

## Overview of Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD) in Nepal

The Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD) is a non-political, non-sectarian, non-governmental, non-profit making and humanitarian organization, established in October 2012 by the disaster response platform in 5 countries in Asia Pacific (Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Philippines, and Sri Lanka). It is a trans-national disaster aid alliance that works to facilitate cooperation and understanding between governments, private companies and NGOs in the Asia Pacific region.

"Countries of the Asia-Pacific region experience many severe natural disasters. In order to prevent, address and minimize damage from such disasters, the establishment of a comprehensive system of cooperation and support drawing on the private sector, non-governmental organizations, local communities, central governments and local authorities is urgently required."

Against this backdrop, five disaster aid national platforms from countries in the Asia-Pacific region have determined to launch a trans-national disaster aid alliance for the purpose of facilitating collaboration among countries in the Asia-Pacific region with the aim of delivering effective and efficient disaster assistance through disaster preparedness, risk reduction, relief and recovery.

The core objectives of A-PAD is twofold: first, to create a disaster aid platform in each country in the Asia-Pacific region (each such platform is hereinafter referred to as a "National Platform", as further defined below; and each country in which a National Platform is established is hereinafter referred to as a "member country"); and, second, to establish and operate a regional alliance, which shall be known as the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (hereinafter referred to as the "Asia Pacific Alliance"), which will facilitate mutual cooperation among National Platforms and across the member countries and, in doing so, will further facilitate cooperation and understanding between governments, private sector enterprises and NGOs and the provision of effective and efficient disaster aid."

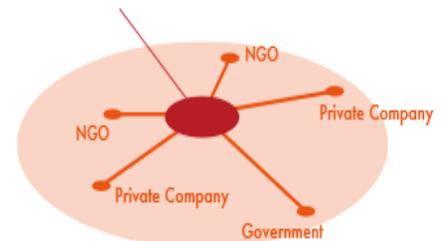
The A-PAD develops national platforms in each member countries that facilitate mutual support and cooperation among public, private and civil society sectors for natural disasters. The working modality is pre-agreement among stakeholders about possible cooperation for a natural disaster enables to implement effective and efficient relief and recovery activities (Figure 1).

When a large-scale disaster hits Asia, each national platform of the member countries of A-PAD, collaborates internationally to undertake disaster relief activities (figure 2).

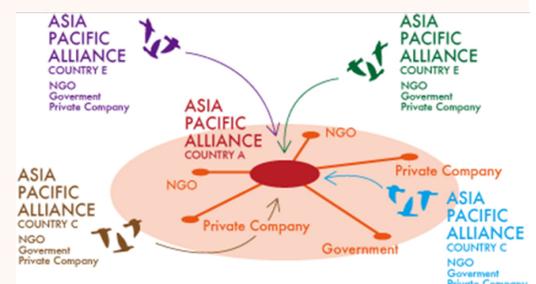
The A-PAD has unique competencies and longstanding experiences in working with, for and through multi-stakeholders for effectively responding to disaster and disaster risk reduction (DRR) by engaging disaster prone communities, youth, volunteers and diverse stakeholders as target beneficiaries, partners and leaders for Humanitarian services. Therefore, A-PAD can add value to working with multi-stakeholder level to tackle with disasters in Nepal.

The working modality of the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD) is to strengthen and equip the Disaster preparedness and response mechanism to effectively respond to any natural disasters. The key features of A-PAD are; Networking/relationship-building, Multi-stakeholder collaboration, Locally-led (initiated) responses and Mutual Assistance among member countries. So, it focuses on capacity building/enhancement of stakeholders (community, government, non-government/private sector) on DRR, Policy Advocacy and DRR governance for protecting vulnerable environments, disaster prone communities, and building resilient communities. The

**ASIA PACIFIC ALLIANCE : NATIONAL PLATFORM**



**Figure 1: APAD National Platform**



**Figure 2: Transnational Alliance for Disaster Response**

Vision, Mission and Values of A-PAD and its approach to establish sustainable support mechanism is centered for disaster prone communities and right-holders to be the partners in disaster response having multi-sectoral collaboration, which has great relevance in the present context of Nepal.

In Nepal, A-PAD has been working taking approval from Social Welfare Council Nepal since 2016 and contributing on emergency preparedness in Bagmati Province, Province No. 1 of Nepal through a Project Agreement (PA) entitled "Establishment of Multi-sector platform for Disaster Reduction to Support the Resiliency of Disaster Prone Communities (EMPD)" with Social Welfare Council (SWC).



**Figure 3: Core values of A-PAD**



**Figure 4: A-PAD team's visit to Nepal**

# Establishment of Multi-sector Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to Support Resiliency of Disaster-prone Communities (EMPD)

A-PAD conducted surveys in 2018 and April 2019 in Nepal and confirmed the importance of mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), building disaster preparedness and emergency response mechanism and establishing multi-sector platform for disaster response. This is why the project EMPD was conceptualized and designed with the following objectives:

- To equip Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) for better disaster preparedness in Nepal.
- To establish the mechanism to share information and resources for disaster preparedness in Nepal.
- To establish A-PAD Nepal Platform and its network to build with other A-PAD member countries.

## Implementing partners

A-PAD office in Nepal is implementing EMPD project through two local implementing partners, National Business Initiative (NBI) and Youth Development Center (YDC), who were selected through defined selection process as per the Social Welfare Council (SWC) guidelines. NBI and YDC are mobilized to effectively implement the project with proper orientation/kick-off to achieve defined results.

### National Business Initiative

"There can be no successful business in an unsuccessful society and no society can be successful without successful business. Prosperity needs peace". Adhering to this mantra, National Business Initiative (NBI) was established by fourteen major Nepalese Business Associations, their Federations and individual companies as an apolitical and non-profit-making organization in 2005. The need for this organization stemmed from the then heightening armed conflict between state and Maoists which caused forced closures of many business houses amidst worsening business environment. The concept of NBI as a forum for private sector's involvement in peace-building was adopted from the South African model of private sector engagement in peace process. NBI promotes business ethics, corporate social responsibility, responsible business practices and good stakeholder relations. It seeks to create an enabling business environment and economic opportunities as a basis for broad-based economic growth and sustained peace. It is registered (R.NI: 91/062/63) in District Administrative Office and has been affiliated with Social Welfare Council (M.No: 19691) along with Inland Revenue Office Kathmandu (PAN No: 302258833).



### Youth Development Center

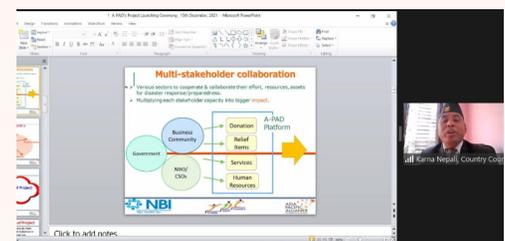


Youth Development Center (YDC) is one of the selected partner organizations in Sunsari District which is one of the leading youth organization since its establishment (2013) in Sunsari. It is registered (R.NI: 2153(070/71)) in District Administrative Office and has been affiliated with social Welfare Council (M. No: 46200) along with Inland Revenue Office Kathmandu (PAN No: 601313697). YDC has good working experience in disaster as well as volunteer management. YDC envisions young people as involved, respected, and contributing members of the country where respect, cooperation, freedom, and peace prevails. During an emergency or during any kind of natural disaster in the country, youth volunteer mobilization for quick relief and response is the main objective of YDC.

## Major highlights of the quarter

### EMPD Project formally inaugurated by Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management in Nepal

After concluding a project agreement with the Social Welfare Council of Nepal, A-PAD held a project inaugural meeting on 15th of December, 2021 with the objective of formally launching the program and informing all concerned stakeholders about the program. The program was inaugurated with the participation of 23 national and international personalities including journalist. Mr. Firjan Hasim, Country Head of Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management, Sri Lanka, spoke briefly about the organization and its strategy. Then, Mr. Karna Bahadur Nepali, Country Coordinator of A-PAD Liaison office in Nepal presented briefly about the existing programme, working modality and approaches and its target locations in Nepal. Subsequently, The project launching ceremony was focused on the short speech from the guest like Ms. Miyoki Isida, First Secretary, Department of Financial Aid, Embassy of Japan, Mr. Manoj Bhatt, Member Secretary, Social Welfare Council, Mr. Humkala Pandey, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Krishna Prasad Parajuli, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Mr. Kush Kumar Joshi, Chairman, National Business Initiative and Mr. Sanjay Chaudhary had given their speeches and provided comments, feedback and further guidance to the programme. Everyone attended at the event, wished for the success of the program and also expressed their support and collaboration. The event was moderated by Mr. Yoshihiro Imoto, Program Coordinator, and a vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Kakijawa Fukuro, Chief Program Manager.



### Emergency Relief material distributed in Sunsari for flood affected households in November 2021

YDC and A-PAD liaison office in Nepal distributed emergency relief materials at Itahari Sub-metropolitan City, ward no. 8 and Duhabi Municipality, ward no. 9, Sunsari district to flood affected HHs on 16th Nov, 2021. The emergency materials were distributed to 280 flood affected needy poor and marginalized HHs. YDC distributed the materials in collaboration with FNCCI and local government. The organization mobilized the local volunteers to support on data collection, packaging and distribution of materials. In





both locations, ward office had fully owned the process and distributed themselves. The team also visited some of the beneficiary households. The team of A-PAD, YDC and local government jointly conducted monitoring and asked the community about the support. The beneficiaries were grateful for the support, however, they requested to increase the items of relief materials.

### Review workshop on disaster information and communication system based on Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs)

A 2 days' workshop was conducted in Dharan, Sunsari to review existing disaster information and communication system at Emergency Operation Centers located in Sunsari, Dhankuta, Udayapur and Morang districts. Participants were invited from District Emergency Operation Centers of Sunsari, Dhankuta and Udayapur, Provincial Emergency Operation Center of Morang, Nepal Red Cross Society, District Disaster Management Committee and few from Private Sector as well. The residential workshop was conducted for 2 days, on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 in attendance of around 17 participants. Participants were first oriented on the current DRRM system and mechanism set by the government. Participants were then asked to list out the communication equipment they currently had at their disposal, their status, other related problems and challenges as well as what do they need to improve the communication system at EOCs. NBI presented on their plan to procure and provide the EOCs with full set of communication equipment for better linkage between LEOCs, DEOCs, PEOCs and NEOC. A tentative time frame was shared with the participants. NBI is targeting to supply and install equipment at the EOCs by the end of next quarter.



### A-PAD platform coordination meetings

With the goal of building A-PAD Platform in Nepal at the national level, several A-PAD platform coordination meetings have been planned. Initial three meetings were conducted on December in participation of multi-sectoral stakeholders including private sector, CSOs, government bodies, media and academia. First meeting was conducted on 16<sup>th</sup> of December, 2021. Similarly, second and third meetings were conducted on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of December, 2021 respectively. These meetings have mainly focused on idea generation and suggestions from the participants on feasibility of a DRR focused platform, its modality and the potential members within the network. As initially conceived and through several consultations with the participants, private sector has been suggested to be at the central leading position for the platform so far.

### Accomplished 2 days Emergency Preparedness Response Planning and Resource Mapping workshop

The two days' workshop was held in Sunsari district led by YDC on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, 2022. The objective of the workshop was to review the existing emergency preparedness response planning and resource mapping of the Sunsari district. Hence, the formality of the programme was led by YDC accordingly. The sessions were led by Resource person Mr. Satya Biswash and A-PAD country Coordinator Mr. Karna Bdr Nepali, including other members from YDC and A-PAD. The sessions included introduction of YDC and A-PAD, existing preparedness mechanism of Nepal government and practical sessions on stakeholder mapping and resource mapping with theoretical understanding.

In two days, the response planning of the Sunsari District was partially reviewed. The participants identified the DRR stakeholders: primary and secondary. Similarly, mapping was done for resources available for responding disasters. There were 18 participants representing District Disaster Management committee, NGO federation, CSOs, NRCS, academia, health office, FNCCI along with few journalists. It was agreed that The YDC will update the resources, share with government authorities and maintain e-library. Some of the participants pointed out that the district disaster preparedness plan already includes the list of resources, so, it would be good to review and update these.



### Completed orientation to volunteers in Sunsari District

YDC, in collaboration with A-PAD liaison office in Nepal, organized an orientation to volunteers on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of January, 2022 on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management under EMPD. The participants were selected through disseminating the Google form and collaboration with local government. The objective of the orientation was to orient the volunteers and mobilize them for disaster risk reduction. The YDC/A-PAD had oriented 70 young volunteer in the first stage. The sessions were focused on introduction of YDC, A-PAD, basic concept of DRR, terminologies linking with volunteerism, introduction and concept of volunteerism role and significance of engaging volunteers in disaster response (DRR), success story sharing, existing mandates of



emergency preparedness in Nepal and share plan/strategies/ provision of Disaster Response in Sunsari Distirct, commitment collection and action plan (what will they do after returning to their location). There were around 70 participants in the program over the course of 2 days.



## Media coverage

### Coverage of orientation to volunteers in Sunsari District

<https://koshiexpress.com/news/2022/01/16/136.html>

<https://fb.watch/aS3VcgG0DB/>

### Coverage of 2 days' Emergency Preparedness Response Planning and Resource Mapping workshop

<https://pradeshdarpan.com/news/view?id=2655>

<https://samayaonline.com/news/view?id=2336>

### Coverage of Emergency Relief material distributed in Sunsari for flood affected households in November 2021

<https://sancharpati.com/news/41316?fbclid=IwAR1-9jUfuLhcmx2pSTr0bJSToquXNwjyZAIrTyeHE8JlvZxePhaGjdNX6o0>



## TEAM IN NEPAL

### A-PAD Liaison Office in Nepal

					
<b>Karna Bahadur Nepali</b> Country Coordinator	<b>Fukuro Kakizawa</b> Chief Program Coordinator	<b>Yoshihiro Imoto</b> Program Coordinator	<b>Sushma Karki</b> Program Officer	<b>Rajan Luitel</b> Finance Officer	<b>Raman Bhandari</b> Office Assistant

### National Business Initiative

	
<b>Pradeep Poudel</b> Program Officer	<b>Prabhakar Sigdel</b> Admin & Finance Officer

### Youth Development Center

		
<b>Nirajan Khadka</b> Executive Director	<b>Sandip Shah</b> Program Officer	<b>Suman Khadka</b> Admin & Finance Officer

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