



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (EPR) SYSTEMS IN NEPAL

Protecting lives and  
livelihoods when disaster strikes

## BACKGROUND:

Vulnerable to earthquakes, floods, landslides, windstorms, hailstorms, fires, and glacial lake outburst floods, Nepal is considered one of the world's natural disaster "hotspots." Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) plans and systems help minimize the loss of life and property while also reducing risk to economic development.

## UNDP'S ROLE

The UNDP Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme supports four mutually reinforcing strategies to support EPR: establishing a network of Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs); helping the Government develop

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*By engaging youths in trainings such as Search and Rescue, we capacitate a new generation of leaders in Emergency Preparedness and Response in Nepal. (Photo: UNDP)*



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*District Emergency Operation Center - to effectively respond to disasters and bring communities back to normalcy as quickly as possible. (Photo: UNDP)*



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

**Comprehensive  
Disaster Risk Management  
Programme (CDRMP)  
UNDP Nepal**



▲ Increasingly more women are taking active part for disaster management. (Photo: UNDP)

EPR also focuses on strengthening the capacity of emergency service providers, such as the Fire Services and urban search and rescue teams.



▲ Disaster Information Management and Disaster Reporting is crucial for effective response to disasters by emergency responders. (Photo: UNDP)

national and district disaster management plans; upgrading and extending response plans for the rapidly urbanizing Kathmandu Valley; and supporting capacity development of first responders in key areas like fire and search and rescue.

## ACTIONS TAKEN/FUTURE OUTLOOK

In 2011, the programme worked with Ministry of Home Affairs to support the operationalization of the National Emergency Operating Center (NEOC), a central body to connect the increasing number of Regional, District, and Municipal EOCs. Simulation exercise is being conducted in 16 districts to capacitate the DEOC's to be better prepared to respond to disaster.

Working with the Government of Nepal, UNDP is supporting to develop District Disaster Risk Management Plans (DDRMP) and District Disaster Preparedness & Response Plans (DDPRP). These plans focus primarily on the coordination of leading responders, the standards for relief and immediate assistance, suggested preparedness and mitigation measures, and recovery assistance. The programme also has a special emphasis on seismic hazard in the Kathmandu Valley and is working with five municipalities and a range of stakeholders to develop an earthquake emergency response plan for the area. The plan will outline supervising management structure, identify the national and international resources, and delineate the provision of basic services required post-disaster.

EPR also focuses on strengthening the capacity of emergency service providers, such as the Fire Services and search and rescue teams, particularly in the 5 wards of highly earthquake vulnerable areas in Kathmandu Metropolitan City and other districts in Nepal. UNDP trains members of the Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, Red Cross, and general community. Through these community based activities, it aims to develop a pool of 1000 urban community volunteers qualified in disaster management and search and rescue techniques from five wards in Kathmandu, particularly targeting youth and women.

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