

# NEPAL

## I. Natural hazards in Nepal

### 1.1 Natural hazards likely to affect the country

Drought, earthquake, epidemic, extreme temperature, floods, slides, wild fires, wind storms, cold wave, and wind storms.

### 1.2 Recent major disasters

year	dis_subset	no_killed	total_affected	total_dam(US'000s)
2004	Flash Flood	185	800015	—
2005	Flood	0	—	—

*Source: "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database www.em-dat.net - Université Catholique de Louvain - Brussels - Belgium"*

## II. Disaster Management system

### 2.1 Administrative system

*Conventional long form:* Kingdom of Nepal

*Conventional short form:* Nepal

*Government type:* parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy

*Capital:* Kathmandu

*Administrative divisions:* 14 zones: Bagmati, Bheri, Dhawalagiri, Gandaki, Janakpur, Karnali, Kosi, Lumbini, Mahakali, Mechi, Narayani, Rapti, Sagarmatha, Seti

### 2.2 Legal system, legal framework

In the context of Nepal, before the advent of **Natural Disaster Relief Act (NDRA)**, 1982 there was no well structured disaster policy. Prior to 1982 relief and rescue work was carried out either on the basis of power base or as the social work. Thus, realizing the need the Natural Disaster relief Act, 1982 was formulated which has already been amended twice in 1989 and 1992. The act is the milestone of disaster management in Nepal.

Natural Calamity (Relief) Act, 1982 being enacted earlier has focused basically on the relief/response activities. At present it requires further reforms to cover comprehensive disaster risk management, concerning preparedness and mitigation in particular.

The Ministry has already started the process to develop national

strategies on disaster management, which will be followed by the reviewing of the prevailing legal framework concerning pre and post disaster risk reduction and management.

### **2.3 Structure of disaster management**

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) is the key agency in the institutional structure for disaster management. MoHA is the only agency that has the mandate for carrying out rescue and relief operations. The Central Disaster Management Committee and district and local committees are under the Ministry.

Other agencies involved include the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, which is engaged in stabilizing natural and man-made landslides by afforestation and construction of check dams and other low-cost structures. The Ministry of Water Resources, through the Water Induced Disaster Prevention Training Center, aims to strengthen the government's capacity to cope with water induced disaster through training and technological development.

Agencies such as the Department of Irrigation, Mines and Geology, and Department of Roads have linkages with disaster management. The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in co-operation with the government handles relief distribution for the government. It maintains warehouses of disaster relief materials in all districts. This is the primary agency for responding to any kind of disaster. Only in areas where NRCS is unable to operate does the government takes over responsibility for relief distribution.

### **2.4 Priority on disaster risk management**

- Emergency response planning and capacity enhancement,
- Strengthening policy and legal environment
- Efficient and effective reconstruction and rehabilitation.
- Institutional reform
- Human resources development in disaster preparedness

## **III. Disaster management plan**

The tenth plan of the country made it compulsory to include environmental impact and natural disaster appraisal study for infrastructure projects.

## **Synopsis of the provisions on Disaster Management in the Tenth Plan (2002-2007)**

### **Objectives**

- To make development and construction works sustainable, reliable and effective
- To keep life of the common people secured.

### **Strategies**

- Adopting suitable technology to minimize environment effects and losses due to disaster.
- Making rescue and relief reliable and effective
- Carrying out effective public awareness activities.
- Strengthening Earthquake measurement stations.
- Preparing hazard maps of vulnerable areas.
- Designating MoHA as the focal point of disaster activities.

### **Programme**

- Develop integrated information system in coordination with national and international agencies.
- Develop reliable database.
- Prepare institutional inventory
- Operate five regional warehouses with sufficient stockpile of relief materials.
- Develop national fire code.
- Prepare landslide inventory based on hazard maps and create epicentre map.
- Provide immediate information to common people of any mode of disasters.
- Adopt disaster preventive system.
- Offer instant counselling and rehabilitation to the victims.

### **Working Policy**

- Assessments of environmental and disaster impacts
- Enhance people's participation in watershed management and river control
- Timely reform legal and institutional frameworks.
- Effective implementation of regional programmes.
- Harness participation of stakeholders in all areas of disaster reduction.
- Increase public awareness

### **Expected Achievements**

- Cordial relations will be established among national and international partners.
- Effective sharing of disaster information and experiences.

- Reduction of damages
- Hazard maps will help identify vulnerability thereby contributing to lessen the loss of lives and property.
- Strengthened rehabilitation works and immediate availability of relief materials to the victims.

#### **IV. Budget size on national level**

In the national budget, the government has not allocated separate budget line for disaster risk reduction. There are some mechanisms to respond post disaster scenario such as the provision of the Central Disaster Relief Fund and Prime Minister Relief Fund, which are used on relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation activities. Likewise, several non-governmental organizations are contributing significantly in the field of disaster risk reduction efforts through the direct implementation of activities and/or working/ supporting government initiatives.

Government has approved recently to create an Emergency Fund to deal with the earthquake risk reduction and emergency response. Moreover, Government has also allocated Rs.1 million as the initial commitment to operationalize the fund. Contributions through the governmental /non-governmental and external development partners have been expected for this fund.

#### **V. Progress and situations of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)**

After participating the WCDR II Nepal has given serious attention towards the implementation of the Hyogo Framework. The following activities are initiated in the field of disaster risk reduction and mitigation:

- Preliminary works in establishing the National Council for Disaster Management.
- Prepare a strategic plan to implement the national Action Plan properly.
- Review on existing laws.
- Efforts to raise the level of public awareness.
- promote co-ordination among different stakeholders
- Establishment of a Satellite Center for an Earthquake Technology proposed at the SAARC level.

## **VI. Projects on disaster reduction headed by your Ministry**

### **Community-Based Disaster Management Project (CBDMP)**

**Unit:**

Environment, Energy and Disaster Reduction

**Project:**

Community-Based Disaster Management Programme (CBDMP)  
(NEP/05/01)

**Project period:**

September 2005 to August 2007 (Financial closure 31st December 2007)

**Project Cost (Total):**

TRAC 1.1: US\$ 550,000/-

**Project coverage:**

12 VDCs and 6 Municipality in 6 districts of Nepal. 2 CDMGs per VDC and 3 CDMGs per municipality will be identified. Total beneficiaries: 12,000 families (approximately)

**Execution strategy:**

DEX implementation through Community-Based Disaster Management Groups (CBDMG) at the community level and national NGOs

**Overall Objective:**

To enhance the security of women and men vulnerable to natural disasters and protect common property and community resources in select disaster prone districts by appropriate capacity building measures at community, district and central levels and supporting and replicating community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives that preferably enhance livelihood opportunities.

**Outputs:**

- a. Capacities of identified key stakeholders from the community, district and central levels built on Disaster Management issues
- b. Hazard vulnerability of the communities living in the project wards reduced through community based disaster risk mitigation measures

**Results:**

- a. Community Based Disaster Management Groups (CDMGs) formed and trained in issues of disaster management like hazard & vulnerability analysis and execution of disaster risk mitigation works
- b. Successful implementation of disaster management action plans initiated in 5 of the project districts,

- c. Management Information System (MIS) on disasters activated in all the 6 project districts,
- d. A National disaster management strategy developed for Nepal,
- e. A study conducted on the institutionalization of the disaster risk reduction approaches in the country and on the profile and mandate of an apex body responsible for these and related analytical issues;
- f. Nepal has a representation in international forums on disaster management increased.
- g. CDMGs reduce their geo-physical vulnerability by designing and executing at least one risk mitigation work in their respective wards that is preferably livelihood enhancing
- h. Disaster / conflict affected Dalit, Disadvantaged Group (DAG), women-headed, displaced and/or poor households have increased their livelihood status, thus reducing their overall economic vulnerability to disasters.
  - i. Documentation and publication of materials related to the sector and the project Project Steering Committee
  - ii. Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA)
  - iii. Ministry of Local Development (MoLD)
  - iv. Ministry of Finance (MoF)
  - v. Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention (DWIDP)
  - vi. Nepal Red Cross Society
  - vii. An academic expert on disasters
  - viii. UNDP (Deputy Resident Representative, Programmes as the chairperson of the committee)

## **VII. ADRC Counterpart**

Ministry of Home Affairs  
Singh Durbar, Kathmandu