

South Asia Regional Workshop Report

Date:

December 19 – December 21,
2017

Venue:

Shangrila Hotel, Kathmandu,
Nepal

Hosted by:

National Society for
Earthquake Technologies
(NSET)
Practical Action



Workshop Background:

For facilitating members' learning, networking and building capacity, a regional workshop was organised in Kathmandu, Nepal during the third week of December 2017. Selected members from 6 South Asian Countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal), based on the merit of their application and pre-set selection criteria, were invited to attend this workshop. Among others, highlighted features of the workshop included a day long exposure visit to member's work in the field and orientation in the National Advocacy toolkit – a GNDR compilation of different tools and techniques that can be used for selecting and pursuing advocacy asks at different levels.

Workshop Objective:

- **Obj 01:** Facilitating GNDR members to learn from the good work of fellow members and help them to connect to their own realities.
- **Obj 02:** Assisting GNDR members to get oriented with a structured process of advocacy and campaigning at the national level.
- **Obj 03:** Bringing new and old members together so that new members can learn and gradually become more active within the network.
- **Obj 04:** Making the members aware of what's happening in the Network – ongoing priorities and scope of continuing integration and collaboration.

Workshop Proceeding:

- The workshop kicked off with a welcome dinner on the 19th. It was a social event through which participants (many of whom were first timers at any GNDR events) started getting to know each other and developing relationships with other members (networking).
- The second day (field trip) started very early in the morning and all the participants arrived at the meeting room by 7:00 AM. After a two hour session comprising of fun

activities to get to know each other and a briefing on the day's activity, the participants were taken out to the field to observe and learn from the government-led reconstruction initiative which NSET (GNDR Member, also the host for the event) has been facilitating since the Gorkha Earthquake in 2015.

- During the field trip (at Thansing & Thanapati VDC in Nuwakot district), the participants had the opportunity to visit and interact with house owners (Baliyo Ghor programme beneficiary), trained masons (an NSET initiative) and civil engineers (both NSET and government engineers) to learn the social, economic, and technical aspects of the reconstruction efforts going on. These interactions not only helped the participants learn about the hardships that program beneficiaries went through after the massive earthquake in 2015, but also provided delegates with awareness on basic yet proven low-cost technology for earthquake-resistant construction.



Photo: Field Trip at Nowakot, Nepal

- The participants also visited and interacted with the team at Chhaharey Local Reconstruction Training Center (LRTC). LRTC is an operation hub from where reconstruction efforts in a number of VDCs are being supervised and assisted. LRTC is a private-run initiative (in this case, it was run by NSET), which is set up and operated to assist a public initiative (the government-run Baliyo Ghar program). It was an excellent example of working in partnership with government to achieve both the scale and sustainability.
- Upon returning back to Kathmandu, the participants were taken to a group dinner to a Nepalese restaurant where they had the opportunity to enjoy local delicacies and a cultural show. Besides carrying on informal discussions with fellow participants (networking), it helped to get a taste of local cuisine and culture.
- The third day of the workshop also started fairly early (8:30 AM) and the day's program was kicked off with a fun activity that highlighted the value of coordination, leadership and working together.
- An intensive reflection session on the field trip, led by Farah Kabir (GNDR Board Chair and SA Regional Representative) was the first working session of the day. Participants shared their learning and insights based on the previous day's exposure to Baliyo Ghar program. They also tried to relate to their own reality and to figure out how this experience may help them in their own work.
- An update from the Secretariat (details of current and upcoming program, priorities and scope of participation for other members) was presented to the participants and was followed by a question and answer session. This session helped the new members with an overview of what GNDR is all about (history, mandate, values and principles). It also provided them with an opportunity to learn and explore different opportunities on which the network is offering to collaborate.

- For most of the GNDR members to ensure their operational sustainability, access to financial resources is a constant challenge. So, a brief session on fundraising opportunities and the related constraints followed. The session built on members' experience and touched on the Secretariat's plan to assist the membership with their fundraising drive going forward.
- Duriyug Nivaran, one of the SA regional DRR network and member of GNDR, recently

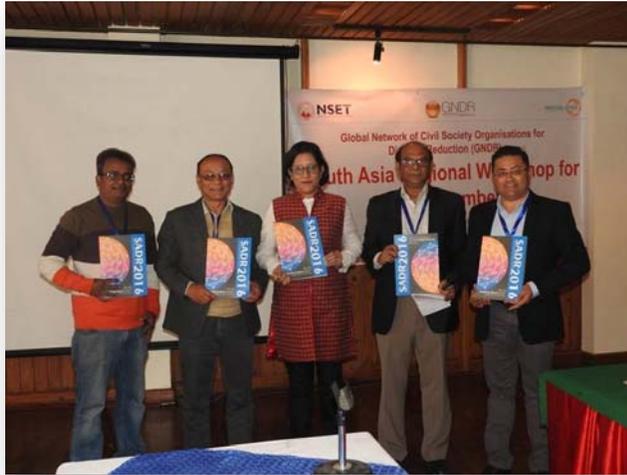


Photo: South Asia Disaster Report Launching

completed a study – “South Asia Disaster Report 2016: Are we building back better? Lessons for South Asia”. The report was just published and the workshop was privileged to provide an opportunity to formally launch it. Every participant was given a copy of the printed report, courtesy of Duriyug Nivaran.

- After the report's launch, the participants were divided into different groups and were tasked to decide on some collaborative actions. They shared the details of their organisations with fellow members to identify shared priorities and agree on some joint actions going forward. Among others, the joint actions agreed included working together on campaigns for upcoming events; and sharing best practice to help members design their projects.
- The afternoon was fully dedicated to orient the participants with a GNDR resource – National Advocacy Toolkit. The participants were walked through the toolkit, showed the process of using it and provided with a brief opportunity to exercise some selected tools.
- The day was then closed with few thank you notes and taking formal feedback in the form of completing an evaluation questionnaire.
- The workshop came to an end with a final social activity – a farewell dinner. It was accompanied by a cultural show and provided an opportunity for the participants to sing and dance together.

Key findings from evaluation:

(For detailed question by question response, pls refer to workshop evaluation report available separately)

- Nearly 90% of the participants commented (either agree or strongly agree) that object 1 (learning from exposure), 3 (bringing new members together to make them more active) and 4 (Secretariat update) were achieved. While 10% remained neutral, only 2 participants (7.66%) disagreed that objective 2 (toolkit orientation) was met.

- More than 80% of the participants agreed that the sessions were planned in a coherent manner, covered the topic adequately and the aids used were helpful to remain focused.
- All (100% of the participants) agreed that the workshop was able to provide the scope for everyone to participate. They unanimously agreed that it was helpful and their purpose of joining was fulfilled.
- On an average 75% participants commented that they observed a change in them in terms of knowledge, attitude and skill due to participating in this workshop.
- Most of the members found the toolkit orientation and exposure visit was the most useful aspect for them. However, 7 participants commented that 'facilitation of collaboration action' was not very useful/could have been done better.
- When asked to commit for one activity upon their return, most members said they will start utilising the advocacy toolkit and collaborating with fellow members at the national level.

Relevant Documents to this report:

- Participants' database
(<https://www.dropbox.com/s/v40el3jcir2kqpy/Participant%20List.pdf?dl=0>)
- Final Agenda
(<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8f4crfkwe4j8bb7/Revised%20Agenda.pdf?dl=0>)
- Workshop Evaluation Form
(<https://www.dropbox.com/s/oxplxa46t0qt2i9/Workshop%20Evaluation%20Form.pdf?dl=0>)
- Workshop Evaluation Report
(<https://www.dropbox.com/s/9q6od3bjbvcabd/Workshop%20Evaluation%20Report.pdf?dl=0>)