LAUNCHING DOING DEVELOPMENT DIFFERENTLY-NEPAL (D3-N) NETWORK

This April, NIRC, along with two other organizations, Nepal Forum for Restorative Justice (NFRJ) and Transformative Research Initiative Nepal (TRIN) came together to start a network, Doing Development Differently - Nepal (D3N). Learning from the previous and current practices of the development sector in Nepal (especially how it thinks and functions), the Network seeks to reflect on these practices as a group. These reflections, will help the Network members to revisit our thoughts and practices. We also believe that these initiatives, through these reflections, we can together make better engagements and impact in the field.

The network plans to conduct various activities such as: Round table discussions, Policy Reviews, Primary research, Book reviews/discussions, Blogs/Vlogs and Podcasts. The Secretariat of the network is based at the NIRC office at Subidhanagar, Tinkune. A separate webpage of the network has also been developed for regular updates.
The Development Cooperation Report is a comprehensive documentation of the foreign aid allocation through Official Development Assistance (ODA) and International Non-Government Organizations (INGOs) drawn from the Aid Information Management System (AIMS). AIMS is an improved system of Ministry of Finance (launched from September 2019), which is upgraded from the previous system, Aid Management Platform (AMP). Here are some of the highlights from the latest report covering fiscal year 2019/20.

- **ODA received**: Total Development Assistance received was 1793 million USD. The majority of ODA was provided as loans.

- **Share of the total budget**: In FY 2018/19, ODA made up 24% of the national budget, increasing slightly from the previous year (22%). Despite an overall increase in the amount of development cooperation provided to Nepal, its share of the total budget remained low due to Government efforts in domestic resource mobilization.

- **ODA disbursement**: The ODA disbursed in FY 2018/19 was made up of 60% (944 million USD) loans, 27% (424 million USD) grants and 13% (211 million USD) technical assistance (TA).

- **Highest disbursing development partners**: The highest disbursing development partners as per type of assistance are: China for Grants (105, 971, 037 USD), World Bank for Loans (502,702,220), UK for technical assistance (65, 311, 584).

- **Aid Fragmentation**: Education sector received the largest volume of support (15% of total support), followed closely by energy (14%) and then peace and reconstruction (10%), local development (8%) and financial sector reform (7%). Sectors receiving the lowest volume of support are supply (0.005%), land reform & survey (0.01%), youth, sports & culture (0.02%), industry (0.02%), revenue & financial administration (0.05%) and population (0.09%).

- **Local Disbursement**: 66% of total ODA was disbursed at the national level and 34% at the district level in FY 2018/19. In terms of provincial comparison, Province 3 has the highest disbursement in part, to its inclusion of the country’s capital city and several large post-earthquake reconstruction projects.

- **Top 5 bilateral partners**: China, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States of America and India, collectively contributing 33% of total ODA disbursements.

- **Development aid through INGOs**: Volume of disbursement from INGOs’ core funding increasing significantly to 215 million USD in FY 2018/19 from 110 million USD in FY 2017/18. Save the Children was the highest disbursing INGO in FY 2018/19, with annual disbursement reaching 33 million USD. Other high disbursing INGOs were the German Nepalese Help Association (19 million USD), World Vision International (13 million USD), Good Neighbors International Nepal (12 million USD) and Oxfam Great Britain (12 million USD).

- **Gender Analysis**: 39% of total ODA disbursements (612 million USD) made either a direct or indirect contribution to gender equality in FY 2018/2019, representing a decrease from 45% in FY 2017/18.

Read full report [here](#).
Data Protection Impact Assessment & Data Ethics Assessment for BIPAD portal

Building Information Platform Against Disaster (BIPAD) is an integrated Disaster Information Management System created in line with the DRRM Act. BIPAD portal is built upon the concept of creating a national portal incorporating data and information from multiple sources including but not limited to government bodies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and research organizations. This report is an outcome of an independent study which aimed at identifying gaps and challenges and recommending best practices for the responsible storage, processing and sharing of data for disaster resilience and shaping a framework for data privacy and data protection.

Key recommendations from the study include:

- BIPAD portal to set up legally binding documents, such as Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with data partners outlining parameters for data access and handling (e.g. data security, data formats, data transmission, fusion, analysis, validation, storage, retention, re-use, licensing, etc.) to ensure reliable and secure access to data.
- Perform due diligence when selecting data or service provider and ensure their activities comply with the National Privacy Act.
- While using new data source, BIPAD team needs to consider the issue of accessibility, privacy, standards, and accessibility to metadata. To the extent reasonably possible, data should be validated for accuracy, relevancy, sufficiency, integrity, completeness, usability, validity and coherence, and be kept up to date.
- Collect the user details on those who wish to download the data from the system. Information such as the name of the person, organizations, email address and purpose of using the data can be captured. Appropriate consent would be necessary to acquire any such data. Such personal data should be stored safely and not to be shared publicly.
- Add a disclaimer in the portal stating clearly that BIPAD portal is not liable for any potential negative outcomes resulting from the use and processing of BIPAD portal data.
- BIPAD portal has to ensure that reasonable and appropriate technical and organizational safeguards are in place to prevent any unauthorized disclosure or breach of backend data where personal data is accessible. It will be important to set up a mechanism that data is being stored only for the necessary duration and any retention of it is justified.
- An internal data security audit is also fruitful before fully handing over the system to National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA).

More details about the report available [here](#).
Meet Our Evidence Champion - Sudeepa Khanal

Sudeepa Khanal is Research Associate and PhD student at Universität Bielefeld, Germany. Sudeepa is a public health professional interested in urban health, health policy research, climate change, tuberculosis and tobacco control. Sudeepa has about a decade long experience of working and studying in Europe, Africa and Nepal. NIRC team talked to her about her journey so far.

What has motivated you to conducting research in the public health sector?
I was always drawn towards the public health sector. Though I never planned to take up research as a profession, the spark for this came from my first job in Nepal where I was exposed to different aspects of research from design, implementation to manuscript development and even advocacy. Interventions, programmes and policies have to be based on solid evidence - and this is only possible through research and analysis. Being able to contribute to the pool of knowledge based on which health programmes and policies are or can be designed is ultimately the most fulfilling factor. Besides, publishing your work helps to get scientific recognition, earn academic credits, and provide opportunities to learn and collaborate with experts in the field.

What are the specific areas you are interested in writing/publishing?
My specific research interests are in the areas of health equity (in general) and particularly in the context of climate change, urban health, and health policy research. Also, tuberculosis and tobacco control are the areas that are close to my heart. Currently, I am working on a research to understand the intersection between health equity and climate change in developing countries, and in another research, exploring various concepts of gender for developing gender transformative health care services.

You have been conducting and publishing research in public health consistently. What have been your major lessons and achievements?
Public health research, as exciting and fun as it sounds is equally challenging. The entire process from coming up with a pertinent research problem, writing a research proposal, finding funding opportunities, to actually conducting the research and publishing can be very exhausting and demands persistent efforts. Once published, the effort required for communicating the findings and navigating the evidence into policy should not be undermined. For any research findings to be published and initiate system change, it is important to understand how the research fits into the current evidence base and specific context(s). The key is to plan the entire research processes adequately, not to give up, and remain committed to the cause. I have been able to publish some of my work in international journals so far and few are in the pipeline.

Any recommendations or tips you would like to share to those who are interested to conduct and publish research in public health.
For academic writing and publishing, it is always more efficient to have a focused writing while preparing a manuscript. Therefore, having decided on a journal prior to writing is productive and each section can be tailored according to the journal’s requirement. Planning research activities early on allowing adequate time to prepare a manuscript and receive feedback from diverse perspective is always helpful to synthesise the work and present in more impactful way. It is really encouraging to see the recent advances in Nepal to promote public health research. Various forums and platforms are now available for researchers and public health practitioners to share their work, learn, connect, and enhance positive research cultures. Also, growing number of organisations are embedding research culture at institutional level. These can be a good platform for those who want to have a taste of the research world before embarking on this journey.