

Country Report , Nepal

"Strengthening National and Local Capabilities for Vulnerability and Risk Reduction, Disaster Mitigation, Response and Recovery"

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Country Profile

- Per capita income: 269 US\$
- Total population: 23.5 million
- Population growth rate: 2.25%
- 147,181 Sq Kms of area covered
- 70 meters to 8,848 meters elevation
- Literacy rate: 53.74
- 5 Development Regions, 14 Zones, 75 Districts, 58 Municipalities & 3,913 VCDs.
- Density Of population: 157/sq.km

Contributing factors to disasters in Nepal

- Seismically active zone
- Subduction of Indian plate under the Tibetan plate
- Rapid population growth
- Slow economic development
- High degree of environmental degradation
- Unplanned urbanization
- Fragility of landmass and high elevation of mountain slopes
- Poor infrastructures
- Lack of public awareness.

Disasters identified in Nepal (According to Natural Calamity Relief Act, 1982)

- Earthquake, Flood, Landslides, Fire, Drought, Epidemic, Storm, And other similar natural disasters

It includes

- Industrial Accident.
- Accident caused by explosion or poisoning.

Past Lives Lost Scenario due to disasters

Type of Disaster	1983-2005
Earthquake	727
Flood and landslide	6,982
Fire	1,191
Epidemics	11,933
Windstorm, Hailstorm, Thunderbolts	622
Avalanche	116
Stampede	71
Total	21,642

Recent Impact of Disaster

Year	People			Affected Families	Houses Destroyed	Estimated Loss (US \$ m)
	Dead	Missing	Injured			
2005	204	20	31	2088	1102	3.8
2004	192	11	220	16,997	4,818	4.6
2003	310	58	160	11,730	6,819	13.4
2002	461	21	287	40,486	19,836	7.1
2001	418	45	134	16,054	6,260	7.3

Policy Framework

- Natural Calamity Relief Act adopted in 1982.
- Tenth periodic development plan has made provision for environmental impact and natural disaster appraisal study of each infrastructural construction project.
- National Action Plan on disaster reduction put in place in 1996. Reviewed for submission to WCDR, 2005 .
- Immediate Action Plan for Earthquake Risk Reduction and Emergency Rescue has been adopted by the HMG/N, Central Disaster Relief Committee in January, 2006
- Other Number of Laws, Regulations and Policies are in place

National Priorities

- Emergency response planning and capacity enhancement.
- Strengthening policy and legal environment and Institutional reforms
- Efficient and effective reconstruction and rehabilitation .
- Human resources development in disaster preparedness.
- Strengthening disaster management information system.

Institutional Arrangements

Governmental

- Ministry of Home Affairs - Focal Point
- Ministries of Health, Water Resources, Finance, Defence, Physical Planning and Construction.
- National Planning Commission
- Security Forces (Royal Nepalese Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force)
- Department of Mines and Geology
- Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention
- Dept. of Hydrology and Meteorology
- Dept. of Soil Conservation.

Institutional Arrangements

International Agencies and NGOs

- Asian Disaster Reduction Center
- Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre
- JICA
- CARE, Nepal
- ICIMOD
- ICRC
- Save the children, Nepal
- GTZ
- UNDP
- UMN
- USAID
- Action aid, Nepal
- Lutheran World service
- EU
- UN Centre for Regional Development
- ADRA Nepal
- Nepal Red Cross Society
- Caritas Nepal
- NSET Nepal
- Nepal Geological Society
- National Centre for Disaster Management
- Landslide Risk Assessment Project
- Fire Prevention Association
- Nepal Disaster Reduction Centre.
- Society for Resource Conservation, Disaster Management and Community Development (SRDC)

Data Collection Mechanism

- 24 hour Control Room at MoHA
- Nation wide network of government units and Security forces (Nepal Police, Armed Police and Royal Nepal Army)
- National, Regional and District Disaster Relief Committee
- Local Village Development Committee.
- National Investigation Department
- Nepal Red cross Society.
- UNDAC National Mobilizing Centre



Information Dissemination

- Media/ press briefing
- National and international agencies including UN agencies
- MoHA web page (www.moha.gov.np)
- Publication of annual disaster information such as; poster, booklets, reports etc.



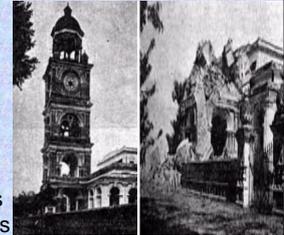
Major Earthquakes of Recent Time

- **On 15th January 1934**
 - a. 8.4 Richter Scale
 - b. 8,516 lives and huge loss of property.
- **On 4th Aug 1980**
 - a. 6.5 Rector scale
 - b. 178 human lives, damaged more than 40,000 houses and public properties.
- **21st Aug 1988**
 - a. 6.6 on the Richter scale
 - b. 721 lives and colossal loss of property.



Vulnerable Factors of Urban Centers

- Seismic Zone
- Rapid urbanization
- Rampant Poverty
- Improper Land Use and Haphazard development.
- Hazardous Building Construction
- Fragile Soil
- Narrow Streets and Lanes
- Concentration of Industries
- Encroachment of Natural Resources



Lessons learnt from past disasters

- Realization of public awareness on disasters' preparedness.
- Improve emergency response planning and capabilities.
- Identify the most vulnerable zones.
- Prepare long term plan.
- Strengthen sectoral (Health, Education, Agriculture etc) capabilities.



Lessons learnt

- To build emergency ware-houses with plenty of emergency rescue and relief materials in different areas of the country.
- Improve transportation and communication facilities.
- To create an advance and reliable data base system.
- Adoption of building code and reformulation of the relative laws and regulations.
- Partnership programme among the stakeholders.



Exiting disaster response mechanism

- Central Disaster Relief Committee.
- Regional Committees and sub-Committees.
- District Disaster Relief Committees.
- And Other Local Disaster Relief Committees.

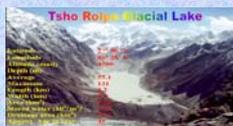


Organizational Structures of Disaster Management



Provisions of Disaster Budget

- Central Disaster Relief Fund
- Regional Disaster Relief Fund
- District Disaster Relief Fund
- Local Disaster Relief Fund



Central Disaster Relief Fund

It is comprised of the amount:

- Allocated by Ministry of Finance.
- Received from national and international organisations.
- Received from Prime Minister Disaster Relief fund and other sources.
- Donated by Civil society and civil servants.



Post-Disaster Management System

- To close down any office or institution in disaster areas.
- To prohibit any activity, which may cause adverse effect on relief work.
- To depute government and other employees/volunteers in disaster areas.



Contd...

- To evacuate the people from hazardous area.
- To requisite property of any individual or institutions for a prescribed period if required to be used in relief work.
- To take necessary security measures.



National Action of Plan

- His Majesty Government of Nepal, Ministry of Home Affairs has prepared an Action Plan on Disaster Management in 1996 with a view to disaster preparedness, response and mitigation as well as necessary reconstruction and rehabilitation.
- Last year the plan has been revised thoroughly to address the current situation and submitted to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction 2005.

Objective of National Action Plan 1996

- Disaster Preparedness
- Disaster Response
- Disaster Reconstruction & Rehabilitation
- Disaster Mitigation



Problems of Disaster Management in Nepal

- More focus on post-disaster scenario .
- In sufficient attention towards disaster risk management, preparedness and mitigation.
- Partnership among the stakeholders is required to be encouraged.
- Lack of long-term Strategies on Disaster Risks Reduction.
- Inadequacy in systematic approach for disaster risk assessment.
- Clarity on job description and responsibility.
- Lack of effective networking and information sharing system.

Problems.....

- Difficult geo-physical condition of the country.
- Mass poverty and isolated rural areas.
- Poor infrastructure and transportation facilities.
- Lack of technological advancement.
- Inadequate resources .
- Lack of skilled manpower and awareness.
- Vulnerable infrastructures built in marginal land (schools/hospitals water supply, sanitation etc)

Problems continued....

- Poor data collection and dissemination system.
- Lack of public awareness. Often people accept disasters as "An Act of the God".
- Lack of communication facilities, logistic support, and warehouse to store relief and rescue materials.

Measures to solve the Problems

- Mass education/awareness campaign such as; training, seminars, workshops, simulation etc.
- Change the perception of the people through public awareness raising program
- Infrastructure development.
- Adequate resources.
- Sectoral strategy is necessary to strengthen.
- Effective coordination among the stakeholders.
- Advancement in technology including the establishment of early warning systems.

Measures to solve the Problems.....

- Disaster management component should be incorporated in development plans of the government.
- NGOs and INGOs need to be motivated to work in the communities of the remote and rural areas.
- Planned settlements and urbanization policies are needed.
- Building Code application should be made mandatory.
- Capacity enhancement and strengthening of disaster partners
- Sharing of experience, best practices and indigenous knowledge among the partners.
- Effective contribution and massive role of mass media to create awareness.
- Establishment of separate natural disaster management institution

Conclusion

Nepal, being a developing country :

- Disaster management is not a easy task.
- Despite the different challenges Nepal has been gradually improving its disaster management capacity.
- Appropriate legislations and policies are in place. But it seeks to be amended timely.
- NGOs and INGOs are also doing their best to manage disaster but it needs to be coordinated for better management.
- International institutions have been assisting in our needs at disaster management especially in public awareness, technical and information system as well as capacity building.

