



Nepal Red Cross Society Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Preparedness Program

Nepal has a recorded history of ten major earthquakes since 1255 to 1934. Nepal is vulnerable to potential earthquakes as the entire area of Nepal sits astride the boundary between Indian and Eurasian plates.

Kathmandu Valley is highly vulnerable to earthquakes due to a high population density and unplanned rapid urbanization. According to various studies conducted within the last five years, 40,000 people may die, 95,000 persons may be seriously injured and 60% of the existing buildings may be damaged beyond repair if an earthquake of the same magnitude as in 1934 is repeated.



To combat aforesaid events of Kathmandu Valley, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) implemented the Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Preparedness Initiative Program in 10 wards located in the 5 municipalities of Kathmandu Valley during September 2003 to March 2005.



This project was able to establish an institutional setup at the community level and also enabled to add additional trained volunteers at the community as first responders in case of any probable disaster.

Establishment of 10 ward level disaster management committees, capacity building of 715 community volunteers on first aid, search and rescue and disaster management trainings, pre-positioning of 40 sets (4-set in each ward) of search and rescue equipments and first aid kits in, stockpiling of 3000 family relief package at 3 strategic points in Kathmandu Valley, installation of tube wells at 2 evacuation sites in the valley, preparation of ward level disaster preparedness and organization of simulations exercises were the major achievements made during the program period.



The New Program

The pilot program has been an effective means to sensitize the local community with regard to earthquake preparedness. Based on the successful completion of the program and further community demands to expand the program to other wards, now Nepal Red Cross Society is implementing "the Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Preparedness Program"

through its three District Chapters in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur districts.

This program is being implemented in collaboration with Belgian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross with financial support from the European Commission' Humanitarian Aid department Dipecho office.

The main feature is to strengthen earthquake preparedness and response capacity of community at ward level with special emphasis on earthquakes. For this, this program has been designated focusing on maximum level of capacity building activities, awareness raising activities and drill exercises. It is expected that after the completion of the program, people living in the community will be aware about earthquake safety and initiate instant and efficient response to the disaster victims and be prepared at their own level.

Objective

Build community resilience and reduce the loss of lives and properties by natural disasters through improved capacity of NRCS and increased coping mechanism of communities.



Expected results

- 1 Disaster response (especially earthquake) capacity of NRCS in terms of human/materials, resources, system and procedures are improved.
- 2 Awareness for earthquake preparedness in 10 targeted wards in Kathmandu Valley significantly increased.

Beneficiaries: more than 150,000 people in the Kathmandu Valley

Major interventions during the program

In order to achieve the aforementioned objective and to get expected results many activities have been planned under the program. The major activities are

- Formation and capacity building of 3 disaster response teams in Kathmandu Valley
- Installation of VHF Radio communication network at NRCS Headquarter
- Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) of the wards
- Formation of Risk Management Committee at the ward level

Similarly, under the training and capacity building, trainers training and community level training programs are planned. They cover:

- Trainers Trainings on Earthquake Risk Management, Socio-psycho Support and Light Search and Rescue
- Earthquake Preparedness Training
- First Aid Training
- Light Search and Rescue Training



In addition other activities include:

- Pre-positioning of search and rescue equipments in the targeted wards
- Production of earthquake preparedness documentary and distribution of IEC materials
- Public awareness and advocacy campaign
- Earthquake response plan preparation
- Organization of simulation exercises at the community

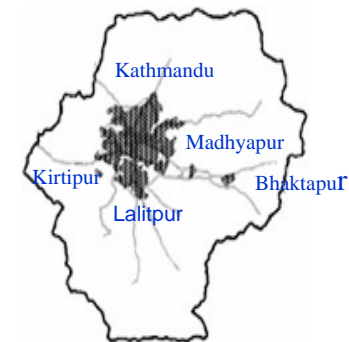
Provision of Search and Rescue Equipment and First Aid Kit

Nepal Red Cross Society has pre-positioned Light Search and Rescue Equipments including First Aid Kit in each program ward. Based on the lessons learnt, the quantity of personnel protective equipment (PPE) has been increased and some modification has also been made with regard to equipments as well.



Program area

This program is implemented in 10 wards in the 5 municipalities within Kathmandu Valley. The wards selected are no. 21, 29 and 31 in Kathmandu Metropolitan City, no. 11 in Kirtipur Municipality, no. 8 and 14 of Bhaktapur Municipality, no. 8 of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality and no. 11, 17 and 22 of Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan City.



The Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission funds relief operations for victims of natural disasters and conflicts outside the European Union.



For information on the Earthquake Preparedness, contact:

Nepal Red Cross Society

Tel: +977-1-4270650

E- mail: nrcs@nrcs.org

Web: www.nrcs.org

