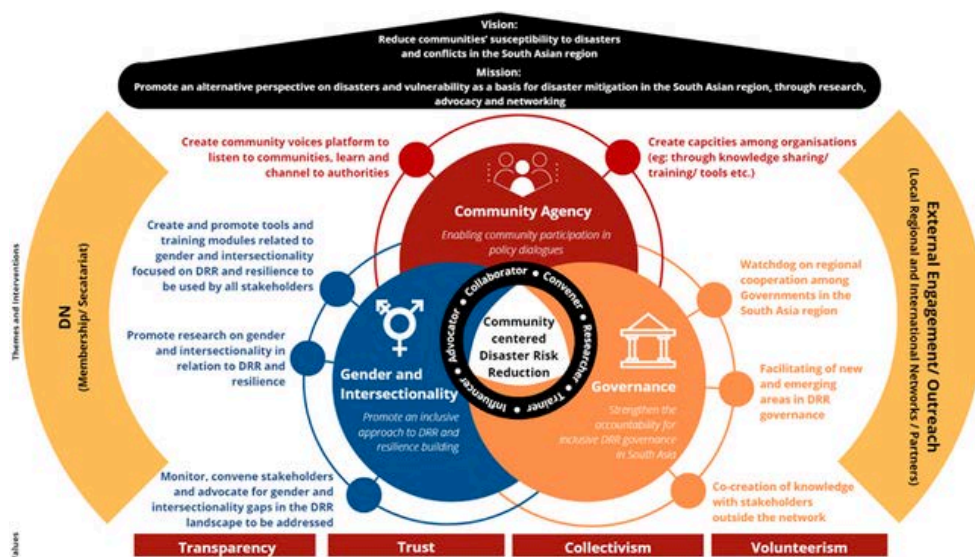
"Reduce communities' susceptibility to disasters and conflicts in the South Asian Region"

Mission

"Promote an alternative perspective on disasters and vulnerability as a basis for disaster mitigation in the South Asian region through research, advocacy, and networking"



The 3 Key Thematic Areas



Community Agency

DN's work within this area will be geared towards enabling community participation in policy dialogues related to DRR. It can be categorized along the following two sub areas:

- Create a community voices platform to listen to communities, learn and ensure its channelled to authorities.
- Capacitate network organizations to help them foster community agency as a priority in their work.

Gender and Intersectionality

DN's work within this area will be geared towards promoting an inclusive approach to DRR and resilience building. It can be categorized along the following three sub-areas:

- Promote research on gender and intersectionality in relation to DRR and resilience building.
- Monitor and convene stakeholders and advocate for gender and intersectionality gaps to be addressed in the DRR landscape.

Governance

- Serve as a Watchdog on regional cooperation among Governments in the South Asia region.
- Co-creation of knowledge with a broader group of DRR stakeholders and facilitation of new and emerging areas in DRR governance

Journey from 1995 to 2025:

Making Communities Resilient Against Disasters Across South Asia >>>

DN today is adorned with a rich knowledge base and a robust group of experts with hands-on experience in working with at-risk communities in South Asia, demonstrating sustainable disaster risk management, who are its pillars of strength. The network has forged ahead over the years, confronting many challenges from perceptions and institutional barriers to development approaches on how disasters were seen and addressed.

DN was initiated at a time when disasters were viewed from a natural sciences and engineering lens and merely as isolated events that required addressing consequences instead of the underlying causes. The capacities and know-how of communities to find solutions to cope with disaster situations were unheard of, and instead, interventions that followed disasters were top-down in nature.

A group of individuals comprising a team from the Schumacher-inspired Intermediate Technology Group Bangladesh, AIDMI India, Pakistan, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation, and Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre in Thailand came together to form DN to address this lacuna in dealing with disasters way back in 1994.

The DN approach sees disasters as part of ongoing development and encourages learning from each disaster to improve infrastructure, preparedness, and education for greater resilience.

Collaborating with development practitioners, policymakers, and donors, the network was able to prioritize sustainable rebuilding after disasters like the 2001 Gujarat Earthquake and 2004 Tsunami and in shaping national-level policies and institutions for disaster management.

Among other key engagements of the network include advocating for the inclusion of marginalized groups in disaster risk reduction policies, key publications such as the South Asia Disaster Report 2016, influencing regional discourse on DRR, focusing on "Building Back Better" and gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

DN has to its credit several initiatives that made significant contributions to the regional understanding of disaster

Shifting the discourse on Disaster Management:

DN established (1994/95), to move the DM from emergency and relief to an alternative perspective where disasters were viewed in the light of unresolved issues of development, including poverty, livelihoods, environment, and gender and other forms of marginalisation.

Implementing a project on Livelihood Options for DRR in South Asia - Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM, later CBDRM) concept

developed at a DN workshop held in 1997 and ADPC being a training institution, took over the responsibility of refining and popularizing the concept.

Pioneering and leading gender sensitive DRR:

Priority since its inception, with several publications on the topic produced based on research in South Asia.

Key research based publications during this time then were:

- Women in South Asia: Facing Disasters, Securing Life (1997)
- Understanding Vulnerability (1998)
- Defeating Disasters – Ideas for Action (1999)
- Seeing Disasters Differently (1999)
- Compendium of case studies on CBDRM
- Disaster Dispatch – Newsletter

Engaging media as a key stakeholder: in late 1990s, mobilisation of media to look at disasters differently was a key focus, with training programme carried out.

Highlighting children as advocates for DRR: A children's book series on Disasters using a renowned Sri Lankan artist and author was published and translated into 3 South Asian languages.

South Asia Disaster Reports 2008: Disaster and development in South Asia; connects and disconnects, **South Asia Disaster Report 2009** – A special Copenhagen issue; 2009, **South Asia Disaster Report 2010:** Changing Climate, Impeding Risks and Emerging Perspectives.

Core contributor to **Asia Pacific Disaster Report, 2010: Protecting Development Gains**, UNESCAP and UNISDR ed. 2010. DN was part of team on Chapter 3: Sound practices and lessons learned from sub-regional and national efforts.

Exploring inclusion in urban resilience:

Researched and published 'Towards Resilient Cities, Guidance Note on Engaging Urban Poor.' in 2010 together with Practical Action.

Disaster Communication (2002): A resource kit for media published in partnership with members, the Journalist Resource Centre, Pakistan and ITDG.

Being part of the several rounds of **reviewing the CBDRM training material** for ADPC

Practical Guidelines on gender inclusion into DRR:

Pioneering work expanded into the first set of practical guidelines for gender sensitive DRR: 'Gender Dimensions in Disaster Management: a Guide for South Asia' (2003), translated into 4 South Asian languages given the need for information in local languages.

Post-tsunami rebuilding - DN provided technical guidance and material to implementing members.

DN's flagship report, **the South Asia Disaster Report** was first published in 2005, titled Tackling the Tides and Tremors, It looks at disasters affecting the South Asian region's "countries and communities (that) are connected to each other geologically, geographically and culturally".

Disaster Resilient Sustainable Livelihood (DRSL) Framework was developed based on the livelihoods LODRR project in South Asia and presented at the WCDRR in Kobe in 2005, feeding into the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

Facing disasters, making decisions: the gender dimensions of disaster management - Video in 3 languages in partnership with Young Asia Television (YA TV) 2005 produced after the tsunami on the need for more gender sensitive planning, relief and rebuilding processes that were very much the need of the hour.

A collection of best practices and field experiences, '**Compendium of case studies on CBDRM**' published jointly with ITDG in 2005.

1995 - 2000

2001 - 2005

2006 - 2010

Adaptive Livelihood Framework – The DRSL framework was expanded to include Climate Change concerns. An application toolkit in CD format (2011).

DN appointed as the coordinator for the Stakeholder Group on Gender and Women's issues in DRR (GSHG) of the Asia Pacific Partnership of the UNDRR (IAP at that point) in 2012. The network's contribution on gender and DRR within the South Asia and Asia region; carrying out gender audits in the region and leading the thematic report resulted in this recognition and role. As part of this role, coordinated organisations and individuals interested in working on GESI in DRR to develop the Gender Annex of the 5th AMCDRR in 2012 and subsequent ministerial conferences.

Contributed to the preparatory work towards the Sendai WCDRR through:

- The thematic report **'Women as a Force of Resilience Building: Achieving Gender Equality in DRR in the Asia Pacific Region'** (One of the Key areas for HFA 2 (Sendai Framework) consultations (2012).
- **Participated in the regional and global platforms in preparation for the WCDRR:** i.e. Global Platform for DRR 2014; 6th AMCDRR in Bangkok and Prep Com 2 for WCDRR in 2014: Used Key Area 4 report (mentioned above) to lobby for a stronger focus on achieving Gender Equity in DRR in the upcoming global framework.
- Presented on 'Risk Governance and Accountability: Lessons from South Asia and Recommendations for New Global Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2) as inputs into the Civil Society Consultation on Post 2015 Agenda in 2014.

Participated as part of the Women's Major Group in the WCDRR in Sendai in 2015 and was able to influence a stronger inclusion of gender in the Framework.

South Asia Disaster Report 2013 focused on issues related to Women and Local Governance in DRR.

DN was being **invited to contribute to several studies and workshops**, e.g. the study on legal framework for DRR, by IFRC.

2011 - 2015

2016 - 2020

A 2-day workshop on the findings and recommendations of the **Global Assessment Report (GAR) 2013** was held in 2015 together with UNDP and the Sri Lanka DMC, followed by an **Open Forum** organized by DN member CEPA in Colombo. The GAR 2013 summary was used at this event and other discussion in other SA countries, **translated into local languages** by DN members CEPA in Sri Lanka, AIDMI in India, RDPI in Pakistan.

Advocating and promoting local level governance in DRR: While DN was part of the group that pioneered CBDM in South Asia, over time it recognized the limitations of CBDM, and developed the concept of Decentralized Disaster Risk Management (DDRM), which brought in the subsidiary principle and the local government/ authorities into the equation, together with a training manual. This approach received wide acceptance and was used as a base of the Resilient Cities Campaign.

South Asia Disaster Report 2016 focus on Build Back Better (BBB) and launched in Nepal.

Roundtable at Dhaka University titled "From Sendai to Dhaka: Perspectives on Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction" was jointly organised with DN member, the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS) at the University of Dhaka.

Progress Review & Way Forward: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Implementing the Sendai Framework in Asia published in July 2018.

"Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: Learning from Global and Regional Experiences.": DN in partnership with the Disaster Management Centre in Sri Lanka organized workshop to better understand the implications of SFDRR and identify potential regional and national priorities to operationalise DRR.

Developed comprehensive **'Guidelines for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction'** into 10 development sectors, for the DMC in Sri Lanka.

Open Forum organised by DN to share to receive feedback on the: "Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: Learning from Global and Regional Experiences."

2021 - 2025

Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Management Status Review and Recommendations for implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR in the Asia Pacific, on behalf of Stakeholder Group on Gender and Women's Issues in DRR.

Part of the training pool for the annual **JICA Knowledge Co-creation Program "Gender and Diversity in DRR and Climate Change"** from 2020 to 2024.

A project **Revitalizing the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Process** within the New Normal funded by the Asia Foundation was carried out in Sri Lanka through members CEPA and Janathakshan in 2020 to 2022.

Training Programme on 'Gender and socially inclusive implementation of Sendai Framework for DRR' developed by the Gender Stakeholder Group for UNDRR.

- Pilot testing of the 4 modules in Pakistan 2022.
- Training of trainers for the UNDRR Gender focal points in Geneva March 2023.

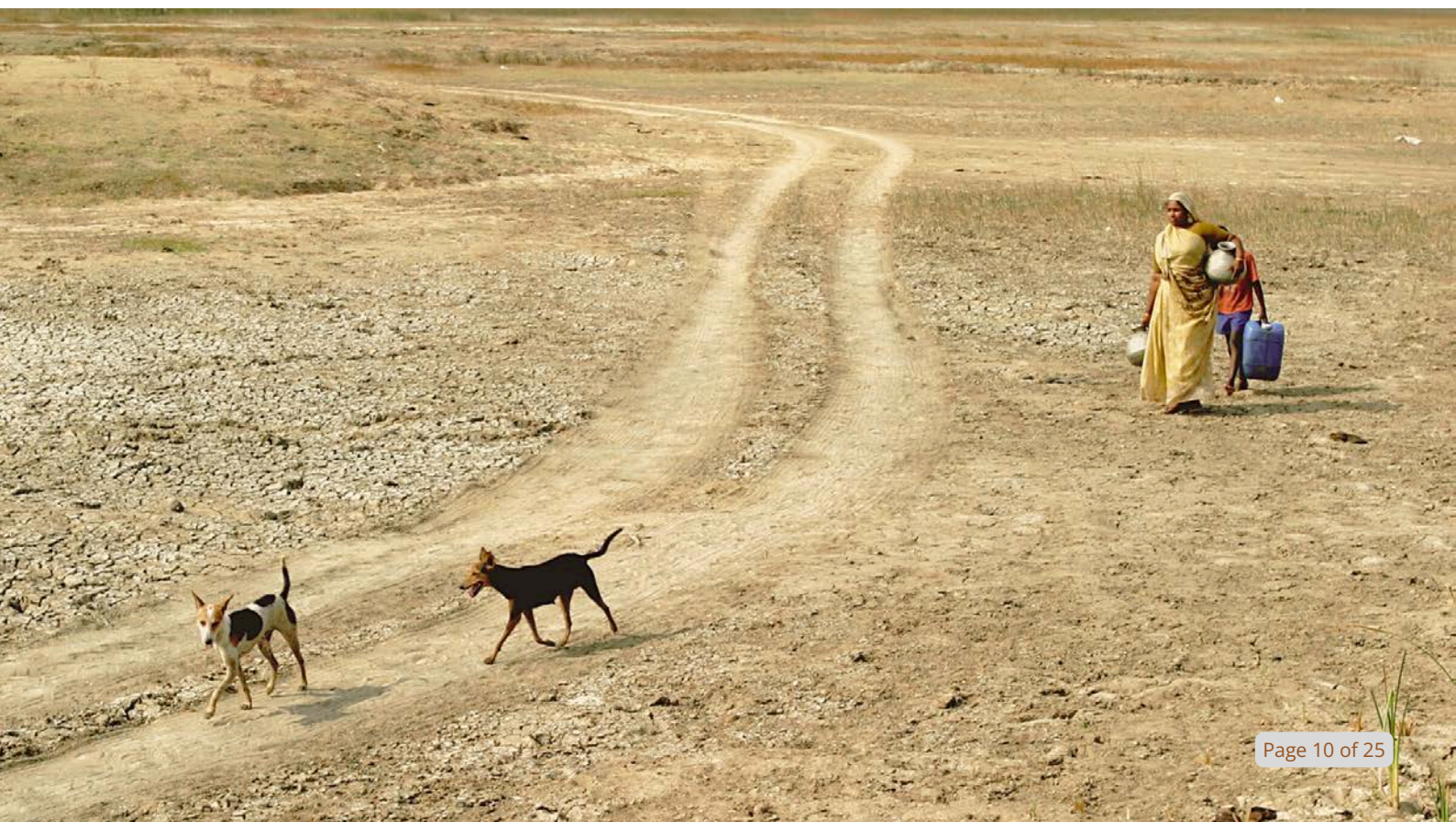
Representation at the Asia Pacific Platform for DRR meetings (APP-DRR): DN actively engaged in all APP-DRR meetings between 2000 to 2023, contributing to planning for the APMCDRR 2022 and APMCDRR 2024.

Extensive inputs to the UNDRR, UN Women & UNFPA to develop the Gender Action Plan (Sendai GAP) to aid in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on the CSW67: Spoke at side session on Digital Democracy for Disasters organized by Soroptimist International Southeast Asia Pacific, a member of the GSHG

A research project on "Enhancing public sector accountability and transparency for gender inclusion in response to natural hazard induced disasters and the COVID-19 Pandemic in South Asia" in Nepal and India in 2023, awarded by the Gender Responsive Resilience & Intersectionality in Policy and Practice (GRRIPP) programme of UCL, UK. DN shared findings from the project at a workshop and public event in London in 2024.

Contribution to a Climate Change paper by the Green Party of the London Municipality DN experiences in Sri Lanka and India was shared for a Climate Change paper by the Green Party of the London Municipality.



The Year in Review

April 2024 - March 2025

The journey of DN over the past year is a reflection of its broader strategy outlined for 2023 to 2025, a combination of its current deep engagements and future commitments.

DN engagements over the past year consists of advocacy for gender equality, community empowerment, and the inclusion of marginalised groups through various platforms such as conferences, webinars, and strategic collaborations. The Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference, COP 29, South Asia Policy Dialogue, partnering with a consortium for the project Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (SIDRRA), are some of the key engagements of DN in the past year featured in this report. The SIDRRA project, funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), provided a strategic opportunity for DN to advance its organisational goals of amplifying community voices, promoting inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR), integrating gender and intersectionality into policy, and to continue regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction in South Asia.

In addition, regional players such as UNDRR, UNWomen, and ADB have extended their support to the network. The support of DN members has enhanced its interventions and regional influence.

The work carried out during the year under review is presented against the following three key thematic areas: Community Agency, Gender and Intersectionality, and Governance.



Community Agency

Local entities often have valuable insights and experiences that can enhance resilience in communities. However, there is a persistent gap in aligning national and regional DRR policies with the diverse concerns, needs, and capacities of communities, leading to inadequate representation of the most vulnerable communities in high-level policies and practices. DN's interventions recognise the importance of integrating community voices into DRR management policies at all levels, focusing on facilitating communication between communities and governments to address gaps in DRR policies and practices.

The Role of Networks in South Asia in Amplifying Community Voices

DN led the scoping study in partnership with the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA). The study focused on the context of disaster risk governance and the role of networks in amplifying community voices.

The study included a literature review, three country case studies on different aspects of networks from Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh and a synthesis report. The study provided a comprehensive analysis of community voices within DRR efforts and the role of networks in South Asia. Strengthening and amplifying community voices and concerns in disaster risk reduction efforts, the ability of networks to translate these efforts into meaningful change on the ground, the added value of networks vis-à-vis other modalities and how they can be improved better to serve communities were considered in the study.

DN and IWMI Advocate for Inclusive Early Warning Systems

DN was part of a panel on “Helping Communities Help Themselves: Early Warning Systems Save Lives” organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) before Stockholm World Water Week.

The session highlighted the transformative impact of Early Warning Systems (EWS) in enabling communities to take proactive steps in reducing risks and building resilience; the AWARE platform, which offers localised warnings on natural disasters and emphasised community involvement and cutting-edge technology. Challenges like data scarcity and community engagement were discussed, with a focus on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategies. The necessity of inclusivity, gender equality, and empowerment in disaster resilience in South Asia was emphasised. In the concluding remarks, the DN representative stressed that building a more disaster-resilient South Asia necessitates sustained focus on inclusivity, gender equality, and the empowerment of marginalised groups. The importance of AWARE's efforts to incorporate GESI as a central element of anticipatory action to ensure no one is left behind in disaster preparedness and risk reduction was also acknowledged by DN.

Gender and Intersectionality

Vulnerabilities to disasters are shaped by factors like gender, age, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, impacting how individuals and communities cope with and bounce back from disasters. Effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) efforts must consider these factors, with a specific emphasis on gender intersectionality for fair governance. DN promotes an inclusive DRR approach, highlighting gender and intersectionality to address the varied vulnerabilities, resilience, and capabilities of communities in times of disasters.

Putting into Practice Gender Inclusion in the Network

DN's policies and practices aim to create a diverse and equitable work environment by implementing gender-inclusive policies. The organisation demonstrates a commitment to equality and empowerment for all employees, regardless of gender identity, from the Steering Committee to staff recruitment and implementation activities. The Steering Committee includes three males and four females, with three serving as researchers and trainers on gender inclusion. Additionally, DN has hired a young Gender Specialist to support inclusion initiatives. The DN Secretariat and the SIDRRA project team consist of a team of males and females representing diverse age groups from South Asia in the positions of Network Coordinator, Finance Manager, HR and Administrative Officer, Project Manager, GESI Specialist, MEAL Coordinator, and Project Officer.

Leading the Gender Stakeholder Group of the Asia Pacific Platform for DRR

DN takes the lead in the Gender Stakeholder Group of the Asia Pacific Platform for DRR, working collaboratively to incorporate gender perspectives into regional frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for socially inclusive resilience-building efforts. DN's initiatives encompass research, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement to bridge the gaps related to gender and intersectionality in DRR.



Empowering Resilience: DN's Impact at APMCDRR 2024 through Gender-Responsive DRR Engagement

The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2024, hosted by the Government of the Philippines in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), concluded in October 2024 in Manila, Philippines. This platform in Asia and the Pacific monitors, reviews, and enhances cooperation for the implementation of the Sendai Framework, sharing innovative solutions and making actionable commitments to accelerate DRR.

As a GSHG lead, DN organised consultations with stakeholder organisations, conducted the Gender Observatory, and established the Help Desk for gender-responsive DRR. A total of 74 individuals representing over 35 different organisations participated in the consultation meeting, providing feedback for GSHG's statement of commitment and sharing tools and resources contributing to the Sendai Gender Action Plan (Sendai GAP).

The Gender Observatory, inspired by the LAC Network's initiative, observed and analyzed gender responsiveness and inclusivity at APMCDRR sessions, with the participation of 33 volunteers.

The Help Desk for Gender-Responsive DRR was designed as a space for interaction and discussion on gender issues related to DRR. It served as an interactive platform for fostering discussions and sharing various tools and resources to enhance the Sendai GAP. Six sessions aligned with the Sendai GAP key objectives were conducted, where over 20 experts shared their experiences and tools. The Help Desk initiative was further refined and implemented in GP2025 as an inclusion hub.

The GSHG statement of commitment was collaboratively drafted with members of gender stakeholders' groups and presented in the ministerial segment on October 16, 2024, by a steering committee member of DN representing the GSHG.

DN's participation at the APMCDRR facilitated connections with an expert group on gender-responsive DRR and provided a platform for discussions on gender-responsive DRR and the promotion of the Sendai GAP.

AIDMI, a founding member of DN, also participated in the APMCDRR and, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), AIDMI organised and led a Learning Lab session titled "Gender-Responsive Solutions for Heat Stress: Safeguarding Women's Livelihoods" on the sidelines of the APMCDRR in Pasay City. The session spotlighted the disproportionate impacts of extreme heat on women in agriculture, tourism, and informal sectors, and showcased targeted, Nature-Based Solution (NbS)-infused strategies to enhance their resilience. The member's commitment to inclusive, nature-based, and gender-equitable disaster risk reduction approaches at the regional scale was highlighted and enabled engagement in discussions on extreme heat work in the Asia Pacific.

Calling for Enhanced Gender and Social Inclusion in Implementing the Sendai Framework at COP 29

At COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, a session focused on integrating gender-responsive approaches into disaster risk reduction and climate action, aligning the Sendai Gender Action Plan (GAP) and the Climate Change Gender Action Plan (CCGAP). Key points included the lack of synergy between existing frameworks, challenges in the Sendai Framework mid-term review, and the importance of prioritizing implementation and investment in the Sendai GAP. Emphasis was placed on institutionalizing DRR and gender equity, mobilizing resources for gender action plans, utilizing global frameworks for national adaptation plans, and collecting disaggregated data for evidence-based action plans. Panelists highlighted the need for collaboration, commitment to gender and social inclusion, and the significance of disaggregated data for effective implementation of the Sendai GAP.

Governance

Effective governance is crucial for policy formulation, resource allocation, and program implementation in disaster risk reduction. DN advocates for accountable and inclusive governance in South Asia, emphasising national, local, and regional cooperation mechanisms. By promoting knowledge exchange and addressing coordination challenges, DN enhances accountability and interaction with disaster authorities to improve DRR governance practices in the region.

Inclusive Governance for Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Featured in the South Asia Policy Dialogue 2024

The South Asia Policy Dialogue, is an annual high-level policy discussion event organised by DN, that focuses on exploring critical issues related to disaster risk reduction (DRR) at local and global levels. "Inclusive Governance for Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction," was the theme featured in the 2024 event emphasised community resilience-building and the crucial roles of governments and stakeholders in ensuring inclusiveness in disaster and climate risk management.



Major General Udaya Herath (Retd), Director General of the Disaster Management Center, Sri Lanka, highlighted at the event that the impacts of extreme climate events are uneven across regions and populations, disproportionately affecting at-risk groups and areas. He emphasized the need for gender-sensitive approaches in DRR, noting that 60% of extreme climate events disproportionately impact women. Other speakers included Dr. Buddika Hapuarachchi from UNDP, Ms. Hemanthi Goonasekera from the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities, Ms. Wathsala Jayamanna from UNICEF, and Mr. Mihir R. Bhatt from the All-India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) in India.

The discussion highlighted the necessity of adopting an integrated approach that addresses both disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) simultaneously to effectively reduce risks and enhance resilience. The discussion also identified key factors essential for building resilience in South Asia. They were: engaging all sectors of society, especially at-risk groups, in decision-making processes, fostering collaboration and coordination among national and local governments, civil society, and regional networks, ensuring access to disaggregated data, and implementing capacity-building initiatives to empower local communities and stakeholders.

Making DRR Actors Informed about Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance

A paper outlining an approach to Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance from a Gender and Social Inclusion Perspectives, was shared at the APMCDRR for the first time. This paper discusses a range of key aspects on the importance of inclusive disaster risk governance that include stakeholders, participation, connectivity and explains the concept of readiness by the local authorities to accept the views of the communities and readiness of the communities to accept the public authorities, the role women play in governance institutions and community mobilisation.



Project In Focus

Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance for Climate Resilience (SIDRRA)

Regional Cooperation for Advancing Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: SIDRRA Project

The "Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance for Climate Resilience (SIDRRA)" in Asia project is led by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Duryog Nivaran (DN), and the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN). The project aims to enhance the adaptability and resilience of at-risk communities to climate change and disasters in Asia. Through a comprehensive, multi-tiered approach, the project seeks to achieve three key outcomes:

The project's support for research, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement contributes to DN's objectives of fostering community agency, co-creating knowledge, and influencing duty-bearers for inclusive climate adaptation.

Key engagements of DN as part of the project were: launching the sub-granting initiative and continuing to lead the Gender Stakeholder Group at the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference, contributing to formulating a GEDSI strategy for Nepal and mapping of key actors in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. DN was able to draw from its wealth of information on gender in contributing to develop a new GEDSI strategy for Nepal and anticipatory action plans.

Connecting with Community Groups in South Asia to Bring their Voices to Policy Discussions on DRR

DN launched a sub-granting initiative titled: "Advancing Community-Centered Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance" to support innovative, scalable projects promoting inclusive and community-driven disaster risk governance in South Asia. A call for proposals was launched as part of this initiative to connect DN with community-based research organisations in South Asia. This initiative aims to empower local actors, and enhance resilience by integrating marginalised voices, especially those of women, indigenous peoples, and other vulnerable groups, into disaster risk reduction frameworks and decision-making processes.

Mapping Key Actors in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

DN developed a comprehensive data-gathering tool which was able to visually map the different stakeholders, including key events and initiatives, with their level of influence and potential impact on the SIDRRA project. For DN, this exercise not only strengthened its understanding of the regional landscape but also identified potential new members that can be invited to the network in the future.



Knowledge and Outreach

Reports

- **Gender Observatory Report 2024**

The Gender Stakeholder Group of the Asia Pacific Partnership Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GSHG of the APP-DRR) conducted the Gender Observatory during the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) held in Manila, Philippines, from October 14-18, 2024. The Gender Observatory Report features the gender responsiveness and inclusivity of conference sessions.

- **Scoping Study on the Role of Networks in Amplifying Community Voice**

The Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA), a member of DN, carried out this scoping study (as part of the SIDDRA project) that included a literature review, 3 country case studies from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal and a synthesis paper based on all these outputs.

Webinars

- **DN Emphasizes Gender and Social Inclusion in UN Webinar on "Government Innovation for Vulnerable Communities"**

DN contributed to sharing the critical role of gender and social inclusion in the context of disaster mitigation at UN DESA/DPIDG/UNPOG organized webinar to introduce a newly launched eLearning course on "Government Innovation for Social Inclusion of People in Vulnerable Situations." The event featured expert presentations from Morocco and Sri Lanka. The course aims to equip government officials and stakeholders with the knowledge and tools necessary to promote inclusive governance. The webinar highlighted the eLearning course's content, purpose, and accessibility features, which aim to promote government innovation for the social inclusion of people in vulnerable situations. DN provided key recommendations for addressing the structural and normative barriers that exclude vulnerable and marginalized groups from development, resilience-building, and accessing public services.

Exploring Gender and Social Responsiveness in Anticipatory Actions: Contributing to Sendai GAP Implementation

DN as a GSHG member in partnership with Gender Stakeholder Group for Asia Pacific Partnership (GSHG APP-DRR) and Asia-Pacific Gender in Humanitarian Action (GIHA), hosted a webinar on the title “Gender-Responsive Anticipatory Action: Bridging Gaps, Building Resilience, and Advancing the Sendai GAP.” The webinar was the first of a series of webinars on gender-responsive disaster risk governance being organized by the GSHG APP DRR.

The webinar presented an overview of Gender Responsive Anticipatory Action, aligning it to the Sendai Gender Action Plan and proceeded with a sharing of findings of the regional survey. This was followed by presentation of tools and approaches related to AA from government and civil society organization representatives from Nepal, Sri Lanka and Australia.

Disaggregated Data is critical for Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

The second in the series was titled “Strengthening Disaggregated Data for Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction”. During the session, participants emphasized that the collection, analysis, and effective use of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data are critical to developing inclusive DRR policies and practices. Increased engagement among government and non-government stakeholders was also identified as essential.

A Gender Equality Review

DN Member, AIDMI, conducted a webinar in January 2025, “A Gender Equality Review” on This was a follow-up of the discussion at the Festival Ideas organised by BCIS in Colombo in Sri Lanka. The learning from AIDMI’s work with thousands of women led small businesses and farms in India was brought in to the discussions.



Events

● National Dialogue on Circular Economy Focuses on Plastics Recycling as a Business Option

DN member, Practical Action Bangladesh, organized a national dialogue focused on plastic recycling as a business option and to alleviate the growing concern about environmental pollution caused by plastic waste. In this respect, representatives of the private sector and government authorities who participated in the event agreed to cooperate, including with civil society organizations.

● Exploring International Agreements from a Gender Lens

DN joined the “Festival of Ideas” led by the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS), a Colombo-based institute training future diplomats and international relations professionals.

At the festival, DN conducted an interactive session on “Where is Gender in International Relations,” examining the role of global agreements in advancing gender equality from a South Asian perspective. The discussion reviewed progress under key treaties, identified barriers to meaningful change, and proposed strategies to bridge enforcement gaps for more inclusive, gender-responsive governance in the region.

Several DN members including Madhavi Ariyabandu, Mihit Bhatt (AIDMI) and Sureka Perera from UNDP contributed on various themes related to gender perspectives in conventions.

Events Attended by DN

- - AGM of Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Network (ADRRN)
 - The Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW)
 - International Workshop on Gender and Disasters, Singapore

Upcoming Activities



South Asia Policy Dialogue 2025



Annual General Meeting and Strategic Planning Meeting



Inception of the projects as part of the sub-grantee awarding of the SIDRRA project in Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh



Country-level Events in Nepal and the Maldives



South Asia Disaster Report 2026



Expanding DN Membership

Updates on Administrative Functions

Holding the Annual General Meeting and Strategic Planning Sessions

In September 2024, DN conducted its in-person annual general and strategic planning meeting, bringing together its four staff members, 12 members, and six (of the seven) steering committee members (three women, three men) in Colombo, Sri Lanka. During the meeting, the network members revisited and refined its strategic priority actions based on its strategic plan and reviewed alignment vis-à-vis SIDRRA's project ambitions. The network also reflected on its evolving goals against the landscape of DRR and CCA in South Asia.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Strategic Planning Sessions of DN offered the network an opportunity to revisit its priorities and plans to refocus its energies to respond to the current context. Mr. Muhammed Taher completed his tenure as Chair having served for three years. His leadership over the years has been instrumental in guiding DN through critical milestones. Mr. Achyut Luitel was appointed as the new Chairperson. Mr. Luitel, a long-standing steering committee member and former South Asia Director of Practical Action, brings a wealth of experience to the role.

DN continued its operations aligning with its 2023-2025 strategy. The new strategy gives emphasis on improving membership engagement and governance and expanding DN's reach and effectiveness across the South Asian region.



The new committee consists of:

- Mr. Achyut Luitel (Chairperson) – Nepal
- Ms. Madhavi Ariyabandu – Sri Lanka
- Ms. Ramona Miranda – Sri Lanka
- Ms. Karin Fernando – Sri Lanka
- Mr. Mihir Bhatt – India
- Mr. Muhammad Taher – Bangladesh
- Prof. Mahbuba Nasreen – Bangladesh

Staff Recruitment, Drafting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and Moving to a New Office Space:

DN recruited staff as part of strengthening the network and for facilitating the implementation of the SIDRRA project in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. DN has historically adopted the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of its host organization, Janathakshan. Certain new policies, including Finance, Procurement, and Human Resources policy were submitted to the Steering Committee for review and approval. DN also invested in software for a document repository (SharePoint) and accounting software (QuickBooks).

The DN secretariat operates from a new office space due to the need to accommodate the new staff and work requirements.

DN has added to the annual plan the development of a Fundraising Strategy that will contribute to the network's long-term sustainability. DN is actively seeking to diversify its funding base. During its Annual General Meeting in September 2024, it formed a sub-group to explore possible funding opportunities for the organization, considering the organization's strategy. Meanwhile, the network has been in contact with different donors, and some collaboration ideas are being developed, especially on developing concept notes, forming strategic relationships, and leveraging the private sector for disaster management actions. This committee is also expected to explore non-traditional sources of a funding base.

Financial Overview

Statement of Financial Position As at 31 March 2025

Asset	2025 (LKR)	2024 (LKR)
Current Asset		
Trade and Other Receivable	4,468,175.00	4,338,438.00
Income Tax Refundable	43,387.00	43,387.00
Cash at Bank	11,069,312.00	2,060,899.00
Total Asset	15,580,875.00	6,442,724.00
Accumulated Fund		
Accumulated Fund brought forward	3,280,727.00	3,923,035.00
Network Members contribution	2,088,909.00	2,088,909.00
Net income over expenditure	8,838,981.00	(642,308.00)
Total Accumulated	14,208,617.00	5,369,636.00
Current Liability		
Trade & Other Payable	1,077,285.00	1,073,088.00
Gratuity Provision	93,438.00	-
Income Tax Payable	201,535.00	-
Total Equity and Liabilities	15,580,875.00	6,442,724.00

Statement of Income As at 31 March 2025

Income & Expenditure	2025 (LKR)	2024 (LKR)
Income Resources		
Donors Fund	57,633,239.00	882,865.00
Interest Income - USD Accounts	1,552.00	-
Total Incoming resources	57,634,791.00	882,865.00
Project costs	45,749,270.00	942,325.00
Administration expenses	2,235,390.00	478,025.00
Finance costs	292,450.00	92,955.00
Income tax	518,699.00	11,868.00
Total Resources Expended	48,795,809.00	1,525,173.00
Net income over expenditure	8,838,981.00	(642,308.00)



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