South Asia Disaster Report 2019 - forthcoming

SADR 2019 is a departure from conventional report towards 360° review of early warning systems. It concentrates on Disasters Induced by Natural Hazards and Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems in South Asia, highlighting key features of effective multi-hazard early warning systems to strengthen resilience of at-risk communities.

It covers four key components of the EWS as identified by the UNISDR (now UNDRR) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) at Global Platform and contain articles on risk knowledge, monitoring and warning, dissemination and communication and response capacity. The report is guided by the Sendai Framework, in particular the priority 4 of the Sendai Framework: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction which runs as a common theme across articles and themes of EWS. This theme is also key to Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Plan of UNDRR.

SADR 2019 report include contributions from over 80 distinguished authors from public and private sector players presenting a unique mix of approaches, theories and practices revolving around multi-hazard early warning systems in South Asia and beyond.
This edition of the South Asia Disaster Report concentrates on Build Back Better (BBB), highlighting new and alternative disaster management measures to improve resilience of vulnerable communities. It explores initiatives by citizens, the state and development practitioners in South Asian countries who have led the way in improving actions for rehabilitation and recovery in South Asia.

The case studies focusing on BBB cover the Earthquake in Nepal in 2015, the Meeriyabedda Landslide in Sri Lanka in 2014, the Uttarakhand Floods, Cyclone Phailin and Cyclone Hudhud in India in 2013, Cyclone Sidre and Aila in Bangladesh in 2007 and 2011, and the monsoon floods in Pakistan in 2012 and 2013. It also looks across the region at reducing risks to cultural heritage in South Asia.

The report further identifies challenges and opportunities:

- Challenge of gaps and lack of coordination at all scales: regional, national and local
- Challenge of extreme poverty, marginalization and physical isolation
- Challenge of lack of continuity in citizen participation at local scale and difficulties in communicating the benefits of voluntary relocation and other ways of reducing risk
- Challenges of new risks produced by top down approaches to recovery and to mega-projects that lack sufficient social and environmental impact analysis
- Opportunities to include community-based hazard warning systems as part of BBB
- Opportunities to reinforce people’s livelihoods with cash, insurance and in other
- Opportunities to focus on education and children’s well-being
- Opportunities to focus on women’s leadership role in BBB.

Full report can be accessed: DURYOG NIVARAN (DN)