

# Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Action Plan Implementation Project (APIP)

NSET Information Kit | 004 | 2011



## BACKGROUND

In order to reduce the seismic vulnerabilities and the estimated losses from unavoidable future earthquakes, NSET prepared the Action Plan for earthquake risk reduction in Kathmandu valley under the KVERMP project during 1997-2000. The APIP project helped establish a locally driven, long term process to systematically reduce the level of earthquake risks in Kathmandu valley. This was done by implementing the actions foreseen by the Earthquake Risk Management Action Plan prepared under the Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project (KVERMP) in collaborative manner together with other government, non government & institutional organizations. The project helped strengthen the capability of NSET to implement and promote earthquake risk management works in Kathmandu Valley and Nepal. APIP was implemented during Sep. 2000 - August 2005 with the funding support from US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA).

## GOAL & OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the project was to significantly reduce the level of earthquake risk in Kathmandu Valley and to establish institutions and processes that can be sustainable to continue such actions for the decades ahead. Its specific objectives were:

- To make significant progress in earthquake risk management in Kathmandu Valley by :
  - improving the safety of school children and school buildings and
  - improving the seismic performance of existing buildings
- To monitor the implementation of Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Action Plan and update it
- To strengthen the capability of NSET to implement and promote earthquake risk management works in Kathmandu Valley and Nepal in an ongoing and sustainable way

## ACTIVITIES

- Implement School Earthquake Safety Program (SESP) - for making schools safer against earthquakes which protects school children, and educates communities to protect themselves
- Improve seismic performance of existing buildings - mainly through dissemination of information regarding non-structural hazards and ways of mitigating them



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- Assist municipalities in improving seismic performance in new constructions- by providing technical assistance to municipalities in building code implementation, assisting municipal wards in implementing Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction Efforts, conducting training programs, conducting free earthquake Safety Clinic, Mobile Earthquake Clinic
- Monitor Plan annually- by conducting meetings to help government and other institutions to plan, schedule and budget earthquake risk reduction measures, and further monitoring the progress of earthquake risk reduction initiatives in Nepal
- Strengthen organizational capability of NSET

## PROJECT OUTPUTS

- Visible signs of improvement in building construction practices in Kathmandu Valley.
- Raised awareness of common people, school family and others about earthquake hazards and preparedness.
- Municipalities initiated to improve building permit process, and the government declared compliance to the National Building Code mandatory.
- School earthquake safety developed and accepted as a sustainable and feasible earthquake risk reduction strategy.
- Seismic vulnerability of major hospitals and water supply system assessed and vulnerability reduction strategy proposed.

## KEY LESSONS

- Community-based approach is key to sustained risk management practice.
- Acceptance of technology and involvement of stakeholder is crucial for sustainable safer constructive practice.  
- "What is accepted by the community" is more important than "What is necessary".
- Incremental safety approach works.
- Mason training programs are effective for influencing construction practice and added values to masons for better livelihoods.
- Unified joint programs help to develop synergy and avoid duplication and competition.
- Advocacy is key in institutionalizing the disaster risk management policy.

