

Strategic Action Plan for Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, 2024

**Endorsed by 22nd National Disaster Risk Reduction and
Management Executive Committee held on 3 May 2024**



Nepal Government

Ministry of Home Affairs

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority

April 2024

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background

Nepal is at high risk from disasters and climate change and faces loss of human lives and asset every year due to earthquake, flood, landslide, lightning, cold waves, fires, forest fires, heat waves and other disasters. The vulnerability is exacerbated due to its sensitive geographic situation, fragile geology and existing poverty. Disasters are gender neutral, but it impacts differently depending upon the individual, family and community resilience, adaptive capacity and vulnerability. Further, the impact of disasters is found to be relatively higher in communities with limited access to social, cultural, geographic, economic and political networks.

To address the aforementioned situation, Nepal has made important legal, policy, structural and institutional provisions relating to Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM). Despite such substantial progress, the negative impacts resulting from existing social, economic and cultural disparities have hindered the process of social inclusion and mainstreaming in DRRM. Single women, pregnant women and new mothers (sutkeri), persons with disabilities, gender and sexual minorities, children, senior citizens, *Dalits*, indigenous population and other marginalized groups and people from poor socio-economic status

are mostly affected during the disasters. The intersectional dimension among these social groups further increases disaster impacts exponentially. Thus, it is important to ensure the participation of vulnerable people and communities at risk of disasters by addressing their specific needs and capacities.

Integrating gender equality, inclusion of persons with disabilities and social justice in disaster risk reduction and management, helps in reducing vulnerabilities, bringing effectiveness in disaster response, enhancing community resilience, ensuring decision-making process inclusive, aligning with existing legal and policy frameworks, complying with international commitments, ensuring human rights and achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

1.2 International and Regional Commitments

Nepal has ratified the United Nations Security Council Resolution no. 1325 and 1820, Beijing Platform of Action (BPFA), SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, 2005, and 7 out of 9 international conventions on human rights. Similarly, it has ratified Sendai Framework (2015-2030), The Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (ILO 169), United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1969 and United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

(UNCRPD). On 18 March 2024 Gender Action Plan 2015-2030 to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction was launched.

As a party to the Paris Agreement, 2015; Nepal has prioritized, women and children for climate-induced disasters. Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) ratified by GoN has emphasized on the need of gender and social inclusion action plan to achieve the goals of NDC through meaningful participation of Women, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous and ethnic groups as well as need of collecting their disaggregated data.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) supports human rights and emphasizes on gender equality, inclusion, diversity, women empowerment and empowerment of vulnerable groups. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) mentions that children should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society and brought up in the spirit of the ideals proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations.

1.3 Policy and Legal Provisions

The Constitution of Nepal guarantees the rights to social security and social justice of children, persons with disabilities, pregnant and new mothers, *dalits*, senior citizens, indigenous and ethnic groups, *Madheshi* and other marginalized communities, socially, economically and educationally backward communities, citizens

living in geographically remote areas, gender and sexual minorities and other vulnerable groups.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017 and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Rules, 2019 provisions drafting special plan for vulnerable groups. The National Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2018 and the National Climate Change Policy, 2019 prioritizes environment friendly gender and social inclusion. The Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Plan of Action, 2018 – 2030 provisions for gender and social inclusion action plan for disaster risk reduction and management at all levels and sectors.

The National Adaptation Plan, 2021-2050 has an overarching goal of integrating the issues of climate change in the sectoral plans, policies, strategies and programs of federal, provincial and local levels prioritizing gender equality, social inclusion, livelihood and other concerns. Nepal's Gender and Social Inclusion Action Plan for Climate Change Policy, 2020-2030 (2077-2087) has targeted to achieve increased adaptive capacity of women and vulnerable communities by increasing their access in decision making process and resources related to climate change, adaptation and mitigation.

The Government of Nepal has enacted the Act Relating to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2016 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2019 in pursuant to the UNCRPD. These laws recognize the rights of persons with

disabilities with special protection to women and children with disabilities and social security related programs.

Nepal implemented a gender-responsive budgeting in FY 2007-08. Furthermore, it prioritizes constructing environment friendly and disaster resilient infrastructures by providing special emphasis on renewable energy, urban planning and transportation for disaster risk management and social protection system.

Despite all these attempts made so far, there is still a need to contribute to prioritizing issues of most vulnerable groups in the DRRM sector. The differential needs and capacities of at-risk communities and people impacted by disaster should be prioritized.

1.4 Gaps and Challenges

Gaps identified for gender, social and disability inclusion in DRRM:

- Lack of classified information on disaster risk and adequate awareness.
- Lack of disaggregated data and information of population at disaster risk.
- Lack of adequately trained human resource, equipment, logistics and relief materials required for quick search and rescue of vulnerable individuals and groups in emergency situations. Inaccessible information, communication and

technology (ICT) to vulnerable individuals and groups and lack of adequate materials and services in preparedness for response.

- Focus on ex-post rather than ex-ante disaster management.
- Lack of identifying the needs of persons with disabilities, helpless, single, lost and senior citizens during disaster events and their inadequate redressal.
- Inadequate measures to protect children and adolescent population from the incidents of sexual harassment or abuse during disasters as well as lack of access to health services, shelter, psychosocial counselling and legal aid for affected people.
- Inadequate addressing of the needs of gender and sexual minorities during disaster events.
- Lack of clear action plan on gender equality and social inclusion including absence of disaster risk identification, disaggregated data and risk mapping in all development sectors.
- Lack of effective inter-agency coordination and collaboration on DRRM.
- Lack of adequate programs for search, rescue, relief, rehabilitation and recovery.
- Lack of participation of vulnerable groups in DRRM and insufficient budget allocation.
- Lack of investments in leadership development and capacity enhancement of women and vulnerable groups for DRR.

Challenges for GEDSI in DRRM:

- To reduce the effects and impacts of disasters on vulnerable groups.
- To reduce the incidents of gender-based violence, sexual harassment and abuse on women, children, persons with disabilities and gender and sexual minorities during disasters.
- To address psychosocial needs along with physical necessities during disasters.
- To empower the disaster affected vulnerable groups and their rehabilitation into their families and communities.
- To develop an integrated disaster information management system at federal, provincial and local levels and its mobilization for DRRM.
- To make all public infrastructures and physical infrastructures accessible for all.
- To develop multi-hazard early warning system targeting the vulnerable groups.
- To build coherence in policies, plans and programs of federal, provincial and local levels for integrating GEDSI in DRRM.

1.5 Rationale for the Strategic Action Plan

There is a necessity of a concrete integrated action plan to address the needs and sensitivity of the vulnerable groups in DRRM. It is important to mainstream gender equality, disability and social

inclusion for bringing attitudinal and behavioral change, ensuring non-discriminatory participation of vulnerable groups and increasing their meaningful participation and access.

To make a society disaster resilient federal, provincial and local level policy, act, rule, plan and strategy must include inclusiveness in all aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction, preparedness, effective relief and response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The goal to reduce the gaps identified within vulnerable groups must be incorporated in all the four priority areas of Sendai Framework. It is essential to prepare a framework for short-term, mid-term and long-term to identify strategic activities and its implementation.

On 18 March 2024, Gender Action Plan 2015-2030 to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction was launched. It becomes important to integrate Gender Action Plan with this proposed Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Strategic Action Plan.

1.6 Potential Risks for the Implementation of Strategic Action Plan

- 1. The nature and the structure of this strategy are of common concerns; hence, the following potential risks are assumed:**

- a. Lack of unanimity on understanding about vulnerable groups.
- b. Likelihood of resource constraints and limited human capacity required for the implementation of targeted policies.
- c. Likelihood of gaps in inter-governmental and inter-agency coordination.
- d. Possibilities of ambiguity and duplication in the implementation of the strategy among government agencies.
- e. Possibilities that this action plan will not be mainstreamed in the policies, plans and programs due to lack of required resources.

2. Risk mitigation measures:

- a. Reaching a common understanding on vulnerable groups.
- b. Formation of an expert team within NDRRMA, comprising thematic specialists, academicians and professional expertise to review, research and analyze existing policies on integrating GEDSI considerations in DRRM.
- c. Clear delineation of roles and responsibilities among all levels of government and agencies for the implementation of this Strategic Action Plan.
- d. Create a conducive environment for the implementation of Strategic Action Plan through

dialogue, collaboration and facilitation among the stakeholders at various levels and agencies.

- e. Prioritization of the Strategic Action Plan through budget allocation by all levels of government for its implementation.
- f. Engagement of and collaboration with civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), women networks, right-based organizations, organizations of gender and sexual minorities, organizations working for gender equality, *dalits*, indigenous population, marginalized groups, rural women, persons with disabilities, youth and students, mass media, and media networks.

1.7 Guiding Principles

1. Access to information, services and meaningful participation: This action plan embraces the principles of identification of vulnerable groups and implementation of measures for DRR and ensuring access to information, services and meaningful participation of the groups as provisioned in the DRRM Act, 2017.

2. Leave no one behind: This action plan embraces the principle of "leaving no one behind" and "nothing about us without us" in all activities of DRR to address the issues and concerns of gender, class and region who have been identified as vulnerable groups.

3. Coordination, collaboration and partnership: There is a need for innovative and result oriented coordination, collaboration and partnership among all three levels of the government, security agencies, non-governmental organizations, development partners, private sectors and other multi-dimensional stakeholders for mainstreaming inclusion principles and practice in DRRM. For effective disaster response, public policy and governance systems should prioritize effective utilization of available resources, information system management, partnership in skills and expertise to develop effective strategies for evidence-based decisions.

4. “Whole-of-society” approach: A common agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction requires meaningful participation of all of the society stakeholders such as representatives of three tiers of the government, civil society, private sector, institutions - organizations, academia, media, individuals and community.

1.8 Timeline

The implementation timeline of this Strategic Action Plan is divided in three stages:

1. Short-term (up to 2 years),
2. Mid-term (up to 5 years), and
3. Long-term (more than 5 years)

1.9 Resource Management

Implementation of this action plan requires adequate resources, therefore, the responsible ministries, provincial government and local government as well as other relevant agencies, require managing necessary budget and resources to plan and implement targeted activities indicated in the Strategic Action Plan.

Chapter 2

Long-term Vision, Goal and Objectives

2.1 Long-term Vision

Disaster resilient country with gender equality, disability and social inclusion.

2.2 Goal

Increased access strengthened capacity and meaningful participation of vulnerable groups in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management through gender equality, disability and social inclusion.

2.3 Objective

2.3.1 Mainstreaming vulnerable groups in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the three levels of the government by increasing their access, representation, capacity and meaningful participation in all dimensions of DRRM.

2.3.2 Institutionalize the principles and practices of inclusion in DRRM in all agencies and sectors following “whole-of-society” approach.

2.3.3 Support in making social security programs disaster sensitive.

2.3.4 Support in integrated implementation of GEDSI concepts in DRRM.

2.3.5 Work in collaboration with stakeholders to ensure protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH) and safety of all people affected by emergency crisis as integral part of disaster management.

2.4 Strategy

2.4.1 Integrate gender equality, disability and social inclusion in the understanding of climate and disaster risks.

2.4.2 Integrate gender equality, disability and social inclusion in DRRM governance of federal, provincial and local governments.

2.4.3 Promote gender equality, disability and social inclusion in public and private investment in DRRM to build a resilient society.

2.4.4 Integrate GEDSI considerations for effective response and strengthened disaster preparedness.

2.4.5 Embrace GEDSI consideration for “Build Back Better” and “Build Back Accessible”

2.4.6 Develop research, training and capacity building for mainstreaming of GEDSI into DRRM.

2.4.7 Integrate GEDSI consideration into multi-hazard early warning systems and anticipatory action.

2.4.8 Make GEDSI integral of social security and disaster risk financing.

Chapter 3

Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

S. No.	Strategic Activity	Expected Outcome	Responsible Agency	Supporting Agency	Timeline
Strategy 3.1: Integrate gender equality, disability and social inclusion in the understanding of climate and disaster risks.					
1.	Integrate the local level (ward-level) data of vulnerable groups into the existing data system (<i>Bipad</i> Portal).	Discrepancies in data of vulnerable groups are addressed.	NDRRMA, Local level	Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA),	Continuous

				National Statistics Office (NSO), Provincial Government, Partner Organizations	
2	Undertake risk assessment at local levels (<i>Palikas</i>) by using disaggregated data on vulnerability.	Risk at local levels is identified.	Local level	MoHA, MOFAGA, NDRRMA, Provincial Government, Partner Organizations	Mid-term

3	Preparation and dissemination of accessible information, communication and educational (IEC) materials on multi hazards.	Increased awareness on the understanding of disaster and climate risk.	NDRRMA, Local Level	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MoCIT), National Planning Commission (NPC), Related provincial ministries, Partner Organizations	Continuous
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4	<p>Conduct awareness programs on probable risk, to vulnerable groups, on adolescents' health, reproductive health, social protection of pregnant and new mothers and other gender-based violence, likely to happen during disaster.</p>	<p>Increased level of awareness on adolescents' health, reproductive health, social protection and gender-based violence.</p>	<p>NDRRMA, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC), Provincial government, Local level</p>	<p>Sectoral federal and provincial ministries, District Administration Office (DAO), Partner organizations</p>	<p>Continuous</p>
5	<p>Conduct awareness and orientation programs on effective roles of vulnerable groups for DRRM.</p>	<p>Increased awareness on DRRM.</p>	<p>NDRRMA, Local level</p>	<p>MoHA, MoFAGA, Sectoral ministries Partner organizations</p>	<p>Continuous</p>

6	Conduct basic training for the stakeholders at federal, provincial and local levels on integrating GEDSI in DRRM based on a tailored module.	Increased awareness of vulnerable groups on basics and practical knowledge on disaster management.	NDRRMA, Local level	MoHA, MoFAGA, Sectoral ministries, Provincial ministries, Partner organizations, Training institutes	Continuous
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Strategy 3.2: Integrate gender equality, disability and social inclusion in DRRM governance of federal, provincial and local governments.					
7	Prepare national and local policies, legislations, institutional and organizational mechanisms and guidelines for mainstreaming vulnerable groups in disaster management.	A basis for mainstreaming in governance approaches are in place.	Federal, provincial and local levels, NDRRMA	Sectoral ministries, Partner organizations	Mid-term
8	Assign GEDSI focal person at all levels of government and agencies.	Easier coordination and collaboration with implementing	All levels of government and agencies.	NDRRMA	short-term

		agencies and stakeholders			
9	Address specific needs of vulnerable groups related to disaster management in government policies, programs and planning, implementation, monitoring and budget formulation.	GEDSI integrated in DRRM governance.	All levels of government and agencies.	NDRRMA, Partner organizations	Mid-term
10	Ensure representation of vulnerable groups in DRRM leadership level.	Vulnerable groups represented at the leadership roles of governance mechanisms.	All levels of government and agencies.	NDRRMA	continuous

11	Adopt the values of GEDSI in community-based DRRRM.	Inclusive representation in community-based mechanism	NDRRMA, Provincial government, Local level	Community-based organizations, Partner organizations	continuous
12	Adopt principles of inclusion in disaster-resilience frameworks at all levels of government.	Integrated resilience frameworks in line with principles of inclusion will be prepared and implemented.	All levels of government.	Sectoral ministries, Partner organizations	Mid-term
13	Form a mechanism for protection from sexual	Mechanism on protection	All levels of government	NDRRMA, Partner organizations	Continuous

	exploitation, abuse and harassment and provide thematic trainings.	from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment will be integrated in DRRM.			
14	Amend DRRM related policies, Acts, Rules, guidelines, manuals, standards and programs at all three levels of government as needed for inclusion of vulnerable groups.	Programs implemented in line with the amended policies, guidelines and standards.	All levels of government	NDRRMA, Sectoral ministries	Mid-term

15	Effectively implement programs targeted to vulnerable groups by setting up an accessible grievance redress mechanism (GRM), and a coordination and communication mechanism specific to DRRM.	An effective coordination and communication mechanism established.	Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Provincial government, Local level	Partner organization	Continuous
16	Establishment of an accessible grievance redress mechanism (GRM) on DRRM.	An accessible GRM established, complaints lodged and addressed.	All levels of government	NDRRMA	Short-term
17	Prioritize the specific needs of vulnerable groups in building	Accessible and convenient	Ministry of Urban	NDRRMA, Local level	Long-term

	code and public physical infrastructures.	infrastructures for everyone built.	Development (MoUD), Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transportation (MoPIT)		
18	Increase sharing of good practices about GEDSI at local and national levels.	`Sharing of good practices and their replication will be done by all levels.	Provincial government, Local level	NDRRMA, Partner organization	Continuous

Strategy 3.3: Promote gender equality, disability and social inclusion in public and private investment in DRRM to build a resilient society.

19	Follow universal design and ensure investment while building accessible infrastructures (road, ramp, lift, building, bridge, hospital bed, public toilet, etc) targeted to vulnerable groups.	Increased investment in accessible infrastructures as per universal design.	All levels of government, Private sector	NDRRMA	Long-term
20	Empower vulnerable groups by promoting sustainable alternative livelihood programs for empowerment of vulnerable groups.	Investment on sustainable alternative livelihood programs for vulnerable	All levels of government, Private sector	NDRRMA, Partner organization	Long-term

		groups promoted.			
Strategy 3.4: Integrate GEDSI considerations for effective response and strengthened disaster preparedness.					
21	Provide required technical knowledge, skills and training to volunteers to make vulnerable group friendly disaster response.	Enhanced capacity of rescuers or persons involved in disaster response and effective disaster response delivered.	Local level	Provincial government, District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC), Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC) Partner organization	Continuous

22	Prepare multi-hazard preparedness and response plans at all three levels of government by including vulnerable groups.	Needs of vulnerable groups will be addressed in multi-hazard preparedness and response plans.	All levels of government, DDMC	Partner organization	Continuous
23	Establish a monitoring mechanism for resources and data with participation of vulnerable groups.	Vulnerable groups will be represented in DRRM monitoring.	NDRRMA, Provincial government, Local level	Sectoral Ministries, Provincial government, Local level	Mid-term

24	Prepare and update GEDSI indicators for disaster preparedness and response.	Effective response with updated GEDSI indicators in place.	NDRRMA, Provincial government, Local level	Sectoral ministries, Partner organizations	Long-term
25	Formulate preparedness and response plans to address specific needs of vulnerable groups during health emergencies like COVID19.	Effective response plan on potential health emergencies targeted to vulnerable groups formulated.	Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP)	Health Emergency Operation Center (HOEC)	Short-term

26	Stockpile and provide service and materials that meets specific needs of vulnerable groups (diapers for children and senior citizens, sanitary pads for adolescent girls, assistive tools for persons with disabilities as well as storage of nutritional items and medicines for children and senior citizens).	Meet specific needs of vulnerable groups.	All levels of government, Sectoral ministries	National/provincial/local emergency operation center, Partner organization	Continuous
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27	Update national stockpile system (godam.ndrrma.gov.np) with information of available materials for vulnerable groups at all levels.	Updated information on status of materials stocked for vulnerable groups.	Local level	NDRRMA, Provincial government	Continuous
28	Conduct mock drill simulation with participation of vulnerable groups.	Informed vulnerable groups on disaster preparedness.	NDRRMA, All three security agencies in a district	Partner organization	Continuous
29	Ensure access and representation of vulnerable groups in the formation and	Increased access and meaningful participation of	All levels of government	Trained volunteers, Community-based organizations (CBOs)	Short-term

	mobilization of volunteer bureaus at all levels.	vulnerable groups in the formation and mobilization of volunteer bureaus.			
Strategy 3.5: Embrace GEDSI consideration for “Build Back Better” and "Build Back Accessible".					
30	Ensure construction of accessible physical infrastructures for vulnerable groups such as road, ramp, lift, building, bridge, hospital bed, public toilet, etc. during reconstruction, rehabilitation and recovery.	Built accessible infrastructures.	MoUD, MoPIT, Provincial government, Local level	Other sectoral ministries, NDRRMA, Partner organization	Continuous

31	Inform about the booklet on “Building Universal Accessible Homes for Everyone” from a multi-hazard reconstruction process.	Support in 'Build Back Better' and 'Build Back Accessible' through information disseminated on accessible shelters.	NDRRMA, Local Level	Partner organization	Short-term
32	Provide skill-based training (masonry, plumbing, wiring, etc.) to support the livelihood of vulnerable groups.	Improved livelihood of vulnerable groups.	NDRRMA, Provincial government, Local Level	Private sector, Skill development training institutes, Partner organizations	Continuous
33	Manage accessible temporary shelters for families of	Ease in daily lives of	MoHA, NDRRMA,	Partner organizations	Continuous

	vulnerable groups affected by disaster.	vulnerable living in temporary shelters.	Provincial government, Local level		
Strategy 3.6: Develop research, training and capacity building for mainstreaming of GEDSI into DRRM.					
34	Update e-learning module	Enhanced knowledge of vulnerable groups on disasters.	NDRRMA	Provincial government, Local level	Continuous
35	Conduct research and study on impacts of disasters on vulnerable groups.	Support in preparing policies and programs targeted to	NDRRMA	Partner organizations, Universities, Academic agencies	Mid-term

		vulnerable groups.			
36	Conduct programs targeted to vulnerable groups based on research and study on local innovation, technology, skill and knowledge.	Promotion of local innovation, technology, skill and knowledge.	NDRRMA, Provincial government, Local level	Sectoral agencies	Short-term
37	Incorporate GEDSI considerations in training modules of professional institutions and groups working in disaster management (architecture, engineering, Nepal Bar	GEDSI considerations will be incorporated in DRRM trainings on infrastructure,	MoUD, NDRRMA, Institute of Engineering	Provincial government, Local level	Continuous

	Association, urban planning, and financial management).	architecture, engineering, urban planning, fiscal management etc.			
38	Strengthen institutional capacity of groups and agencies working for vulnerable groups in disasters.	Strengthened institutional capacity of concerned agencies.	MoHA, Sectoral ministries, NDRRMA	Provincial government, Local level	Continuous
39	Prepare a training standard on social counseling and promoting mental health for communities affected by disasters.	Trained human resources on social and mental health counseling.	Ministry of Health	NDRRMA, Provincial government, Local level, Partner organizations	Mid-term, continuous

Strategy 3.7: Integrate GEDSI consideration into multi-hazard early warning systems and anticipatory action.

40	Enhance technical skills at all levels to increase access of all including persons with disabilities in communication and information dissemination system (web portal, mobile app, etc.)	Enhanced technical skills in the use of accessible modern communication and information system.	Provincial government, Local level, NDRRMA, MoCIT	Sectoral ministries, Partner organizations	Continuous
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41	Prepare effective and suitable IEC materials as per need in local languages for communities and in sign language, siren, lights and braille script etc. targeting persons with disabilities.	Accessible early warning system for all.	Provincial government, Local level, NDRRMA, DHM	Nepal Telecommunications Authority, Social media, Media, Partner organizations	Continuous
42	Mobilize volunteers to support vulnerable groups for easy access of early warning system.	Established easy access of vulnerable groups for early warning system.	NDRRMA, Provincial government, Local level	Humanitarian organizations	Mid-term

Strategy 3.8: Make GEDSI integral of social security and disaster risk financing.					
43	Provision of subsidies in disaster risk insurance for vulnerable groups.	Support for vulnerable groups in receiving compensation for damages incurred by disasters.	Ministry of Finance (MoF), Provincial government, Local level, Nepal Rastra Bank, National Insurance Corporation	Insurance companies	Continuous
44	Prioritize poor and vulnerable groups to provide grants for	Vulnerable groups are	MoF, NDRRMA,	MoHA, MoFAGA,	Long-term

	recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation of private shelters damaged by disasters.	prioritized through inclusive recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation.	Provincial government, Local Government	Bank and financial institutions, Partner organizations	
45	Prioritize poor and vulnerable groups to provide subsidized loans for reconstruction of shelters damaged by disasters.	Vulnerable groups will receive subsidized loans.	MoF, NDRRMA, Provincial government, Local Government	MoHA, MoFAGA, Bank and financial institutions Partner organizations	Mid-term

46	Develop a shock responsive social security system.	A shock responsive social security system will be developed.	NDRRMA, National Planning Commission, Department of National ID and Civil Registration	Provincial government, Local level, Partner Organizations	Mid-term
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Chapter 4

Monitoring and Evaluation

4.1 National Steering Committee

There will be a National Steering Committee (NSC) responsible for ensuring effective implementation of the Strategic Action Plan. The NSC will facilitate and provide directives to solve problems identified during monitoring as well as provide suggestions/recommendations for revising this Strategic Action Plan as required. The composition of the NSC shall be as follows:

Chief Executive, NDRRMA

- Coordinator

Joint Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and
Council of Ministers (OPMCM)

- Member

Joint Secretary, MoHA

- Member

Joint Secretary, MoF

- Member

Joint Secretary, MoFAGA

- Member

Joint Secretary, MoWCSC

- Member

Joint Secretary, MoH

- Member

Joint Secretary, NPC

- Member

Chairperson, National Federation of the Disabled Nepal
(NFDN)

- Member

Under Secretary, NDRRMA

- Member Secretary

There shall be a Province level and Local level Strategic Action Plan Implementation Committees responsible for ensuring effective implementation of the plan and to provide directives to solve problems identified during monitoring through inter-governmental coordination, implementation and facilitation. The composition of the Committees shall be as follows:

4.2 Provincial SAP Implementation Monitoring Committee (PIMC)

There shall be a Provincial SAP Implementation Monitoring Committee (PIMC) coordinated by the Chief Secretary of Office of the Provincial Chief Minister and Council of Ministers and comprising ministerial secretaries as members. Representatives of organizations working for vulnerable groups can be called on as invited

members as required. The PIMC shall submit a monitoring report with suggestions/recommendations to the Office of the Chief Minister as well as concerned Provincial ministries and to the NDRRMA.

Chief Secretary, Office of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers (OCMCM) - Coordinator

Secretary, Ministry of Domestic Affairs and Law

- Member

Secretary, Ministry of Social Development

- Member

Secretary, Ministry of Health

- Member

Under Secretary, OCMCM

- Member Secretary

4.3 District SAP Implementation Monitoring Committee (DIMC)

There shall be a District SAP Implementation Monitoring Committee (DIMC) chaired by the Chief District Officer comprising representatives of the District Coordination Committee, a focal person or Member Secretary and representatives of related social organizations.

The DIMC shall submit a monitoring report with suggestions/recommendations to the provincial ministry dealing with disaster-related issues and to the NDRRMA.

Chief District Officer

- Chairperson

District Coordination Officer

- Member

District Infrastructure Office

- Member

Chief, District Health Office

- Member

Chief Administrative Officer, Local level with a
headquarter

- Member

Chief, District Treasury Controller Office

- Member Secretary

The Committee above shall have the following duties:

- Ensure DRRM programs, plans and budget are aligned with GEDSI principles as well as check their implementation status as recommended by this SAP.
- Monitor and review whether the district disaster response initiatives are in line with GEDSI principles.
- Invite representatives from sectoral agencies and thematic experts in committee meetings as needed.

- The committee is responsible to prepare and adopt its own checklist for implementation monitoring of the SAP.
- Monitor district-level disaster management policies, programs, plans and budget.
- Conduct committee meetings at least three times a year or more as needed.
- The committee itself can decide on the meeting modality.
- Monitor district level GEDSI initiatives.

4.4 Local Level SAP Implementation Monitoring Committee (LIMC)

There shall be a Local Level SAP Implementation Monitoring Committee (LIMC) in coordination of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) comprising a GEDSI focal person from the local level as Member Secretary.

Chief Administrative Officer

- Coordinator

Chief, Social Development Section

- Member

Disaster focal person

- Member

GEDSI focal person

- Member Secretary

The Committee above shall have the following duties:

- Invite representatives of sectoral agencies and thematic experts in committee meetings as needed.
- Conduct committee meetings at least four three times a year or more as needed.
- The committee itself can decide on the meeting modality.
- Monitor the local level activities identified by the federal agencies including disaster and GEDSI related provincial ministries at local levels as required.
- The committee is responsible to prepare and adopt its own checklist for implementation monitoring of the SAP.
- Invite representatives from sectoral agencies and thematic experts in committee meetings as needed.

Annexes

Annex 1

Definition and Explanation

Major terms and terminologies related to DRRM, used in this action plan, have been defined below to maintain uniformity and neutrality in their understanding and clarity in usage which will ultimately support effective implementation of this SAP on GEDSI.

a) Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable groups include children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, pregnant and new mothers, single women, *dalits*, indigenous nationalities, ethnic minorities, other marginalized groups, daily wage laborers, homeless, living in temporary shelter, living in safe shelters, trafficking survivors, persons with psycho-social challenges caused by disasters, people with diverse sexual identities, caretakers of persons with disabilities and chronically ill patients, and people with low economic status. These groups are at high risk of disasters compared to other groups.

b) Disability

The Act relating to Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2018 defines persons with disabilities as “a person who has long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory disability or functional impairments or existing barriers that may hinder his

or her full and effective participation in social life on an equal basis with others.” Persons with disabilities are at high risk during disasters and their needs vary according to age as well as nature and degree of disabilities. There are different types of barriers for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Hence, capacity building of persons with disabilities via trainings and guidelines on preparedness for disaster response, providing ID cards, and management of assistive and mobility devices (eg. white cane for visually impaired people, wheelchair for physically impaired, or other useful devices, vibration tone or different audio messages), availability of sign language or sign language interpreters for persons with hearing impairment, temporary shelters for children with intellectual disabilities to stay with families and communities along with availability of essentials for disaster response need to be arranged.

c) LGBTQIA+

People in these groups face challenges due to different perceptions related to social values on sexuality, culture, rites and rituals and are excluded in every social and development dimension, face discrimination and are more vulnerable during disasters. Hence, inclusion, accessibility, opportunities, protection and security of this community needs to be given priority in disaster management initiatives.

d) Intersectionality

Intersectionality refers to the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, gender class, physical condition, sexual orientation and as they apply to a given individual or

group, create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. The layers of positive and negative identities of every individual or group determine their access to or deprivation of resources. Factors like race, gender class, physical condition, social status, religious affiliation, geographical positioning, educational status etc. create grounds for discrimination and exclusion. Hence, it is important to address the varied and interdependent specialties, conditions, needs and capacities of vulnerable individuals and communities in all dimensions of DRRM.

e) Gender Equality

Gender Equality refers to the equal opportunities, responsibilities, rights, services, benefits, access to resources of women, men, and people with various sexual identities. Gender Equality helps in attainment of substantial equality by promoting social justice and is seen both as a human rights issue and as a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centered development. It is necessary to ensure GEDSI in DRRM to address the uneven impacts of disasters owing to gender disparity.

f) Social Inclusion

Social Inclusion is a process of removing obstacles and hurdles in mainstreaming socially excluded groups and supporting their meaningful participation, improving access to services, benefits, and helping them to enjoy equal rights. Social inclusion by ensuring human rights, respects the rights-based principle of access for excluded groups to resources, tools,

decision-making. Inclusion fosters DRRM by increasing excluded groups' access to and control over resources and aids capacity building through their meaningful participation in decision-making process.

g) Marginalization

Marginalization refers to discrimination based on gender, race, caste, social exclusion, economic status, religious inclination, geographical positioning, qualification, education, language etc. and traditionally prevalent exclusion. Exclusion in society originates from traditional practices, beliefs and values. As a result, the backwards groups are out of the mainstream development and are deprived of benefits which creates the need of mainstreaming them in all dimensions of DRRM.

Division of Roles for Strategic Action Plan Implementation for different levels

a) Role of Government of Nepal

The Government of Nepal (GON) shall formulate necessary policies, strategies, manuals while directing and facilitating the federal, provincial and local bodies for its implementation in line with the activities outlined in this SAP as per its objectives. The NDRMMA shall play a crucial role in coordination, collaboration and facilitation among concerned ministries, departments and stakeholders to administer DRRM related activities at federal level. Similarly, the NDRRMA shall coordinate with Provincial Governments, Local Levels, international organizations, development partners and non-governmental organizations for disaster preparedness, post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation, facilitate in enacting

policies, manuals and programs targeted to vulnerable groups, managing required financial sources as well as conduct trainings and orientation for capacity building of agencies and human resources for disaster management and their mobilization in coordination with the concerned federal ministries.

b) Role of Provincial Government

Provincial Government shall enact and implement policies, strategies, manuals, programs and action plans targeted to vulnerable groups based on this SAP as well as manage and mobilize required resources. It can coordinate or collaborate with local agencies within its province to draft amicable policies, plans and implement programs to address the needs of the province. It can coordinate and collaborate with the Province Disaster Management Committee in case of implementation challenges resulting from policy ambiguities.

Provincial government can conduct mapping of the stakeholders working for vulnerable groups for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. It shall collaborate with concerned stakeholders in formulating and implementing plans on disaster management, their monitoring and addressing the special needs of vulnerable groups in budget design.

c) Role of Local Level

Local levels shall enact and implement policies, strategies, manuals, programs and action plans based on the SAP and promoting local knowledge, skills and technology. It shall manage and mobilize resources targeting vulnerable groups depending on nature and intensity of disasters. In addition to

the activities mentioned in the SAP, it can draft an implementation action plan with other activities as needed. It shall coordinate and collaborate with district disaster management committee (DDMC), local disaster management committee, and if needed with the province disaster management committee and the federal government to avoid potential challenges and duplication, during the implementation of the SAP.

The local government can conduct mapping of the stakeholders working in DRRM specifically for vulnerable groups. It shall collaborate with concerned stakeholders in formulating and implementing plans on disaster management, their monitoring and addressing the special needs of vulnerable groups in budget design.

d) Role of District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC)

The DAO is primarily responsible for maintaining peace and order in the district, disaster management and overall safety and security of people through effective delivery of public services for ensuring good governance. It shall prepare a district disaster response plan, and an action plan specifically targeted to vulnerable groups and ensure their implementation by clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all the concerned agencies within its jurisdiction. In addition, it shall request the district-based agencies to give a special priority to vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities, women and children in matters relating to building shelters in disaster-hit areas, relocation of people affected, rescue and immediate relief as well as building temporary and permanent shelters.

It has a key role in creating an atmosphere for proportional and dignified participation of targeted groups in public service delivery as well as construction and development of physical infrastructures. It is also responsible for initiating possible coordination, collaboration and partnership with provincial and local agencies for proper management and mobilization of resources available in the district as well as ensuring effective monitoring.

e) Role of Stakeholders

DRRM actions are broad and encompass multiple sectors. This SAP aimed at mainstreaming GEDSI in all the initiatives of DRRM cannot be successfully implemented by the government alone. Hence, constructive and active participation, support, cooperation and contribution of all sectors of society, including civil society, private sector, institutions, organizations, individuals, communities, media agencies, education experts, researchers, donor agencies, and experts as well as all the concerned stakeholders is valuable. The stakeholders are expected to mainly support and facilitate in localization, sensitization, meaningful participation, gender equality, organizing capacity building trainings on disability and social inclusion, research and study, data collection, knowledge and skill exchange and partnership, ensuring participation of vulnerable groups through advocacy, resource management, investment and mobilization, availability of technical support, facilitating design and implementation of programs, plans and policy guidelines to contribute in building a disaster-resilient nation.

Annex 2

List of Abbreviations

BPfA	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
CDO	Chief District Officer
DAO	District Administration Office
DDMC	District Disaster Management Committee
DEOC	District Emergency Operations Centre
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion

GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
HEOC	Health Emergency Operation Center
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IMC	Implementation Monitoring Committee
LEOC	Local Emergency Operations Centre
MHEWS	Multi-hazards Early Warning System
MoCIT	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MOHP	Ministry of Health and Population

MoPIT	Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transportation
MoUD	Ministry of Urban Development
NDRRMA	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
NEOC	National Emergency Operations Centre
NSC	National Steering Committee
OCMCM	Office of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers
PEOC	Provincial Emergency Operations Centre
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

Annex 3

Institutional and Organizational Structure

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

Section 3 of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act, 2017 provisions for National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council chaired by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. The council shall have at least one female nominated among three persons having expertise in the field of disaster management and the Executive Officer shall function as the Member Secretary.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Executive Committee

Section 6 of the DRRM Act, 2017 provisions for establishment of an Executive Committee for the purposes of implementing policies and plans laid down by the Council. The committee led by the Minister for Home Affairs shall have the Chief Executive of NDRRMA as its Member Secretary.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA)

The NDRRMA has been established within the MOHA as per the DRRM Act, 2017. The Authority is mainly responsible to effectively conduct and manage DRRM activities. It shall carry out disaster management activities in close coordination with the Council, the Executive Committee and the concerned Ministries and other agencies of Government of Nepal. The Authority will also function as a secretariat for the National Council chaired by the Rt. Hon Prime

Minister and the Executive Committee chaired by Hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

As per the DRRM Act, 2017, there shall be a Provincial Disaster Management Council chaired by the Chief Minister for the preparing policy and plan on disaster management, providing policy guidance and direction to the Provincial Disaster Management Committee in each province as required. Every Provincial Government shall, by notification in the Provincial Gazette, establish a Disaster Management Executive Committee chaired by the Minister of the relevant ministry.

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee shall consist of the chairperson and members, not exceeding fifteen. Among the 19 functions, duties and powers of the committee are to ensure that information and data on disaster management are collected, analyzed, stored and disseminated at provincial levels, relocate or cause to relocate disaster affected people from the unsafe areas to the safe areas, make or cause to make temporary shelters and other temporary structures for disaster affected people during emergency, mobilize or cause to mobilize volunteers in the disaster affected areas, and enact provincial level mid-term and short-term policies, plans and programs subject to the national policy and plan as laid down by the Council, and implement them.

District Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee

According to the DRRM Act, 2017, there shall be a District Disaster Management Committee chaired by the District Administrative Officer in every district for the implementation of DRRM activities. The functions, duties and powers of the committee include enacting the

disaster response plan of the district and its implementation, conduct search and rescue operations in the disaster affected areas through optimum use of and utilization of available resources, arranging essential supplies such as drinking water, food, clothing and medical care in the disaster affected areas.

Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee

The DRRM Act, 2017 provisions for the establishment of a Local Disaster Management Committee chaired by the chairperson or mayor of the local level along with members, not exceeding fifteen and outlines its functions, duties and powers for DRRM related activities. The Constitution of Nepal, in Schedule 8, mentions disaster management as the exclusive function of the local level for which it can enact and implement specific laws.

Emergency Operation Centers

According to the DRRM Act, 2017, there shall be national level NEOC, provincial PEOC, district level DEOC and local level LEOC.

Annex 4

Sample Monitoring and Evaluation Checklist

Sample monitoring and evaluation checklist is a tool used for systematic evaluation, review and result assessment of the implementation and management progress, impact and execution of various plans, policies, projects and programs. The checklist includes factors like actions, activities required for review, monitoring and evaluation of a project or program. The monitoring and evaluation checklist helps managers, evaluators, policy makers and other stakeholder to evaluate targeted work progress. Following sample checklist has been set for the progress monitoring and evaluation of this SAP:

Strategic Activity	Analysis of main activities	Yes/No	Note
Strategy 1: Integrate gender equality, disability and social inclusion in the understanding of climate and disaster risks.			
1	Are templates, check list, questionnaires, and guidelines for the data collection of vulnerable groups prepared?		
2	Have disaggregated and integrated data on vulnerable groups been collected?		

3	Are inclusive IEC materials on multiple hazards ready to meet the communication needs of vulnerable groups?		
3.1	If yes, what are they?	<p>a. Radio jingle</p> <p>b. Pamphlet, brochure</p> <p>c. Street drama</p> <p>d. Mobile App</p> <p>e. Digital message</p>	
4	Has the awareness program on health, reproductive health, protection, gender-based violence reduction been conducted targeting adolescents?		
5	Has public awareness program been conducted for enhancing the understanding and		

	practical knowledge of vulnerable groups for their effective role in DRRM?		
Strategy 2: Integrate gender equality, disability and social inclusion in DRRM governance of federal, provincial and local governments.			
6	Have the vulnerable groups been represented in DRRM related planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and budgeting processes?		
7	Has a GEDSI Unit/Section been established in all relevant agencies and all levels of government (local, provincial, federal)?		
8	Is there representation of vulnerable groups in a community based DRRM committee?		
9	Is the integrated disaster resilience framework based on inclusion principle been drafted?		

Strategic Activities	Analysis of main activities	Yes/No	Note
9.1	If yes, has the framework been implemented?		
10	Has the coordination and communication system been established for the effective implementation of programs targeted to the vulnerable groups?		
11	Does the building code address the special needs of vulnerable groups?		
12	Are the physical infrastructures accessible for all addressing the specific needs of all vulnerable groups?		
Strategy 3: Promote gender equality, disability and social inclusion in public and private investment in DRRM to build a resilient society.			
13	Is there any investment planned based on Green Resilient and Inclusive Development (GRID) approach for risk reduction of climate induced disaster?		

Strategy 4: Integrate GEDSI considerations for effective response and strengthened disaster preparedness.			
14	Have the mechanisms for emergency disaster preparedness and response been set up?		
14.1	If yes, are the vulnerable groups represented in the mechanisms?		
15	Has the rescue or volunteer team with representatives of vulnerable groups been formed for emergency disaster preparedness and response?		
Strategic Activities	Analysis of main activities	Yes/No	Note
15.1	If yes, have technical knowledge, skills and training has been provided to build the capacity for such groups?		
16	Have the materials as per the specific needs of vulnerable groups been stored?		

16.1	If yes, what kind of materials has been stored?	a. Food items	
		b. Non-food items	
		c. Health and sanitation items	
		d. Other items	
17	Have mock drills targeted to vulnerable groups been conducted?		
Strategy 5: Embrace GEDSI consideration for “Build Back Better” and "Build Back Accessible".			
18	Has the book “Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach” from a multi-hazard perspective during the reconstruction process been prepared?		

19	Have the vulnerable groups been provided with income-generating/skill-based trainings (masonry, plumbing, wiring etc.) for livelihood?		
Strategic Activity	Analysis of main activities	Yes/No	Note
Strategy 6: Develop research, training and capacity building for mainstreaming of GEDSI into DRRM.			
20	Has the e-learning module been updated for mainstreaming GEDSI?		
21	Has there been research and study conducted for promoting local innovations, technologies, skills and knowledge for vulnerable groups?		
22	Has GEDSI been included in the training on DRRM?		
23	Have required training and orientation been conducted for		

	institutional capacity building of agencies working for vulnerable groups during disasters?		
Strategy 7: Integrate GEDSI consideration into multi-hazard early warning systems and anticipatory action.			
24	Is early warning system (web portal, mobile app, brochure, billboard, flip chart, poster book, information, digital messages etc.) accessible for all?		
25	Are the Ward-level community-based Disaster Risk Management Committee inclusive?		
Strategic Activity	Analysis of main activities	Yes/No	Note
Strategy8: Make GEDSI integral of social security and disaster risk financing.			
26	Does disaster risk financing has provisions in place for inclusion of vulnerable groups (e.g Disaster Management funds)?		

27	Is there a provision for subsidized premiums in insurance programs to support in compensating the vulnerable groups against loss and damages incurred during disasters?		
28	Have loans been granted as per the need of vulnerable groups for rehabilitation and reconstruction of their shelters damaged by disasters?		
29	Has a shock-responsive social security system been developed?		

Task Force

- Coordinator, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management - Joint Secretary

- Ministry of Home Affairs - Under Secretary

- National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management - Under Secretary

- Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration - Under Secretary

- Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens - Under Secretary

- Ministry of Forests and Environment - Under Secretary

- Social Welfare Council - Representative

- National Federation of Disabled- Nepal - Representative

- Member Secretary, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority - Environment Inspector



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National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
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