

Disaster Risk Reduction

Project: *Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme (CDRMP)*



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Background

Nepal is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. The steep and flood-prone terrain, low levels of awareness, high illiteracy, poverty, rapid urbanisation, the adverse effects of climate change and the lack of institutional and legal frameworks for disaster risk management all render Nepal's population, their property and the country's infrastructure vulnerable to natural hazards.

Floods and landslides are the natural disasters that occur most often and cause the most damage (see table below). Extensive flooding happens almost every year in the monsoon season, disrupting the lives of tens of thousands of people and ruining large tracts of agricultural land. Landslides are a recurrent threat to hill communities and cause large economic losses by blocking road transport. Climate change is exacerbating these threats leading to more floods and increasing the probability of catastrophic glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). Earthquakes are the largest threat as most of Nepal lies in a high seismic risk zone. It is estimated that a strong earthquake in the Kathmandu Valley would cause at least 40,000 deaths.

Previous support

Since the early 1990s UNDP has provided and managed large-scale support for reducing the impact of natural disasters in Nepal.

- UNDP's 'Koshi Early Recovery Project' (2009–2011) coordinated early recovery and helped rebuild the lives and livelihoods of thousands of victims of the August 2008 Koshi floods.
- The 'Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal' project (2008–2011) and previous projects helped the Nepalese authorities shift from reactive responses to a more proactive risk reduction and preparedness approach. The completion of the *National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management in Nepal* and the establishment of disaster risk reduction (DRR) focal points in government agencies were important milestones for mainstreaming risk reduction into national and sectoral planning.
- The 'Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness Programme' (2007–2011) built up capacity in five of Nepal's largest municipalities and in policy instruments for more earthquake resilient buildings.

UNDP is a major player in the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRRC), which has brought together the government, Nepal's bilateral and multilateral development partners, the United Nations and civil society organisations to prepare five flagship programmes (see next page) as a prioritised action plan for implementing the national strategy.

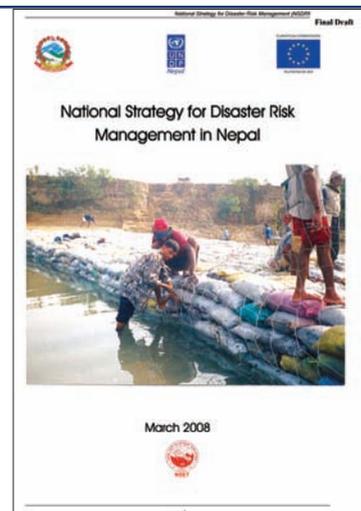
Damage and loss caused by floods and landslides in Nepal, 1971-2010

	Floods	Landslides
Deaths	3,899	4,327
People affected	3,665,104	555,607
Buildings damaged or destroyed	180,311	31,939
Farming and forest land lost	232,095 ha	22,288 ha
Livestock lost	536,369	10,486
Value of reported losses (NR70:\$1)	\$87,283,244	\$13,311,752

Source: *Nepal DesInventar Database*

Project details

Nepali name:	बृहत्तर विपद् जोखिम व्यवस्थापन कार्यक्रम
Duration:	February 2011 to December 2015
Total budget:	\$17.5m
Donors	UNDP (\$2.3m), BCPR (\$2m), EU ECHO (\$1m), DFID (\$0.7m)
Unfunded budget:	\$11.5m
Implemented by:	UNDP
Implemented:	at central government level and in 13 hill, 8 Terai and 4 mountain districts
Main partners:	Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, Ministry of Local Development, sectoral ministries, National Planning Commission, local bodies, academia, private sector, civil society, UN OCHA, Oxfam



disaster risk management



The programme

The Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme began in 2011 to build on the achievements of previous UNDP support. This programme is strengthening the capacity for disaster risk management in line with the recommendations of the national strategy. It is building the capacity of government ministries and local bodies for disaster risk management with six objectives across all the inter-linked concerns of disaster risk management. Gender, social inclusion and knowledge management are addressed across all project activities.

Objective 1: Strengthen the institutional and legislative system for disaster risk reduction:

- Increase the technical and financial capacity for DRR of the ministries of home affairs, local development and physical planning and works, and other key ministries.
- Support the development of DRR policy and legislation.
- Promote funding for DRR and disaster risk management in national and local government budgets.
- Help revise the National Building Code and implement risk-sensitive land-use plans.
- Build up the skills of officials and technicians for disaster risk management.

Objective 2: Build strategic linkages with other sectors to mainstream disaster risk reduction:

- Support the National Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance to encourage government agencies to allocate funds for DRR when budgeting for development projects.
- Support government agencies responsible for water, environment, forestry, soil conservation and education to develop policies and procedures for managing disaster risks.
- Support DRR focal points in government agencies and mainstream into higher education.

Objective 3: Promote climate change related risk management:

- Assess the impact of climate risk on people, property and the economy and support climate risk management activities.
- Strengthen local disaster early warning systems.
- Support institutions and communities to reduce risks from glacial lake outburst floods.

Objective 4. Reduce communities' vulnerability to natural disasters:

- Develop guidelines for communities to prepare disaster risk management plans.
- Build capacity of NGOs and a national volunteer cadre for community-level DRR.

Objective 5. Improve emergency preparedness and response capacities:

- Develop national and district disaster management plans.
- Establish a network of emergency operations centres.
- Establish and strengthen search and rescue teams.
- Prepare an earthquake response plan for the Kathmandu Valley.
- Improve the awareness of government stakeholders about response mechanisms.

Objective 6. Build UNDP Nepal's capacity for providing early recovery support to help the government and victims in post-emergency recovery periods.

Early achievements

- Assessed the DRR capacity building needs of two key government ministries (MoLD, MoPPW) and five government training institutes.
- Supported the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) to carry out a simulation exercise of its operating procedures, equipped 14 new district emergency operation centres, and trained 96 government staff from the national and district centres.
- Trained and equipped 56 armed police personnel for search and rescue and provided fire safety equipment to the Kathmandu Valley's fire brigades.
- Supported the carrying out of disaster preparedness and response planning workshops and the preparation of seven district disaster preparedness and response plans.
- Collaborated with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, the National Society for Earthquake Technology and the Earthquake Megacities Initiative to implement the National Building Code and risk-sensitive land-use planning.

Importance for achieving the MDGs

The vulnerability of many of Nepal's poor people to natural disasters is a large impediment to achieving the MDGs. It is poor people who tend to live on steep landslide-prone slopes, on low-lying flood-prone areas, in flimsy dwellings that collapse during earthquakes and who have the least resources to recover. The disproportionate impact natural disasters have on poor people keeps them in poverty and below the MDG thresholds.



Catastrophic floods affect lowland Nepal in most monsoon seasons (August 2008 Koshi floods)

The Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium's Flagship Programmes

1. School and hospital seismic safety
2. Emergency preparedness and response capacity
3. Flood management in the Koshi River
4. Community disaster risk reduction and management
5. Policy and institutional support for disaster risk management.

CDRMP is leading implementation of flagship area 5 and contributing to all areas.



CDRMP is supporting the carrying out of community based mitigation works in Nawalparasi and Bara. Planning workshop, Bara, 2011

For more information:

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