

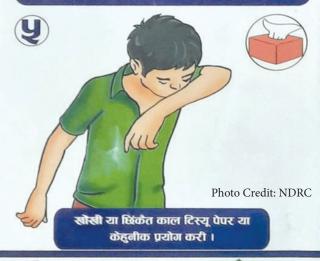
कोरोना भाइरस सं बचैके मुख्य उपाय सभ



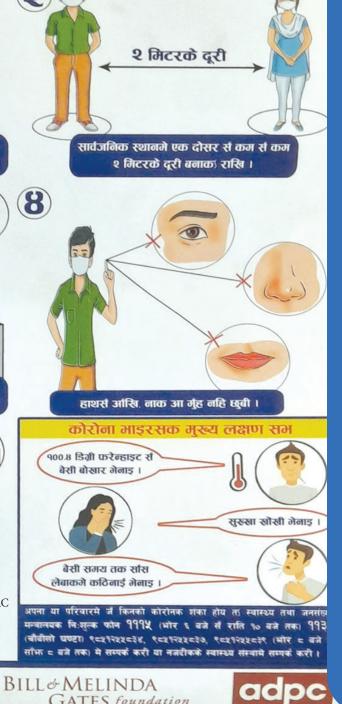
भीड़ भाड़ वला जगह पर नहि जाई जै गेनाई जरूरी अछि त मास्क या अन्य सुरक्षित उपाय अपनाक) मात्र जेबाक चाहि ।



साबुनपानी से नियमित रूपें कम से कम २० सेकेण्ड तक मलि मलिक हाथ धोई या स्यागिटाइजरक प्रयोग करी ।







GATES foundation

Collaborative approach in Disaster Management (COVID-19 Response)

🔘 Asian Preparedness Partnership

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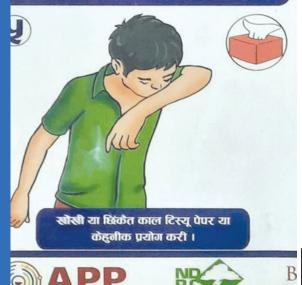




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Disasters & Impact

Nepal is exposed to both natural hazard and human-induced (non-natural) hazards. The main natural hazards that cause risk, listed based on their scope and extent, are earthquakes, floods, landslides, forest fires, and droughts (MoHA, 2018; UNDP, 2009). In recent years, COVID19 has been increasingly regarded as a severe human-induced hazard. The pandemic presented a unique and unprecedented scenario that evolved into a health-related humanitarian crisis. Nepal was no exception in terms of its vulnerability and impacts which affected all sectors of livelihoods.

After, WHO declared COVID-19 a "Pandemic" on 11 March 2020, Nepal has taken a series of measures for its prevention. Despite the government's continuous efforts, there was room for improvement and support was necessary for the local government, the primary health care system, and communities to strengthen their awareness. Improvement in the current coordination capacities of government mechanisms like the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) and Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC), private sector, and local humanitarian organizations were inadequate to manage the situation. Public is the most important shareholder in the repression of the pandemic outbreaks. The public's understanding, adherence, and response play an important role in preventing the spread of disease in and across the community. On the other hand, local governments had a key role to perform in contact tracing and public awareness raising but were hindered by their inadequate resources (human and physical) to respond up to the desired level.

During the early stages of the pandemic, many private health facilities reduced services, particularly to patients presenting with COVID19 symptoms, many hospitals immediately refused to treat patients with COVID19 as they lacked appropriate facilities and were anxious that their staff and other patients may contract COVID19.

Nepal still faces a triple burden of health problems. While communicable diseases account for a large proportion of deaths and disabilities, there is a growing prevalence of non-communicable diseases, and as a triple burden, so are threats from natural and human-induced disasters, adverse effects of climate change, accidents, violence, and injuries. Nepal has focused on access but now attention and priorities are needed, in accessing quality healthcare services for citizens confronting several barriers during COVID19 including financial, sociocultural, geographical, and institutional.

In Nepal, the total cases of COVID-19 10 million one thousand and 51, 9.89 million cases recovered, total of 12,020 Source : HEOC

Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) Scenario in Nepal

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a business's approach to contributing and delivering economic, social, and environmental benefits. In the context of Nepal, the corporate sector has been providing valuable and significant assistance to the overall national development. The private sector is visioned as the perfect advocate for resilient thinking because of its direct relationship with consumers, customers, and suppliers and can steer public demand toward risk-sensitive products and services.

The government of countries like Nepal generally lack adequate resources in solving myriads of socio-economic and environ-

mental problems or issues. Disaster risk is one of the critical issues Nepal is facing for a long time. It continues to face the adverse effects of natural and non-natural disasters. This raised the question of whose responsibility is to do in order to have a safe, prosperous, and equitable society. Is the state only responsible for the socioeconomic well-being of the citizens? Where do we draw the line between the state's and other actors' responsibilities? Can the business sector be a missing link in achieving a country's cherished mission of socio-economic transformation? Is the promotion of corporate social responsibility the right way to move forward? It is, therefore, important to review and/or examine the current policies, and legislative arrangements and

identify gaps and challenges of the Corporate Sector's better intervention in disaster preparedness and response.

On this note, Nepal Preparedness Partnership (NPP) contributed to promoting the utilization of the potential resources of CSR funds, through the development of the CSR Guideline on DRRM to facilitate the private sector's engagement in DRRM with some structured guidelines, which would largely be beneficial to the government, vulnerable society and the business itself. Among other things, promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) can be the right way to create a win-win-win situation between businesses, society, and the government. If different actors of society including businesses combine their resources and expertise, they can better address the pressing social, economic, and environmental issues including disaster risks.

Nepal Preparedness Partnership (NPP) has conducted a series of bilateral and joint meetings with the Chaudhary Foundation (CF)/ Nabil Bank (NB); and Nepal Disaster Resilient Network (NDR Net), the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Health and Population. The consultative meeting initiated by NPP was focused on and encouraged the introduction of the Private Sector into preparedness and risk reduction initiatives rather than the conventional charity approach taken up by the private sector. This was later upscaled into bilateral meetings to educate and motivate the Private Sector on the essence and outcome of preparedness and risk reduction initiatives compared to disaster response. The consultation meetings provided a conducive forum to open up dialogues between the inter-government and the private sector to collectively and collaboratively join hands in disaster management and map out the immediate needs and scope of work.

The Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP), established by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), is a unique multi-stakeholder regional partnership that includes countries from South and Southeast Asia to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the foundation) and the United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA), the partnership strives to improve stakeholder coordination and dialogue between governments, local humanitarian organization networks, and the private sector for enhancing capacities through partnerships, knowledge resources, training, and networking opportunities.

APP's goal is to promote safer and well-prepared communities through locally-led disaster risk management (DRM) actions, so that disaster impacts on at-risk communities of Asia will be reduced. APP on localization: "A process whereby local, sub-national and national humanitarian actors, namely governments, civil society and non-government organizations, the private sector, media, academia, etc., take a lead role, in a collaborative manner to plan and implement priority actions in disaster preparedness, humanitarian response, and recovery through mobilizing internal resources and external humanitarian funding."





Engage, Expand & Empower a Multistakeholder System

The Nepalese private sector has always been one of the most important actors in supporting the government and the people in difficult times including disasters, their contribution has been more focused on relief efforts. This trend is substantially increasing in recent years mainly because of the corporate social responsibility (CSR) provisions made in the Industrial Enterprise Act, 2020, and Nepal Rastra Bank's Unified Directives, 2021. To promote and ensure the appropriate utilization of the CSR fund in preparedness and risk reduction measures, NPP in consultation with the private sector and government line agencies, supported the development of a national guideline that streamlines a dedicated allocation of CSR funds in DRRM to cater the needs of: (i) meeting regulatory requirements properly, (ii) minimizing the climatic & other business risks, and (iii) creating shared value for the business, society and the government (BSG).

During the pandemic, temporary relief measures and food distribution programs for the poor and vulnerable people were critical to maintaining an adequate level of access to basic needs. At the same time, rapid social protection and health measures also need to be combined with mid and

long-term approaches in building resilience to future suffering. It is also equally important to contribute to social and economic aspects of the economic recovery and development of society. During the COVID 19 pandemic, the private sector has contributed in two ways. The first one was supported by the private sector itself and the other by a partnership with the public sector.

In the case of the COVID19 pandemic, a government like Nepal, with its limited health services, was unable to match its response to the spread. In this context, the NPP in collaboration with the private sector partners had supported the Government of Nepal in capacity building, awareness, and knowledge management initiatives to strengthen the COVID-19 preparedness and response activities in Nepal. The assistance of the private sector was indispensable during the pandemic. The programs supported strengthening the local health system through the capacity building of Local Health Workers, Humanitarian Organizations, and local government health institutions in the area of building public awareness in the local communities and advancing emergency health preparedness and response.

Photo Credit: NDRC



Nepal Preparedness Partnership (NPP)

The Nepal Preparedness Partnership (NPP) is an initiative led by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in collaboration with various partners, including the Government of Nepal, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and private sector entities. The partnership aims to enhance Nepal's disaster preparedness and resilience through a multi-stakeholder approach. The NPP focuses on four key areas: strengthening community resilience, enhancing institutional preparedness, promoting private sector engagement, and facilitating knowledge management and learning. The partnership works to achieve these objectives through various activities such as capacity building, risk assessment, knowledge sharing, and advocacy. The partnership operates at national, provincial, and local levels and works closely with stakeholders from various sectors, including disaster management agencies, local governments, civil society organizations, academia, and private sector actors. The NPP's initiatives intend to strengthen Nepal's disaster preparedness and resilience.

In summary, the Nepal Preparedness Partnership is a collaborative initiative that brings together diverse stakeholders to enhance Nepal's disaster preparedness and resilience. The partnership's multi-sectoral approach and focus on community resilience, institutional preparedness, private sector engagement, and knowledge management make it a valuable platform for promoting disaster risk reduction in Nepal. Risk Communication material Handbook on Covid 20,000, Brochure 7,000, poster 7,000 produced and disseminated. Eight Province Level Pandemic Management Orientation organized; 330 participants benefitted.

Chief/Assistant District Officer, Chief District Health Officer, Health staffs from the Municipality Health Centers, private hospitals/pharmacies, NGOs, media, and private sector organizations participated.

Nepal Preparedness Partnership National Steering Committee

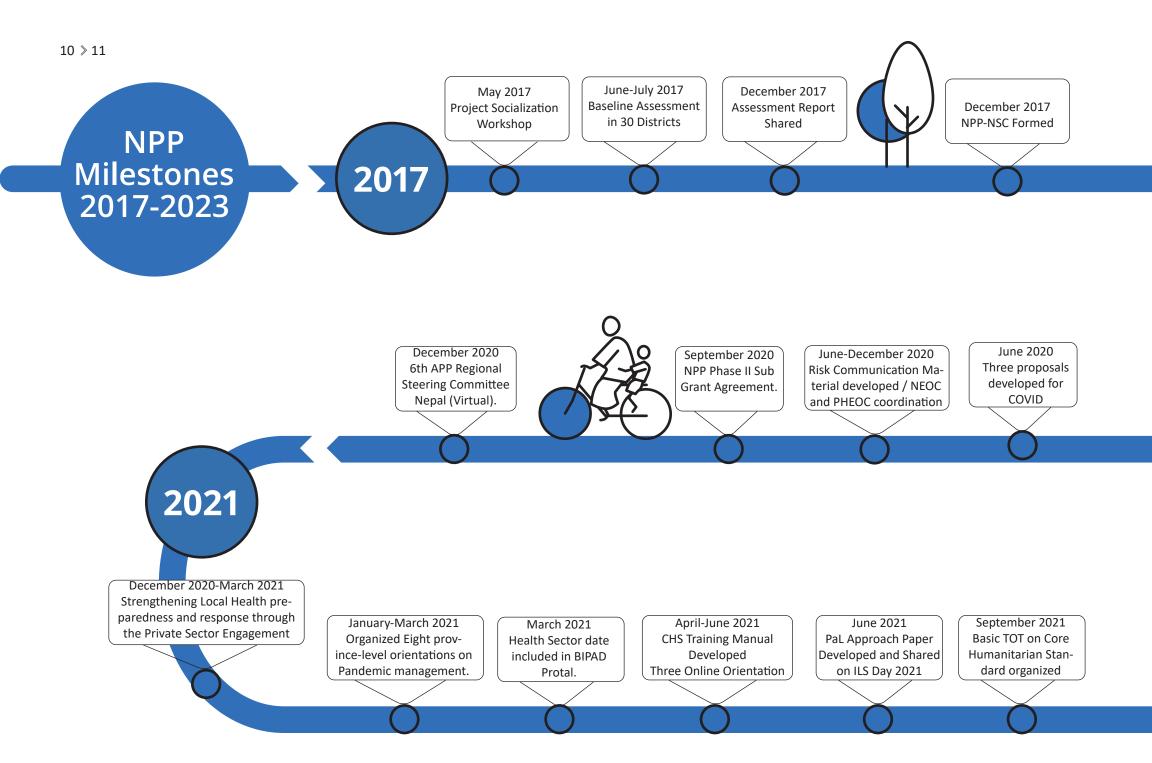
Joint Secretary, Disaster and Conflict Management Division, MoHA- Chairperson Private Sector (FNCCI)- Member Academia (Tribhuvan University)- Member Local Government (Mayor)- Member NDR Net- Member NPP implementing Agency (NDRC Nepal)-

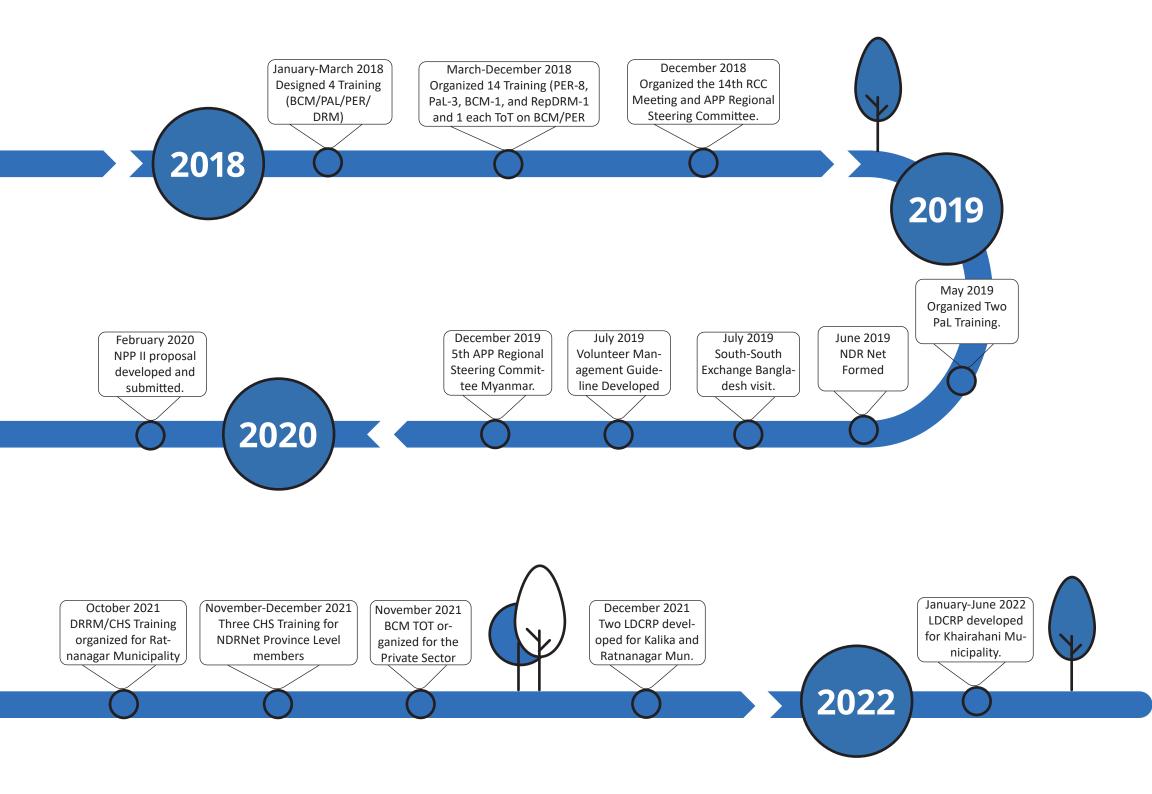
The highlight of the NPP engagement with the Private Sector

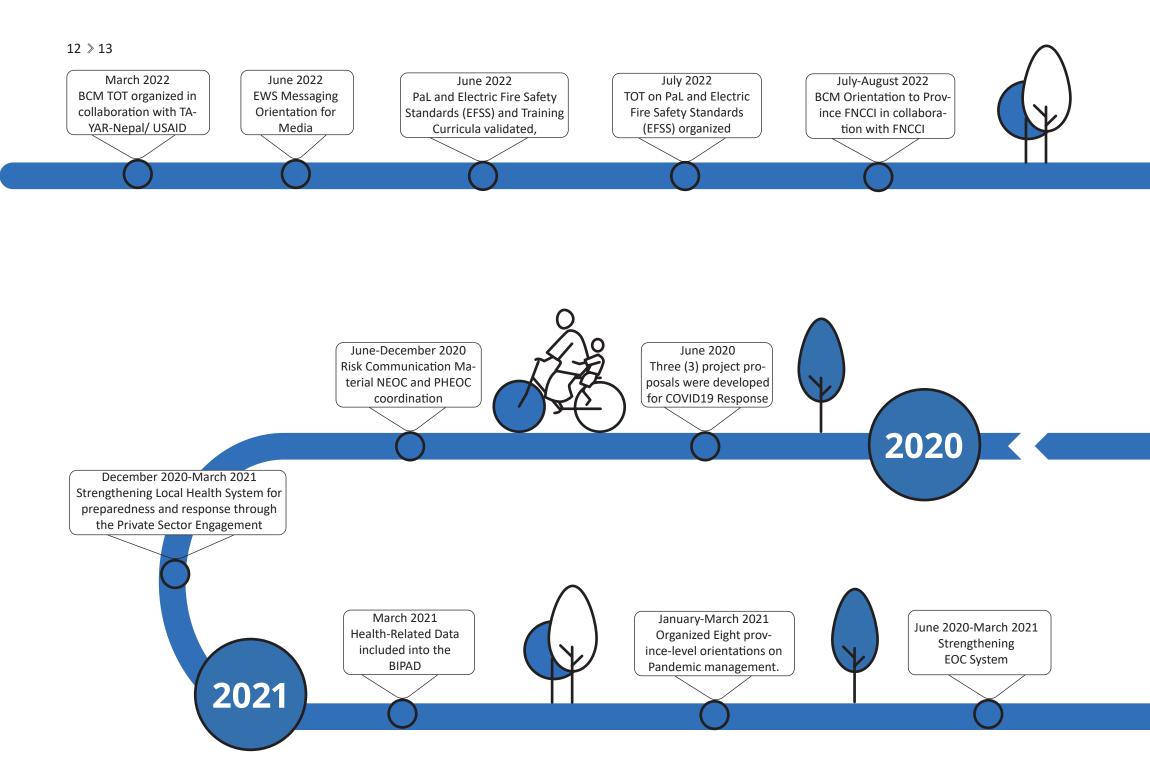
- Private sector made financial to contribute essential logistics needed for the public health response during the COVID – 19. The essential logistics included Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), sanitizers and soap, hand washing stations and thermometer guns. Similarly, treatment logistics includes testing kits, ventilators and other equipment and consumables logistics includes oxygen and medicines.
- Batas Foundation contributed equipment, drugs and necessary logistic for a child worth about 13.7 million.
 Established an Oxygen Plant in Pokhara.
- Business Continuity Management introduced and institutionalized by the private sector.
- Private sector pledge to support the strengthening of Emergency Operation Centers
- CSR guidelines on DRRM developed. Corporate social re sponsibility during the pandemic has boosted solid value with a positive impact on business houses. The motivation was the opportunity for the private sector to continue its business.
- Coordinating with the private sector and the relevant government agencies, the role played by NPP in joint response is exemplary and inspiring for other nongovernmental organizations. It will also enhance mutual trust and respect between NGO/INGOs, and government agencies.

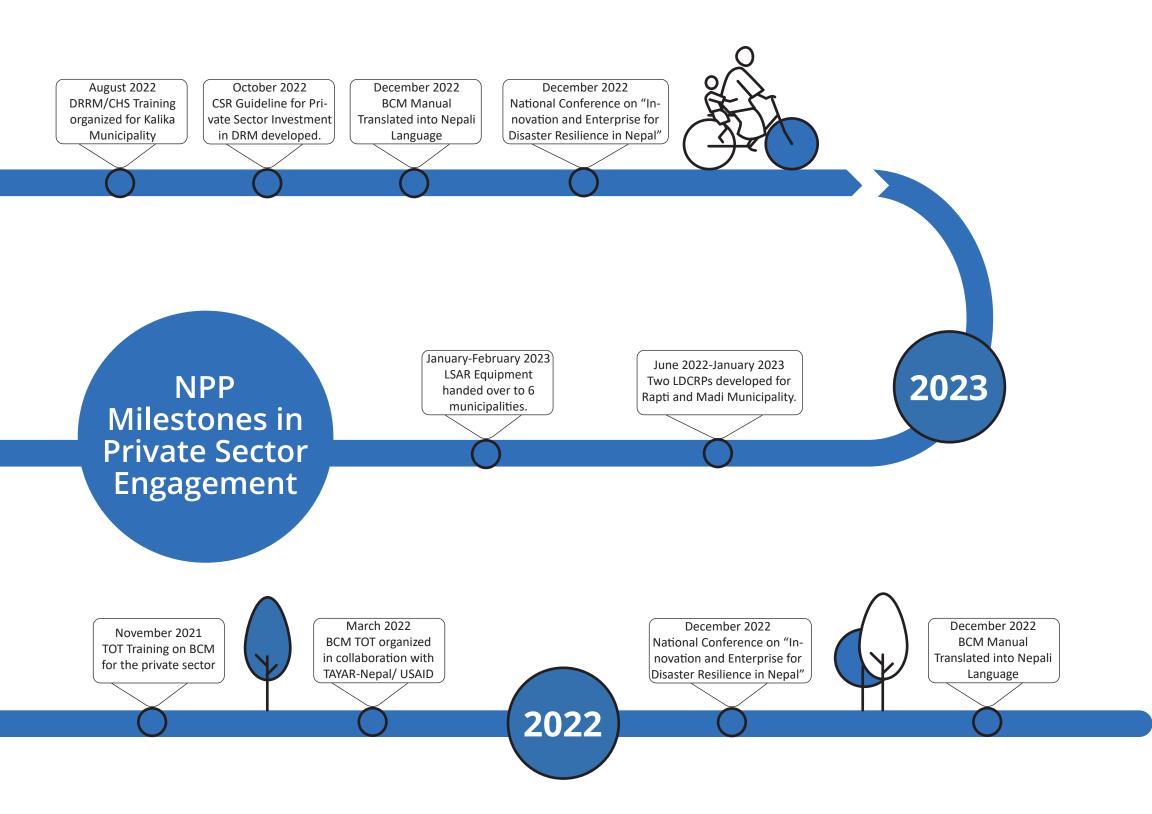
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^{14 > 15} Reflections



"The private sector is competent in disaster management and should work with mutual respect and trust and they do not always work only for profit and they are also accountable to the nation and society."

Merina Ranjit,

General Manager, Chaudhary Foundation

"The NPP partnership has been a very motivating factor for the engagement and involvement of the private sector in disaster risk management, through their various consultative meetings, interactions, and capacity-building initiatives. the pre-disaster scenario rather than the post-disaster scenario, with a clear understanding. These multiple forums have in fact educated us and instigated a trend to change our perspective on disaster management also facilitated opportunities to share our views with other like-minded partners and corporate houses to consolidate our approaches and perspective on preparedness and risk reduction. With our increasing involvement in partnership programs, our approach to disaster management is gradually shifting towards contributing to risk reduction rather than response. We now are more focused on the needs of needy people instead of the holistic approach of the past. Alongside this, the key takeaways are that a pre-disaster investment is more cost-effective than a post-disaster investment to reduce human and physical damage and post-disaster recovery cost. Every organization must have its business continuity plans to prepare for and withstand disaster situations. Disaster response was a big learning for us after the 2015 Earthquake. What we learned from there was as a business house we had lots of strength when it comes to disaster response and management. We took time to prepare ourselves for preparedness and as we were just rebuilding from the earthquake COVID19 hit us hard. Risk Financing is a smart approach to compensate and reduce response and recovery costs after and during disasters. This is felt essential to all corporate sectors to promote it internally and then lead by example. In this aspect, our organization had developed a brief business continuity management plan, which was further detailed after participating in the Business continuity plans (BCM) training organized by NPP. The training was comprehensive enough and has provided us with insights into detailing the business continuity plans that we had developed. BCM is essential to all corporate sectors as they enable the corporate sector to adopt and invest to better prepare for and respond to possible disruption to their business. We again replicated the training for our overall business in collaboration with NPP and NPP/Tayar Nepal. There have been positive lessons and experiences during this engagement. Private sectors are now being encouraged to play their part in disaster management by shifting their response-centered approach to preparedness. Forums and meetings

organized by NPP have provided occasions to express our concerns to the government so that a conducive and secure environment is established for the private sector to contribute to improving our resilience.

As mentioned earlier, we expect the government to create an enabling environment by addressing the present bottlenecks and obstacles, to motivate and support corporate investments. First and foremost a steady and logical dialogue needs to be initiated to understand the bottlenecks in terms of policies, acts, and directives. NPP is a diverse platform of DRRM Stakeholders and also an opportunity to learn and establish linkages with the government, DRRM professionals, practitioners, and academia. It is also a motivation for the corporate sector to contribute and enhance their capacities in disaster management. NPP has been very satisfying, as it was a motivating learning opportunity for me. It has provided and encouraged us with a better understanding of the national disaster management landscape. In terms of the key lessons from NPP, we are now consciously shifting our approach from relief to preparedness and risk reduction."



"After the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake, our foundation took a big step in institutionalizing disaster management by establishing its Emergency Management section. The irony of the private sector's engagement is that it has not received recognition for its contribution and is perceived as an alien identity. We are ready to contribute and invest in disaster management with our resources in enhancing Nepal's resilience."

Nirmal Bhandari,

General Manager, Batas Foundation

Mr. Bhandari has been associated with Batas Foundation for the past 3 years. Before Batas Foundation, he held key portfolios in IFRC and World Neighbors. He holds an M.Phil. degree and is currently a Ph.D. (Sociology) scholar. He has been actively engaged in the 2008 Koshi Floods, the 2015
Earthquake, and the COVID19 response and carries 15 years plus of working experience in disaster management.

"The NPP partnership had set up various forums and encouraged the private to share and cross-learn from other like-minded partners and corporate houses to consolidate our approaches and perspective on preparedness and risk reduction. The partnership for us is a learning platform and has been exemplary practice exercised in the partnership and acted as the private sector's disaster management learning platform. NPP capacity-building initiatives have been encouraging and promoting us to contribute to risk reduction instead of investing heavily in the response and recovery stages. In the course of our engagement in this partnership program, our line of thinking on disaster management was more aligned with promoting risk reduction, preparedness, and responding to the immediate needs

of the highly affected population rather than the pre-conceived holistic approach. The experiences gained from this engagement are being shared and discussed within to fit the organization and are now realizing the need to develop skilled and knowledgeable human resources within the organization. We have developed a course for emergency response and disaster management to train our staff and have formed emergency response teams in Kathmandu and Pokhara.

The key takeaways are that investments for risk reduction are more beneficial than investing during or after disaster situations. BCM has been the other takeaway as it promotes preparedness within the organization and leads the way by example to encourage others to reduce human and physical damage. After we participated in the BCM training organized by NPP we have taken measures to develop a BCM with technical support from NPP. The concept of BCM is useful to safeguard any business. This is a very essential approach for all corporate sectors as they promote security and risk reduction approaches to continue business during a crisis. The corporate sector should jointly invest in promoting and institutionalizing for their own benefit.

The government's approach towards the private sector is very rigid despite which good learning has been observed during this engagement. The corporate sector expects the

government to establish an aiding environment to address the existing bottlenecks and obstacles and promote and support corporate investments in disaster management. First and foremost a steady and logical dialogue needs to be initiated to understand the bottlenecks in terms of policies, acts, and directives. The need for the private sector in disaster management is being felt alongside being encouraged to do so. The improved understanding of the disaster management concept has provoked the corporate sector to revisit the charity-based response approach to preparedness. The various stages set up by NPP have provided opportunities for us to express and advocate our concerns with the government for the private sector investment in resilience building.

For us, NPP is a motivational platform that promotes the private sector as a major disaster management force. Through this platform, we gained an opening to be introduced, learn and create linkages with professionals, practitioners, and academia associated with disaster management. NPP has been very fruitful for us as it has offered and encouraged us with an improved knowledge of the disaster management scenario and how we should be contributing. In terms of the key lessons from NPP, brought us to diversify our approach from responding to risk reduction."

and the statement

Photo Credit: NDRC

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