



FACT SHEET

Disaster Risk Reduction Office

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM STAGE II (NERMP-2)

The project coordinates long-term earthquake risk reduction planning with the Government of Nepal, schools, and communities to increase earthquake awareness and preparedness.



A public school is being retrofitted under the School Safety Program

BACKGROUND

Nepal has a long history of earthquakes and faces a high continuing risk. The first recorded earthquake in Nepal took place in 1255 AD, killing one-third of the total population of Kathmandu, including the then king Abahya Malla. The Great Nepal Bihar earthquake of 1934 caused casualties among the highest for any recorded earthquake. There is a growing consensus among stakeholders that public infrastructure in Nepal is particularly susceptible to seismic risk. For example, a study in 1988 revealed that a third of all schools in the Kathmandu valley were structurally dilapidated and needed to be demolished and rebuilt.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

USAID’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance supports the continuation and expansion of NERMP to reduce earthquake risks in Nepal through public awareness-raising, capacity building, preparedness, mitigation, and institutionalization initiatives. The project coordinates long-term earthquake risk reduction planning and works with the Government of Nepal to increase earthquake awareness and preparedness. The project focuses mainly in Kathmandu Valley and other urban areas of Nepal.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Increase Disaster Awareness and Enhance Capacity

- **Safe Home Campaign:** Organize earthquake mobile clinics and orientation programs to raise awareness of home owners and masons on the benefits of seismic-resistant construction and teach them the basic technical details of such construction.
- **Vulnerability Tours and Earthquake Safety Day:** Conduct guided earthquake vulnerability tours in the Kathmandu Valley for key Government of Nepal officials, international agency personnel, and local communities to

SNAPSHOT

Life of Project: March 2011 – January 31, 2015 (Phase II)

Goal: To reduce earthquake risks in the Kathmandu Valley and other urban areas of Nepal.

Implementing Partners: National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal

Geographic Focus: Kathmandu Valley and urban areas

make them aware of the existing earthquake risks. Assist Government of Nepal to commemorate the 1934 earthquake on the 2nd week of January every year to build public awareness and emphasize the importance of earthquake preparedness.

- **Community-Based Disaster Risk Management:** Support basic disaster preparedness training for community leaders, formation of community disaster risk management committees, training on vulnerability and capacity assessments and disaster response, and pre-positioning of tools and equipment for disaster responses in at least three communities in Kathmandu per year.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Conduct orientation programs and earthquake drills to advocate for DRR consideration in national policies.
- **Community Earthquake Learning Center (CELC):** Conduct regular learning sessions and visits for school children, masons, community members, and others through the CELC established by NSET to increase public awareness.

Reduce Urban Disaster Risk

- **School Earthquake Safety Program:** Implement structural improvement, training, and awareness programs in three schools per year. The project also revisits schools retrofitted during the past 12 years and conducts disaster preparedness activities in approximately 10 schools per year.
- **Hospital Earthquake Safety Program:** Provide additional technical support to hospitals for non-structural risk mitigation.
- **Disaster Risk Atlas of Nepal:** Expand the process of urban risk assessment to all urban and urbanizing settlements in Nepal in collaboration with GoN agencies.
- **Municipal Earthquake Risk Management Program:** Assist municipalities to use the results of earthquake risk assessments to develop action plans for earthquake risk management, focusing on integrating the earthquake risk management action plan into the local development plan.

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Enhance Emergency Response Capacity

- **Emergency Response Capacities at the National Level:** Assist five municipalities in Kathmandu to prepare Earthquake Disaster Response Plans and provide training to central and municipal authorities on Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis and Incident Command System.
- **Household and Family Earthquake Preparedness:** Promote the use of “go bags” and kits for earthquake preparedness at individual, household, and community levels.

NSET-Nepal Office

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ACHIEVED RESULTS

- 37 orientations on earthquake awareness to various construction stakeholders
- 24 mason trainings
- Workshop with news editors of the major newspapers of Nepal on disaster risk reduction
- Free earthquake clinics for 181 house owners
- Building vulnerability assessment of 85 office and resident buildings
- 44 Light Search and Rescue (LSAR) training for 1,072 people
- 10 schools revisited as follow-up and re-assessment of 44 retrofitted schools