



Eak Raj Chhatkuli

Profile

Executive Director, FOCUS Nepal

Seasoned Development & Humanitarian Leader/Advocate for Localization & Accountability

Mr. Eak Raj Chhatkuli is a seasoned development and humanitarian professional with over 34 years of experience in community development, humanitarian leadership, and advocacy for equitable development. He currently serves as the Executive Director of Forum for Community Upliftment System Nepal (FOCUS-Nepal), a nonprofit organization based in Dhading, Nepal. Under his leadership, FOCUS-Nepal has implemented transformative programs in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Livelihoods, Disaster Response and Management, Natural Resource Management, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion, Community Health, Education, and Peace-Building, positively impacting thousands of rural households.

Mr. Chhatkuli is widely respected for his ability to bridge local expertise with regional and global networks. He has held key leadership positions including Chairperson of NGO Federation Nepal–Dhading and Board Member of the Disaster Management Network Nepal. Internationally, he contributes as a Global Tandem Leader, member of the NEAR Network, and core member of the Asia Pacific Localization Lab, where he plays a pivotal role in promoting localization, advancing regional funding, and fostering collaboration among civil society organizations.

His expertise lies in program design, strategic leadership, governance, and advocacy. He has been at the forefront of promoting accountability, resilience, and people-centered development, aligning closely with the principles of the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS). Academically, Mr. Chhatkuli holds a Master's Degree in Sociology and Rural Development from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Alongside his field leadership, he has been a passionate educator, collaborating with international universities to share knowledge and inspire future practitioners.

With his deep grassroots experience, strong governance background, and global humanitarian networks, Mr. Chhatkuli embodies the vision, integrity, and collaborative spirit essential for advancing accountability, localization, and inclusive development in Nepal and beyond.

Why is the CHS Alliance important to the sector?

The Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) is vital in the humanitarian sector as it sets a global framework for quality, accountability, and people-centered action. It ensures aid is effective, relevant, and dignified by putting people at the center, empowering them to participate in decisions. CHS strengthens accountability through transparent performance standards, reducing harm and misuse of resources. It improves quality and consistency by aligning diverse



actors to shared principles and supports localization by empowering local organizations as leaders, not just recipients. Ultimately, CHS builds trust, credibility, and legitimacy in humanitarian action, ensuring responsible and ethical delivery of aid.

What motivates you to join the Alliance's Board?

With over three decades of leadership in community development and humanitarian action, I am keen to join the CHS Alliance Board to represent the voice of local NGOs from the Global South. As ED of FOCUS Nepal and an active member of global networks like NEAR, APLL, pledge for change, and shift the power, I bring deep grassroots experience combined with international collaboration. I believe my expertise in accountability, localization, and equitable partnerships aligns strongly with CHS values, and I am motivated to contribute toward ensuring humanitarian assistance remains people-centered, ethical, and responsive to the needs of affected communities.