

NEPAL

PREPAREDNESS PROJECT

KEYWORDS:

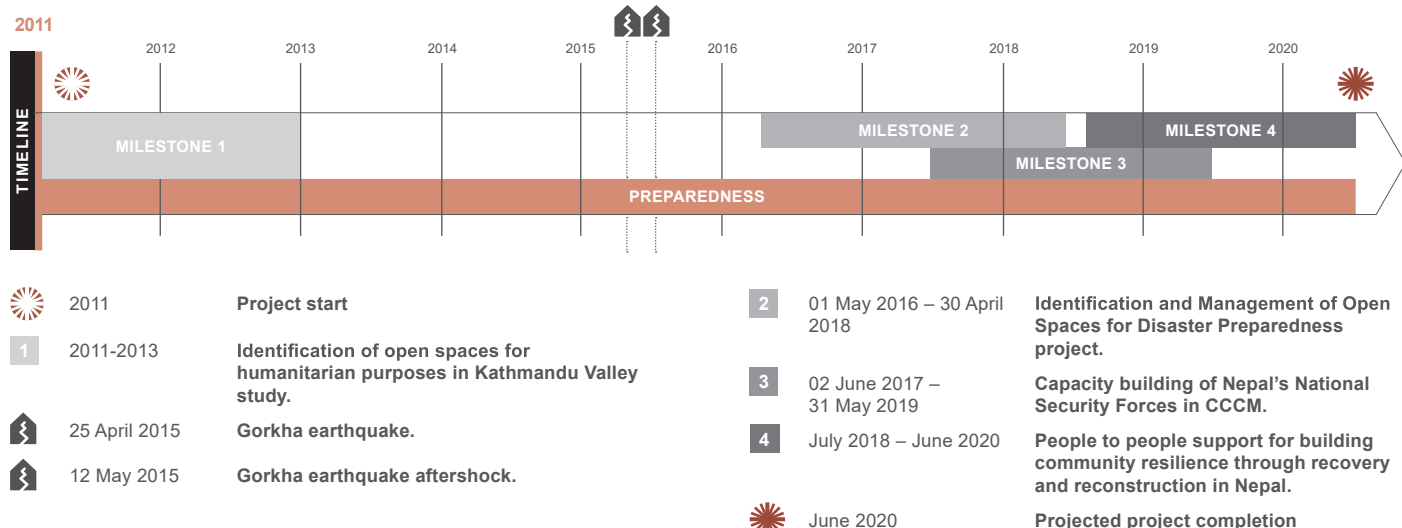
PREPAREDNESS, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, CAPACITY BUILDING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SECURITY FORCES, COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT	Natural disaster
PEOPLE DISPLACED	88,900 IDPs displaced in the 2015 April earthquakes ¹ 2.6 Million people displaced due to the two major Earthquakes in April and May 2015 in Nepal ²
PROJECT LOCATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kathmandu³ 2. Pokhara, Baglung, Tansen, Putali, Bazaar, Tamghas⁴ 3. Kathmandu, Itahari, Biratnagar, Hetauda, Bharatpur, Pathlaya, Pokhara, Butwal, Surkhet, Nepalgunj, Dipayal, Attanya⁵ 4. Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Gorkha, Dhading, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha⁶
PROJECT DURATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of open spaces for humanitarian purposes in Kathmandu Valley: 2011-2013⁷ 2. Identification and Management of Open Spaces for Disaster Preparedness (IMOS): 01 May 2016 – 30 April 2018 3. Capacity Building of Nepal Security Forces in Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Response: June 2017 – May 2019 4. People to People Support for Building Community Resilience through Recovery and Reconstruction in Nepal: July 2018 – June 2020
NUMBER OF PEOPLE TARGETED BY THE PROJECT	Earthquake-affected population in target districts
CCCM COORDINATION MECHANISM	Cluster activated in 2015 in response to earthquake



SUMMARY:

Nepal has been at risk of multiple hazards, notably earthquakes and floods and there has been a continuing need to build community resilience following the devastation of the 2015 Gorkha earthquakes. The preparedness projects in Nepal focused on preparing for a mass displacement event by identifying open spaces and multipurpose infrastructure for use as emergency shelter. In addition, capacity building with local government officials and with local communities ensured that first responders to an emergency are prepared to establish and manage temporary settlements for displaced persons.



IOM Chief of Mission interacts with IDPs at CCCM Simulation site in Kathmandu

CONTEXT

Nepal has been highly disaster-prone, with risk of earthquake, landslide, flooding, glacial lake outburst floods, fire, drought and avalanche,⁸ with 80% of the country exposed to multiple natural hazards.⁹ In addition to disaster risk, Nepal has high levels of poverty and low levels of economic growth,¹⁰ which has reduced the ability of households to cope with and recover from shocks.

Earthquake risk has been particularly high in Nepal due to its geographic location near the boundaries of two tectonic plates,¹¹ which has created seismic activity and earthquake potential. Because of the location of these plates, Kathmandu has been the most at-risk urban area for earthquakes in the world,¹² with high population density and unregulated building creating additional barriers to risk reduction.

In 2015, the first Gorkha earthquake struck on 25 April with a magnitude of 7.8, causing widespread loss of life, destruction and temporary displacement. The Government of Nepal responded by launching relief efforts and calling on humanitarian partners

to assist in search and rescue and medical assistance. On 12th May, an aftershock reaching a magnitude of 7.3 struck, that created additional damage and exacerbating the needs. In the 14 districts prioritized for humanitarian response, an estimated 5.4 million people were affected.¹³

After the lessons learned from the 2015 earthquakes, a bill on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) was drafted. The 2017 DRRM Act focused on an effective DRRM effort which would prioritize disaster risk reduction and management across government sectors and levels, with a proposed Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council chaired by the Prime Minister. The Government of Nepal envisioned the establishment of a National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA).¹⁴ The expectation of the NDRRMA was to provide financial, technical and managerial support to the Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC), District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) and Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC) to develop policy and implement programs on disaster management.

PROJECT

SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES

Selection of beneficiaries for the preparedness projects was done in coordination with the Government of Nepal in line with the Government's needs and priorities. The projects targeted municipalities that were:

- Earthquake affected
- Flood/landslide affected
- Hazard prone
- Population at risk/vulnerability
- Geographic diversity - plains (tarai), hills and mountains
- Need for capacity enhancement of the local government, national security forces, and local community on disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

CCCM ACTIVITIES

The preparedness projects were all in close collaboration with the government, particularly the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration.

The purpose of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) projects on preparedness in Nepal focused on capacity building of first responders in CCCM and on comprehensive

mapping and identification of suitable spaces to establish emergency shelter in Nepal in the event of a disaster. This included open spaces that could be used to establish camps and buildings that could be used to host displaced people. The spaces that were pre-designated via these projects were assessed for suitability as displacement sites, including for hazard risk, living space, WASH facilities and land ownership.

Protection was integrated into the preparedness projects. There was a protection component well covered in all CCCM training, such as the legal protection framework, protection against Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Do No Harm principles. The project focused on the design of multi-purpose evacuation centres also integrated protection components by ensuring that the centres being built are friendly to vulnerable groups and incorporated the needs of women, children, PWDs and people with special needs/health conditions.

Humanitarian implementing agencies were working together with the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) to revise the CCCM contingency plan and incorporating the scenarios of flood and earthquake. The revised plan was finalized as of March 2019.



Participants, facilitators and organizers pose for a group photo at the female-focused CCCM training in Pokhara

IMPLEMENTATION

Identification of open spaces for humanitarian purposes in Kathmandu Valley:

In the Kathmandu study, the spaces were assessed in terms of potential sheltering capacity in the event of a major earthquake while remaining within the living accommodation guidelines in Sphere as well as in terms of considerations of WASH, food and security.

The open spaces that were identified in the Kathmandu valley supported the communities in providing immediate shelter from threat of falling buildings and debris and as spaces where they could receive humanitarian assistance. Out of 83 open spaces, the rapid assessment showed that 38 open spaces were being occupied by 36,104 people (IOM, 2015).

In some of the open spaces, deep tube wells were also installed by agencies working on WASH issues to ensure access of displaced population to water facilities.

In 2019, as a part of P2P project, the implementing agency has plans to conduct monitoring of all 83 sites inside Kathmandu Valley to check if the sites were being encroached; re-map the critical facilities available around the 83 open spaces and prepare a report reflecting the status of the open spaces.

Identification and Management of Open Spaces for Disaster Preparedness (IMOS): The Identification and Management of Open Spaces for Disaster Preparedness (IMOS) project focused on the Kathmandu Valley and involved three major activities. The project promoted designated open spaces as part of disaster preparedness in 30 targeted communities, additionally establishing legal backing to protect the spaces from any further construction or encroachment. These community groups also took part in preparedness trainings and received tools such as Standing Operational Procedures (SOPs). Third, the project focused on building capacity at national and local levels in CCCM, with training modules adapted to the Nepal context. The trainings were targeted to the districts most affected by the 2015 earthquakes and included district/municipal authorities and members of the community to increase capacity to manage temporary settlements.

Capacity Building of Nepal Security Forces in CCCM Response:

The implementing humanitarian agency was working to enhance capacity of the National security forces (Nepalese Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force) in CCCM to ensure efficient and effective initial emergency response, apply international standards in camp management in future disasters. Capacity

building for this project focused on local responders, including coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Urban Development, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, the Nepalese Army, Nepal Police, the Armed Police Force and the Nepal Red Cross Society. The project included targeted capacity building through a Training of Trainers (ToT) which then lead to master trainers rolling out local and district trainings. Practical skills were tested through a large-scale simulation exercise as part of the ToT in Kathmandu, with discussion with the master trainers on adaptations for local scale simulations. The entire training processes were additionally captured on video to develop a video documentary to raise awareness about CCCM and to share good practices.

People to People Support for Building Community Resilience through Recovery and Reconstruction in Nepal:

This project was a support to the Government of Nepal's disaster risk reduction efforts with a three-part intervention. The project was constructing 8 multipurpose community centres to be used as evacuation centres in an event of a disaster. These structures were chosen because they were near open spaces that were designated for humanitarian purposes in a disaster event. Further on, the project was also developing a mobile application to provide information around open spaces and available services identified in different provinces throughout Nepal.

The project also included a training component, focused on local communities around open spaces, including practice drills. This project included a focus on women by working with an order of Buddhist nuns – the Kung Fu Nuns – to raise awareness about risks of human trafficking and gender equality.

IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

By identifying open spaces and building awareness around these spaces, communities at risk have safe places for evacuation in case of a major earthquake or other natural disaster. These spaces were equipped - as much as possible - with infrastructures to create safe temporary displacement sites. The capacity building projects have strengthened the ability of the National Security Forces and other first responders improve the quality of life and dignity of affected populations during displacement. The preparedness projects practically demonstrated the commitment of the Government of Nepal to disaster risk reduction and management. The importance of identification of open spaces for preparedness and risk reduction was also reflected in the National Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2018.



CCCM Training for the Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force

ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Master Trainers from all three security forces – Nepal Army, Armed Police Force and Nepal Police – were now rolling out CCCM trainings, for the security forces in each of the 7 Provinces.
- The projects that worked on identifying open spaces have led to protection of these spaces through gazette notification which prevented further encroachment of the sites.
- Community awareness campaigns and trainings on the importance of protecting open spaces have been effective to sensitize the local population to use their local resources to save lives during a disaster.
- Community-based orientation and interaction with the program increased the participation of women.
- As a part of ongoing P2P project, the 5 earthquake-affected municipalities and rural municipalities were being supported in the identification of open spaces together with the mapping of evacuation routes and critical structures. P2P has been in its initial phase but plans to build 8 evacuation centres in each of the 8 project areas.

CHALLENGES

- Ensuring that the identified open spaces remained open, unbuilt and unoccupied was a challenge. Some areas were encroached upon even with protected through gazette notification.
- Identification of large open spaces to use for humanitarian shelter in the hilly terrains of Nepal is itself a challenge. Therefore, the implementing humanitarian agency has not only considered large but also small open spaces to provide refuge to the displaced population.
- In relation to the construction of evacuation centres, finding a flat plot of land in the hilly terrain for constructing an earthquake resistant structure is a challenge.

LESSONS LEARNED

- The new federal system of Nepal now has three tiers of Government. While the transition phase is ongoing to devolve power to the local level, it is essential to continuously engage with the local governmental level.
- The project, focused on capacity building of security forces, found it important to develop a tailored CCCM training package aimed at improving camp management in line with international standards.



¹ OCHA

² Global Report on Internal Displacement, Norwegian Refugee Council 2016

³ Identification of open spaces for humanitarian purposes in Kathmandu Valley.

⁴ Identification and Management of Open Spaces for Disaster Preparedness (IMOS).

⁵ Capacity Building of Nepal Security Forces in Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Response.

⁶ People to People Support for Building Community Resilience through Recovery and Reconstruction in Nepal.

⁷ This activity was carried out by IOM in close coordination with MOHA and carried out with internal funding. The process of identification of open spaces started around 2008 and the list was updated in 2011. Gazette notification for the protection of the spaces was published by the Government of Nepal in April 2013.

⁸ Government of Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Portal

⁹ GFDRR

¹⁰ ODI

¹¹ Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

¹² GFDRR

¹³ OCHA

¹⁴ IOM (2018) Project Information Sheet, *Technical Support to Government of Nepal to Implement Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act*.