



FEATURE STORY: 23RD ESD OBSERVED IN NEPAL, FOCUS ON EFFORTS TO LESSEN THE POTENTIAL LOSSES DUE TO DISASTER



Nepal marked 23rd edition of Annual Earthquake Safety Day (ESD) commemorating 1934 Nepal-Bihar Earthquake. The main purpose of marking this Day has been to re-affirm national commitment to enhance Earthquake Resilience of Nepali communities and also share and review past experiences & strategize further.

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has urged all the sectors and stakeholders to come together in order to minimize the losses of human lives and assets in the earthquake and other disasters occurring in Nepal. Through a message issued on the occasion of 23rd Earthquake Safety Day, Prime Minister Oli has remarked, "Nepal is strongly committed to take forward DRR initiatives with concrete work plan in line with priorities and goals set by various international commitments such as Sendai Framework, Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreement," Prime Minister Oli has also expressed his commitment to work for the institutionalization DRR efforts in Nepal result-oriented and sustainable.

This year's focus has been on addressing complex emergencies, as the slogan says "Earthquake Safety in Complex Emergencies; Mutual Efforts for Saving Lives and Assets." Various awareness raising and sharing & learning events held nationwide at Federal, Provincial and Local level.

Addressing the National Meeting held in Madhyapur Thimi, Home Minister Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa 'Badal', the Chief Guest of the ceremony, urged all the stakeholders to adhere to Disaster Risk Reduction requirements and provisions such as enhanced disaster preparedness, earthquake resilient construction practices, building code compliance and building permit process in order to keep ourselves safe from earthquakes and any other disasters in Nepal. Minister Thapa also highlighted need for all the stakeholders to work jointly and make better coordination to minimize the impending earthquake risks in Nepal.

On the occasion, Minister Thapa remarked, "Nepal lies in such a location where earthquakes are unavoidable. Risk is too high. In order to minimize the earthquake risks, sensitization and awareness promotion on Earthquake Risk Management at public level is

crucially important. One of the key objectives of organizing the ESD is to promote the understanding of common people about the earthquake risk in Nepal and sensitizing them to adopt the preparedness measures against it,"

Madhyapur Thimi Municipality hosted the 23rd ESD National Meeting on Jan15, 2021 at Kumari Mandir Park, Bode that was chaired by Mayor Mr. Madan Sundar Shrestha. Addressing the National Meeting, Mr. Sushil Gyewali, Chief Executive Officer of National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), expressed his satisfaction over Nepal's ongoing reconstruction efforts which is about to conclude. "We have accomplished 91% of the reconstruction in five years' time. It is a matter of great satisfaction and big achievements for us in the contemporary national and international context," Mr. Gyewali said.

Mr. Gyewali further remarked that despite devastating impacts, the Gorkha Earthquake, and the following National Reconstruction Campaign played significant roles in enhancing public awareness on safer construction practices at grassroots. Commending the people's support in the reconstruction of private housings incorporating earthquake resistant elements, Mr. Gyewali expressed his confidence that the campaign will also be replicated beyond the Gorkha Earthquake affected areas making their settlements too resilient to future earthquakes.

From the Chair, Mr. Madan Sundar Shrestha, Mayor of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, announced various plans and DRR initiatives that his municipality is going to implement in the days to come. Mr. Shrestha made announcements that the Madhyapur Thimi Municipality will build an Earthquake Memorial in the memory of those who lost lives 2015 Gorkha Earthquake. Likewise, he vowed to formulate community volunteer groups in various tole and wards and provide the capacity enhancement trainings to them so that they could contribute in disaster response related activities in the future.



Meanwhile, Mayor Mr. Shrestha also mentioned that his municipality also planning to initiate some model works related to Risk Sensitive Land Use Plan (RSLUP) in near future. At the program, Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Executive Chief of National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), highlighted various efforts and further plan. "There is no early warning system developed by science in terms of earthquake so far. But various measures such as Earthquake Preparedness, construction of Earthquake Resistant buildings, having adequate open spaces in the communities among others could significantly help minimize the loss of life and assets," Mr. Pokhrel remarked.

Mr. Pokhrel further mentioned about two key measures to make stay resilient to earthquakes; ensuring full compliance to National Building Code in new construction and retrofitting of old and vulnerable public and private buildings.

Mr. Padma Mainali, Chair of ESD Publicity Sub-Committee and Acting Director General of Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) highlighted various events of 23rd ESD and also briefed on efforts of the Department including revision of National Building Code (NBC-105) among others. On the occasion, Mr. Mainali also briefed on how National Building Code implementation is progressing in Nepal.

Addressing the 23rd ESD National Meeting, Ms. Ayshanie Medagangoda-Labé, representative from Resident Coordinator of UN, highlighted the UN's cooperation and joint work with government in various efforts of Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal. Ms. Labé mentioned, "as we have no choice but to live with seismic risk in Nepal, promoting earthquake safety is critically important. While 2020 was a difficult year battling Covid-19 pandemic, the risk of earthquakes and other disasters prevail there and therefore, it is prudent at the beginning of 2021 for us to come together and reaffirm our commitment for promoting earthquake safety and disaster resilience in Nepal."

Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Member Secretary of ESD National Organizing Committee and

Executive Director of NSET highlighted the importance of marking the Day. Highlighting the achievements in Disaster Risk Reduction so far in Nepal, Mr. Shrestha also put forth lists of tasks and priorities to be done in the days to come. He stressed that citing the high seismic risk, Nepal need to go for effective implementation of National Building Code (NBC) in all 753 Urban and Rural Municipalities. Likewise, he underscored the need of development and implementation of Risk Sensitive Land Use Plan (RSLUP) in order to make the systematized urbanization and development of settlements.



Prior to National Meeting, Earthquake Memorial Meetings were held in Lalitpur and Kathmandu where various stakeholders including parliamentarians, elected representatives from Metropolitan Cities, Security Forces and professionals from various walks of social life participated.

There are other events being organized on the occasion of 23rd Earthquake Safety Day.

MAKING RESILIENT CITIES/VILLAGES/ TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR MAKING SAFER MUNICIPALITIES

DUDBC and NSET sign a MoU to continue and enhance collaborative efforts on aspects of resilient urban development

Nepal Government's Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) and National Society for Earthquake Technology- Nepal (NSET) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to continue and enhance collaborative efforts on effective implementation of National Building Code (NBC) and also contribute to the areas of Risk Sensitive Land Use Plan (RSLUP) and other emerging concepts of resilient urban development.



Mr. Navaraj Pyakurel, Director General of DUDBC and Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Executive Director of NSET signed the memorandum on March 9, 2021, whereas Deputy Director General Mr. Dileep Bhandari from DUDBC and Deputy Executive Director Dr. Ramesh Guragain from NSET seconded it.

The memorandum has identified key areas of collaboration as NBC focused awareness raising, capacity building, model/demonstration works, resilient infrastructures building and also institutional development. There are also immediate actions listed out such as development of Implementation Guidelines and By-laws as per updated NBC 105, 2020. As in the past, DUDBC will lead and provide overall guidance for the execution of set tasks and processes that NSET will be working on and contributing in.

DUDBC and NSET had first signed memorandum in 2003 for carrying joint efforts focusing on effective implementation of National Building Code in the municipalities. As guided by DUDBC, NSET worked with few municipalities and provided technical support for the commencement of building code implementation. To continue the efforts through specific programs, DUDBC and NSET made a Memorandum of Understanding in 2012 and another in 2017 for the implementation of building code support programs. Through the programs and under the guidance of DUDBC, NSET provided technical support for building code implementation in around 50 municipalities. This MoU is based on the ground and spirit of past memorandums between DUDBC and NSET and aspires to contribute to the cause of building urban resilience.

Orientation Program on EPRP development held in Tamakoshi

With view to enhance the knowledge on Municipality stakeholders to developing an Earthquake Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP), an

orientation program was conducted in Tamakoshi Rural Municipality on 20th January 2021. The program was jointly organized by NSET and Tamakoshi Rural Municipality.

A total of 11 participants including Chairperson, Deputy Chair, CAO, elected ward representatives and municipal staffs of the Municipality. During the program, various activities including results of the field survey and disaster risk scenario observed in communities of different wards of RM were shared. On the occasion, Malu village (ward no 4) of Tamakoshi was proposed to promote as Model Village which was accepted by RM. Chairperson, CAO and ward president were very positive about the ideas of Model Village.

Orientation programs for community members conducted in Kailalri and Sinja RM

NSET and Kailari Rural Municipality jointly organized orientation program for community members in two wards of Kailari Rural Municipality of Kailali district.

The purpose of the program was to raise awareness in community level about BPS and Overall disaster management.

In an orientation program held in ward number 2, a total of 30 people including local community member, house owners, political people and ward level staff participated while the 44 people were participated in the similar program held at ward no. 3 of the RM.

Likewise, series of similar orientations were also organized in Sinja Rural Municipality of

Jumla district. In the program held at ward no.1, a total of 93 community members oriented while 45 people oriented in ward no.2. The programs were conducted 7th and 21st march respectively. The purpose of the program was organized to orientation people on the building permit process, building bylaws and Disaster (Flood, Fire and Earthquake)

Online Training on Multi Hazard Risk mitigation held for Radio Partners

An online training was organized to the radio program team members of NSET partner radio during 1-3 march 2021. A total of 12 program members including producers participated in the training. A total of 6 local radio stations are producing 'My Resilient Village' Radio program under the USAID/BHA funded TESREC program.

During the training, the Radio program team members were briefed about various hazards including Landslide risk and risk management aspects, Fire and preparedness, Floods and its mitigation measures, damage and prevention from Hurricanes, Lightning, Cold Storms, Drought and Hailstorms. Participants had also shared the multi hazard cases nearby them and their experiences while covering the news on such themes.

Mason Training held in Simta RM

A Mason training on Earthquake Resistant Building Construction was organized in Simpta Rural Municipality on 16-22 March 2021. The program was jointly organized by Simta RM and NSET under TESREC program. A total of 30 working masons participated the 7-day training program.

MAKING RESILIENT SCHOOLS: EFFORTS ON SCHOOL SAFETY

Pull down test of stone in mud masonry walls conducted under the SAFER project

Another pulldown test of two retrofitted stone in mud masonry walls were performed at NSET premises on April 16, 2021. This was done as part



Wall Pull down test of Retrofitted stone in mud masonry walls

of the series to verify results from phase 2 and 3 done previously under the SAFER project. Since the results of the non-retrofitted walls were verified in the previous test, this particular set was aimed

at verifying the result for the retrofitted walls. The results of this test helped learn about the variation and similarities in behavior of retrofitted wall behavior, depending on the detailing of retrofitting interventions. This test was also attended by limited number of personnel from NSET headquarters following health guidelines.

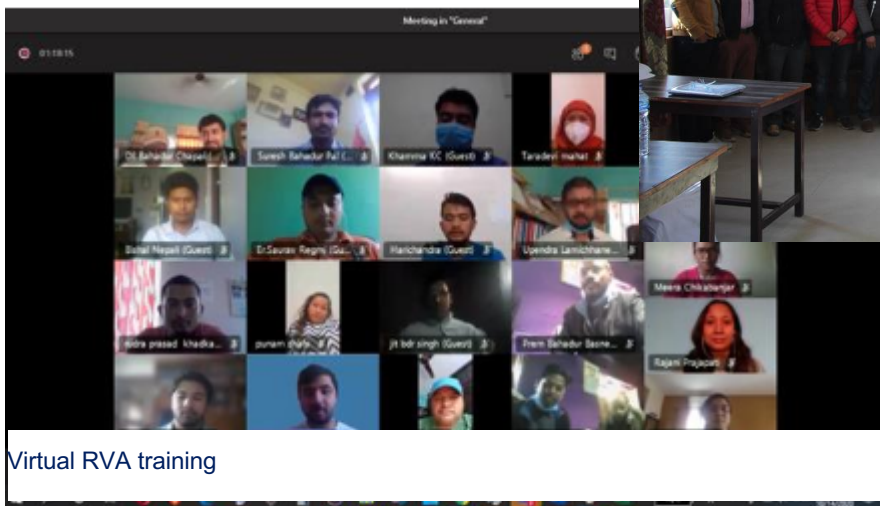


One of the major objectives of NSSP is also to provide a National-level technical assistance on safer learning facilities. Enhancing the capacity of Palika engineers in RVA so that they can continue this process in future on their own is one important step to achieve this objective. Hence the RVA training was conducted for NSSP Palika Engineers to enhance their capacity in Rapid "Virtual Rapid Vulnerability Assessment (RVA) of

Buildings” Training. Considering the safety during COVID 19 pandemic in the country, the training was conducted in a virtual mode for five days with three- four hours daily from 12th October to 16th October 2020 starting at 1 pm every day. The instructors planned and conducted training from Kathmandu through a virtual medium. However, following all safety measures, a field visit

was also done by participants in their respective Palika schools through the coordination of instructor teams with the NSSP field team. It trained 32 technical people (Engineers, Sub Engineers, Assistant Sub Engineers) covering first phase 6 program municipalities (Gulariya, Madhuwan, Birendranagar, Chandanath, Tila & Mangalsen).

Province Retrofit Design of masonry Buildings Trainings



Retrofitting is not a common practice in Nepal and is slowly emerging at recent times. We do not have building code nor a guideline for retrofit design and implementation of school buildings. The Nepal National Building Code exists only for earthquake resistant new constructions. Similarly, there is no specific literature, manual or guideline that focus on analysis and retrofit design of our building types in Nepal. NSSP is doing the

retrofit of lots of school buildings in this project. Hence it is very essential to disseminate the knowledge and methodology that NSSP adopts for analysis and retrofit design of those buildings to the Program provinces design engineers so that they can retrofit design the school buildings of their areas in future on their own. This will help to achieve one of the major objectives of this project: to transfer knowledge and enhance province and local government capacity on safer learning facilities.

Two Provincial level five days long Engineers training on “Seismic Retrofit Design of Masonry Buildings” was conducted covering all NSSP provinces: Karnali,

Lumbini and SudurPashchim through which 30 engineers were trained. It was conducted for Karnali Province Engineers in Birendranagar, Surkhet in December 2020 in which 13 Engineers participated. Next it was conducted for Lumbini and SudurPashchim Provinces



Engineers in Gulariya, Bardiya in February 2021 in which 17



Engineers participated.

Detail Assessment (DA) and Retrofit Design of school buildings

Detail Assessment of 11 NSSP schools (49 blocks, 120 classrooms) from Achham and Jumla and 2 technically supported schools (2 blocks, 12 classrooms) from Surkhet was done during the period.



Retrofit Design of School buildings done in Dhading

As a part of Support Program, NSET has been supporting needy people, community schools and hospitals to enhance seismic resilience as well increasing safety against every disaster. Under this program, NSET involved in assessment and retrofit design of two schools: Shree Saraswoti School, located at Dumrechaur, Dhading and Seismic design of Block A and Block B of Shree Sahid Smriti Awasiya Madhyamik Vidhyalaya, Jiri, Dolakha.

DA and Design process

Similarly retrofit design of 26 NSSP schools (103 blocks, 268 classrooms) from 4 NSSP districts: Jumla, Achham, Surkhet and Bardiya and 2 technically supported schools (2 blocks, 16 classrooms) from Surkhet was done this year.

Retrofit Design of Masonry buildings in Palpa

To start the retrofit of rural masonry buildings in Palpa, retrofit designs of two rural masonry residential buildings of Palpa District were completed.



Bar Scanner test to determine the number of reinforcements



Schmidthammer test to determine the grade of concrete

ENHANCING PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY

Series of orientations to NSET staff on COVID 19

In the context of the COVID 19 pandemic, NSET conducted various awareness sessions as part of In-house activity. It basically focused on sharing of basic information on COVID-19 virus, safety and prevention measure to be followed based on the findings, publications and advisories from WHO and other global experts to orient the its staff and members.

It also organized COVID-19 Response: Lessons Learned and Sharing Program in January 29, 2021. The program focused on summary of global and national status of COVID-19 cases, including actions taken by the governments; what were the major studies and



recommended actions by the scientists and experts; and progress reporting of NSET-DPER's efforts for raising public awareness, including delivery of program activities during the period with high restrictions.

Further on May 4 2021, an orientation on Current Developments on COVID-19 was organized. The program highlighted the resurgence of infections in Nepal and in South Asia with sharing of basic information on the new variants of COVID-19 virus. Dr. Rabindra Pandey, public health expert from Nepal was invited in the program as the main resource speaker.

Similarly, another in house session was organized on May 20, 2021 on Stress Management and Psychosocial Counselling in the context of COVID-19. The session help raise awareness on the importance of taking care of one's mental health in the time of pandemic to members and staff. NSET has invited subject matter experts from Nepal Red Cross Society for this activity.

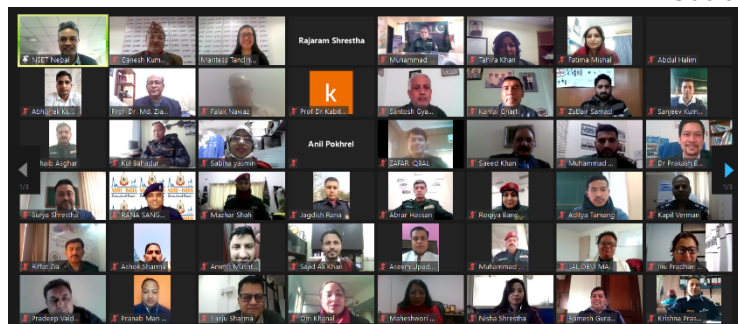
MFR video validation meeting

The Medical First Responder (MFR) Course is a skill-based training under PEER. A MFR course videography was created to capture all the key skills covered in the course. The MFR video mainly aims to supplement the current reference materials of PEER instructors, graduates, and trainees.

A final review was organized inviting MFR senior instructors, actors who appeared in the video, NSET senior professionals, and also PEER MFR instructors

in the region. The review/validation meeting/workshop was held on February 2, 2021, via online platform.

Joint Closing program of CADRE, HOPE and MFR Online Refresher Courses



NSET organized Joint Closing Program of PEER Regional Online Refresher courses for CADRE, MFR and HOPE on January 25, 2021. Total 103 participants (Course monitors, coordinators, instructors, graduates from all three online refresher courses and distinguished guests from PEER countries) joined the closing program.

PEER Equipment review and maintenance workshop



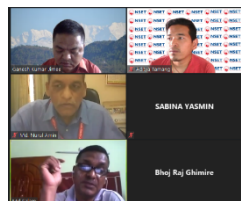
Medical First Responder (MFR) and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) equipment

review and maintenance workshop was conducted during February 24-27, 2021, at NSET. The maintenance workshop had a total of 14 participants among which were four (4) female and 10 male participants. The participants were MFR and CSSR graduates, with five (5) from Armed Police Force, Nepal (APF), one (1) from Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), and 8 were from NSET.

PEER meetings with program partners in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan

NSET meetings with program partners in Bangladesh and Pakistan were mainly for resuming the in-country trainings, with compliance to national and local guidelines during the ongoing pandemic. The meeting was held in March 8-11, 2021 in Bangladesh, in March 22 to April 10, 2021 in Pakistan and in April 16 in Nepal.

PEER CADRE Course Review Workshop (for Bangladesh)



The CADRE Course Review Workshop for Bangladesh (online) conducted during May 31-June 10, 2021 aiming to familiarize the instructors on the recent updates made in the curriculum. Selected senior instructors from Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD) participated in the workshop, with regional instructor from Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and NSET as workshop facilitators.

BUILD BACK BETTER: ASSISTING POST GORKHA EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION

Efforts for Safer Reconstruction through Baliyo Ghar Program

Coming to the end of this quarter, nationally, among the 99 % of beneficiaries who have signed participatory agreement with government, 87% have received the second tranche. Likewise, 79% have received third tranche of government grant. In overall

scenario, in the quake-hard-hit 32 districts, 93% of the reconstruction have been completed. Baliyo Ghar Program has 92% progress in second tranche and 85% progress in third tranche disbursement, 5% and 6% higher than the national average respectively.

Although nation-wide risks of COVID-19 has not reduced in Nepal, the program started making significant efforts towards reigniting program activities



during this period. The program employed various tools and techniques to reach out to the target groups, remodeling activity implementation strategies to cope with the health and safety protocols put in place by the Government of Nepal, local governments and NSET. The summary of work accomplished in this quarter are as follows:

- Interaction with **1,506 house-owners** and community people on earthquake resistant construction, reconstruction and retrofitting provisions, building code implementation and municipal building permit process.
- **Training to 49 local government representatives**, officials, and social activists on role of local governments in institutionalization of reconstruction learnings, building code implementation and local level disaster management policies, acts, and guidelines.
- Training to **31 engineers and architects** working at different municipalities on building code implementation and building permit process.
- Training to **35 masons on retrofitting** of partially damaged masonry buildings and construction of **five masonry building** retrofitting demonstration models.
- Door-to-door technical assistance to additional **526** houses for safer construction.
- Support for reconstruction of houses of **vulnerable beneficiaries** as part of special technical support. Altogether 21 vulnerable beneficiaries supported for reconstruction.
- Conduction of national workshop on **"Extension of Masonry Buildings built under NRA's private housing**

reconstruction effort" to discuss on potential extension of buildings and draft guidelines.

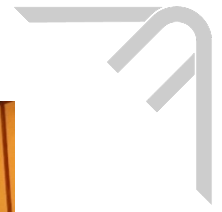
- Continuation **"Baliyo Ghar" Radio Programs** across four radio stations in each of the program districts. **Fifteen** episodes developed and disseminated.
- Support to Bigu Rural Municipality, Shivapuri Rural Municipality and Siddhalek Rural Municipality in development and review of policy documents related to BCI and BPS processes. **Development of draft SOP of Bigu Rural Municipality.**

Workshop on Extension of Masonry Houses built under NRA's Private Housing Reconstruction Effort

One of the major limitations seen during the private housing reconstruction campaign is the amount of living spaces available to the earthquake affected households. The Gorkha earthquake largely affected rural households across the country, wherein, due to lack of building regulations and norms, houses built prior to the earthquake were larger, typically two storey or more. Almost all reconstructed houses are 2 roomed and 1 storeyed. Hence, there are chances that house-owners will expand the size and height of the house to fulfill the requirements. This scenario poses a significant threat to the objective of disaster resilience of communities through the reconstruction process.

H.E. Randy Berry, US Ambassador to Nepal and Ms. Sepidah Keyvanshad, USAID Mission Director joining the virtual field visit. © USAID Nepal's Facebook Page

Thus, to discuss on the challenges and need of extension of houses rebuilt during the reconstruction program, discuss on technical and architectural requirements of extension and possible technical assistance measures and to support the development of technical guidelines to assist house owners, masons, and engineers in possible extension of houses building during the housing reconstruction program of the NRA, a workshop was organized in Kathmandu.



Experts in the workshop from different fields of disaster resilient construction and post-disaster reconstruction highlighted the necessity of guidelines and information materials to inform house owners in the potential expansion as well as support engineers and masons to carry out such extensions compliant to the requirements to ensure safety. They further suggested to include more detailed drawings and 3-dimensional graphics for better and clear understanding. Furthermore, experts also pointed out to the need for developing effective strategies to be able to implement the guidelines into action. For this, they highlighted the critical roles the local governments and the generic government institution, such as the DUDBC and NDRRMA should play in this regard. The National Reconstruction Authority further added that once the guidelines and related IEC materials were standardized and approved as per NRA standards, it would develop and implement awareness and capacity building activities for key stakeholders and provide a smooth transition to the local governments and government institutions to carry out the required interventions.

US Ambassador and USAID Mission Director virtually observed the reconstruction and ongoing retrofit process

On the 11th of February 2021, NSET-Baliyo Ghar program organized a virtual reconstruction visit event for high level officials of the US Embassy and USAID.

Mr. Padam Bahadur Thami (right), ward chair and Ms. Dambar Maya Thami (left) share their experiences of reconstruction in Alampu (background) during the visit. Mr. Ayush Baskota (middle) of Baliyo Ghar facilitated the discussion.

H.E. US Ambassador to Nepal Mr. Randy Berry and USAID Mission Director Ms. Sepideh Keyvanshad joined the virtual visit organized through virtual meeting platform. During the visit, the guests learned about the different field level activities of Baliyo Ghar Program in earthquake affected districts and their impacts in supporting affected communities in disaster resilience reconstruction and beyond. The guests interacted with several key stakeholders of the reconstruction program, including Baliyo Ghar Program team, local government representatives and officials, masons and house owners benefiting from the program.

At the first location, the team visited an ongoing retrofit training implementation site in Jyamrung,



Nilkantha Municipality in Dhading district. The training site, a residential house belonging to Ms. Til Kumari Rijal, a retrofit beneficiary enlisted by the National Reconstruction Authority is being developed as a retrofit technology demonstration model alongside training six local masons in the technology. Ms. Til Kumari Rijal, the houseowner and retrofit beneficiary then shared her opinion on the technology and its benefits for her as the house owner.

The second field station was in Alampu, a rural village in northern Dolakha. Alampu, like numerous villages across the country was severely affected by the earthquake, with nearly all the private as well as public buildings damaged beyond repair. Despite several challenges, the village has developed as a 'model' in reconstruction, having completed more than 90% reconstruction within four years, far ahead than most of the other villages with better access and higher capacity. Mr. Padam Bahadur Thami, chairperson of the ward office in Alampu shared his government's initiatives to support reconstruction and the role of Baliyo Ghar Program in supporting his community. Similarly, Ms. Dambar Maya Thami, a female mason trained on earthquake resistant construction in Alampu by the program shared her experiences of working as a female mason in reconstruction and changes in her social as well as



financial status due to her work. Ms. Thami is one of 54 females in Alampu trained as masons through 7-Day and 50-Day trainings by Baliyo Ghar Program.



Community Level Local Action planning workshop of VFL 2019 organized



Community level "local Action Planning workshop had been conducted in various municipalities to develop the action plan on different dates and time. These workshops were organized by the respective partner organizations

(POs) in coordination with the municipality ward office. NSET professionals were also present in some of the workshops to support and monitor POs. The main objective of the workshop was to brief on Views from the Frontline (VFL) 2019, to share the VFL survey findings and conclusions at the local level; and develop the action plan for the existing risk reduction activities.

National Advisory Committee Meeting of Making Displacement Safer (MDS) held

The first "Making Displacement Safer" National Advisory Committee Meeting was held in NSET premises on virtual and physical modes on 22 February, 2021.



The Making Displacement Safer (MDS) project aims to contribute to the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and assets, for displaced

populations in urban areas. The main objective of this project is to facilitate the discovery and scale-out of innovative locally-led DRR solutions for displaced populations in urban areas.

The meeting was attended by 10 members of the "Making Displacement Safer" National Advisory Committee representatives from, Government of Nepal, Constitutional Commission, Federal Government, Constitutional Council, Local Government, CSO and NGO.

Mr. Dipendra Panta, Mr. Laddu Khadka and NSET team were physically present in NSET, others attended the meeting through Zoon Meeting. Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Executive Director of NSET initiated the meeting with a welcome note and introduction of the participants. Ms. Om Kala Khanal made a brief presentation on the project. The meeting had also approved some criterion for selection of the community such as Settlement with high risk of disasters, Settlement having a portion of displaced population, Settlement with 60 to 100 household families, Settlement that does not have any DRR activities running at present, Settlement that desperately needs external assistance to improve and Settlement that has been existing since last 20 years.

The meeting authorized NSET project team to select the community which matches the maximum number of points from the above selection criterion.

Namuna Tole Community selected for implementation of MDS

Namuna Tole is located in Gairigaun, Sinamangal, Kathmandu Metropolitan City-9 has been finalized for the implementation of MDS project. NSET project team selected the community which matches the maximum number of points based on the pre-set criterion set by the **National Advisory Committee Meeting of Making Displacement Safer (MDS) earlier**. The tole was settled in 1988 AD and currently houses 330 people in 72 households. The male population of Namuna Tole is 137 with the female population of 193. The major risks and issues with the area are unplanned settlement, displacement on the same location due to the construction of embankment, flash floods, fire along with poor infrastructure and lifeline services, pandemic of transformative diseases and threat of eviction from the government. The majority of male population works on daily wage as labors and as street vendors while female population is mostly engaged on household works and paid care work, catering and construction works. Most of the people migrated here for the betterment of their life, education for their children, civil war, better health facilities and many more.



A total of 71 events of community interactions was carried out where 2119 people participated. The orientations were held at all the municipal units of program area. The curriculum for the orientation was developed in the first quarter of the project. Standard PowerPoint presentations was used in every orientation for conducting Orientations. The selection of venue and participants was guided by the SOP developed. The detail compilation of Orientation roaster is attached with the report in separate excel file and has also been uploaded on google drive. Further, activity report of every orientation has been uploaded on the drive as well. The drive can be accessed through the link.

Pratibadhha scaled up community-based interactions, piloted the ward level workshops

NSET along with PIN, SWN, DU and NU, is implementing the program “Risk-informed Landslide Management in Nepal’s Hill Areas (Pratibadhha)” in at Dolakha and Sindupalchowk districts of province 3. in 119 municipal units in the province with 1121 ward offices. Pratibaddha aims to work in the grass root level to enhance the understanding of communities regarding landslide risk and their relationship with human activities. The principal objective of the program is to increase the resilience of communities in rural hill areas of Nepal through the effective mitigation and management of landslides.

As part of sensitizing people, communities, local authorities and members of local disaster risk reduction committee to understand landslides, their risk and interrelation of human activities with landslides through community-based orientations, ward and municipal level workshops, IEC materials and innovate landslide models like LDEM and P3DM.

During this quarter, the project was dedicated mostly in scaling of community-based interactions, piloting of ward level workshops. The list of works were: Participation on GESI training, Project introduction with NDRRMA, Participation on consultation meeting with wider groups, Outline of content for calendar, Fabrication of 3D machine and Community level orientation.

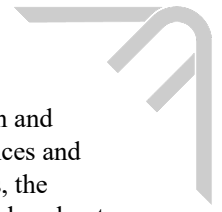
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International Webinar focuses on DRRM at Cities and Lessons Learnt from Responding to COVID-19

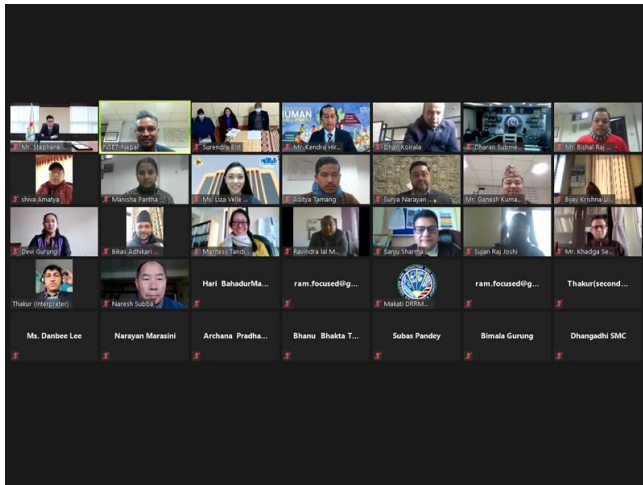
A two-day International Webinar organized by CityNet Nepal National Chapter has focused on various aspects of "Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) at Cities and Lessons Learnt from Responding to COVID-19". National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET), being the host of CityNet Nepal National Chapter

hosted the event on Jan 27-28, 2021. There were participants from different Municipalities of Nepal including both the CityNet Member and Non-Member Municipalities, Nepali DRR professionals and also CityNet Secretariat and member cities from Makati, Seoul, Taipei, Yokohama and Iloilo.

In the Webinar, the session on first day focused on "Responding COVID-19 Locally" that incorporated COVID-19 response done in different CITYNET cities in



Asia.



In the opening session, Chair of CityNet Nepal National Chapter Mr. Hari Bahadur Mahat, Hon. Mayor Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City welcomed the presenters and participants and highlighted the program.

Mr. Geun Hyeong Yim, CEO, CityNet Secretariat, Seoul in his address highlighted CityNet efforts and wished to work together for building resilient cities in the region. Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju (Shrestha), Hon. Mayor, Dhulikhel Municipality and President of Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) in his address briefed on how Nepali cities are working to improve disaster preparedness and building urban resilience.

In the technical session, there were presentations made from Makati, Philippines; Taipei, Taiwan; and Biratnagar, Nepal where each city focused on how the cities were prepared, how they responded and reduced the risks on COVID-19.

Ms. Liza Velle Ramos, Head of Research and Planning of Makati CDRMO presented on 'COVID-19 Response made easier through Effective DRRM Operational Strategies'. Ms. Liza talked about how Makati City distributed foods, financial assistance, and medical emergencies at the city during the COVID-19 period.

Dr. Stephane Wen-Wei Ku, Director of Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, Taipei City Hospital Renai Branch, City of Taipei presented on 'Keeping Local COVID-19 Transmissions to Zero'. Dr. Stephane talked about current status of COVID-19 in the city, their activation of Emergency response system, preventive measures that they took and also about the innovative ideas that they took to control the virus.

Mr. Ratnakar Jha, Liaison Officer, Biratnagar Metropolitan

City presented on 'Preparedness, Risk Reduction and Response (PR3) to COVID-19, sharing experiences and lessons learnt'. Mr. Jha focused on preparedness, the initiatives taken, challenges that they faced and also about the major challenges they faced.

The presentations were highly applauded by the participants where they learnt a lot about the different steps that were taken.

At the end of the session, Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Executive Director, National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET), Host Organization, CityNet Nepal National Chapter summarized the proceedings and also appreciated the contribution made by presenters. The session on second day focused on 'Participatory and Inclusive Resilience Building' for promoting Proactive Municipal DRRM.

Mr. Kendra Hirata, Director of Programs, CityNet Yokohama Project Office, Japan presented on 'Role of CityNet for building disaster resilient cities'. Mr. Hirata shared about the risk assessments of the member cities of CityNet members and how different learning centers at different cities operate. Seminars and study visits were also conducted on sharing ideas at different cities.

Mr. Jerry Trenãs, Hon. Mayor of City of Iloilo presented on 'Award Winning DRRM Strategies'. Hon. Mayor Jerry spoke about how they Iloilo dealt with the pandemic situation, through their own community kitchens on distributing foods to the needy. Mass production of PPE's were also done to keep the responders safe from the virus.

Mr. Rishi Raj Acharya, Under Secretary, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MOFAGA), Government of Nepal presented on 'Possible strategies for proactive Municipal DRRM in Nepal'. Mr. Acharya focused on how Nepal is more prone to disaster and needs more preparation to face these disasters.

There was an Open Discussion followed by where participants from various cities shared their experiences and views on aspects of promoting proactive Municipal DRRM in Nepal. To promote the competency of cities and also to acknowledge excellence of works and practices, some ideas including systems for award has been suggested.

Summary as well closing had been done by Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Executive Director, National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET), Host Organization, CityNet Nepal National Chapter.

Trainings on Earthquake Damage Assessment of Buildings, organized

A series of Trainings on Earthquake Damage Assessment of Buildings has been conducted in Kathmandu with technical support from NSET-Nepal. The program was organized by British Embassy in Kathmandu.



British Ambassador to Nepal, Her Excellency, Nicola Pollitt, speaking in the closing ceremony, congratulated the participants of the training while mentioning the importance of these trainings in both their personal and professional lives in helping communities in need. She also expressed

her thanks to NSET for the technical support and hoped to continue similar programs in the future.

A total of 46 personnel from different organizations including British Embassy Kathmandu, British Council and British Gurkhas Nepal were trained in the series that started with a four-day Detailed Earthquake Damage Assessment Training held in January, followed by two separate one-day Rapid Damage Assessment trainings (DAT 1001), held one each in the month of February and March.

Mr. Edward Roberts, Deputy Head of Mission from British Embassy Kathmandu, keenly participated in one of the trainings and expressed his thanks to NSET for the technical support.

Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Executive Director and Dr. Ramesh Guragain, Deputy Executive Director of NSET-Nepal who were present in the closing ceremony at different occasions also expressed their delight at being able to provide support for training the in-house staff and other personnel from various organizations, while continuing the long relationship with British Embassy Kathmandu.

The series was coordinated from the Embassy by Crisis Policy Advisor at British Embassy Kathmandu, Mr. Pradeep Ghimire and the course was coordinated by Mr. Vibek Manandhar, Structural Engineer at Earthquake Engineering Research and Training Division, NSET.”

For more information, please contact us:



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