



# DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE

Disaster risk governance in general includes institutions, mechanisms, policies and legal frameworks that direct, coordinate and oversee policies and systems relevant to disaster risk reduction in the country.

Due to its distinctive topographical attributes, Nepal is one of the highly vulnerable countries to natural disasters. Therefore, it is quintessential to prioritize disaster risk governance and to prepare for inevitable disasters.

## NEPAL'S DISASTER CATEGORIZATION

Nepal's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act 2074 defines hazards and disasters into "natural" and "non-natural" categories.

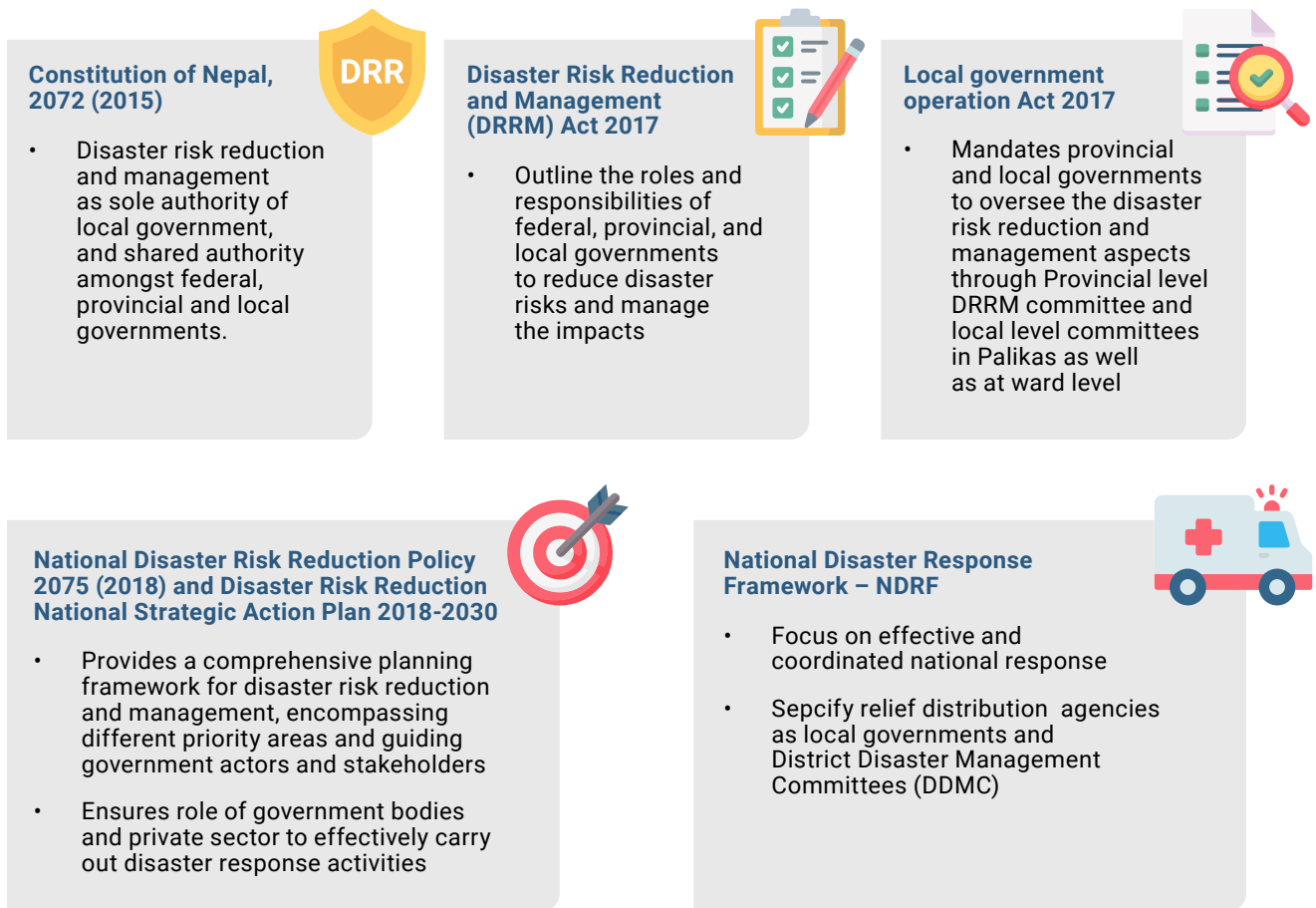
**Natural Disasters:** Snowfall, hailstone, avalanche, glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF), extreme rainfall, low rainfall, flood, landslide and soil erosion, inundation, storm, drought, cyclone, cold wave, heat wave, lightening, earthquake, volcanic eruption, forest fire or other disasters from natural causes.

**Non-natural Disasters:** Epidemics, famine, forest fires, insect or micro-bacterial attack, animal and bird flu, pandemic flu, snake bite, animal attack, accidents related to mines, air, road, water or industrial accident; fire, toxic gas, chemical or radiation leakage, gas explosion, consumption of toxic foods, environmental pollution, deforestation, or physical infrastructure destruction, and accidents during disaster rescue, or other disasters emanating from non-natural causes.

- Nepal ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in terms of climate change susceptibility; 11<sup>th</sup> in earthquake risk; and 31<sup>st</sup> in flood risk (Global Index)
- Nepal is one of the top 10 countries in the world in terms of disaster-related mortality (CRED)
- 2020 INFORM Global Risk Index reports that Nepal had an overall risk of 5.4/10, which INFORM categorizes in the "High" risk class

## MAJOR LEGISLATIVE MEASURES AND SYSTEM

With the enforcement of Natural Calamity Relief Act in 1982, Nepal was the pioneer country to implement disaster-specific act in the South Asia region and with time, Nepal has continued to adapt laws and policies relevant to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).



## STRUCTURAL SYSTEM OF DISASTER GOVERNANCE OF NEPAL

### Hazards monitoring and forecasting Bodies



- Department of Mines and Geology (DMG)- Earthquake
- Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE)-Forest Fire and air pollution
- Department of Water Resource and Irrigation, the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), and the Department of Mines and Geology (DMG) - flood and water induced disaster
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)
- Portal (DRR Portal, Bipad portal)

### Disaster Preparedness, Preventing and Mitigating bodies



- National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA)



### Action Taking Institution and Bodies

- Rural Municipality, Municipality, Sub-Metropolitan City, Metropolitan city
- Nepal Police, Nepal Army



### International bodies where GoN (Council of Ministers) can appeal

- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- Friendly nations, Red Cross Movement, regional offices, donor community, INGOs, international professional groups, and non-resident Nepalis

## EMERGING APPROACH FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Pre-existing disaster management system in Nepal includes Pre-Disaster Stage (preparedness) Emergency Stage (phase of catastrophe) Post Disaster (rehabilitation/ recovery). Additionally, emerging disaster management approaches include Community level Disaster Management Approach.

### Community Level Disaster Management Approach

- Focus on community participation to mitigate disasters with active involvement of community itself in search, rescue and reconstruction
- Emphasize on community members to act as first responders during disasters
- Promote a bottom-up approach working with the top-down approach, to address the challenges and difficulties.
- Ensure self-reliance of local people and emergency management plans to meet local needs. Indigenous knowledge and innovation concerning hazards and mitigation play an important role in this.
- Community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) approach to build resilient communities.

### Source:

- [Disaster Risk Governance in Nepal: Challenges and Way Ahead](#)
- [Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal Report](#)
- [Disaster Management Reference Handbook - Nepal \(October 2020\)](#)
- [Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters \(CRED\)](#)

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