

VIRTUAL MEDIA SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON MAINSTREAMING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 lists media as a stakeholder with active and inclusive role at local levels in contributing to public awareness, disseminating the information, and influencing public opinion and stimulating community engagement in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM). In line with Sendai Framework and in accordance with the project objective, the project envisions to support provincial level DRRM policies and programs through enhancing role of media. Thus, the project conducted seven Virtual Media Sensitization Workshops across seven provinces in coordination with the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) to support integration of DRRM policies and programs and to contribute to safer and resilient communities.



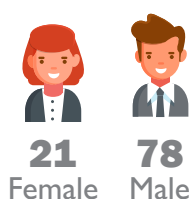
To discuss on challenges faced by media in DRRM reporting at the provincial and local level.



To analyze current situation of DRRM in journalism across various media channels.



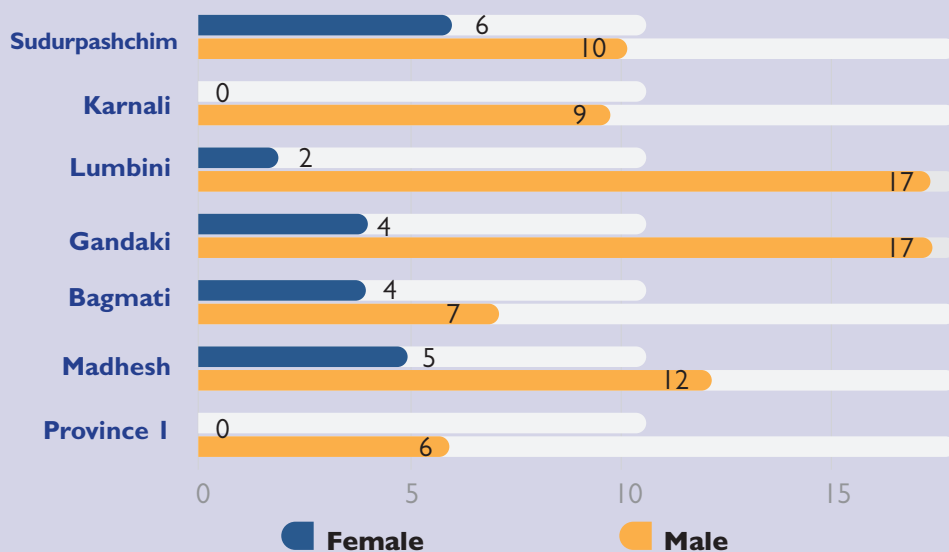
To enhance knowledge and role of media in all stages of DRRM (prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery).



Journalists Participated in the Workshop

The discussions centred around need for prioritization of DRRM reporting at the national front to aid the mainstreaming of DRRM in the provincial and local level journalism, capacity building trainings/orientation to editors and journalists on DRRM, creating partnership between development agencies and journalist forum to increase capacity of local media house and journalists and ensuring risk transfer mechanism such as insurance for journalists.

Gender-disaggregated Data of Journalists (Participants)



Graph 1. Province-wise disaggregated data of participants (journalists)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❶ Prioritize DRRM reporting at the national front to aid the mainstreaming of DRRM in provincial and local level journalism.
- ❷ Provide trainings to editors and journalists in all levels of media to ensure mutual understanding on DRRM mainstreaming.
- ❸ Create partnership between development agencies and journalist forums to increase capacity of local media house and journalists on DRRM coverage.
- ❹ Provide support on research to analyze context-specific hazards and underlying risks to highlight the issues in media.
- ❺ Prioritize DRRM reporting and establish disaster beat to cover the related news.
- ❻ Provide travel and health insurance for journalists.
- ❼ Provide trainings to journalists in all levels of media on concept of DRRM and award best performing journalists for risk journalism as an initiative by development agencies.
- ❽ Create partnership between development agencies and journalist forums for capacity building, fellowship for news writers and research support at local level on DRRM coverage.

TESTIMONIALS

Province I

“Journalists are the first point of contact in aftermath of disaster events, therefore, it is imperative that journalists are aware to report news sensitively taking into consideration issues like safety and protection. This requires dedicated capacity building of local journalists.”

– Mr. Eksan Rai, Chairman, FNJ, Bhojpur

“It is important that local government pay heed to reporting and carry out necessary actions in timely manner. After the incident of Koshi flood in 2008, various organizations developed early warning system, however, the regular monitoring on the functioning of such systems is essential.”

– Mr. Subida Guragain, Journalist, Morang

Madhesh Province

“Lately, few journalists are disseminating news covering DRRM cycle which has helped to understand situation of local places and has supported local government in preparedness and planning. However, many journalists are new to the concept of DRRM, hence, they are facing difficulties in DRRM reporting. It is necessary to build the capacity of journalists on DRRM for effective reporting.”

– Ms. Aarati Mandal, Journalist, Dhanusha

“During the tarai flood in 2017 with massive inundation, access to critical infrastructures and services like electricity, communications, rescue materials was disrupted. Due to which timely news reporting was affected, in addition, with less knowledge on rescue and relief benchmarks, there were mistakes during news dissemination. Thus, capacity building for journalists on DRRM must be focused for sensible news reporting.”

– Mr. Aalok Pandey, Journalist, Rautahat

Bagmati Province

“FNJ is committed to support journalists in their effort to create a safe working environment for journalists and has organized trainings before. However, capacity development program particularly focused on DRRM was prioritized during these trainings. We wish support from development partners in this regard.”

- Mr. Krishna Saru Magar, Secretary General, FNJ, Bagmati Province

“Currently only disaster loss and response related news are covered by the media. Media could be mobilized to make government agencies accountable for their DRRM actions and to promote DRRM efforts by humanitarian and development partners. Organizations can guide media to provide better quality information. Further, media could be used as a platform for critical analysis and learning sharing. Researchers can also partner with media to share the findings of their research, thus contributing to all phases of DRRM.”

- Mr. Jayaram Acharya, Saptakunda Saptahik, Bagmati Province

Gandaki Province

“The virtual media sensitization workshop from International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United States Agency for International Development/Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) is very much appreciated at provincial level. In addition to the virtual engagements, it would be useful if similar programs could be hosted at the provincial level physically.”

- Ms. Soni Sharma, Vice – Chairperson, FNJ, Gandaki Province

As part of risk transfer mechanism, FNJ, Tanahun Chapter has adopted insurance for the journalists. The insurance can payout up to 9 lakhs per person. We had also organized consultation on media’s active role in DRRM mainstreaming with members of District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) regarding ongoing practice on Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP). It was identified that there are significant gaps amongst the journalists in understanding DRRM. It is due to budget constraints, however, we are preparing for hosting virtual or physical capacity building program on DRRM under the supervision of FNJ in the district.”

- Mr. Ujjwal Poudel, FNJ, Tanahu

Lumbini Province

“Importance of consistent data collection in DRRM reporting has increased significantly for validating facts. It helps both governments and public take timely decisions that not only saves human lives but also prevents damages and economic losses.”

- Mr. Bikram Khadka, Secretary, FNJ, Lumbini Province

Karnali Province

“Due to inadequate infrastructure for transportation and communication, reaching out to all local levels is an ordeal in the province. Also, most of the journalists do not have experience in DRRM news reporting, thus, capacity building program must be prioritized.”

- Mr. Deviram Devkota, Chair, FNJ, Karnali Province

Sudurpashchim Province

“As a male dominated society, female journalists are not given opportunities to cover for DRRM news reporting leading to significant gap in covering issues related women, girls, children and overall protection issues. For news coverage on sensitive issues related to women and children, the presence of female journalists on DRRM is a must.”

- Ms. Niramala Khadayat, Journalist, Nepal Television, Kailali

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