



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
Pokhara Sub Metropolitan City

(July 31, 2008)

Prepared By:
UNDP/ERRRP Project

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to all those 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. Uttam Prasad Nagila, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Krishna Prasad Koirala, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Shyam Jee Bastola, focal person (UNDP/ERRRP Project) and civil engineer of Pokhara Sub Metropolitan city, municipal technicians, resource persons who has confirmed and supported to go ahead with the training. I am bound to say the thanks to Mr. Kishore Thapa, National Programme Director – UNDP/ERRRP Project for his guidance.

My colleagues from the UNDP/ERRRP project supported me for completion of the workshop. I thank them 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 Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City had organised the half day sensitization program on earthquake risk reduction and preparedness for community members and municipal officials on July 31, 2008 in Pokhara Sub Metropolitan City. The objective of the sensitization programme is done in order to sensitize all the community members and municipal officials of the municipality on Earthquake Risk Reduction and Preparedness. In this programme, causes 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 Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City, 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 Pokhara Sub metropolitan City on July 31, 2008. Fifty Four numbers of people were attended in the programme.

2.0 Objective and Purpose of the sensitization program

The objective of the training programme is to sensitize the community members and municipal officials of Pokhara 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 risk 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

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 54 people (community members and municipal officials) from municipality and different organizations like tole development organisation, health promoter, ward members, government and non government organizations. Out of which 11 were female participants and rests 43 were men attended the programme. . In covering the gender issues, Bhramin = 39, Janjati participant = 5, Madhesi = 2 and Dalit = 8 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 on July 31, 2008 in Pokhara Sub – Metropolitan City hall.

5.0 Workshop Methodology

5.1 Inaugural Session

The programme started with a welcome address by the municipal engineer, Mr. Purna Bahadur Gurung, wherein he briefed about the program followed by Mr. Shyam Jee Bastola, Focal Person (UNDP/ERRRP Project) and Civil Engineer of PSMC highlighted the objectives of this program. Ms. Chandra Laxmi Hada, project engineer highlighted the objectives of the sensitization program and one need to sensitize about cause and effects of earthquakes and given the introduction and activities of ERRRP project. Mr. Krishna Prasad Koirala, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Pokhara Sub Metropolitan city, expressed the need of awareness programme in disaster prone countries like Nepal to reduce the vulnerabilities and their property. He even emphasized to implement the Building Code guidelines as a preparedness tool for disaster mitigation.

The inaugural session concluded with the vote of thanks by Shyam Jee Bastola.

5.2 Technical Session / Presentations

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

- “Cause and Effect of Earthquakes” by Mr. Sagar Krishna Joshi, Senior Divisional Engineer, 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

Participants were provided with resource material and IEC material in Nepali having pictorial presentation for easy understanding among the uneducated participants. 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. Sagar Krishna Joshi, Senior Divisional Engineer, 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 group of people to get aware on effects of earthquake so as to reduce vulnerabilities and life losses of the people
 - They have also recommended the existing public buildings like ward offices, schools and municipality building for retrofitting.

8.0 Execution Arrangements

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

9.0 Expected Output

- Awareness generation of the vulnerable communities.
- 54 community members of different organizations of Pokhara Sub Metropolitan city 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. Krishna Prasad Koirala, Acting Chief Executive Officer gave thanks to organizers and felt thankful for good participation. Ms. Chandra Laxmi Hada, emphasized all new settlements or buildings must be constructed following the Nepal National Building Code and its Guidelines. She thanked to Acting CEO, participants, resource persons, and UNDP/ERRRP project team for their support, coordination and good participation.

The total budget of the program is NRs. 11, 470.00 (Eleven Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy only) as indicated by the Admin Finance Associate of UNDP/ERRRP- Project.

Appendices

Appendix A: Name of Participants and their List

Date and Venue: July 31, 2008, Hall of Pokhara Sub Metropolitan City

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 Discussions



Appendix B-IV: Valedictory Address



Appendix C: Registration Sheet of Participants

Appendix D: Resource Materials of Sensitization Program