

Mr. Dilli Prasad Shiwakoti, Nepal

Nepal is a small and land-locked country in South Asia. It is situated between the two large, densely populated countries of India and China. Lying in the central part of the Himalayan Range, the altitude in Nepal varies from 60m at Terai to 8848m at Mt. Everest. Such a sharp vertical slope renders the country vulnerable to potential disasters like floods, landslides, slope failures, and soil erosion. Above all, Nepal is one of the severest flood hazard countries in the world. Heavy precipitation, high humidity, and steep watersheds and river channels contribute to the magnitude of floods.



Our disaster management system spends a lot of money and manpower for post-disaster operations, but lags in its total quality of management. We have some problems in phases of the disaster cycle like preparedness, rescue, relief, reconstruction, and rehabilitation. Problems we are currently facing include difficult geographic scenarios, inadequate infrastructure and facilities, low literacy rates, lack of modern technological knowledge, unplanned settlements, and lack of civilian participation and coordination. We have to learn from our past experiences and should increase the level of civilian participation in all phases of the disaster cycle. In my view, establishing a multifunctional disaster management model will be the key. To do so, we should focus on the mobilization of all actors in the country and proactively work to accommodate international cooperation.

(Dilli Prasad Shiwakoti, Director, Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home, Nepal)