DPNet intervention incorporating Sphere Standards before, during and after 2023 Western Nepal earthquake

Dr. Thapa discussed Nepal's recent seismic events and their implications for humanitarian standards. He highlighted how the 2023 earthquake in Western Nepal, with a magnitude of 6.4, resulted in significant loss of life and affected over 75,000 households severely. He shared DPNet's proactive role in swiftly organizing stakeholder discussions, which facilitated effective coordination and response. DPNet's commitment to maintaining high humanitarian standards was evident through its daily situation reports, which guided both government and non-government stakeholders in their recovery efforts. These reports not only detailed the field conditions but also identified gaps and intervention areas, ensuring a structured and standard-compliant response. Moreover, Dr. Thapa emphasized the innovative approaches adopted by DPNet to engage communities and raise awareness about humanitarian standards. Through street dramas, folk songs, and the distribution of the Sphere Handbook, they managed to bring crucial knowledge of standards to the remote and affected areas. This strategy not only educated but also ensured that local governments and humanitarian partners were well-prepared before disaster struck. This might be one the reasons that there were no significant reports of issues related to humanitarian standards post-disaster. Even the initial grievances about relief quality like food and shelter arrangements were quickly resolved. Dr. Thapa advocated for the continuous presence of such organizations to monitor and guide disaster responses, highlighting that pre-disaster sensitization and innovative community engagement are key to upholding and enhancing humanitarian standards during crises.

HNPW, May 2024