



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Physical Planning and Works
Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness
Programme for Nepal
(UNDP/ ERRRP-Project: NEP/07/010)



Sensitization Report
on
"Earthquake Risk Reduction and Preparedness"
for
Municipal Officials and Community Members
in
Birendranagar Municipality

(November 21, 2008)

Prepared By:
UNDP/ERRRP Project

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to all those, whose support enabled me to complete the sensitization program on “earthquake risk reduction and preparedness for community members and municipal officials” and preparing this report for the same.

I would like to give my special thanks to Mr. Amrit Man Tuladhar, National Programme Manager of UNDP/ERRRP project for giving me permission to commence this workshop, to do the necessary work and to use own ideas. I have furthermore to thank Mr. Umesh Basnet, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Janak Bahadur Shahi, focal person (UNDP/ERRRP Project) and civil engineer of Birendranagar Municipality, municipal members and project members who has confirmed and supported to go ahead with the training. I am bound to say the thanks to Mr. Ghulam Sherani, Disaster Management Specialist and Program Officer of UNDP/ERRRP Project for his presence in this program and his guidance.

My colleagues, Mr Ram Sharan Thapa and Mr Tam Bahadur Karki of UNDP/ERRRP project supported me for completion of the workshop. I thank ERRRP team for their support.

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Executive Summary

Nepal is a disaster prone country due to its steep terrain, a rugged and fragile geomorphic condition, high peaks and slopes, volatile tectonic processes, variable climatic condition, very rural topography and other factors such as increasing population, poor economic condition, unplanned settlement, low literacy rate etc. Earthquake, floods, landslides, lightning often occur causing enormous physical damages and losses of human lives. Nepal is ranked 11th in terms of risk from earthquake according to global report on disaster risk as per 2003.

Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness (ERRRP) program initiated by UNDP/BCPR (Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery) with the support of government of Japan is a regional project. This being a National Implementation (NIM) project of UNDP, the implementation responsibility of the project will be with the Government of Nepal. Therefore, UNDP/ERRRP project, has, therefore been continuously strengthening the Earthquake Risk Reduction Management capacity of its selected municipalities of 5 development regions of Nepal since June 2008. It includes capacity building through training, sensitize people and giving awareness as well as establishing linkages with partners at different levels to maximize efforts to be prepared for and respond to disasters more effectively. The main goal is to reduce the impact of potential earthquakes on seismically vulnerable communities in Nepal.

Accordingly, with the joint effort of UNDP/ERRRP project and Birendranagar Municipality had organised the half day sensitization program on earthquake risk reduction and preparedness for community members and municipal officials on November 21, 2008 at Birendranagar Municipality Hall. The objective of the sensitization programme was done in order to sensitize all the community members and municipal officials of the municipality on Earthquake Risk Reduction and Preparedness. In this programme, cause and effects of earthquake, how to get prepared before earthquake, preparedness planning and issues of NBC implementation process and the strategies to be adopted by the municipality for effective earthquake risk reduction were covered by the experts in the relevant fields.

1.0 Sensitization Outline

The Birendranagar Municipality and United Nation Development Programme / Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness Programme for Nepal (UNDP/ERRRP) jointly organized sensitization programme on earthquake risk reduction and preparedness for community members and municipal officials at Birendranagar Municipality on November 21, 2008. Eighty Six numbers of people were attended in the programme.

2.0 Objective and Purpose of the Program

The objective of the training programme is to sensitize the community members and municipal officials of Birendranagar on earthquake preparedness. The main objective of the program is to generate earthquake awareness among the people and the specific objectives are:

- To make the participants aware about the earthquake risks of Nepal.
- To give the participants basic know-how of earthquake preparedness i.e. what to do before, during and after an earthquake.
- To discuss the issues related to importance of implementing NBC enforcement in municipality

In short, the specific objective includes creating understanding on taking necessary actions toward earthquake resilience construction. In other aspects they will start to prepare themselves for earthquake disasters right from their families, then through small community to big ward level up to municipal level.

3.0 Participants

The programme was attended by more than 86 people (community members and municipal officials) from municipality office, members of political parties, CEO of Municipality, seismologist from seismological center, CDO of District administration, divisional chief of DUDBC, Program Officer of UNDP/ERRRP Project, Ex mayor, ward members, Nepal family planning, media persons, women community office, health promoter and other government and non government organizations. Out of 86 participants, 27 were female participants and rests 59 were men attended the programme. In covering the gender issues, Bhramin = 51, Janjati participant = 8, Madhesi = 7 and Dalit = 20 were attended in the program.

4.0 Time Duration

The duration of the training period was half day which started from 1 pm till 4:30 pm and held completely on November 21, 2008 at Birendranagar Municipality Hall.

5.0 Workshop Methodology

5.1 Inaugural Session

The programme started with an informal welcome address by the Chief Executive Officer of Birendranagar Municipality and highlighted the objectives of this program. Ms. Chandra Laxmi Hada, project engineer / training coordinator of UNDP/ERRRP Project highlighted the objectives of the sensitization program and had given the introduction and activities of ERRRP project. Mr Ghulam Sherani, program officer of UNDP/ERRRP project, CDO of district administration, members of political parties, divisional chief of DUDBC, seismologist, resource persons and participants also attended in this session and throughout the program. The inaugural session concluded with the vote of thanks by Janak Bahadur Shahi.

5.2 Technical Session / Presentations

The presentations were made by the resource persons in Nepali on the following topics:

- “Cause and Effect of Earthquakes” by Mr. Dwarika Shrestha, Senior Divisional Engineer of DUDBC, Kathmandu
- “Earthquake Risk Reduction and Preparedness” by Ms Chandra Laxmi Hada, Project Engineer / Training Coordinator of UNDP/ERRRRP Project
- Floor Discussions and Closing of the session

The objective of the workshop is to increase awareness and build the capacity at the local level on earthquake resistant construction through paper presentation, video show, floor discussion and lessons learned of past experiences.

6.0 Name of Resource Persons

- Mr. Dwarika Shrestha, Senior Divisional Engineer of DUDBC, Kathmandu

- Ms. Chandra Laxmi Hada, Project Engineer/Training Coordinator of UNDP/ERRRRP Project

7.0 Interactive Session

There was active interaction after the presentation sessions. The floor was opened after the presentations for discussion. The answer to queries was given by the resource person themselves. Following points were brought forward during the interactive session from the participants:

- While rating the programme very informative the participants assured that they will share this information with others as well.
- Now they received knowledge on earthquake risk reduction and preparedness but suggested that
 - This type of workshop shall be organized frequently for different focus groups of people to get aware on effects of earthquake so as to reduce vulnerabilities and life losses of the people.
 - They have also recommended existing public buildings like schools and ward offices for retrofitting.

8.0 Execution Arrangements

Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, Ministry of Local development, UNDP/ERRRRP project executed the programme in collaboration with Birendranagar Municipality. Additionally the UNDP/ERRRRP Project will provide support to strengthen the institutional, administrative, technical system for earthquake vulnerability reduction. The Municipality provides support for the successful implementation of the programme.

9.0 Output of the Program

- Awareness generation of the vulnerable communities.
- 86 community members of different organizations of Birendranagar Municipality have been sensitized on earthquake risk reduction and preparedness.

10.0 Conclusion

They came to know about the preparedness tools related to structural and non structural component also. During the presentations the need for adopting earthquake resistant technology was highlighted.

In concluding session, Mr. Umesh Basnet, Chief Executive Officer of Birendranagar Municipality, expressed the need of awareness programme in disaster prone countries like Nepal. He highlighted that public awareness is crucial to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and their property. He gave thanks to organizers and felt thankful for good participation. Ms. Chandra Laxmi Hada, Project Engineer emphasized all new settlements or buildings must be constructed following the Nepal National Building Code and its Guidelines. She thanked to CEO, Program Officer, focal person, municipal members, participants and UNDP/ERRRP project team for their support, coordination and good participation.

As part of UNDP monitoring role, Mr Ghulam Sherani rated the programme well organized and participated. He expressed that the messages delivered are well prepared technically sound and easy for community members to understand. He recommended that the project brochure and other IEC materials should be printed in Nepali language for better understanding of people. In general he evaluated the programme was very effective.

Finally, the earthquake resistant model of two storeys was handed over by Mr. Ghulam Sherani to the chief executive officer of Birendranagar Municipality for display in municipality office. At the end Mr. Basnet delivered vote of thanks and concluded the programme.

The total cost of the program is NRs.17, 820 (Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty only) as indicated by the Admin Finance Assistant of UNDP/ERRRP- Project.

Appendices

Appendix A: Name of Participants and their List

Date and Venue: November 21, 2008 (1pm till 4:30 pm)

Birendranagar Municipality Hall

Appendix B: Photographs

Appendix B-I: Inaugural and orientation to the objectives of the program



Appendix B-II: Paper Presentation by Resource Persons



Appendix B-III: Floor Discussion





Appendix B-IV: Valedictory Address



Appendix C: Registration Sheet of Participants

Appendix D: Resource Materials of Sensitization Program