



Duryog Nivaran
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Annual Report 2025/2026

Duryog Nivaran: The South Asian Network for Disaster Risk Reduction

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List of Acronyms

ACT	Aiming Change for Tomorrow
ADRRN	Asian Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Network
AIDMI	All India Disaster Mitigation Institute
BGF	Barokupot Ganochetona Foundation
BIPAD	Building Information Against Disaster
BPP	Bangladesh Preparedness Partnership
CDMS	Centre for Disaster Management Studies
CEPA	Centre for Poverty Analysis
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DCA	DanChurchAid
DN	Duryog Nivaran
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRG	Disaster Risk Governance
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWRF	Dalit Women Rights Forum Nepal
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GEDSI	Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GLOF	Glacial Lake Outburst Flood
GSHG	Gender Stakeholder Group
GSHG – APP	Gender Stakeholders' Group for Asia Pacific Partnership
HWA	Hari Welfare Association
IHRR	Institute of Himalayan Risk Reduction
ITDG	Intermediate Technology Development Group
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
IDMVS	Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies

LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
MHEWS	Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NBT	National Biodiversity Targets
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDF	National Disability & Development Forum
OSVSWA	Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association
PAC Nepal	Practical Action Consulting Nepal
PSEAH	Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment
ROYM	Rural Oriented Youth Movement
SADDD	Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data
SDA-Cumilla	Social Development Association-Cumilla
SGF	Sindh Green Foundation
SHIFA	SHIFA Welfare Association
SIDRRA Project	Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance for Climate Resilience in Asia Project
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WGC	Women and Gender Constituency
WHDRRP	Women Humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction Platform
YAD	Youth Association for Development

Message from the Chair



I am pleased to share a few reflections as Chair of **Duryog Nivaran (DN)** on our network's journey and achievements over the past year and on the rapidly changing disaster landscape across South Asia.



In a recent international panel discussion (Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week 2025), I outlined that humanitarian action is shifting from reactive aid to proactive, resilience-based approaches driven by climate change, with localisation and inclusion at the center. One example of this shift is how we think about extreme heat. Heat is a 'silent' but deadly disaster: its impacts are often invisible compared with the wreckage left by floods, cyclones, or landslides. Heat-related deaths are underreported and hard to count, which makes accessing loss-and-damage funds more difficult.

Beyond mortality, heat reduces productivity, harms crop yields, and contributes to non-economic losses such as community distress and rising farmer suicides in parts of India. Heatwaves also close schools for millions of children, disproportionately affecting the poor. Women in low-income households face a double burden cooking over biomass stoves in sweltering conditions. Slum and informal settlement residents bear some of the worst impact.

The ILO estimates that South Asia could lose over 5% of working hours to heat stress, a substantial economic setback. The 2022 heatwave reduced wheat yields by an estimated 10–35% in parts of India and Pakistan, threatening food security and farmer livelihoods. Urban areas in South Asia have experienced heat related deaths with the vulnerable in society suffering the most. We need a smarter

system: automatic fund releases when scientific heat thresholds are crossed. Enabling countries to prevent deaths instead of just tallying them after the fact. Effective anticipatory action requires clearly defined, pre-established triggers based on reliable forecasts and risk analysis. It requires meaningful engagement with communities at risk, and localisation is key.

As the global funding landscape becomes tighter, organisations must pursue innovative financing and engage the private sector while using technology and AI to improve efficiency and scale impact.

At DN, we view disasters not as isolated anomalies but as outcomes of structural failures in everyday development processes. Communities are the first responders; they hold invaluable knowledge and coping strategies that outside actors often overlook or undermine. Strengthening these local capacities must be a priority.

DN advocates for a collective voice through the Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance for Climate Resilience in Asia Project (SIDRRA) and partner initiatives in online platforms, local events, regional gatherings, and global fora. Many of our sub-grant recipients focus on empowering local disaster management committees, linking them to governance structures, and building capacities in gender, intersectionality, and inclusive risk governance. We promote locally led, nature-based solutions rather



than one-size-fits-all infrastructure. While advocating for localisation, inclusivity, and efficiency, we make efforts to remove barriers for grassroots groups, such as funding gaps, language barriers, and weak links with officials.

On a recent project monitoring visit, I observed that the real heartbeat of our efforts is always on the ground. Despite the scorching heat, we travelled to the Terai in Sudurpaschim Province, Nepal, to see two projects that are changing the way communities prepare for disasters.

The first stop was with a DN member, the Dalit Women Right Forum (DWRF), which is working to strengthen the capacity of women in Tharu and Dalit Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) to manage fire hazards in Kailari Rural Municipality. This project, which complements the broader initiative by DanChurchAid (DCA) Nepal, is fundamentally about shifting power dynamics.

It was incredibly encouraging to watch a Tharu woman stand confidently before a large crowd, clearly articulating what she had learned and demonstrating her leadership in firefighting. During our discussions, an elderly gentleman echoed this sentiment, detailing the climate challenges they face and the coping mechanisms they have adopted. Beyond physical measures, such as fire lines and recharge ponds, the project is social transformation

in action. Participants reported strengthened human rights and a meaningful reduction in gender-based violence. This reminded me that while infrastructure matters, the deeper social change that sustains resilience is the harder and more important work.

Local knowledge and perspectives are indispensable for understanding vulnerabilities, identifying appropriate actions, and ensuring interventions genuinely meet people's needs. That, I believe, is the message many speakers emphasised this year. I am proud to be part of DN and to work with partners who center communities in DRR.

DN believes in centering local knowledge, removing barriers for grassroots groups, and finding smarter financing and tech-driven ways to do more with less. I feel privileged to be a part of DN, and I am proud of our partners and communities for leading the way.

Acyut Luitel

Chair - Duryog Nivaran

About Duryog Nivaran

Duryog Nivaran (DN) is a network of organisations united by a deep commitment to strengthening disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the South Asian region. Operating as a collaborative structure, DN comprises of members, both individuals and organisations, across Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Governed by a seven-member steering committee, DN volunteers its efforts towards realising 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, emphasising 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 DRR in South Asia at policy and community level, to fill a void in cross-border dialogue and experience sharing among organisations (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

To promote an alternative perspective on disasters and vulnerability as a basis for disaster risk reduction and mitigation in the South Asian region.

The 3 Thematic Areas

Theme 1 - Community Agency

Objective: To be the leading network in South Asia that cross-pollinates community-led actions, including dialogue advocacy for more inclusive DRR and resilience building.

Across South Asia, communities remain at the frontline of disasters, yet their knowledge, leadership, and decision-making power are often undervalued. This theme focuses on *reclaiming the space for communities as agents of change* – not merely as beneficiaries of DRR interventions.

Theme 2 - Gender and Social Inclusion

Objective: To remain a leading resource hub on gender responsive and socially inclusive DRR and resilience building.

Gender and intersectionality remain at the core of DN's alternative perspective. Vulnerability in South Asia is shaped not only by exposure to hazards but also by deep-rooted social inequalities. This theme ensures that *every aspect of DN's work reflects a commitment to equity, justice, and representation*, advancing a model of DRR that is inclusive by design rather than by exception.

Theme 3 - Inclusive and Accountable Disaster Risk Governance

Objective: Promote and augment alternative and inclusive DRR governance approaches to strengthen accountable risk governance in South Asia.

As the region experiences increasing centralisation of governance and shrinking civic space, there is an urgent need to advance models of *inclusive and accountable risk governance*. This theme anchors DN's advocacy on reforming systems of decision-making so that they become more participatory, transparent, and responsive to community needs.

Year in Focus

In the past year (April 2025 – March 2026), DN carried out activities against the three thematic areas of strategy. The bulk of the activities was carried out through the **Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance for Climate Resilience in Asia (SIDRRA) project**. In addition, we also carried out smaller assignments such as the **National Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Study in the Context of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) implementation in Sri Lanka** as well as to **develop a proposal to submit to The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD-2023)** on the impacts from Cyclone Ditwah.

The Projects:

About Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance for Climate Resilience in Asia (SIDRRA) project

The SIDRRA project, carried out by a consortium led by the International Rescue Committee, together with DN and Asian Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) fosters this engagement through research and capacity-building. The 3 components of the project highlighted aspects regarding community-centered governance, mitigating power imbalances and local adaptive actions in relation to climate change, DRR and marginalised communities.

South Asian countries face climate-induced risks, but responses are often fragmented and exclude key

stakeholders. Engaging CSOs, local governments, and communities can enhance policy alignment and advocacy for marginalised groups.

DN awarded subgrants in Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka to improve community-driven disaster risk governance. Participating organisations include DWRF, PAC Nepal, HWA (Pakistan), IDMVS (Bangladesh), AIDMI, Practical Action India, and Janathakshan (Sri Lanka), with support from the SIDRRA project.

Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance for Climate Resilience in Asia (SIDRRA)



National Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Study in the Context of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) implementation in Sri Lanka

This assignment undertaken by DN for United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) focused on identifying the synergies and trade-offs towards a more integrated approach to mainstream GESI objectives in the Rio Conventions.

Sri Lanka is revising key environmental frameworks: National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs), National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets, to enhance sustainable development. Collaborating with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and UNDP, Sri Lanka

aims to clarify and align these targets for effective implementation, resource use, and improved funding access, while ensuring compliance with international commitments.

The DN assignment focuses on integrating GESI components within LDN and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) frameworks in Sri Lanka. Key components of the national gender assessment for LDN and NDC policy integration was an evaluation of GESI's presence in NDCs and LDN targets, how GESI can address gender inequalities within LDN efforts and analysing policy coherence among NDCs, NBTs, and LDN targets.



Loss & Damage Project Proposal Development

DN has undertaken an assignment for UNDP to provide a proposal to submit to The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD-2023) on the impacts from Cyclone Ditwah, in order to mobilise support for recovery, reconstruction, and resilience-building.

This assignment is on-going and includes several key activities including a detailed desk review of national policies, plans, and institutional mechanisms with a view to aligning the project proposal with Sri Lanka's Nationally Determined Contributions engaging key national stakeholder agencies engaged in DRR.



Grounding our work

Enhancing resilience through projects on the ground and amplifying diverse DRR voices across South Asia formed an important part of the work last year. The sub-grants for DN members enabled by the SIDRRA project, supported 7 pilot projects working on different issues of improving risk governance. Four projects looked at issues of risk governance ranging from empowering women-led unions and enhancing community-managed forest governance to community members becoming data stewards and technology and risk communication improvements. The other three projects looked at approaches to loss and damage mechanisms in different disaster scenarios.

HWA Empowers Women in Disaster Governance through women-led unions in Pakistan

The 2022 floods in Sindh highlighted a disconnect between the District Disaster Management Authority and rural communities. Women, especially peasant labourers, faced the greatest risks as they were often excluded from disaster governance and lacked knowledge on early warning systems.

HWA's grant strengthened twelve women-led unions, allowing them to engage directly with disaster management authorities. Surveys involving local stakeholders created a tailored District Disaster Response Framework, developed in Sindhi

for better accessibility. Training sessions for over 300 participants, including peasant women and marginalised groups, focused on building capacity on early warning systems and disaster preparedness and enabled attendees to share their knowledge within their communities, enhancing outreach.

Engagement improved as women-led unions joined governance platforms. Empowering rural women in disaster planning and decision-making while fostering connections with local authorities.



IDMVS's Initiative to Transform Residents into Active Data Stewards in Bangladesh

During the year IDMVS at the University of Dhaka initiated a project to create a community-driven DRM governance framework under the SIDRRA programme. This initiative aims to enhance localised information systems and develop the 'Retention Tracker', transforming residents into active 'Data Stewards'. Engaging over 1,000 community members in Kurigram, the project reviews past initiatives to determine essential data to monitor.

Over the year, consultations with stakeholders revealed the best practices and challenges

affecting sustainability. Research findings led to the development of a Disaster Risk Management Retention Framework and Tracker Tool, focusing on governance, ownership, and inclusion.

Preliminary insights emphasise the need to integrate DRM into policy frameworks, enhance inclusive governance, particularly for persons with disabilities, and promote sustainable livelihood strategies through skill-building.



Enhancing Early Warning Systems: PAC Nepal’s Integration of Technology and Risk Communication

The PAC Nepal project, ‘Strengthening Community-Based Preparedness through Impact Based Forecasting in Sindhupalchok District’, was initiated as a response to the increased vulnerabilities within the Panchpokhari-Thangpal region to hazards like landslides and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). This project aims to enhance risk awareness and responses, by safeguarding lives and livelihoods. It seeks to improve disaster risk governance by updating the Building Information Against Disaster (BIPAD) portal, fostering institutional coordination and incorporating citizen science.

in the project initiatives contributed towards having community flood preparedness, with effective training for Community Disaster Management Committees on Impact-Based Forecasting and risk response planning. Coordination sessions between upstream and downstream communities helped improve dialogue, trust, and emergency response strategies. Technical advancements included flood modelling and impact-based flood maps for better early warning dissemination and anticipatory action plans. The project also employed the ‘Missing Voices’ approach to include marginalised groups in decision-making and data collection through secure engagement.



DWRF Nepal Strengthens Frontline Women Defenders managing Forest Fires

The DWRF project 'Strengthening the Capacity of Women CFUG Members from Tharu and Dalit Communities on Fire Hazard Management' in Kailali, Nepal, aims to empower women in environmental protection and resource management. This initiative aims to improve community-based forest governance, disaster preparedness, and climate resilience by enhancing capacities and stakeholder engagement.

Key achievements during the year, included involving traditional male leaders in promoting gender equality and supporting survivors of violence, leading to more

gender-sensitive leadership. Collaborations with local government resulted in a formal commitment to developing a community-wide fire management system, along with budget allocations for future actions. In addition, a bilingual resource manual on forest fire prevention was created, supplemented by capacity-building activities and practical firefighting training that blended indigenous knowledge with modern techniques. Renovations of recharge ponds are underway, enhancing climate resilience through community ownership.



Exploratory Research Study on Governance Gaps in Early Warnings and Action for Vulnerable Populations by Practical Action India

Practical Action India is conducting an exploratory study titled 'Strengthening South Asian Early Action: Scaling Technology-Enabled Risk Information Systems' to address a critical governance gap: the disconnect between early warnings and inclusive early action for vulnerable populations. The core objective of the study is to generate 8 to 12 technology-specific best practice principles and a transferability matrix

to strengthen inclusive DRG across South Asia. To achieve this, the research applies three analytical lenses: vertical two-way systems between institutions and communities, horizontal linkages for lateral coordination, and inclusion and accessibility to identify who is being left out. The study is on-going and will be completed next year.

Exploratory Research Study on Extreme Heat and the Plight of Small Businesses in Urban Areas by AIDMI in India

AIDMI with DN's support is conducting a learning study on extreme heat loss and damage among small businesses in India, generating field-based evidence from five urban areas of India. The study, titled 'Extreme Heat Loss and Damage: Small Business Evidence' addressing the critical problem of extreme heat being a slow-onset disaster that causes cumulative and compounding loss and damage to livelihoods, health, and small business sustainability. This research moves beyond anecdotal evidence to develop a structured analysis using a Loss and Damage Performance Framework that connects exposure, impacts, and governance gaps.

The study covered 150 small business owners through structured surveys and qualitative interviews (68% women led businesses). The findings show that extreme heat is already causing serious livelihood, health, and household-level impacts, with 95.3% of respondents reporting income loss due to climate events, 52.7% reporting heat-related illness, and 90% making no post-event investment due to financial constraints. The work also highlights the value of targeted small interventions, as 96% Green Finance Fund recipients used the support to adopt resilience measures and improve preparedness in many diverse ways.

Exploratory Research Study on Governance Approaches in the Ditwah Recovery Process by Janathakshan in Sri Lanka

DN members Janathakshan Pvt Ltd is leading an assessment, 'The Exploratory Research Study on Governance Approaches in the Ditwah Recovery Process' to examine the rebuilding process following the catastrophic Cyclone Ditwah that struck Sri Lanka in late 2025. This study adopts a multi-level approach, spanning from national policy to community-level implementation, to understand how governance structures influence the transition from emergency response to long-term resilient recovery.

The recovery from Cyclone Ditwah, affecting 2.2 million people, reveals a gap in Sri Lanka's disaster governance: a failure to convert technical data into inclusive, accountable action. Prioritizing rapid reconstruction over long-term rehabilitation risks worsening inequalities and undermining resilience.

Strengthening Our Impact

Participating and making an impact in global and regional DRR events is an important function of the network, as these events provide spaces to influence policy, connecting local experiences to broader agendas, integrating gender-responsive approaches and forming collaborations which are key in sustaining the local and regional impacts for the network.

Advancing gender equality and social inclusion at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2025)

At GP2025 was held from 2nd to 6th June 2025, under the theme 'Everyday Counts, Act for Resilience Today'. It was guided by the Sendai Framework, and participants took stock of their progress, shared new knowledge, exchanged best practices and new developments in light of the framework. DN actively contributed to advancing GESI in DRR through several key initiatives, including the Gender Pledge Wall, the Inclusion Hub, and support in developing a Joint Comprehensive Report on Gender and Inclusion Events.



Gender Pledge Wall : Providing a space for expressing commitments to advancing gender equality

The Gender Pledge Wall provided space for the GP2025 participants to demonstrate their commitment to advancing GESI in DRR. Pledges were aligned with the nine key objectives of the Gender Action Plan for the Sendai Framework (Sendai GAP). Pledges were made by several dignitaries, including the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohamed; the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for DRR, Kamal Kishore and the EU Commissioner, Hadja Lahbib. The pledges ranged from policy commitments to grassroots initiatives. Notably the highest participation in pledging for inclusive DRR was among CSOs (including members of members of INGOs) and academics while those from the private sector were minimal indicating the need for enhancing efforts to engage the private sector/business actors in integrating gender into their DRR efforts, contributing to Sendai GAP. A virtual pledge wall was also set up to supplement the onsite pledges. Altogether 170 pledges were recorded.



Inclusion Hub

The Inclusion Hub (built on the idea of Help Desk organised at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2024) served as a central gathering space. It provided expert guidance, tools and resources to promote the integration of gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches into risk reduction strategies. The Inclusion Hub hosted five sessions structured within the nine Key Objectives of the Sendai GAP on the official programme days.



Highlighting Inclusivity and Community Agency at the South Asia Policy Dialogue 2025

The South Asia Policy Dialogue, DN's annual knowledge exchange high level policy discussion, focuses on exploring emerging critical issues in DRR at local, regional, and global levels. The 2025 Dialogue held on 28th August 2025 in Colombo, focused on 'Early Warning and Anticipatory Action for Accelerating Risk Mitigation'. The event's spotlight was on the urgent need for inclusive and actionable Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) to address escalating climate-related disasters, drawing attention to critical interventions for enhancing disaster risk governance across South Asia.

The dialogue aimed to identify the gaps and challenges and recommend strategies for enhancing inclusive governance for people-centered effective early warning and early action systems.





20th September 2025, Disaster Management regional policy dialogue concludes,
<https://www.dailymirror.lk/news-features/Disaster-Management-regional-policy-dialogue-concludes/131-319989>



DRR regional dialogue concludes,
<https://ceylontoday.lk/2025/09/05/drr-regional-dialogue-concludes/>



03rd September 2025, AI can be applied for disaster mitigation- Dr Niranga Alahakoon; Leader TV,
<https://www.theleader.lk/news/35003-ai-10>

27th August 2025: Daily News, “Duryog Nivaran to hold South Asia Policy Dialogue on Thursday;
<https://epaper.dailynews.lk/DailyNews?eid=1&edate=27/08/2025&pgid=108053&device=desktop&view=3>

27th August 2025, Accelerating risk mitigation: SA Policy Dialogue to be held tomorrow;
<https://www.themorning.lk/articles/N2yXLEjZqSznzMJS1tXW>

23rd September 2025, Disaster management regional policy dialogue concludes
<https://ceylonnews24.com/disaster-management-regional-policy-dialogue-concludes/>

12th September, Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Dialogue Concludes in Colombo, Daily FT,
https://www.ft.lk/sustainability_environment/Disaster-Risk-Reduction-regional-dialogue-concludes-in-Colombo/10519-781556

16th September 2025, South Asia unites on early warning and climate resilience at Colombo Dialogue, Daily Express;
<https://dailyexpress.lk/infotainment/events/32833/>

Independent Television Network – News segment
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO2R0bBjXVQ>



01st September 2025; State of Business(4.24) ART TV;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jdAL3MhQZA&list=PLjEGauz71dKQ03Q18OX6zeGI0IbBFIXDC&index=6>



Gender and Social Inclusion at the 4th National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal

DN participated in the 4th National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Kathmandu, from 13th to 14th October 2025, establishing a Gender Pledge Wall to support the Sendai Framework's Gender Action Plan. Organised by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, the event partnered with Practical Action and DCA.

The Pledge Wall gathered 63 pledges: 43 from civil society and 11 from government officials, mainly supporting the Sendai Gap Key Objective 03, which focuses on gender equality in disaster risk policies. Pledges underscored the need for enhanced disaster risk awareness and community capacity building.

The past year was crucial for the DN network in connecting with individuals and organisations, enhancing resilience, and amplifying diverse DRR voices across South Asia. As part of DN's ongoing initiatives in networking and training DN conducted training for development organisations and facilitated roundtable discussion and community engagements to understand local risks and coping mechanisms.



Roundtable Discussion on Strengthening and Expanding DN's Network in Nepal

A roundtable discussion was held in Kathmandu on 29th October 2025 aimed to enhance DRR networks in Nepal. Attended by 25 stakeholders, including Mr. Dinesh Bhatt from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, the discussions covered network roles, collaborations, and recent monsoon response successes. Key needs included multi-stakeholder coordination, timely early warnings, and community outreach via social media.

The Round Table highlighted the need for inclusive resilience, women's leadership, and marginalised group participation in the ongoing DRR efforts in the region. Participants also discussed the importance of sustainable networks with strong leadership for ongoing collaboration and preparedness.



Training on Gender-Responsive Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

DN conducted a two-day training program for Maldivian government officials on 12th and 13th November 2025, focused on gender-responsive disaster and climate risk reduction covering aspects of DRR-gender concepts, challenges and opportunities in gender-responsive DRR, DRG and gender and social inclusion and related financial investment.

The training included a national dialogue on integrating the Sendai Framework into the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, and an aim to promote inclusive, gender-responsive actions. Stakeholders collaborated to improve climate and disaster risk management, resulting in a draft Maldives Gender Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction based on participant discussions.



Enhancing DRR conversations across digital platforms:

DN, as the Gender Stakeholder Lead, hosted and joined as speakers to enrich several online events on DRR this year, exploring key issues facing the sector. As a network DN also facilitated members to be part of global advocacy campaigns.

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

To commemorate IDDRR 2025, the SIDRRA consortium partners joined hands in organising the webinar ‘Fund Resilience, Not Disasters’, held on 16th October 2025.

The webinar featured discussions on the importance of preventive disaster measures, innovative financing mechanisms, and amplifying local voices in decision-making. The panel was moderated by Ramona Miranda (Director of Duryog Nivaran), and panelists included representatives from traditional aid sectors and alternative financing models, focusing on the challenges faced by traditional institutions and exploring new funding avenues.



Strengthening Disaggregated Data for Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

The webinar “Strengthening Disaggregated Data for Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction”, held on 13th May 2025, is the second webinar of the series of webinars on gender-responsive DRR being conducted by the Gender Stakeholders’ Group for Asia Pacific Partnership (GSHG APP). It focused on enhancing the collection, analysis, and utilisation of sex, age, income and disability disaggregated data (SADD) and qualitative gender-specific information to inform gender-responsive DRR policies, planning, and actions.



The webinar was attended by 106 participants, (28 males and 78 females), including DN member representatives such as Dr. Dharam Uprety, Thematic Lead for DRR, Practical Action Nepal, who was a speaker at the webinar. The event was moderated by Dr. PG Dhar Chakrabart, National institute of Disaster Management India.

Engaging in Global Campaigns

16 days of activism

DN members from Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Pakistan participated in an online gathering to share their experiences during the '16 Days of Activism' campaign aimed at ending sexual and gender-based violence. Held annually, this year's 16 Days of Activism campaign from 25th November to 10th December focused on ending digital violence against women and girls.



HWA, National Disability Front, AMRDO, AIDMI, Practical Action, WHDRRP and BGF presented their experiences and UNDP from Sri Lanka featured the UNDP campaign 'Through Her Eyes' enabling access to justice for victim-survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Sri Lanka.

Asia Pacific Regional Gathering on Draw the Line Campaign

'Draw the Line' is a campaign that operates at a global level calling for urgent action concerning the socio-economic inequalities and injustices that are contributing to the climate crisis - advocating for rights, jobs, justice, democracy, and a fulfilling life on a safe planet. The campaign was celebrated from 15th to 21st September 2023, with a significant mobilisation day occurring on 17th September. The Women and Gender Constituency, known as WGC, is one of the primary organisers of this campaign, and they have mobilised gatherings of feminist resistance that raise feminist demands for climate justice.

In solidarity with this global mobilisation, the Gender Stakeholder Group for Asia Pacific DRR (GSHG) convened a regional-level gathering with the Action Aid Bangladesh, HWA, Shift the Power Coalition and ADRRN. The discussion brought together a range of demands from different specific vulnerable groups such as female peasants, women from disaster prone areas, young women from Pacific communities etc.



Member events

AIDMI organised a webinar on 'Ending Gender-Based Violence in Disaster Risks and Climate Resilience by 2030'.

On 10th March 2026, AIDMI and DN held a virtual roundtable on 'Ending Gender-Based Violence in Disaster Risks and Climate Resilience by 2030', engaging over 100 participants from various sectors. The meeting launched a special issue of Southasiadisasters.net highlighting the collaborative efforts of organisations like National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), DN, ADRRN, UN Women, and UNDRR. The discussion emphasised the need for cooperative action to enhance gender-just disaster resilience by 2030, supported by an opening piece from NDMA.

The panel featured experts including Mihir R. Bhatt (AIDMI), Pritha Khanal (DN), Surya Kumari Sunar (DCA Nepal), Dilruba Haider (UN Women), and Savini Sirikumara (World Vision Sri Lanka).

Key conclusions and action points arising from the discussion were: integrating gender-based violence (GBV) indicators into disaster risk assessments and national strategies, anticipatory action should encompass protection and safety measures, ensuring that early warning systems address GBV risks effectively, mandating disaggregated data collection, preventing GBV, addressing factors such as stress and unpaid care work that increase vulnerability and Shift Disaster Governance Towards Justice for GBV Victims.



'From Evidence to Action: Strengthening Disaster Preparedness in Bangladesh'

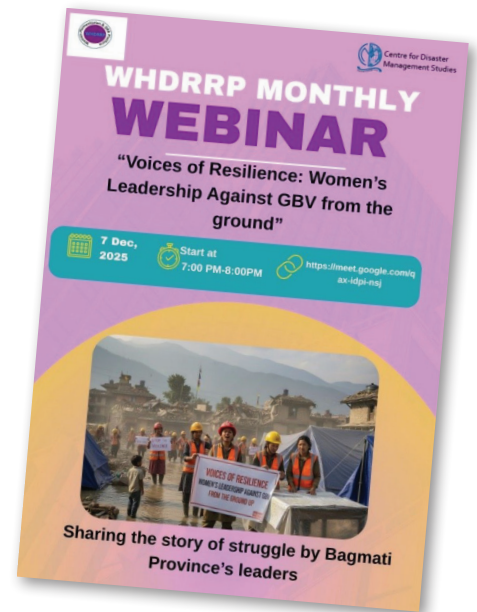
The Bangladesh Preparedness Partnership (BPP) on 18th September 2025 organised a webinar, "From Evidence to Action: Strengthening Disaster Preparedness in Bangladesh". This webinar shared key findings from a crucial baseline study on disaster preparedness, offering evidence-based recommendations to improve community-led initiatives.

This webinar was joined by DN steering committee member Prof. Mahbuba Nasreen, former Director of the Institute for Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, Dhaka University, Bangladesh.



Women Humanitarian Disaster Risk Reduction Platform (WHDRRP) hosted webinar on ‘Voices of Resilience: Women’s Leadership Against GBV from the Ground’

Held on 7th December 2025, the session featured inspiring stories of struggle and resilience from women leaders of Bagmati Province. Grassroots perspectives on the challenges women face during crises and disasters were shared, and as were experiences on how women’s leadership and community-based initiatives are driving transformative change in preventing and responding to GBV. Key learnings and strategies were shared on aspects that can strengthen gender-responsive humanitarian and DRR efforts.

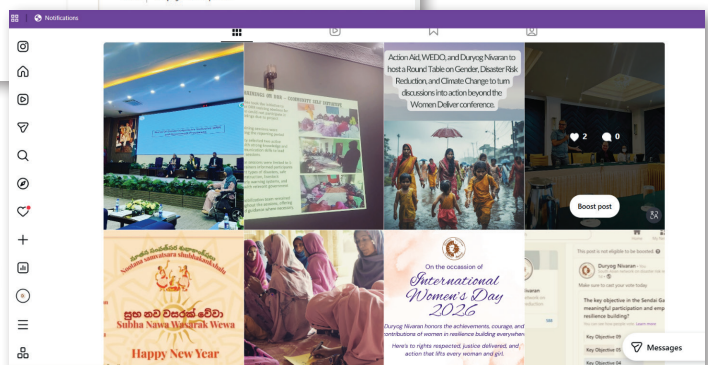
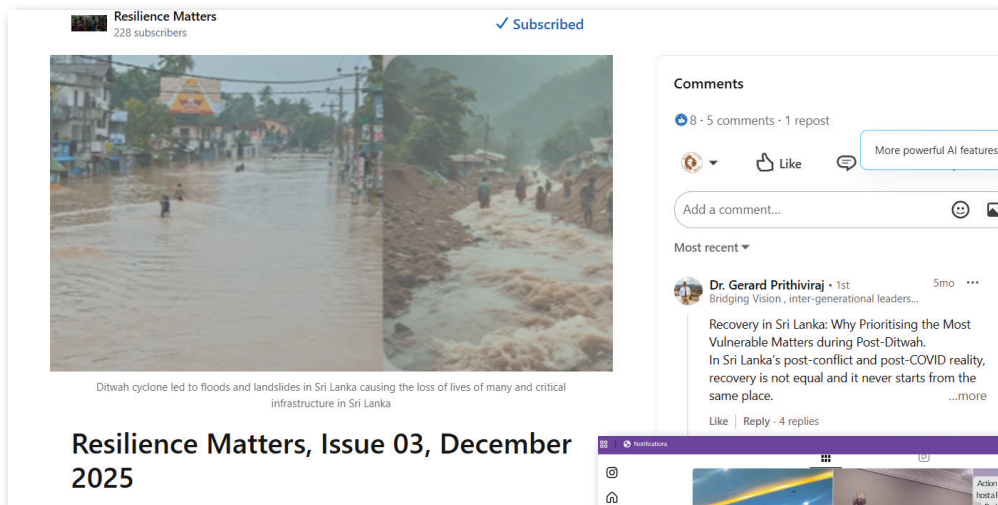


Social media engagement

DN maintains an active presence and engagement across social media platforms, including LinkedIn, Facebook, X, YouTube and Instagram, engaging with diverse audiences and sharing impactful engagements of the network.

The follower base for all of DN’s social media handles has increased over the past year.

Apart from featuring events and ground level engagements DN also shares a newsletter titled ‘Resilience Matters’, featuring updates on DRR across the region.

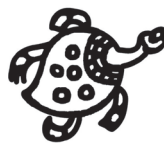


About the Network

DN comprises of civil society organisations (CSOs), research institutions, non-government organisations (NGOs), and INGOs across South Asia—including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. Members are the core strength of DN. They bring knowledge, legitimacy, partnerships and regional experience that help the network advance inclusive DRR across South Asia.



Aiming Change for Tomorrow (ACT)
www.act-international.org



All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)
www.aidmi.org



AMRDO Foundation
<https://www.facebook.com/p/AMRDO-Foundation-61566287772143/>



ARTS Foundation
<https://www.youtube.com/@artsfoundation1926/featured>

Barokupot Ganochetona Foundation (BGF)

Barokupot Ganochetona Foundation (BGF)
<https://www.gchetona.org.bd>



Centre for Disaster Management Studies (CDMS) Nepal
<https://cdms.org.np>

“CDMS joined Duriyog Nivaran with a shared commitment to building safer, more inclusive, and resilient communities through regional cooperation and collective action.”

- Krishna Karkee, Founder, CDMS, Nepal



Dalit Women Rights Forum Nepal (DWRF)
www.dwrf.org.np



DanChurchAid (DCA) Nepal
www.danchurchaid.org



Hari Welfare Association (HWA)
www.hariwelfare.org

“DCA joined the DN Network to strengthen collective, community-centred disaster risk reduction efforts through regional collaboration, knowledge sharing, and advocacy while promoting gender equality and intersectional approaches for inclusive and resilient development.

DCA Nepal values DN as a dynamic South Asian platform that promotes research, capacity building, and advocacy to reduce disaster risks and strengthen community resilience. Through our engagement, we have benefited from collaborative learning, regional dialogue, and opportunities to advance locally led, gender-responsive, and inclusive disaster risk reduction initiatives. The network’s strong emphasis on community agency, knowledge sharing, and policy influence aligns closely with DCA’s commitment to strengthening resilience, advancing climate adaptation, and ensuring that the voices of vulnerable and marginalised groups are meaningfully included in DRR efforts.”

- Manjil Sherchan, Programme Funding Manager, DCA, Nepal



Institute of Himalayan Risk Reduction (IHRR)

<https://ihrr.org.np>, <https://www.facebook.com/IHRRNepal>



Janathakshan GTE Ltd

<https://janathakshan.lk/>



National Disability & Development Forum (NDF)

www.ndfpakistan.org

“HWA joined Duryog Nivaran because of its vision to strengthen community resilience and promote inclusive disaster risk governance, which aligns completely with HWA’s mission and vision. HWA’s experiences with DN have been rewarding, offering opportunities to collaborate with diverse stakeholders and to learn from regional practices.”

- Akram Ali Khaskheli, HWA, Pakistan



Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association (OSVSWA)

<https://osvswa.org/>



Practical Action Consulting India Private Ltd

www.practicalaction.org



Practical Action & Practical Action Consulting Nepal

www.practicalaction.org

“NDF Pakistan joined Duryog Nivaran to strengthen regional collaboration on inclusive disaster risk reduction, humanitarian response, and disability inclusion across South Asia, while sharing NDF Pakistan’s grassroots experiences and learning from fellow networks to build more resilient and inclusive communities.”

- Abid Lashari (Tamgha-i-Imtiaz), President/Chief Executive Officer, NDF, Pakistan



**Rural Oriented Youth Movement
(ROYM) Nepal**

www.roymnepal.org



Sewa Development Trust Sindh

<https://sewa-trust.org>



**SHIFA Welfare Association
(SHIFA)**

[https://web.facebook.com/
SHIFA-WelfareAssociation-
SHIFA-410840522404243/](https://web.facebook.com/SHIFA-WelfareAssociation-SHIFA-410840522404243/)

“We are pleased to share that SHIFA Welfare Association joined the Duryog Nivaran Network because it provides a strong regional platform to advance disaster risk reduction, resilience building, and inclusive humanitarian action through collaboration and shared learning.

Our experience with DN has been highly valuable, as it strengthens our organizational capacity, fosters meaningful connections with like-minded partners, and supports our commitment to community-led, inclusive, and sustainable disaster response for vulnerable communities.”

- SHIFA Welfare Association



Sindh Green Foundation (SGF)

[https://www.facebook.com/
sgfpakistan/](https://www.facebook.com/sgfpakistan/)



**Social Development Association-
Cumilla (SDA-Cumilla)**

www.sdacumilla.org



Sukaar Welfare Organization

[https://www.linkedin.com/in/
sukaar-welfare-organization-
0036b5399](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sukaar-welfare-organization-0036b5399)



Thar Education Alliance (TEA)
www.thareducationalliance.com



**Village Development
Organization VDO Ghotki Sindh**
<http://www.vdosindh.org>



**Women Humanitarian and
Disaster Risk Reduction Platform
(WHDRRP)**
www.whdrpp.org

“WHDRRP joined Duryog Nivaran to contribute to a regional movement and be part of a network that amplifies local voices, promotes inclusive disaster risk reduction, and connects practitioners across South Asia for meaningful change, learning sharing and solidarity.”

- Sarita Karki, WHDRRP Coordinator, Nepal



**Youth Association for
Development (YAD)**
<https://www.yad.org.pk>

“At Youth Association for Development (YAD) Pakistan, we joined Duryog Nivaran because we believe resilient communities in Balochistan and South Asia can only be built through collective learning, regional solidarity, and community-led approaches to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

We appreciate being part of a network that amplifies local voices, promotes knowledge sharing, and strengthens regional cooperation for disaster resilience.”

- Atta ul Haq Khaderzai, Founder, Strategic & Technical Lead, YAD, Balochistan, Pakistan

The Duryog Nivaran Team

STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee of DN provides strategic leadership and accountability in DRR across South Asia, and aligns the network's activities with regional needs and global frameworks like the Sendai Framework. It fosters partnerships and connects with governments and civil society to position DN as a credible voice in DRR agendas.

Chairperson - Achyut Luitel

Achyut Luitel has 30+ years in the development sector and was previously Regional Director for Practical Action South Asia. He has been involved with DN since 2014.

Directors:

Madhavi Malalgoda Ariyabandu

Madhavi has 30+ years of experience in development, focusing on political economy, gender equality, and disaster resilience. She has worked with governments, civil society, and the UN, and is recognised for her contributions to gender inclusion.

Ramona Miranda

Ramona is a Development Communications Specialist with 25+ years in South Asia, focusing on participatory development and gender issues. She serves as a Director at DN, promoting gender and technology in development.

Muhammad Taher

Muhammad is an independent research consultant with experience in civil society. He has previously held roles in various development organisations, focusing on social development and policy studies.

Karin Fernando

Karin is a Senior Research Professional specialising in natural resource management and sustainable development. With 20+ years in project management, she analyses the intersection of resources and poverty while serving on the steering committee of DN.

Mihir R. Bhatt

Mihir has worked in DRR and climate resilience in South Asia since 1995. A founding member and former Chair of DN, he addresses vulnerabilities and gender issues related to early warning systems.

Ayan Bannerjee

Ayan is the Asia Regional Director for Practical Action in February since 2023. He has 25+ years in strategy consulting and technology, focusing on initiatives for social good, including community flood early warning systems.

DN STAFF



From left - Obydul Mohammed - MEAL Coordinator, Pritha Khanal - GESI Specialist, Sanam Altaf - Project Officer, Dhanushi Senanayake - Network Coordinator, Caroline Lurthunayaham - Finance Manager, Theekshana Weerakkodi - HR & Administrative Officer, Sajeethan Srikatharajah - Finance Assistant and Kumudu Herath - Project Manager.

Other Updates

Annual General Meeting

The AGM involved the DN Steering Committee, members, and staff, and focused on sustainability and membership. Audited reports for 2024 and the DN Annual Report were reviewed. New members, including representatives from organisations in Pakistan and Nepal, gave brief introductions. In total, 17 participants were present in person and four online. Organisational auditors and Secretaries were reappointed.

Staff Development

In August 2025, DN staff attended key events in Sri Lanka, enhancing coordination and understanding in DRR areas. They participated in webinars on Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI), Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH), and financing mechanisms. Selected staff advanced knowledge in Decentralised Disaster Risk Management.

Sanam Altaf, DN's Project Officer, completed UNITAR's Women's Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction Training and participated in ADRRN's Humanitarian Story Circle, focusing on climate change.

Strengthening the Network

Discussions proposed the **Strategic Plan for 2026-2030**, addressing political and social dynamics in South Asia and the donor landscape. The Steering Committee and DN members reviewed DN's progress on community agency, gender and intersectionality, and disaster risk governance. The plan emphasised achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 amid climate change and increasing disasters.

In addition, DN actively engaged with members to host events and share experiences, pertaining to DRR efforts in the region with a wider audience, such as the 16 days of activism campaign.

Financial Overview

Statement of Financial Position As at 31 March 2026

Asset	2026 (Rs.)	2025 (Rs.)
Current Asset		
Trade and Other Receivable	6,898,124	4,468,175
Income Tax Refundable	50,989	43,387
Cash at Bank	14,528,620	11,069,312
Total Asset	21,477,733	15,580,875
Accumulated Fund		
Accumulated Fund brought forward	12,119,708	3,280,727
Network Members contribution	2,088,909	2,088,909
Net income over expenditure	6,117,515	8,838,981
	20,326,132	14,208,617
Current Liability		
Trade & Other Payable	125,000	1,077,285
Gratuity Provision	886,149	93,438
Income Tax Payable	140,452	201,535
	1,151,601	1,372,258
Total Equity and Liabilities	21,477,733	15,580,875

Statement of Financial Position As at 31 March 2026

Income & Expenditure	2026 (Rs.)	2025 (Rs.)
Incoming Resources		
Donors Fund	87,941,410	57,633,239
Other Income	6,403,007	1,552
Total Incoming resources	94,344,417	57,634,790
Resources Expended		
Project costs	82,366,974	45,749,270
Administration expenses	4,696,102	2,235,390
Finance costs	372,353	292,450
Income tax	791,473	518,699
Total resources expended	88,226,902	48,795,809
Net income over expenditure	6,117,515	8,838,981



Duryog Nivaran: The South Asian Network for Disaster Risk Reduction

05, Lionel Edirisinghe Mawatha, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka

Email: secretariat@duryognivaran.org

Web: www.duryognivaran.org