

Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction and Preparedness Program (EVRP) (Muzaffarabad and Mansehra Municipalities in Pakistan)

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BACKGROUND

NSET had worked with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Pakistan for providing technical support to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan under the project “Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction and Preparedness Program (EVRP) in Muzaffarabad and Mansehra Municipalities” during November 2007- March 2009.

OBJECTIVES

The project aimed at building institutional structures, policies, and systems to integrate earthquake vulnerability reduction in the two municipalities. The project employed a multi-pronged strategy which combined technical knowledge with hands on practical experiences in earthquake vulnerability reduction and preparedness, which cut across other themes such as capacity building, establishing a knowledge-base for informed decision making, human resource development, practical demonstration for education, awareness, training, and dissemination of learning and experiences locally, nationally and regionally.

The main objective of the technical support was to develop local capacity on risk assessment, earthquake scenario development and action planning. The main approaches taken by the project here:

- Involvement of all concerned stakeholders like technical agencies, academic and research institutions, local governments, line agencies and civil society
- Use of local wisdom to promote context specific solutions to challenges posed to sustainable development, through a blend of structural and non-structural components of earthquake vulnerability reduction
- Development of core group of professionals to conduct similar type of projects in other cities in Pakistan

ACTIVITIES

Main activities of the technical support included:

- Development and finalization of risk assessment methodology
- Collection of secondary information
- Identification of stakeholders and initial meetings



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- Development of survey formats and training to surveyors
- Development of data entry tool and training
- Conducting building inventory survey of all individual buildings in Muzaffarabad and Mansehra
- Review of collected information and preparation of vulnerability maps
- Preparation of earthquake hazard maps from available secondary information
- Guide on Risk analysis and preparation of risk maps
- Organizing meetings with stakeholders for interaction on developed risk maps and their capacity to tackle such situation
- Organizing earthquake scenario and action planning workshop
- Writing earthquake scenario and action planning documents



OUTCOMES

The project was built around a partnership approach where it brought together a range of different stakeholders like technical agencies, academic and research institutions, local governments, line agencies and civil society, while placing vulnerable communities in the middle, so as to demonstrate participation, partnership and use of local wisdom to promote context specific solutions to challenges posed to sustainable development, through a blend of structural and non-structural components of earthquake vulnerability reduction.

Further, a separate project consisting of similar objectives and activities was initiated for Quetta City in Balochistan Province of Pakistan. Training for local professionals on methodologies of earthquake risk assessment was conducted by NSET professionals in September 2008 later the trained professionals collected, compiled and analyzed information and data required for the risk assessment.

