

Annex 3

Projects/Programmes Conducted by NSET-Nepal on Earthquake Preparedness

Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Preparedness Initiatives

Kathmandu Valley Earthquake preparedness initiatives (KVEPI) is being implemented in 10 locations of Kathmandu Valley working jointly with Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and American Red Cross with the basic objective of raising the building capacity of NRCS volunteers in pre-positioning of critical emergency supplies, rescue equipment, training people in basic first aid and rescue techniques and helping the general public in following safer building practice.

Programme for Enhancement of Emergency Response

Programme for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) is a regional programme involving 5 countries – Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Nepal and Philippine for enhancing the capabilities and institutionalization of the Medical First Response (MFR), Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) and Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE). This programme funded by US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (US/OFDA) is being done in Co-operation with the International Resources Group, the Centre for International Emergency, Disaster and Refugees -Studies of John Hopkins University and Safety Solutions Incorporated.

School Earthquake Safety Programme

Following the study of KVERMP, it was found that schools were found to be most vulnerable especially when they were built without the seismic concern. Therefore, it was strongly felt to take necessary measures in light of this. School Earthquake Safety Programme (SESP) is being implemented in 20 schools within the Kathmandu Valley with the sole objective of reducing the earthquake vulnerability, raising awareness among teachers and students and training masons in constructing earthquake resistant buildings.

Public Awareness Programme

NSET-Nepal organizes following programmes to raise Public Awareness:

- Earthquake safety Day observed every year on Magh 2 (January 15/16) of the Nepalese calendar, memorizing the great earthquake of 1934 since 1999 AD.
- Earthquake Safety Radio Programmes on FM Radio Stations through Sagarmatha Radio (Kathmandu) and Annapurna Radio (Pokhara)
- Orientation lectures providing basic information on earthquakes in Nepal
- House Owners Consultation Programmes providing basic information on constructing earthquake resistant buildings.
- Mobile Earthquake clinics providing on the site advice to builders with non-engineered buildings.

Community Based Disaster Risk Management Programme.

NSET has been launching Community Based Disaster Risk Management Programme (CBDRMP) at the ward level providing technical assistance to communities in implementing earthquake risk management initiatives in the wards of Kathmandu Metropolis with the formation of Ward Level Disaster Management Committees. This programme has already covered 8 wards with the ultimate aim of bringing in all the 35 wards of the Metropolis under the programme.

NSET has been providing training to masons, contractors, technicians, engineers, schoolteachers and policy makers towards earthquake risk reduction in collaboration with the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction.

Disaster Inventory/Information Management Systems in Nepal (DIMS)

NSET has established a systematic database of natural disaster events in Nepal covering a period of 33 years (1971-2003) and it entered them into the software "DesInventar" to minimize the effects of disasters applying appropriate measures. "DesInventar" is a methodical tool developed by Latin American Network for Social Studies on Disaster Prevention (LARED)

Seismic Vulnerability Assessment of Major Hospitals of Nepal

NSET conducted the seismic vulnerability assessment of all major hospitals in Nepal (14 in number) for the first time in the South Asian Region in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and WHO and published "Guidelines for Seismic Vulnerability Assessment of Hospitals" jointly with WHO with mitigation and intervention options needed for the safety of hospitals.

Seismic Vulnerability of Drinking Water Supply Network of Kathmandu Valley

Water being the most important element for survival all times more so during the earthquake disaster, a study for the assessment of seismic vulnerability of the drinking water supply system of Kathmandu was undertaken by NSET with the support of UNICEF Nepal in 2002 with damage scenarios and optimum ways of restoring the supply in case of large earthquake events.

Municipal Earthquake Risk Management Project

NSET has been replicating its success stories gained from working within the country. As a replication process of the successes of the Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project (KVERMP), NSET implemented Municipal Earthquake Risk Management Project (MERMP) in 4 municipalities of Nepal viz, Banepa (Eastern Nepal), Vyas (Western Nepal), Pokhara (Western Nepal) and Dharan (Eastern Nepal) during (2002-2003) under the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Programme of Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) with the core funding from United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (US/OFDA). Project activities consisted of developing earthquake damage scenarios of the cities including building inventory surveys, preparing an action plan for earthquake risk management for each city, constructing or retrofitting the schools or public structure facilities as demonstration of feasible mitigation measures, raising public awareness, training, building local capacity and institutionalizing the earthquake risk management in the annual development programme. The project was a grand success and NSET intends to replicate the programme in the remaining municipalities covering all 58 municipalities of Nepal within 5 years.

Earthquake Risk Kathmandu Using RADIUS TOOL (UNESCO CCT)

Earthquake Risk Kathmandu Using RADIUS Tool was implemented by Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) with the technical support of NSET as a part of UNESCO Cross Cutting Theme initiative in 2003. The earthquake risk of Kathmandu Metropolis was assessed using RADIUS TOOL, which helped KMC authorities to understand the earthquake disaster risk and develop affordable and effective risk management measures and sound urban growth policies.

Project for Pre-positioning of Emergency Rescue Stores

Project for Pre-positioning of Emergency Rescue Stores (PPERS) was implemented by NSET and different Ward Disaster Management Committees of the Kathmandu Metropolis with the support of Civil Affairs Group of the British Army. Its purpose was to provide a reserve of essential tools and equipment to assist in the immediate community level response to a major disaster such as an earthquake. PPERS is intended to help those "first responders" on the ground at the local level to enable neighbours to rescue neighbours. Organizations such as local level disaster management committees and community emergency response teams are constituted as required assisting in setting up stores and their effective use operation. Such stores are pre-positioned in 8 numbers of wards of the Kathmandu Metropolis under the project.

Nepal Earthquake Risk Management Project (NERMP)

Having worked successfully in many earthquake related projects in Nepal and abroad, NSET is at present working in NERMP to reduce the risk of earthquakes all over Nepal over a period of 5 years. NSET is fully convinced that it is not the shaking of earthquakes that kills the people but the vulnerability of the buildings following such a shaking is responsible. So the message is "Make your building whether residential, school or hospital or any other safe and do not curse the earthquake". NSET is committed to reduce the earthquake risk applying all the ways and means at its disposal.