



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
Dhangadhi Municipality

(October 24, 2008)

Prepared By:
UNDP/ERRRP - Project

Acknowledgement

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. Murari Nepal, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Deej Raj Bhatta, focal person (UNDP/ERRRP Project) and civil engineer of Dhangadhi Municipality, municipal technicians and project members 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, Mr. Laxman Shrestha, 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 Dhangadhi Municipality had organised the half day sensitization program on earthquake risk reduction and preparedness for community members and municipal officials on October 24, 2008 at Kailali Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Dhangadhi Municipality. The objective of the sensitization program was done in order to sensitize all the community members and municipal officials of the municipality on Earthquake Risk Reduction and Preparedness. In this program, 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 Dhangadhi Municipality and United Nation Development Programme / Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness Programme for Nepal (UNDP/ERRRP - Project) jointly organized sensitization programme on earthquake risk reduction and preparedness for community members and municipal officials at Dhangadhi Municipality on October 24, 2008. Seventy two numbers of people were attended in the programme.

2.0 Objective and Purpose of the Program

The objective of the sensitization program is to sensitize the community members and municipal officials of Dhangadhi 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

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 72 people (community members and municipal officials) from municipality office, members of political parties, Acting CEO of Municipality, Police executives, divisional engineers of DUDBC, ward members, Youth club, Community development service, Nepal Red Cross Society, Nepal family planning, media persons, women community office, health promoter and other government and non government organizations. Out of 72 participants, 22 were female participants and rests 50 were men attended the programme. In covering the gender issues, Bhramin = 41, Janjati participant = 12, Madhesi = 5 and Dalit = 14 were attended in the program.

4.0 Time Duration

The duration of the training period was half day (1 pm till 4:30 pm) which started from 1 pm till 4:30 pm and held completely on October 24, 2008 at Kailali Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hall in Dhangadhi Municipality.

5.0 Workshop Methodology

5.1 Inaugural Session

The programme started with a welcome address by the municipal engineer, Mr. Deej Raj Bhatta, Focal Person (UNDP/ERRRP Project) and Civil Engineer of Dhangadhi Municipality. He highlighted the objectives of this workshop wherein he briefed about the introduction program. He even requested to sit the people on their own place. Ms. Chandra Laxmi Hada, project engineer / training coordinator of UNDP/ERRRP Project highlighted the objectives of the sensitization program and given the introduction and activities of ERRRP project. Acting CEO of Municipality, Police executives, members of political parties, ward members, divisional engineers of DUDBC, resource persons and participants also attended in this session and throughout the program.

The inaugural session concluded with the vote of thanks by Deej Raj Bhatta.

5.2 Technical Session / Presentations

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

- “Cause and Effect of Earthquakes” by Mr. Damodar Acharya, Architect, 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 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

- Ms. Chandra Laxmi Hada, Project Engineer/Training Coordinator of UNDP/ERRRRP Project
- Mr. Damodar Acharya, Architect, DUDBC, Kathmandu

7.0 Interactive Session

There was an 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:

- While rating the program very informative the participants assured that they will share this information with others as well.
- They have shared some traditional beliefs of earthquake pre-assumptions through animal's movement of frogs and snakes.
- 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.

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 Dhangadhi Municipality. Additionally, the UNDP/ERRRP 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.
- 72 community members of different organizations of Dhangadhi 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, 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, focal person, municipal members, participants and UNDP/ERRRP project team for their support, coordination and good participation. Mr. Deej Raj Bhatta expressed the need of awareness programme in disaster prone countries like Nepal to reduce the vulnerabilities and their property. At the end, he delivered vote of thanks and concluded the programme.

The total Budget of the program is NRs.16, 680 (Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty only) as indicated by the Admin Finance Associate of UNDP/ERRRP- Project.

Appendices

Appendix A: Name of Participants and their List

Date and Venue: October 24, 2008 (1pm till 4:30 pm)

Kailali Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
Dhangadhi

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