

# NEPAL

## Disaster Management Reference Handbook

2012

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## **Executive Summary**

Nepal is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. It is affected by many different types of natural disasters each year, such as flooding, drought, landslides, wildfires, windstorms, hailstorms, thunderstorms, global lake outburst floods, avalanches and earthquakes. The country is also at high risk from climate change. According to the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management, from 1971-2006, epidemics, landslides, floods and fires were the principle hazards in the country. Nepal is disaster prone because of several factors, including: its terrain, excessive rainfall, climatic changes, environmental degradation, and epidemics. This, combined with climatic hazards and the growth of the population, especially in urban areas, makes the country especially vulnerable to disasters. Nepal ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> in the world in terms of total natural-hazard related deaths (DP Net 2009) and a study by the World Bank called Nepal one of the global “hot spots” for natural disasters. According to the Disaster Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Study Report by the UNDP, Nepal ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the world in terms of vulnerability to earthquakes and 30<sup>th</sup> in terms of water-induced hazards such as flood and landslides. The Global earthquake Initiatives have named Nepal’s capital, Kathmandu, as one of the most vulnerable cities in the world to earthquakes.

In addition, Nepal contends with several major environmental issues, including deforestation due to overuse of wood for fuel, water contamination due to agricultural runoff, industrial effluent, human and animal waste, wildlife conservation issues, and vehicular emissions. The mix of natural hazards and environmental issues along with Nepal’s rugged terrain, poor economy, high illiteracy, malnutrition, unemployment, and public health problems have increased the country’s vulnerability overall.

Nepal is a landlocked country bordered by India and China. Geographically, it can be divided into three broad areas - the mountains in the north, the hills in the middle and the Terai plains in the south. The rugged mountainous areas have made the development of transport and communications and the provision of essential services such as health care, extremely difficult. A large part of the country remains inaccessible by transport and communications, therefore essential goods and information cannot reach remote areas in a timely manner, slowing development and increasing the vulnerability of communities to natural disasters in those areas.

Nepal’s geography is primarily comprised of hills and mountains that cover around 83% of its total area. Nepal is divided into three broad ecological regions: a mountainous region, the hills region and the southern plains area known as the Terai. The hills region takes up around 68% of the total area of the country, followed by the Terai plains (17%) and the mountain region (15%). Altitude ranges from the lowest point: 70 M (Kanchan Kalan) to its highest point 8,848 M (Sagarmatha or popularly known as Mt. Everest).

Nepal has more than 6,000 rivers and streams that often overflow and floods upon reaching the low-lying plains in the country’s southern Terai area, as well as flooding parts of Nepal’s southern neighbor, India. The other potential flooding hazard is Global Lake Outburst Flooding

(GLOF). According to the UN, around 24 glacial lakes in Nepal have been identified as potentially dangerous.

There are four main seasons in Nepal: Spring runs from around March-May, Summer from June-August, Autumn from September to November and Winter from December-February. Winter temperatures drop to freezing and below with high levels of snowfall in the mountains. Late Spring and Summer temperatures range from 28 deg C in the hill regions to more than 40 deg C in the Terai region. In the Winter, average maximum and minimum temperatures in the Terai range from 7 deg C to 23 deg C. Central valleys experience a minimum temperature falling below the freezing point and a chilly 12 deg C maximum. Much colder temperatures are found at higher altitudes. Kathmandu Valley has a mild climate, ranging from 19-27 deg C in summer to 2-20 deg C in winter. The monsoon season runs generally from the end of June to the middle of September. Around 80 percent of rainfall falls during the monsoon while the rest of the year is relatively dry.

Although a major earthquake has not occurred in Nepal in recent history, earthquakes are a major potential hazard as the country is located on an active seismic belt. Many believe Nepal is overdue for the “big one.” Compounding the problem is rapid population growth and urbanization in recent years. Urbanization without much thought to earthquake-resistant building methods leads to increased vulnerability. The rapid growth along with limited disaster awareness and education and poor disaster response capacity leaves Nepal particularly vulnerable.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) has the overall responsibility of emergency preparedness and disaster management. The government organization responsible for disaster management in Nepal is the Disaster Management section in the MoHA. The MoHA works with the Nepal Police and Royal Nepalese Army and works down to the district level through a network of Chief District Officers.

The Central Disaster Relief Committee (CDRC) is the main body of the disaster response system in Nepal. The CDRC is comprised of the Minister of Health, Minister of Physical Planning and Works, Secretaries of other ministries, representatives of the Nepal Police and Royal Nepalese Army, the Director Generals of the Department of Mines and Geology and from the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, representatives from the Social Welfare Council, Nepal Red Cross Society and the Nepal Scouts. The committee is headed by the Minister of Home Affairs. The committee controls the Central Disaster Relief Fund (CDRF) that is occasionally supplemented by the Prime Minister’s Fund.

The Regional Disaster Relief Committees (RDRC) and the District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRC) form the next two levels of Nepal’s disaster management structure. Their functions are primarily to coordinate between the next tier of Committee below them, and to develop policy on disaster relief relevant to their own level.

In the case of Regional Committees, they work in accordance with directives from the CDRC but can also give suggestions or provide information to the Central Committee. The RDRC falls under the Chair of the Regional Administrator and comprised of related government agencies and security agencies along with NGOs. They are functional in all regions of the country.

DDRC's are active in all 75 districts under the leadership of each Chief District Officer. The DDRC's are responsible for rescue, relief, and rehabilitation at the local level. The DDRC's coordinate between the Local Disaster Relief Committees (LDRC's) and works in accordance with the Central and Regional Committees.

The LDRC's are at the operational end of Nepal's disaster management structure. They prepare descriptions of the losses and damages caused by the disaster as well as estimates of resources required for relief and rehabilitation which is then submitted to the DDRC. The LDRC also mobilizes volunteers for rescue work, arranges first aid services and evacuations, distributes relief in cash and kind, and raises awareness for disaster prevention and preparedness.

The Natural Disaster Relief Act, 1982, (also known as the Natural Calamity Relief Act) is the core legal act on disaster management in Nepal. The Act has been revised twice (1989 and 1992), and is primarily focused on post disaster relief and recovery. The MoHA has recently begun revising the Act towards the formulation of a new Disaster Management Act and is also in the development of a National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management to cover all aspects of disaster risk management. The National Strategy is considered the key policy document. Currently, a new Disaster Management Act is being drafted in Nepal.

In order to build disaster preparedness, the government in its Three Years Interim Plan (2007-2010) emphasized that disaster preparedness is an integral part of sustainable development and made disaster preparedness a priority. The country is working on Disaster Resilience and Climate Change Planning for its next three-year plan. The government says that disaster risk reduction measures are continuing to be mainstreamed through planning and budgeting and being addressed in sectoral plans.

Nepal's health capacity has been weakened because it is emerging from the decade-long civil conflict that has affected the delivery of basic public health services to the Nepalese. Additionally, due to its topography, the costs of medicines and other basic necessities are often too expensive for the poor living in remote areas of the country. Emergency preparedness and response is not adequately addressed in government health policies and planning, according to the World Health Organization.

Mortality and morbidity rates, especially among women and children, are high. Preventable childhood diseases, complications of child birth, nutritional disorders and endemic diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy, STDs, rabies, and vector borne diseases continue to prevail at a high rate, according to the Ministry of Health and Population.

A humanitarian issue that may affect disaster response planning is the significant number of refugees from neighboring Bhutan living in refugee camps in eastern Nepal. Tens of thousands of Bhutanese, mostly ethnic Nepalis, were forced to flee from Bhutan in the early 1990s and settled in the Indian state of West Bengal and eastern Nepal. At one point Nepal hosted some 107,000 Bhutanese refugees in seven UN camps in eastern Nepal.

Refugee numbers have steadily decreased in recent years as a result of the resettlement program which began in 2007. More than 50,000 refugees from Bhutan have now left Nepal to start new lives in resettlement countries. According to UNHCR, as of 31 January 2012, there are 53,886 refugees from Bhutan living in three camps in eastern Nepal. Officials must also incorporate disaster planning to include these vulnerable populations as well.

The country is still emerging from a ten-year-long deadly Maoist rebellion that left more than 13,000 people dead and displaced several thousand. The lengthy conflict has left the population vulnerable to economic, health, social and climatic shocks. As a result of the rebellion, Nepal's economic growth lags far behind the economies of its neighbors in the region. One third of the population lives below the poverty line. The Nepalese have the lowest life expectancy in Asia and almost half of all Nepalese children are chronically undernourished. The rebellion ended with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) in 2006 between the government and Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) Maoists rebels. However, many peace issues have yet to be settled.

After the signing of the peace accord, an Interim Constitution and a new parliament was formed in January of 2007. A Constituent Assembly (CA) election was then held in April, 2008. The country was declared a Republic on May 28, 2008 at the first session of the CA. The constituent assembly was tasked to write a new constitution for Nepal and under the terms of the Interim Constitution, the new constitution was to be promulgated by May 28, 2010. However, the deadline was extended several times with the last one decided for May 27, 2012.

The delays have had an impact on the socio-economic situation of ordinary Nepalese and on the legislative and governance process. Thus, much of the drafting of new disaster management legislation, as well as new policies and plans, have been delayed. A new Disaster management law is still being drafted. Many say the core legal law, the Natural Disaster Relief Act, is overdue for a revamp.

On May 28, 2012, Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai dissolved the Constituent Assembly after its failure to finish the constitution by the May 27 deadline, leaving the country in a legal vacuum. After dissolving the CA, Bhattarai announced new elections for November 2012, but it is unclear when those elections will actually take place due to continuing political differences among the parties.

*Note on sources used:*

This report is based primarily on information gathered from open-source material available through the internet. Most of the information used was from US or other government sources and is thus considered to be in the public domain. Such sources include the CIA Fact Book, US Department of State, and foreign governments' web pages. Information that is not in the public domain has been referenced, including a link to its original electronic source. Other sources used include NGO home pages, Relief Web, UN agency web pages, etc. Whenever further information available electronically may be relevant, a link to the original internet source is provided.

# **DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN NEPAL**



## **DISASTER PROFILE**

### **Floods**

According to the MoHA, the southern Terai plains, mid-hills and high mountains are the areas most vulnerable to floods. The erosion of natural dams that used to control the flow of water from the Himalayas, the rapid melt down of ice formed glacial lakes attributed to climate change, soils and rocks swept by glaciers and embankment bursts due to Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) are also major causes of flooding.

A flood in the Terai region in July 1993 was recorded as the most devastating flood. It left some 1,336 dead and around 487,000 homeless. According to the MoHA, the floods also damaged 32,765 homes and major bridges and roads connecting Kathmandu to the rest of Nepal were washed away.

Flash floods in Nepal can have different causes:

- Monsoon rains or intensive rainfall or 'cloudburst' – the most common type of flash flood in the Himalayas;
- landslide dam outburst and
- glacial lake outburst

### **Intensive rainfall or Cloudburst**

Short duration intensive rainfall is the most common cause of flash flood in the Himalayas. According to the ICIMOD, real-time and near real-time precipitation (rainfall) information from direct observation stations and remote-sensing based rainfall estimation can be used in early warning systems to reduce the loss of lives and properties.

Floods are common during the monsoon season. More than 80 percent of the rainfall in the country occurs during the monsoon season that runs from approximately June through September. Average rainfall is 1,627 mm. Heavy rains or "cloudburst" that brings over 400 mm of rain in a day is common in the Mahabharat Range often resulting in heavy floods.

### **Glacial Lake Outburst Flooding (GLOF)**

A GLOF is a type of flood that occurs when water dammed up by a glacier or moraine (glacial debris, typically soil, rock and sediment) is released. The dam can fail when there is a buildup of water pressure, an avalanche or earthquake occurs, a large part of the glacier breaks off and displaces water, by volcanic eruptions or by erosion.

GLOF events have occurred in Nepal for many years. The Dig Cho GLOF in 1985 spurred the detailed study of GLOFs. That flood had destroyed the Namche Small Hydropower Plant project which cost some US\$1.5 million, as well as 14 bridges, and cultivated lands. According to UNEP, in the Himalayan region, the frequency of GLOF events have been increasing in the second half of the twentieth century. A study by United Nations Environment Programme

(UNEP) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in 2002 reported 3252 glaciers and 2323 glacial lakes in Nepal. The study reported 20 potentially dangerous glacial lakes.

Additionally, potentially dangerous glacial lakes in Tibet that are drained by streams crossing into Nepal could raise the possibility of GLOFs causing damage downstream in Nepal. ICIMOD estimates that Nepal has already experienced at least 22 catastrophic GLOFs, with 10 events originating from Tibet/China. At least 10 GLOF events have occurred in the past few years.

Glacier thinning and retreat can result in the formation of new glacial lakes and the enlargement of existing lakes due to the accumulation of melt water behind loosely consolidated end moraine dams. Such lakes are inherently unstable and can be subject to catastrophic outburst. There are very few, small glacial lakes in the catchment east of Mount Machhapuchhre and they are not considered potentially dangerous. About 21 of the 1,466 glacial lakes mapped out in Nepal are considered potentially dangerous. The Government of Nepal carried out mitigation activities to reduce the GLOF risk in Tsho Rolpa glacial lake in 2000. ICIMOD, together with Nepalese institutions, has carried out detailed investigations of some glacial lakes and their downstream areas. ICIMOD is currently assisting Nepal's Ministry of Environment and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Nepal to develop a project proposal for reducing GLOF risk through mitigation and early warning systems in Imja and Tsho Rolpa glacial lakes.

*To access the UNEP/ICIMOD 2002 study, "Inventory of Glaciers, Glacial lakes and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Monitoring and early Warning Systems in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region Nepal," go to: <http://www.rrcap.unep.org/issues/glof/glof/index.htm>*

### **Landslide Dam Outburst Floods (LDOFs)**

LDOFs can occur when large amounts of material from landslides or debris flows reach a river and temporarily block its flow, creating a reservoir in the upstream reach, according to the ICIMOD. As the reservoir level rises from river flow and overtops the dam crest, sudden erosion of the dam can cause an outburst. Overtopping can also be caused by secondary landslides falling into the reservoir. Internal instability of the dam might trigger an outbreak even without overtopping. Such floods scrape out beds and banks, causing heavy damage to riparian areas and huge sedimentation in downstream areas.

Landslide dam outburst events are generally random and cannot be predicted with any precision. About 25% of landslide dams burst out within one day of their formation, thus quick reaction is necessary to cope with the risk. Hazard assessment and identification of risky areas, a good communication system, and preparedness at local level are some essential measures for minimizing the LDOF risk.

An earlier example of this type of flash flood occurred in Larcha, Nepal in July 1996, wiping out 22 houses and killing 54 people in a matter of a few minutes. Most recently, in early May 2012, flash flooding in the Kaski district of northwestern Nepal, near Pokhara, resulted in the death of

at least 31 people, dozens missing, and caused great loss of property. The flood occurred in a tributary of the Seti River. It is believed to be due to the outburst of a landslide-dammed lake.

## **Earthquakes**

Many experts, articles and studies on earthquakes in Nepal fear that the country may be long overdue for the proverbial “big one.” The capital, Kathmandu, with an estimated population between 3 million and 5 million, has reportedly not experienced a major earthquake in more than 75 years, and there is concern among seismologists that the city could be struck by an earthquake of magnitude 8.0 or greater.

Nepal is in a seismically active zone due to the subduction of the Indian plate under the Tibetan plate capable of generating catastrophic earthquakes. According to the MoHA, the central part of the country is estimated to be more susceptible to earthquakes than the southern and northern parts although the entire country lies in a high earthquake intensity belt. Adding to concerns, the capital Kathmandu has experienced rapid urbanization including construction of buildings considered too weak to withstand a powerful quake.

Major earthquakes have affected Nepal in 1408, 1681, 1810, 1833, 1866, 1934, 1980 and 1988. The MoHA says at least 16 major earthquakes have occurred since 1223. The 8.1 magnitude earthquake of 1934 (Bihar-Nepal earthquake) is reportedly the most destructive earthquake in Nepal with a total of more than 8,500 casualties from Nepal and another some 7,500 in India.

According to the National Seismological Centre (NSC), from data available there has been no great earthquake of magnitude greater than 8.0 in the gap between 1905 (Kangra Earthquake in India but felt in Nepal) and 1934 and because of this there is a real threat that a major earthquake may occur that will affect Western Nepal, the NSC says.

MOHA has been working for over two years with local and US military officials, and local and international NGOs to create a disaster response plan and national emergency operations center. Working groups have been working on ways to deal with internally displaced persons, camps, food and water, communications, among other issues when an earthquake hits.

National Society of Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET) officials estimate that if an earthquake similar to the Haiti earthquake of January 2010 hit Kathmandu, around 200,000 people would be killed and another 200,000 would be severely injured. Around 1.5 million would be made homeless and 60 percent of houses would be destroyed, according to the UN's IRIN.

The UN has been working with the Red Cross, Asian Development Bank and World Bank to execute a US\$130 million project aimed at improving key infrastructure in Nepal in an effort to save lives.

The most recent significant earthquake to hit Nepal was a magnitude-6.9 temblor which struck the northeastern India-Nepal border in India's Sikkim Mountains, around 270 km east of Kathmandu on September 18, 2011. At least 112 people were reported killed by the quake.

## **Landslides**

Frequent landslides are common in mountainous areas due to steep slopes, and are often triggered by rains during the monsoon season. According to the MoHA, man also contributes to landslides by the practice of carrying out construction without proper safeguards, deforestation, farming and slash and burn cultivation practices. They are also caused by the erosion of land by rivers, earthquakes, and melting glaciers. Environmentalists also cite the silting of river beds, soil erosion, and population growth as other factors contributing to landslides in Nepal. Snow avalanches are common in the Himalayan region and pose a risk to the mountain tourism industry.

The number of landslides peaks in the country during the monsoon season when they are triggered by heavy rainfall, according to the MoHA. The difficult mountainous terrain in Nepal makes response to landslides particularly difficult as it is hard to send in equipment necessary to locate and rescue survivors.

In 1993 a "mass movement" disaster (landslide combined with a flood) was the second most devastating natural disaster in Nepal after the 1934 earthquake, according to the MoHA. More than 2000 landslides triggered by cloudburst were triggered along mountain slopes and highways. Around 1,170 people died and around 500,000 were affected by the dual disaster. About 42,995 hectares of arable land, roadways bridges and other infrastructure was damaged and economic losses were estimated to be around Nrs. 5 billion. A recent landslide hit the Seti River on May 5, 2012, leaving at least 72 people dead.

DWIDP is working on structural and non-structural mitigation methods to minimize the impact of landslides.

## **Fires**

Fires are common across Nepal, particularly during the dry season from February to May. Fires in rural and urban areas occur mostly in the southern Terai area (where around 75 percent of houses are built with thatched roofs) particularly when the temperature rises up to 45 degrees Celsius during the summer season. Forest fires have also emerged as a problem.

According to the DesInventar database, around 50 deaths due to fires have been reported each year over the last 20 years. (A total of 1,175 between 1983 and 2003). But the annual average loss of property is high: Nrs. 245 million according to the MoHA. From 1993-2003, 959 people were killed and 60,243 houses destroyed.

Two main reasons for fires are the improper use of fires for cooking and other domestic purposes and the lack of adequate fire safety measures. For rural populations that live in thatched houses in close proximity to each other, fires are a major hazard, according to MoHA.

Major fires that have occurred in the past include in 2002 in the town of Myanglung Terhathum district that left 300 families homeless, another major fire occurred in the Goldhap Bhutanese Refugee Camp in Jhapa district in 2008 in which 1,700 houses were destroyed.

Only a few municipalities have fire brigades and fire engines, so both the government and community work together to fight fires. In some areas the Nepal Red Cross has installed deep tube wells and helped develop plans for use during a fire, according to the MoHA.

Forest fires in Nepal occur frequently and cause of loss of timber, biodiversity, increased soil loss, sedimentation, and sometimes the loss of livestock and human lives. According to the MoHA the two major causes of forest fires in Nepal are the negligence of livestock herders and the clearing of forests for farming or private ownership.

*For additional information see this report by GoN and the UN: A Needs and a Capacity Assessment of Fire Preparedness in the Municipalities of Nepal, Ministry of Local Development/UNDP, May 2011.*

*<http://www.un.org.np/sites/default/files/2012-03-15-fire-preparedness-study-report.pdf>*

## **Droughts and Famine**

The frequency of droughts has increased in Nepal, according to the MoHA. Most of the country is under drought from around the end of March to monsoon season begins in June. The districts of Mustang and Manag in the Trans-Himalayan region are extremely dry throughout the year and the Terai and the western hills are more frequently affected than other areas.

In Nepal, around 5,000 families living in the hills and the southern Terai region (which is the nation's breadbasket, providing some 25 percent of the total 1.2 million acres of arable land) are affected by drought each year. MoHA says that deaths due to famine are not reported systematically and the MoHA does not maintain such record.

The WFP ranks Nepal as the 16<sup>th</sup> worst country in terms of food shortages.

Drought in winter 2008 resulted in a drop in crop production across the country. Wheat and Barley production declined 14 and 17 percent respectively in some districts crop production declined by more than half.

## Other Humanitarian Issues

### **Health**

Nepal faces many health challenges as it is a poor, agriculturally based country with a growing population and limited arable land. Rugged mountainous areas of the country make health care delivery difficult. There are hundreds of caste and ethnic groups, some of which have been traditionally excluded from health and social services for decades, according to the US Global Health Initiative (GHI) program.

Mortality and morbidity rates among women and children are high. Acute preventable childhood diseases, complications of childbirth, nutritional disorders and endemic diseases such as tuberculosis, sexually-transmitted infections, rabies, and water, food and vector-borne diseases are prevalent at high rates, the GHI reports. Such conditions are associated with poverty, low education and literacy rates, low levels of hygiene and sanitation, poor access to safe drinking water, formidable terrain, geographic isolation and difficult communications. These problems are worsened by challenges in other social development sectors.

According to the UN's World Health Organization, the incidences of endemic tropical diseases are still major public health problems affecting mostly the rural poor. Drug-resistant malaria is an emerging problem. HIV infection is in a phase of "concentrated epidemic." Tuberculosis (TB) still remains a public health problem in Nepal. Kala-azar is an endemic disease in 12 Terai districts. Additionally, emerging disease threats and potential epidemics such as avian influenza are ever present. A major disease outbreak in the country could severely test Nepal's health system's ability to respond.

While WHO Immunization Preventable Diseases (IPD) has assisted the Nepalese government to develop surveillance for vaccine-preventable diseases such as Japanese encephalitis and poliomyelitis, an integrated disease surveillance system is yet to be put in place, according to the WHO.

Urbanization has brought a change to the diet of many villagers who are eating more processed foods, resulting in rising incidences of chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. According to the Nepal Public Health Foundation up to 42 percent of deaths in the country are due to chronic diseases and that number is expected to climb to 66.3 percent by 2030. Type 2 diabetes has become a pervasive national problem since 2008 when some 15 percent of people over 20 and 19 percent over 40 had the disease, according to the International Diabetes Foundation.

However, on other fronts, Nepal is making progress towards improving the health of its citizens and is reportedly on-track to achieve MDG 4 (Reduce Child Mortality) and 5 (Improve Maternal Health), according to according to the US GHI program. The Government is committed to achieving the 2015 MDG targets and to reducing poverty in the long term.

The Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) plays a lead role in the health sector and is assisted by the increased participation of the private sector and non-government institutions in the implementation of programs. Agencies in the health sector contribute to these goals by working to lower child mortality, improve maternal health and contain the spread of infectious diseases. The health sector still faces ongoing challenges to improve the situation for disadvantaged groups.

## **Epidemics**

Epidemics affect a large number of people every year. Most are related to water-borne and vector-borne diseases. In 2009 an outbreak of acute watery diarrhea left 342 dead and over 60,000 sick in 17 districts in the mid-west and far western regions, according to the Nepal Red Cross Society. According to the UNISDR, epidemics are generally prevalent in the Terai and Hills as well as the lower parts of the Mountain Region.

## **Food and Nutrition**

Nepal is a food deficit country, according to the UN's World Food Program (WFP). One of the poorest countries in South Asia, it ranks 144 out of 182 countries in the 2009 Human Development Index. Poverty, high food prices, the global financial crisis, lack of agricultural investment, natural disasters including droughts and flooding, and the recent decade-long civil conflict and a protracted peace process and ongoing political instability has taken its toll.

According to the WFP, three and half million people in Nepal are considered to be moderately to severely food insecure and 41% of the population is estimated to be undernourished. Vulnerability to food insecurity and under-nutrition is the result of chronic, transitory and seasonal factors. Chronic factors include weak agricultural growth coupled with strong population growth, high rates of chronic poverty, geographical isolation of much of the poorest population, and chronic utilization problems such as inadequate access to health services, water and sanitation. Malnutrition rates are alarming. Every other child under 5 is chronically malnourished and anemic. Acute malnutrition rates exceed the emergency threshold of 15 percent in many communities. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) says that malnutrition affects some 1.7 million children in Nepal.

## **Environmental Issues**

### **Deforestation**

In Nepal forests are the 2nd largest resource base after water, according to the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP). Only 29% of the total land area in Nepal is forested. The annual deforestation rate is 2.3% in the hills and 1.3% in the Terai plains. High population growth has been the main cause of deforestation due to conversion of land for agriculture, settlements, infrastructure, and grazing of livestock. The reliance on wood for energy and extraction of forest products (fodder, leaf, litter etc) has resulted in the degradation

of forests. Illicit felling and the transboundary timber trade are also causes of deforestation. Deforestation has increased land degradation, reduced forest stock, reduced habitats and biodiversity. It has also increased vulnerability to natural disasters and has increased the concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, according to SACEP.

Some farming practices, which reduce vegetation cover has contributed to the occurrence of local floods. Human activity also reduces the existing conditions of natural watersheds through construction, urbanization, deforestation and quarrying.

### **Climate Change**

According to the UN, although Nepal's per capita greenhouse gas emissions are negligible, it is affected by the negative consequences of climate change, such as rising average maximum temperatures which leads to the subsequent retreat of glaciers. Flashfloods, droughts and glacier lake outburst floods (GLOFs) are also blamed on climate change to some extent.

Climate models predict an increase in monsoon precipitation, thus leading to an increased chance of flashfloods. Similarly, as glaciers begin retreating due to climate change, there is also an increased chance of GLOFs. According to the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) warming in Nepal is an average of 0.6 degree per decade which is higher than the global average.

The UN says that other immediate risks include changes in crop yields due to changing temperatures and over the long-term there may be significant changes in water flows downstream, which will largely affect poor communities.

Recently, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) held a two-day "International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change" in Kathmandu in April, 2012. The program aimed to reduce the vulnerability of 2 million women and men in 14 districts in the Mid and Far Western regions of Nepal where the impacts of climate change are being felt.

The program, with funding provided by the European Union (Euro 8.6m) and the UK DFID (Euro 7.9m) and technical support from UNDP, was the first initiative to put the Government's National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) into practice.

MoE Secretary, Krishna Gyawali said that the MoE-led program is the first to put Nepal's Climate Change Policy and NAPA into action. It will implement urgent and immediate adaptation actions as included in the NAPA through the National Framework on Local Adaptation Plan for Action, that respond to needs identified at the village level.



## **Urbanization**

By many accounts Nepal is one of the fastest urbanizing countries in the region, although probably still the least urbanized in South Asia. Rapid urbanization during the past twenty years has created additional pressure on Kathmandu and a number of other cities. Among a host of other ills that rapid urbanization brings, some local doctors blame urbanization for the rise of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease as people's diets begin to change to one involving more processed foods. Other problems are inadequate infrastructure and services, increase in slum and squatter settlements, a decline in the quality of the environment and social conflicts due to overcrowding.

Some figures have some 20 percent of the country's population now living in urban areas. A recent study by the World Bank ("Urban Growth and Spatial Transition: An Initial Assessment") says that Nepal's urban centers, particularly Kathmandu, are facing serious challenges due to inadequate infrastructure, poor business environment and haphazard planning. The rising population and rapid urbanization will increase the vulnerability of urban areas should a major disaster strike urban centers.

## **Water and Sanitation**

According to the World Health Organization, the major problems are: inadequate safe water supply; low sanitation coverage and poor hygiene practices, particularly in rural areas; poor waste management practices; Arsenic contamination of tubewell water in the Terai areas and microbial contamination of surface water are challenges to human health.

Nepal's main water sources are rivers and ground water and pollution is caused mainly by the dumping of solid waste into rivers, companies using water for discharging effluents, untreated sewage disposal and runoff from agriculture. According to SACEP, increased water usage due to increased populations and industrialization, and reduced recharging capacity due to deforestation and urbanization, is adding pressure on water sources. Poorly located and constructed infrastructure and the poor maintenance of infrastructure is also increasing natural risks such as landslides and floods as well as increasing water pollution. The quality of water is poorer close to cities, but the effects of lessening quality and quantity of water is felt in most parts of the country. The deteriorating water quality has increased health risks, including deaths due to water borne diseases according to SACEP.

## **Solid waste management**

Nepal has the highest rate of urbanisation (5% per annum) in South Asia that has taken place rapidly in an uncontrolled manner. The problem is most severe in Nepal's cities that have to deal with increased amounts of solid waste. This has resulted in air and water pollution, health risks and adding to general deterioration of the cities. 85% of Nepal's waste is solid waste, generated mainly by households while waste from hospitals, agriculture (pesticides, fertilizer), and industries make up the rest. Hazardous waste is mainly disposed of with all other waste

(dumping or incinerators) or stockpiled without adequate safety measures thereby adding to the problems and risks of solid waste management, according to SACEP.

### **Air Pollution**

Air pollution has worsened due to urbanization. Energy sources from the traditional (fuelwood) to modern (petroleum, coal) are the main sources of air pollution. The increase in vehicles and resultant emissions is another factor. Of the industries in Nepal, 75% were classified as emitting air pollutants - 33% of them are in Kathmandu, according to SACEP. This has resulted in increased health risks especially respiratory ailments. Residents in mountainous regions are more susceptible to respiratory diseases due to the burning of firewood in poorly ventilated houses while urban dwellers are at higher risks due to greater pollution in and around cities. In addition most urban centers are in valleys, which retain the pollution in the atmosphere. Additionally, there is a high prevalence of ambient and indoor air pollution; and inadequate public awareness about exposure to hazardous or chemical substances.

### **Soil Degradation**

Due to the topography of Nepal, natural erosion processes are inherent. According to SACEP soil erosion and soil deterioration is accelerated by human-induced changes in landscapes due to agriculture, human settlements and infrastructure. Lack of alternatives for the population has contributed to deforestation, intensified cultivation, extension of agriculture to marginalized areas and steep slopes, and overgrazing that has increased soil erosion, depleted soil fertility and the productive capacity of the land. Soil erosion has further led to the deposition of sediment in tanks and reservoirs that has reduced storage capacity and increased flooding and landslides, and loss of arable land in low lying areas.

## Disaster Statistics:

### Overview of Disasters in Nepal (1980-2010)

No. of events: 78

No. of people killed: 11,112

Average killed per year: 358

No. of people affected: 5,165,810

Average affected per year: 166,639

Economic Damage (US Dollars): 1.3 billion

Economic Damage per year (US Dollars): 43 million

Floods are the most frequent and account for most of the economic damage. Nepal ranks 11th and 30<sup>th</sup> respectively in terms of its relative vulnerability to earthquakes and floods.

*Source: USAID, Preventionweb.net; UNDP Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme*

### Top 10 Natural Disasters in Nepal for the period of 1900 to 2010

Disaster Type	Date	Fatalities
Earthquake	15-Jan-1934	9,040
Epidemic	15-Jun-1991	1,334
Flood	23-Aug-1993	1,048
Epidemic	Nov-1963	1,000
Flood	12-Jul-1996	768
Earthquake	20-Aug-1988	709
Flood	29-Sep-1981	650
Epidemic	Apr-1992	640
Mass movement	15-Jul-2002	472
Flood	15-Aug-1970	350

*Source: SAARC. Nepal Disaster Knowledge Network. [http://www.saarc-sadkn.org/countries/nepal/disaster\\_profile.aspx](http://www.saarc-sadkn.org/countries/nepal/disaster_profile.aspx)*

**Table: Human life lost due to disasters in Nepal**

<b>Types of Disasters</b>	<b>1983-2008</b>
<b>Earthquake</b>	<b>727</b>
<b>Flood and landslide</b>	<b>7,469</b>
<b>Fire</b>	<b>1,268</b>
<b>Epidemics</b>	<b>12,017</b>
<b>Wind &amp; Hailstorm, Thunderbolts</b>	<b>622</b>
<b>Avalanche</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Stampede</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,278</b>

*Source: Disaster Preparedness Network – Nepal*

Government of Nepal  
**Ministry of Home Affairs**  
**Disaster Management Section**  
**Loss of Lives and Properties By Type of Disasters**  
**Yearwise Disaster Scenario**

Year	Disaster Type	People				Affected Family	Animal Loss	House Destroyed			Land Loss		Public Property Losses	Estimated Losses (in Rs.)	Remarks
		Death	Missing	Injured				Comp.	Partly	Shed Destroyed	No.	Unit			
2001	Flood & Landslide	173	95	120	15348	796	5229	0	369	520	Hector		919384960		
	EarthQuake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Religious House	0		
	Thunderbolt	23	0	38	70	32	41	0	7	0			1990500		
	Fire	53	0	14	2926	87	3099	0	268	0			239251881		
	Hailstone	1	0	7	7165	30	114	700	26	0			124776513		
	Windstrom	3	0	2	59	2	57	0	3	0			1560160		
	Epidemic	141	0	0	735	0	0	0	0	0			0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>26303</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>8540</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>520</b>				<b>1286964014</b>		
2002	Flood & Landslide	196	45	88	7901	377	2995	939	212	0			251090990		
	EarthQuake	1	0	2	136	4	146	15	0	0		Religious House	3193000		
	EarthQuake	39	0	32	40	20	12	1	0	0		School,Police office	632000		
	Fire	26	0	5	1347	236	1318	4	102	0			246256401		
	Hailstone	1	0	7	6085	30	114	700	26	0			37895834		
	Windstrom	1	0	0	77	0	11	5	2	0			806300		
	Epidemic	154	0	0	468	0	0	0	0	0			0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>16054</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>4596</b>	<b>1664</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>0</b>				<b>539874525</b>		
2003	Flood & Landslide	441	21	265	38859	2024	13956	4204	771	0			4169515930		
	EarthQuake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0		
	Thunderbolt	3	0	16	12	2	1	0	0	0		Himalay School	63200		
	Fire	14	0	6	1388	100	1605	0	37	0			94739526		
	Hailstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Crios, Fruits	7000000		
	Windstrom	3	0	0	227	0	70	0	45	0		Temple, Schools	4847500		
	Epidemic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>40486</b>	<b>2126</b>	<b>15632</b>	<b>4204</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>0</b>				<b>4276166156</b>		
2004	Flood & Landslide	232	58	76	7167	865	2683	334	174				234784700		
	EarthQuake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0		
	Thunderbolt	42	0	31	52	20	8	0	2	0			647500		
	Fire	16	0	23	1162	233	1252	22	144	0			734959300		
	Hailstone	0	0	0	47	0	0	0	0	10.25	Hector	Fruits, Crops	666000		
	Windstrom	20	0	30	3302	7	2515	5	1344	0		Schools	18851500		
	Epidemic														
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>11730</b>	<b>1125</b>	<b>6458</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>1664</b>	<b>10.25</b>				<b>989909000</b>		
2005	Flood & Landslide	131	11	24	14238	495	2552	1132	143	0			219289760		
	EarthQuake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0		
	Thunderbolt	10	0	20	20	20	3	3	0	0			230000		
	Fire	10	0	24	1135	390	1118	2	147	0			121035352		
	Hailstone	0	0	0	1116	0	0	0	0	0					
	Windstrom	0	0	2	8	0	8	0	0	0			540100		
	Epidemic	41	0	150	480	0	0	0	0	0			0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>16997</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>3681</b>	<b>1137</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>0</b>				<b>341095212</b>		
2006	Flood & Landslide	141	20	31	2088	360	1090	12	49	0			131561415		
	EarthQuake														
	Thunderbolt	17	0	13	26	5	9	0	0				430500		
	Fire	28	0	56	2078	362	2055	1					247757140		
	Hailstone	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	0				1600000		
	Windstrom	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0			Schools, Admn office	620000		
	Epidemic	34	0	45	79	0	0	0	0	0			0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>4273</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>3155</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>49</b>					<b>381969055</b>		
2007	Flood & Landslide	216	188	45	114668	21553	10002	27279	10	500.3	Rop		1831547155		
	EarthQuake	0	0	0	28	0	18	130	0	0	0		69000		
	Thunderbolt	35	0	70	57	47	17	18	0	0			2956050		
	Fire	34	0	41	7404	509	3443	305	17	29			228758029		
	Hailstone	18	0	0	1969	23	0	0	0	0			8789732		
	Windstrom	1	1	1	601	8	164	51	1	0	0		12406100		
	Epidemic	9	0	19	4650	0	0	0	0	3500			95000000		
Avalanches	9	0	10	272	0	11	258	0	0			51340900			
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>129649</b>	<b>22140</b>	<b>13655</b>	<b>28041</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4029</b>				<b>2230866966</b>		

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal.

[http://www.drrgon.gov.np/upload/files/Yearwise%20Disaster%20Scenario%202001-2007%20\(AD\)\\_26.pdf](http://www.drrgon.gov.np/upload/files/Yearwise%20Disaster%20Scenario%202001-2007%20(AD)_26.pdf)

## **Laws, Policies and Plans on Disaster Management**

The Natural Calamity Relief Act is the core legal act on disaster management in Nepal while the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM) is considered the key policy document. Currently, a new Disaster Management Act is being drafted in Nepal. The draft Act seeks to address the whole disaster management cycle and activates government agencies and NGOs according to their roles and capacities. The draft Act is being shared among key stakeholders. There is also an initiative to make disaster preparedness plans in all districts of Nepal. So far some 60 out of 75 districts have developed plans, according to the Nepal Red Cross Society.

The Government of Nepal has overall responsibility for disaster management in Nepal. It holds the authority to declare emergency zones in certain areas which are, or are likely to be, affected by disaster. Declaration is notified in the Nepal Gazette and valid for a specified period of time, which can be extended by another notification as needed. In such areas, the Government holds the power to issue any orders or conduct any activities prescribed in Article 4 of the Act, such as closing down offices or institutions for a certain period, banning activities that have or may have adverse effect on rescue work, mobilizing personnel and resources of any governmental or non-governmental agencies, evacuation of people and goods, requisition of property of any organizations or individuals for a certain period, taking preventive actions to protect people and property, control and distribution of private or non-governmental relief items, deployment of aid groups, and the use of government resources.

According to the NSDRM, emphasis is also starting to be given to preparation and mitigation measures besides rescue and relief operations. Importance began to be given to preparedness following the declaration of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in 1991.

### **Natural Calamity Relief Act (NCRA), 1982**

The Natural Calamity Relief Act (NCRA) also known as the Natural Disaster Relief Act, outlines the establishment of various bodies and their duties, roles and responsibilities at the central, regional and local levels for disaster response. It was revised in 1989 and 1992.

The NCRA gave importance to post-disaster activities such as rescue and relief. It also provided for the establishment of the Central Disaster Relief Committee (CDRC) which falls under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The NCRA was promulgated for the first time in 1982 with the objective of smooth execution of pre- and post-disaster relief and rescue works by bringing the work of disaster management under the scope and responsibility of the government. The Act has also made the provision of an institutional framework necessary for managing disasters. The Act does not address the provision of proactive mitigation measures like preparedness, and mainstreaming of hazards reduction in the development process.

The following articles of the Act define the following arrangements:

Article 2: defines what the disaster and disaster rescue work are

Article 3: declaring a place as a disaster zone by the government  
Article 4: authority of the Government to issue orders for disaster relief in a disaster zone  
Article 4.A: controlling the entrance of foreigners  
Article 5: formation of a central disaster response committee  
Article 5.B: formation of a relief and treatment sub-committee  
Article 5.C: formation of a supply, shelter and rehabilitation sub-committee  
Article 6: duties and responsibilities of the central disaster response committee  
Article 7: formation of other disaster response committees  
Article 7.A: duties and responsibilities of the regional disaster response committee  
Article 9: duties and responsibilities of the district disaster response committee  
Article 9: duties and responsibilities of the local disaster response committee

### **National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (2009) (NSDRM)**

The National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM) is the long term Disaster Risk Management (DRM) strategy for Nepal that is aligned with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) of 2005 priorities and proposes new policies, legislation and reform needed for managing disaster risks for the long-term.

The NSDRM mirrors the HFA regarding disaster risk reduction and envisions changing Nepal into a disaster resilient country. It outlines both disaster preparedness and response and sets a provision for the establishment of a National Council for Disaster Management with responsibility for disaster management under the leadership of the Prime Minister who will chair the council. It also endorses the UN's cluster approach for defining roles and responsibilities of the government of Nepal and other humanitarian agencies.

The NSDRM also recommends a new Disaster Risk Management organizational structure as the existing institutional arrangement focuses on the disaster response phase of the disaster management cycle. Under the strategy, the government will build up existing structures and gradually transform them into new structures as necessary

*Please see next section "Organizational Structure of Disaster Management" for details of the proposed new structure for Disaster Management outlined in the NSDRM.*

### **Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007**

The following are some specific articles of the constitution that relate to disaster management:

Agreement on Monitoring of the Management of Arms and Armies annexed with Article 147: the agreement was reached between the government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), recognized by Article 4.2.4.7 permitting the Nepalese Army to undertake relief work in times of natural and other disasters as directed by the government.

Emergency Fund: According to Article 98, an Emergency Fund may be established and an amount shall be deposited as per law. The fund shall be controlled by the government and the government may use the fund for emergency purposes but expenses shall be reimbursed as per law.

Army mobilization: (Article 145, (5)): The cabinet has to take approval from a special committee of the legislative parliament within a month after the mobilization of the army except due to a natural disaster.

### **Local Self Governance Act, 1999**

The Local Self-Governance Act, 1999, assigns local-level disaster related responsibilities. The Act, which replaced the District Development Act of 1992, has promoted the concept of local-self governance within the decentralization framework for managing the environment-friendly development. The Act has given due emphasis to interrelationship between development process, environment, and disaster explicitly and inexplicitly. The Act encourages local entities, i.e., District Development Committees (DDCs), Municipalities, and Village Development Committees (VDCs) for finding solutions to problems by themselves. Although the Act has made local entities responsible, as the situation stands, integrated execution of concepts introduced through the Act has stalled due to absence of necessary rules and budgetary allocation for the purpose.

As per the Act, and as prescribed by other laws, 75 District Development Committees (DDCs), 58 Municipalities, and 3915 Village Development Committees (VDCs) have been performing the job of mainstreaming disasters risk reduction, conservation of local resources, management of district level periodic plans and information on disasters. In addition, they also perform the role of First Responder to disasters.

### **Local Administration Act 1971**

Article 4.b of the Act defines roles and responsibilities of the regional administrator one of which is to take appropriate actions to control and manage extreme situations such as disaster, epidemics and starvation.

### **National Action Plan for Disaster Management in Nepal, 1996**

The National Action Plan for Disaster Management (also sometimes referred to as The National Disaster Management Plan) was drafted after the UN declared the need for disaster reduction efforts in 1994 and the National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) chaired by the Home Minister was also created. The plan emphasized the need to bring natural resources management, climate change and development together with disaster management. The plan was modified the following year. The new plan was approved in 1996 and was renamed the National Action Plan for Disaster Management in Nepal.

The National Action Plan 1996 has four sections: 1) Disaster preparedness, 2) Disaster response, 3) Disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation, and 4) Disaster mitigation.

Efforts were initiated for adoption of various measures towards addressing different types of natural disasters with the introduction of the National Action Plan. According to the MoHA's National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management Report, 1999, expected results could not be achieved due to the lack of resources and lack of coordination between agencies and stakeholders. Other reasons can be attributed to the absence of the appropriate institutional arrangement and technical capability.

Apart from the National Action Plan, the Tenth Five year Plan (2002 – 2007) and the Interim Three year Plan (2007 – 2010) are other important policies towards the reduction of hazards.



## **Tenth Five-year Plan (2002-2007) (also known as Tenth National Development Plan)**

For the first time in Nepal's history, the Government included Disaster Management Programs in the 10th National Development Plan (2002-2007) emphasizing irrigation and water-induced disaster preparedness and natural disaster management.

The 10th plan had set its objective as "to contribute substantially to make the public life secure by managing the natural and manmade disaster systematically and effectively and by making the development and construction related programs in the country sustainable, reliable and highly gainful." To achieve this objective several strategies like formulation of plan and policies, public participation, data base preparation and dissemination, hazard mapping, risk assessment, transparency on relief and rescue operation, strengthening of seismological centre etc has been set up.

A synopsis of the provisions for disaster management in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) follows.

Objectives:

- To make development and construction work sustainable, reliable, and effective
- To protect people's lives

Strategies:

- Adopt a suitable technology to minimize environmental effects and losses caused by disasters
- Make rescue and relief operations following disasters reliable and effective.
- Carry out effective public awareness activities
- Strengthen earthquake measurement stations
- Prepare hazard maps of vulnerable areas
- Designate MoHA as the focal point for disaster activities

## **Three Years Interim Plan 2007-2010**

The Three Years Interim Plan emphasizes policy formulation, strengthening institutional mechanism, Early Warning Systems, coordinated approaches for Disaster Risk Reduction and linking disaster management with climate change.

The plan envisions that preventive measures are needed for the reduction of natural disasters. The Plan points out challenges to disaster management include lack of proper coordination, that efforts are curative rather than preventative, a lack of early warning and preparedness, lack of mapping of disaster prone areas and a lack of awareness.

The Plan has set these policies:

Provisions relating to Environmental Impact Assessment and natural disaster assessment will be strengthened prior to the implementation of infrastructure construction;

Timely reforms will be made on policy and institutional mechanisms in relation to the mitigation of risk of natural disasters;

Mechanisms will be developed to strengthen work among the government, NGOs and the private sector in relief rescue and rehabilitation;

Awareness programs will be run to enhance the participation of community groups and the public to mitigate risks of natural disasters;

Emphasis will be given to pre-disaster preparedness by advancing the process of identifying areas with high risk from disasters and their mapping work;  
Strengthen the MoHA as a central coordinator for disaster management by enhancing the capacity of agencies and human resources associated with disaster management;  
Use Technology for making weather and climatic forecasts; and  
Soil erosion, landslides and flood and river control works be implemented in a more effective way.

### **Emergency Funds**

There is a provision for an Emergency Fund which is found in article 98 of the Interim Constitution for use in any emergency (see above). Article 13 of the Natural Calamity Relief Act provides for Disaster Relief Funds for purposes of disaster response. There is also a Prime Minister's Relief Fund (see below). Additionally, there is a provision for disaster rescue funds at the municipal level under the authority of municipalities.

### **Emergency Fund Act 1959**

According to Article 3.B. of the Act, the amount of the fund shall be spent with the permission of the Cabinet for disaster management and other emergencies. Article 3 outlines that there is 2.5 million rupee in the Fund which may be increased by issuing a notice in the national Gazette. The amount is to be reimbursed if spent.

### **Prime Minister Relief Fund Regulation 2002**

There is a Prime Minister Relief Fund for the purpose of funding for rescue, assistance, medical treatment, aid to poor people, and aid for charity projects. The fund may also be spent for rescue and cremation of victims of disasters and to assist relatives of the deceased.

### **Local Bodies Financial Administration Regulation 2007**

The Regulation in Article 33 has a provision for the establishment of seven special funds in municipalities one of which shall be the Disaster Rescue Special Fund where the Municipal Council may allocate the necessary amount out of its revenue.

### **National Water Plan (2002-2027)**

The government started formulating a Water Resources Strategy (WRS) in 1996 and the strategy was approved in 2002. The Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) started formulating a National Water Plan (NWP) in 2002 which was approved by the government in 2005. The NWP recognized the broad objectives of the WRS and lays down short, medium and long-term action plans for the water resources sector, including investments and human resource development.

The geo-climatic condition of Nepal makes it vulnerable to water-induced disasters. Nepal annually faces floods, debris flow, and landslides. Predicted changes in climate are likely to exacerbate this risk.

The National Water Plan of 2005 had the following challenging targets to manage water-induced disasters:

By 2007, potential disaster zones will be identified by type and located on district maps;

By 2007, emergency relief materials will be available in all five development regions;

By 2017, infrastructure to mitigate predictable disasters will be in place in twenty districts;

By 2017, warning systems will have been established and functioning in the whole country; and

By 2027, social and economic losses caused by water-induced disasters will have fallen to levels experienced in developed countries.

#### Action programs

The focus of water-induced disaster management during the first five years of the Plan is to improve the institutional capabilities for managing water-induced disasters. In the following ten years, effective measures will be adopted for better management of water-induced disasters and mitigation of their adverse effects. The long-term goal of the Plan is to make Nepal's water-disaster management system fully functional, effective, and responsive to people's needs as well as to address the needs of the poor and the marginalised directly, thereby improving the living conditions of the poorest sections of society.

*For further information see:*

[http://www.moen.gov.np/pdf\\_files/national\\_water\\_plan.pdf](http://www.moen.gov.np/pdf_files/national_water_plan.pdf)

### **Water Induced Disaster Management Policy, 2006**

The Water-Induced Disaster Management Policy, 2006 stresses on institutional development for the control of water-induced disasters and management of flood affected areas. It also defines the role of local and central government institutions, NGOs, community-based organizations and private institutions in disaster management.

The government approved the Policy for the management of water-induced disasters as a part of the management of river basins. The policy is in line with the principle of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). The major objectives of the policy is to mitigate the loss to property and life, preserve water resources, strengthen institutions to control water-induced disasters and define the role of institutions at various levels.

To achieve this, the government, through the Ministry of Water Resources, has implemented the following policies:

Emergency relief;

Mitigation of water-induced disasters;

Conservation of natural resources for drinking water, irrigation and transport;

Use of river banks and flood-affected areas to assist landless people and institutional management and development for the control of water-induced disasters and flood-affected areas; and

Defining the role of government institutions, NGOs and other institutions in river management

### **Water Resource Act (WRA, 1992)**

The WRA accords ownership of all water to the state and prioritizes the use of water while stipulating that the adverse effects of construction and management of water resources must be minimized.

### **Armed Police Force Act 2001**

The Armed Police Force was formed in 2001 and has as one of its aims to carry out rescue operations during disasters. Article 6.E of the Act mentions that one of the grounds for mobilization is for assisting in the rescue of victims during disasters and epidemics.

### **Police Regulation 1992**

This regulation mentions specific roles and responsibilities for police, one of which is to take prompt action for rescue during a disaster.

### **Infectious Disease Act 1964**

According to Article 2 of the Act, the government may take necessary action, or issue necessary orders in case of the breakout of infectious disease. The government may also issue orders to check and control travels and travelers, in case of need and may authorize any official to request a particular person to take necessary action to control and prevent infectious diseases.

### **Nepal Medical Council Act 1964**

According to the Act, medical doctors of foreign countries must register with the Medical Council to practice in Nepal. According to the NRCS, getting a certificate from the council is a time-consuming process. However, the NRCS says that upon consultation with the council, the process for registering can be shortened in an emergency provided that the person appears for an interview with all required documents.

### **Social Welfare Act 1992**

The Act enables the Social Welfare Council to initiate and manage international assistance and to enter into agreements with foreign states and international institutions for social welfare activities. The Social Welfare Council was constituted under this Act and is responsible for the promotion, facilitation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the NGOs in Nepal.

### **Civil Aviation Act 1958:**

According to Article 7 of the Act, the government may make rules to control the spread of diseases through planes or passengers. With Article 8.a of the Act, the government may issue orders if it feels that the existing law is not enough to control the threat of an epidemic in public health entered or spread through planes.

### **Nepal Airlines Corporation Act (1963)**

The Nepal Airlines Corporation Act (1963) mandates that Nepal Airlines assists in relief efforts by transporting personnel and relief items in a disaster response. However, the airlines is limited by a small fleet and also because it only flies to a limited number of destinations within the country. Most air services in Nepal are operated by private companies with fees subject to negotiation. The Natural Calamity Relief Act allows the government to mobilize all private and public resources in case of emergency but the use of private resources must be compensated for.

### **Receiving international assistance**

The receiving of international assistance is a challenge in Nepal because although there are a number of provisions in national laws, none of them specifically address receiving international assistance during large-scale disasters. Appeals for international assistance have been made on an ad-hoc basis depending on needs.

According to a recent study by the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), ad hoc decisions made at the time of disasters have broken down some legal barriers and allowed relief to be provided to the affected. The NRCS says that the government has shown flexibility in large scale disasters by providing visas, employing foreign medical and technical experts, and facilitating the entry of relief goods. Additionally, no restrictions were placed on international agencies to purchase relief supplies in-country and distribute them. The Government has supported all relief actors.

According to the NRCS, currently there is no clear legal provision which relates to seeking international, regional and or bilateral assistance if a disaster exceeds the national coping capacity, although the government can appeal for assistance. Some regulating roles, such as ensuring health standards, recognition of professional qualifications and tax and customs clearance are done by the Ministry of Health, Nepal Medical Council, and Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare along with the Social Welfare Council monitor the works of NGOs.

According to the NRCS, in practice there are three different types of coordination modalities in the field: a one door distribution system of all humanitarian relief, the distribution of roles and responsibilities of assisting actors in comprehensive relief and recovery packages, and the distribution to affected areas of relief and recovery services among service providers.

The government usually appeals for international assistance based on an immediate contextual decision. The government consults UN agencies, the IFRC and other organizations for needs assessments and preparation for relief. The NRCS has a system for launching international emergency appeals through the IFRC. The UN also has a system of emergency appeals in consultation with the government.

The existing law offers little direction for initiating and terminating international relief operations. For instance, there is no defined procedure for making international appeals. Decisions are often made ad-hoc through the Cabinet. In a large scale relief operation with international actors intending to provide relief, the situation could get complicated due to the absence of a comprehensive legal framework, the NRCS says.

Although there are a number of development aid agencies in Nepal there is still an absence of laws which control the quality standards of disaster relief goods and services, according to the NRCS. The agencies have been working in emergencies under laws and policies designed for working under “normal” conditions. Thus, the NRCS concludes there is a need for dialog between the government and humanitarian agencies.

*For more information please see: “International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) in Nepal: A Study on Strengthening legal Preparedness for International Disaster Response,” Nepal Red Cross Society, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society. Source: <http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/86951/1213100-Nepal%20Red%20Cross-IDRL%20Report-EN-LR04.pdf>*

## **Emergency Plans**

### **Nepalese Red Cross Society (NRCS) contingency plan for a major earthquake in Kathmandu Valley of 2008**

Although not a government plan per se, as the NRCS works in an auxiliary role to the government in relief and assisting with building disaster resilience, it has come up with the NRCS contingency plan for a major earthquake in Kathmandu Valley of 2008.

The Plan has been developed within potential national disaster risk parameters and risk assumptions made by different studies, which envisage 8.3 Richter scale earthquakes centered on the Kathmandu Valley. It is designed to ensure a rapid, appropriate, and effective NRCS response. Accordingly, the NRCS expects to make optimum use of all available Red Cross resources both within Nepal and beyond. The Kathmandu Valley covers the city area of Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur Districts.

The Plan predicts 22,000 deaths, 60 percent of buildings destroyed, and 600,000 to 900,000 left homeless.

## **Report on Identification of Open Spaces for Humanitarian Purposes in Kathmandu Valley**

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as lead of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster, undertook a study to identify open spaces within Kathmandu which could be used for humanitarian purposes in the event an earthquake occurred. However, these identified sites are yet to be assigned a humanitarian purpose following a disaster event.

For further details please see: <http://www.un.org.np/sites/default/files/2011-11-21--Open-Space-Humanitarian-Purpose.pdf>

## **Disaster Risk Reduction**

A pilot project in Nepal known as Total Disaster Risk Management, implemented through the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) in the early 2000s, probably first introduced the concept of DRR in Asia.

Apart from the National Action Plan, the National Planning Commission developed the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002 - 2007), and the Interim Three Year Plan (2007 - 2010) which are the other important policies towards reduction of hazards. The Guidelines implemented for distribution of relief to disaster affected people is another policy measure in that direction. Sector policies on water resources, agriculture, housing building, mines and geology, and health have also been playing major roles in managing disaster risks.

Recent actions towards Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) include a workshop in Kathmandu in January 2012, in which ten key actions to better prepare Nepal's education sector for dealing with disasters were identified by government representatives and development partners. The actions relate to mainstreaming of DRR into education policy and planning, disaster risk reduction in teaching and learning, disaster risk management in schools and safe school buildings.

The event was initiated by UNESCO and organized with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF and Save the Children with support from Japan, and part of the activities of Nepal's Education Cluster. Experts from the Government, UNICEF, UNESCO, Save the Children, the Asian Development Bank and UNDP facilitated the discussions.

Various foreign governments, including the US, are helping Nepal to reduce disaster risks, increasing the Nepalese Government's resilience and strengthening its capacity to respond. For example, former U.S. Ambassador to Nepal Scott H. DeLisi made DRR a top priority, promoting a whole-of-government approach to address the risk of a catastrophic earthquake in the country.

DeLisi developed an integrated U.S. Government approach to strategically target human and financial resources, and leverage investments from the Government of Nepal, donors, and the private sector and created an interagency DRR office led by a USAID Foreign Service Officer.

In September 2011, an interagency team conducted a broad-based, multi-hazard assessment. The end product was the “Five-Year DRR Strategic Framework” with clear objectives for U.S. Government DRR engagement in Nepal.

One of USAID’s longest DRR partnerships in Asia has been with the Kathmandu-based National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET). USAID’s partnership with NSET began in 1997. Since that time, USAID has provided more than US\$8 million in support of NSET’s activities.

### **Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)**

The HFA is a 10-year plan to make the world safer from natural hazards. It was adopted by 168 Member States of the United Nations in 2005 at the World Disaster Reduction Conference. Nepal is one of the countries that adopted and is following the plan.

The HFA outlines five priorities for action, and offers guiding principles and practical means for achieving disaster resilience. Its goal is to substantially reduce disaster losses by 2015 by building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters.

The five priorities for action are:

Priority Action 1: Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority Action 2: Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.

Priority Action 3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

Priority Action 4: Reduce the underlying risk factors.

Priority Action 5: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

Nepal’s progress towards achieving its goals towards the framework can be found in the latest progress report: *Nepal: National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011)*. *Publication date: 2010*. The full report on Nepal’s progress on the HFA can be found at:

[http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15615\\_npl\\_NationalHFAprogress\\_2009-11.pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15615_npl_NationalHFAprogress_2009-11.pdf)

The progress report assesses current national strategic priorities with regard to the implementation of disaster risk reduction actions, and establishes baselines on levels of progress achieved with respect to the implementation of the HFA’s five priorities for action. The preparation of this National Progress Report has been undertaken within the framework of the biennial 2009-11 HFA Monitoring and Progress Review process, facilitated by UNISDR and ISDR System partners.



## Climate Change

### **National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (NAPA)**

The UN General Assembly established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) in 1990 to prepare an international instrument on climate change. The INC drafted the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which was adopted in 1992. The global treaty provides the international framework for managing climate change.

The National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (NAPA) process is a vehicle for the Least Developed Countries Parties to the UNFCCC to prioritize urgent and immediate adaptation actions. Known as the "expanded" NAPA process, the NAPA process in Nepal (2008-2010) was also used as a launching pad for the development of a multi-stakeholder framework on climate change action.

The overall structure of the NAPA has three components: preparation and dissemination of a NAPA document; development and maintenance of a climate change knowledge management and learning platform for Nepal; and development of a multi-stakeholder framework of action on climate change in Nepal.

For the latest NAPA report for Nepal see: "Government of Nepal, National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (NAPA), by the Ministry of Environment, September 2010.

[http://www.napanepal.gov.np/pdf\\_reports/NAPA\\_Report.pdf](http://www.napanepal.gov.np/pdf_reports/NAPA_Report.pdf)

For NAPA reports and documents please go to:

<http://www.climatenepal.org.np/main/?p=aboutnapa&sp=napadocument>

Nepal Climate Change and Development Portal: <http://www.climatenepal.org.np/main/>

*Old website for further historical information on NAPA in Nepal: <http://www.napanepal.gov.np/> (website no longer updated)*

## Health

The Government of Nepal's **National Health Policy of 1991** sought "to upgrade the health standards of the majority of the rural population by strengthening the primary health care system and making effective health care services readily available at the local level," according to the Ministry of Health and Population. Access to essential health care services (EHCS) was increased by establishing health posts in villages and through an extensive work force of female community health volunteers.

According to the Ministry of Health and Population, the Geography of Nepal poses serious challenges in delivering health services to all. In the Mountain Region, 4 of 10 individuals have to travel 1-4 hours to reach the nearest health or sub-health post. In the Hill Region, 3 of 10

individuals have to travel 1-4 hours to reach the nearest health or sub-health post. A large number of health institutions were established by the private sector to train health care professionals, and the number of private hospitals grew quickly thereby greatly expanding secondary and tertiary care in urban areas. Nepal's pharmaceutical industry also grew in the last twenty years and now produces one-third of the national requirement for medicines.

In 2004, the Government of Nepal (GoN) introduced a "Health Sector Strategy: An Agenda for Reform" and the first "Nepal Health Sector Programme (NHSP) 2004-2009". Recognizing that external development partners finance over 40% of public-sector health expenditure, the Government adopted a Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) for NHSP, to improve aid effectiveness by coordinating the efforts of Government and External Development Partners (EDPs) in support of a single Government-owned and led program that aimed to put the country on track to achieve the 2015 Millennium Development Goals for health.

The Interim Constitution established the right of all Nepali citizens to free basic health services, the right to a clean environment, access to education and a means of livelihood, in a social environment free of discrimination and institutionalized inequality.

### **Second Long Term Health Plan (SLTHP) (1997 – 2017)**

[http://www.searo.who.int/LinkFiles/Country\\_Annual\\_Health\\_Reports\\_306.pdf](http://www.searo.who.int/LinkFiles/Country_Annual_Health_Reports_306.pdf)

The main objective of the Second Long Term Health Plan is to improve the health status of the Nepali people, particularly the most vulnerable groups, women and children, rural populations, the poor, under-privileged and the marginalized. The plan offers guidance and support to private and NGO sectors, it assists development partners to direct resources and expertise too improve the health situation over the next 20 years.

The aim of the SLTHP is to guide health sector development in the improvement of the health of the population, particularly those whose health needs are not often met.

The SLTHP addresses disparities in healthcare, assuring gender sensitivity and equitable community access to quality healthcare services. The aims of the SLTHP are to provide a guiding framework to build successive periodic and annual health plans that improve the health status of the population; to develop appropriate strategies, programmes, and action plans that reflect national health priorities that are affordable and consistent with available resources; and to establish co-ordination among public, private and NGO sectors and development partners.

The SLTHP vision is a healthcare system with equitable access and quality services in both rural and urban areas. The system would encompass the concepts of sustainability, full community participation, decentralisation, gender sensitivity, effective and efficient management, and private and NGO participation.

## 2.1 Objectives

To improve the health status of the population of the most vulnerable groups, particularly those whose health needs often are not met—women and children, the rural population, the poor, the underprivileged, and the marginalized population.

To extend to all districts cost-effective public health measures and essential curative services for the appropriate treatment of common diseases and injuries.

To provide the appropriate numbers, distribution and types of technically competent and socially responsible health personnel for quality healthcare throughout the country, particularly in under-served areas.

To improve the management and organisation of the public health sector and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the healthcare system.

To develop appropriate roles for NGOs, and the public and private sectors in providing and financing health services.

To improve inter- and intra-sectoral co-ordination and to provide the necessary conditions and support for effective decentralisation with full community participation.

## **Nepal Health Sector Programme – Implementation Plan II (NHSP – IP 2) 2010-2015.**

According to the Ministry of Health and Population the second five-year health sector programme will continue to build on the successes of the first programme, and begin to address the remaining constraints to increasing access and utilization of essential health care services, with a focus on continuing to address the disparities between the wealthier population and the poor, vulnerable and marginalized populations. The achievements to date have depended heavily on financial and technical support from the EDPs. The Government will continue to increase domestic financing of health services, but sustaining and building on the achievements of the health sector will require the level of support from the EDPs to be sustained and increased. The plan will give careful attention to further improving health systems and achieving efficiency improvements.

### Vision

NHSP-2's goal is to improve the health and nutritional status of the population, especially for the poor and excluded. The Government will contribute to poverty reduction by providing equal opportunity for all to receive high-quality and affordable health care services. The three objectives are:

- To increase access to and utilization of quality essential health care services;
- To reduce cultural and economic barriers to accessing health care services and harmful cultural practices in partnership with non-state actors;
- To improve the health system to achieve universal coverage of essential health services.

*To view the plan see: <http://fwrhd.gov.np/NHSP2.pdf>*

## **Health Sector Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response Plan Nepal**

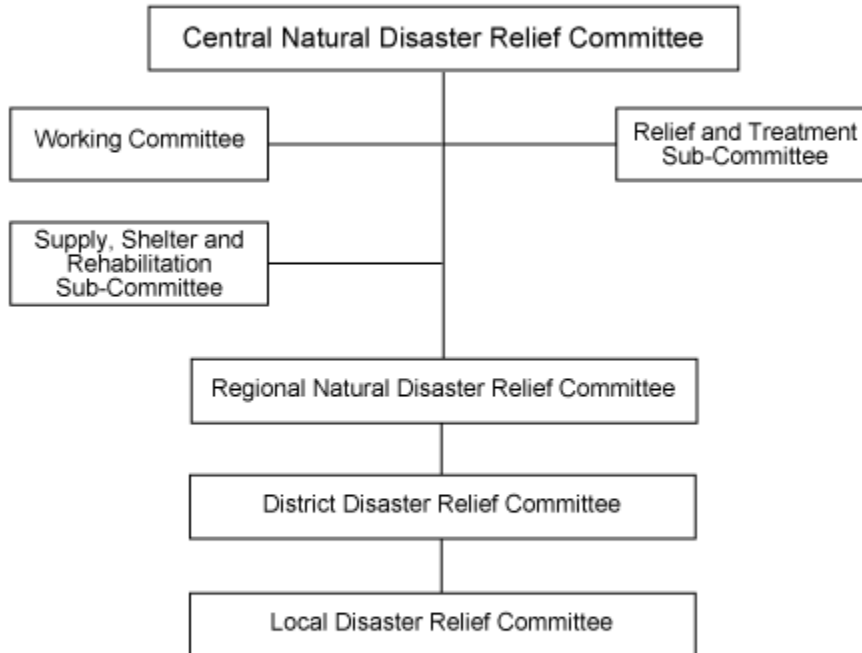
The Health Sector Plan from 2003 presents the various disaster scenarios that confront Nepal along with policy recommendations on how to respond to emergencies. It is the outcome of an on-going planning process to prepare the health sector for future emergencies.

To view the full document please go to:

[http://www.preventionweb.net/files/2012\\_VL206709.pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/2012_VL206709.pdf)

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT

## Disaster Response Framework in Nepal Structure



*Nepal Disaster Management under the Natural Disaster Relief Act, 1982.*

*Source: MoHA.*

### **Central Disaster Relief Committee (CDRC)**

The 27 member CDRC, also known as the Central Committee, is chaired by the Minister for Home Affairs for making relief arrangement and coordination as provisioned in the Natural Calamities (Relief) Act.

The Committee consists of various ministries, security agencies, departments, the National Planning Commission, Social Welfare Council, NGOs such as the Nepal Red Cross Society, Nepal Scouts and two people nominated by the Government. Members of Parliament representing the district affected by the disaster are also invited to attend meetings.

The Committee holds at least two meetings annually or as necessary for making pre-monsoon preparation and to address any natural or non-natural disasters. The committee also meets as required to address the needs of the affected population following a disaster

The Central Committee is tasked with developing national prevention, preparedness, relief and rehabilitation policies for submission to the Government, and is also responsible for their implementation, once approved.

The Committee coordinates all the rescue, relief and assistance of social organizations, manages funds and materials received within and from outside of the country, and gives directions to the district and local committees on relief matters.

The main functions and duties of the CDRC are to:

Formulate the national policies regarding the relief works including the rehabilitation of the victims of natural disaster and the reconstruction of areas affected by natural disasters and the advance preparation thereof and to prepare the programs in accordance with the said policy and submit it to the Government;

Implement the policies and programs formulated pursuant to the clause above after it has been approved by the Government;

Keep relief items and other goods received within the country and from outside as aid or donations under the Central Disaster Relief Aid fund and to send such goods as required for relief work in disaster areas;

Associate the social organizations in natural disaster relief works and coordinate the activities of those organizations;

Form teams and send them to disaster areas to assist in relief;

Give directions to the district committee and local committee on the matters relating to relief;

Perform the works specified by the Government for the execution of disaster relief; and

Submit report on work progress to the Government from time to time.

The Working Committee, Relief and Treatment Sub-committee and Supply, Shelter and Rehabilitation Sub-committee supports the functioning of the Central Committee.

The Regional and District Committees form the next two levels of Nepal's disaster management structure. Their functions are primarily to coordinate between the next tiers of Committees below them, and to develop policy on disaster relief relevant to their own level. In the case of Regional Committees, they work in accordance with directives from the Central Committee but can also give suggestions or provide information to the Central Committee. The District Committee coordinates between the Local Committees and works in accordance with the Central and Regional Committees.

### **Regional Natural Disaster Relief Committees (RDRC)**

The Regional Natural Disaster Relief Committee (RDRC) is under the Chair of the Regional Administrator and comprised of related government agencies and security agencies along with NGOs. They are functional in all regions of the country.

The main functions and duties of the RDRC are to:

Provide necessary suggestions to the CDRC;

Formulate regional and district level plans on natural disaster;

Coordinate district disaster relief committees regarding disaster;

Provide disaster related information to CDRC; and

Implement directions of the CDRC;

### **District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC)**

The District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) is the primary body for coordinating relief efforts and is comprised of representatives from the District Health Office and the Nepal Red Cross Society. The DDRC is chaired by the Chief District Officer. DDRC's are active in all 75 districts under the leadership of each Chief District Officer. The DDRC's are responsible for rescue, relief, and rehabilitation at the local level. They are represented by officials of district level water supply, health, and education offices. The Local Development Officer functions as the Member Secretary.

The main functions and duties of the DDRC are to:

Coordinate among Local Disaster Relief Committees (LDRC) regarding natural disaster relief works;

Formulate district level plans on disaster relief works and submit such plans to the RDRC;

Monitor the disaster relief works being conducted by the LDRC's and support ongoing works;

Provide information to the RDCRC about natural disaster relief works; and

Work in accordance with the directives of the CDRC and RDRC

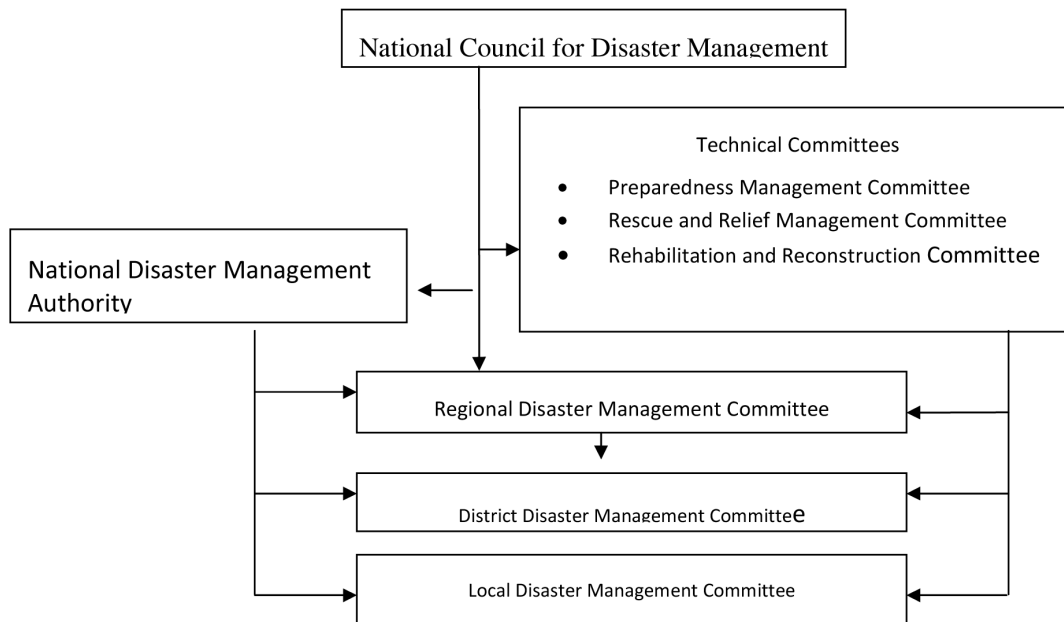
### **Local Disaster Relief Committees (LDRC)**

The LDRC's are at the operational end of Nepal's disaster management structure. They prepare descriptions of the losses and damages caused by the disaster as well as estimates of resources required for relief and rehabilitation which is then submitted to the DDRC. The LDRC also mobilizes volunteers for rescue work, arranges first aid services and evacuations, distributes relief in cash and kind, and raises awareness for disaster prevention and preparedness.

## Proposed Organization Structure for Disaster Management under the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (2009) (NSDRM)

The NSDRM recommends a new Disaster Risk Management organizational structure as the existing institutional arrangement focuses on the disaster response phase of the disaster management cycle. Under the strategy, the government will build up existing structures and gradually transform them into new structures as necessary.

### PROPOSED STRUCTURE



Source: "National Strategy for Disaster Management, 2009," Ministry of Home Affairs

The proposed structure includes the formation of a:

### **National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM)**

According to the NSDRM, a National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) chaired by the Prime Minister shall be formed that can give a broader look to mainstreaming DRR while giving high priority to risk reduction in development activities.

According to the NSDRM, the Council shall be comprised of the Minister for Home Affairs as Vice-Chair with Ministers and Secretaries of Ministries of Local Development, Communications, Defense, Finance, Education, and Social Welfare together with Chief of Army Staff, Inspector Generals of Police, and Armed Police Force, Director Generals of concerned Departments, and experts from Civil Society as other members.

Tasks and duties of the NCDM will be:

- Endorse DRM related policies;
- Approve DRM National and Sectoral Plans;



- Take policy decisions, arrange financial resources and supervise for Risk Reduction/Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction activities; and
- Take policy decisions for bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation in the areas of DRM.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) will be the Secretariat of the NCDM:

### **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**

According to the NSDRM, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) “shall be established as a National Focal Point for implementation, facilitation, coordination, and monitoring of Disaster Management Strategies. The Authority will work in direct cooperation and coordination with ministries or central agencies, departments, district level entities, and other stakeholders in planning and implementation of disaster management related matters.” Furthermore, the NDMA will also take charge of managing Response, Recovery, Reconstruction, and Rehabilitation in the event of a disaster.

Three high level Committees will be made with assignment of responsibilities for carrying out different natures of activities in three major (pre/during/post) phases of disaster:

- Preparedness Management Committee.
- Rescue and Relief Management Committee.
- Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee.

The MoHA will monitor, evaluate and guide activities of the NDMA. The NDMA will publish detailed annual reports. The MoHA will also conduct performance evaluations of regional, district and local level committees through the NDMA.

### **Establishment of Committees**

According to the NSDRM, the following separate committees will be formed for carrying out disaster risk management activities and for preparedness, rescue and relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation tasks:

#### **Preparedness Management Committee**

A Preparedness Management Committee will be formed in stewardship of the Minister for Local Development with representatives from the NPC, Ministries and Departments, government and NGO sector.

#### **Rescue and Relief Management Committee**

A Rescue and Relief Management Committee will be formed in stewardship of the MoHA with representatives from MoHP, various Ministries and Departments, government and NGO sector.

#### **Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Management Committee**

A Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Management Committee will be formed in stewardship of the Minister for Physical Planning and Works from NPC, various Ministries and Departments, government and NGO sector.

Other specific committees can be formed for coping with specific hazards. Such committees will provide necessary support to the operation of the NDMA.

### **Regional Disaster Management Committee (RDMC)**

Regional Disaster Management Committees (RDMC) will be formed for each Region with the Regional Administrator functioning as a Coordinator. The committee will have representatives from the government and NGO sector.

### **District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC)**

District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) will be formed in each District chaired by the Chief District Officer (CDO) of the concerned district. The committee will have representatives from the government and NGO sector.

### **Establishment of Sub-Committee**

Several Sub-committees will be formed, the Preparedness Sub-committee with DDC chair or a DDC member as designated by the DDC as a Convener, a Rescue and Relief Sub-Committee by the CDO as a Convener, and Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee with the Head of the Office of the construction related activities.

### **Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC)**

Local Disaster Management Committees will be formed in each municipality and VDC with chief and chair of the concerned Municipality, and chair of the VDC respectively as conveners. These sub-committees will comprise representatives from government agencies and non-government institutions.

### **Community-Based Organizations**

According to the strategy, District/Municipal/VDC level DRM committees will develop and enhance performance capabilities CBOs will carry out DRM activities at community levels. CBOs will be imparted training on local early warning systems, relocation to safe places, first-aid, search and rescue and fire fighting. Linkages will be developed between CBOs and local groups. Skills and capacities of CO leaders in financial and human resource management, resource mobilization, interpersonal communication and presentations, and conversations will be enhanced.

Subsequent to the establishment of the NDMA, District Disaster Risk Management Authority (DDRMA) and Municipal Disaster Risk Management Authority (MDRMA) will be established gradually as needed. Tasks performed by local disaster management committees and sub-committees will be transferred to DDRMA and MDRMA.

The MoHA will monitor, evaluate and regulate the tasks of the NDMA. The MoHA will also conduct a performance evaluation of all regional, district, and local level committees through the NDMA. As implementation of the strategy needs to be monitored and evaluated annually for measuring progress, the NDMA will publish its annual report and make it public.

*For further details on the proposed structure please see “National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management, 2009” Government of Nepal, Ministry of Home Affairs. (Unofficial English translation)*

*<http://www.un.org.np/sites/default/files/report/2010-08-06-nsdrm-in-eng-2009.pdf>*

## **Key National and Regional Agencies in Disaster and Hazard Management**

Administratively, Nepal is divided into:

5 development regions,

14 zones,

75 districts,

58 municipalities,

3915 Village Development Committees (VDC), and some 36,000 wards.

The ilaka is an administrative service level between the district and the VDC; there are 9 ilakas per district. At the district level, each of the departmental or ministry offices oversees the plans and programs for that sector. The role of Chief District Officer (CDO) is to maintain law and order whereas the Local Development Officer co-ordinates the development activities in the district through the District Development Committee (DDC).

The DDC's, VDC's and municipalities are empowered by the Local Self-Governance Act to coordinate development activities under the leadership of the CDO who represents the central government in the district. The CDO acts as crisis manager during a disaster and the local level committees play a significant role in mobilizing the community for disaster mitigation activities.

The District Health Officer is responsible for all health activities of the district. DDC's are responsible for the political and economic development of their respective districts.

Source: MoHP Ministry of Health and Population

According to the MoHA the following entities are responsible for policy-making, execution, and coordination pertaining to disaster management:

### **Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)**

Web: [www.moha.gov.np](http://www.moha.gov.np)

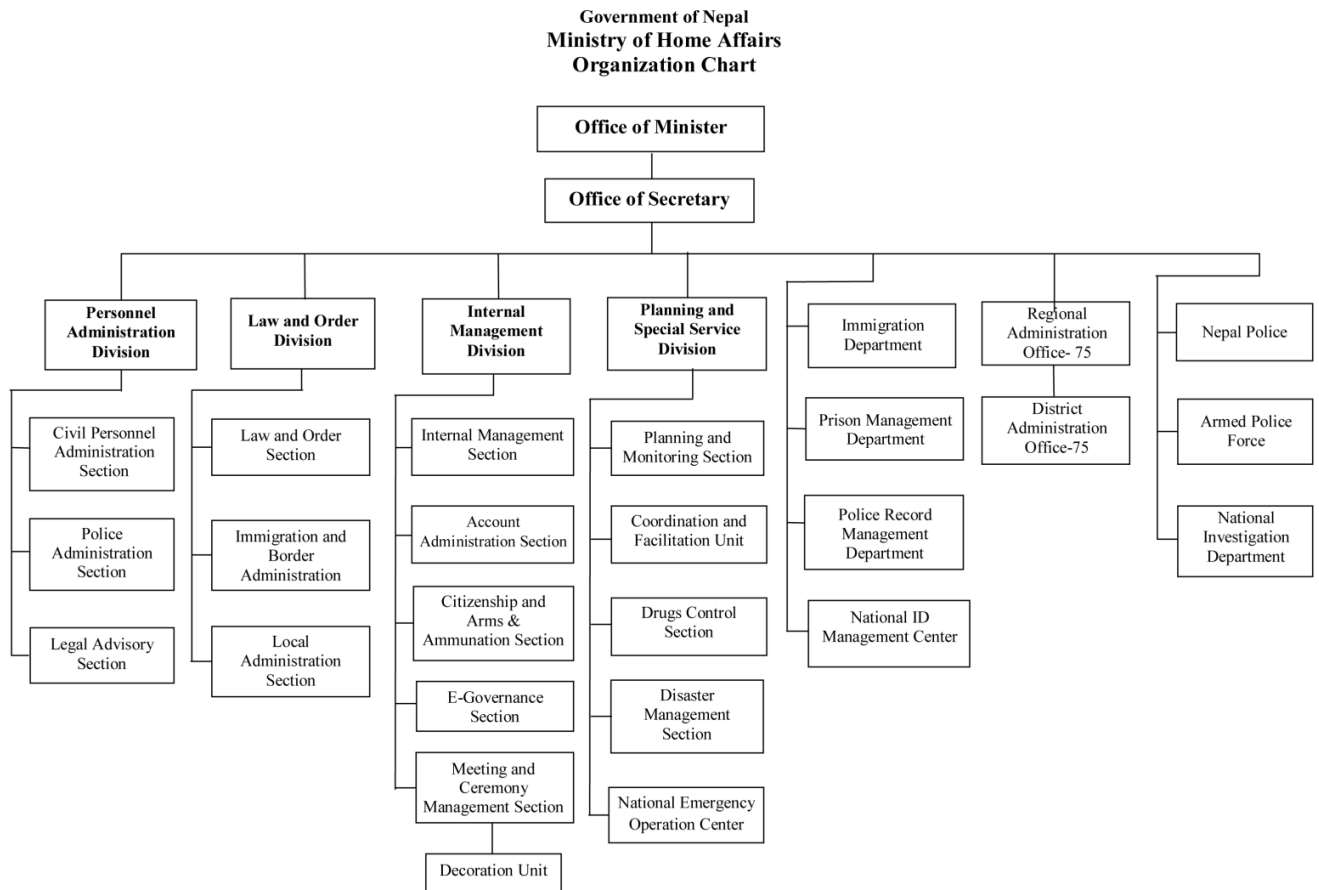
The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) is the national focal point and coordinating ministry on Disaster Management: The Emergency Operation Centre within the MoHA is the main authority coordinating efforts for emergency response and management in disaster situations.

#### **The Structure of the MoHA**

With the restoration of the multi-party democracy in the country, in 1990, extensive reforms were made in the organizational structure of the MoHA. There are 4 Divisions, 5 Departments, 5 Regional Administration Offices, 75 District Administration Offices, 75 District Police Offices and 73 prisons under this ministry. In addition, field offices have also been established in order to carry out various functions.

The Ministry carries out rescue and relief measures through the arrangements of Disaster Relief Committees at the central, regional, and district levels. The MoHA has gained technical and

managerial experience in preparedness, rescue and relief, operation of reconstruction and rehabilitation works, and coordination in relation to disaster. The Ministry, in addition to drafting the Bill and regulations on Disaster Management, and their execution, has been conducting national and international meetings and conferences on the subject.



Source: MoHA

## The MoHA Disaster Management Website

<http://www.drrgon.gov.np/en/>

### Contact Information

Address: Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

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Ministry of Home Affairs  
Disaster Management Section  
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel.: 00977-1-4211200, 4211219, 4211241  
Fax: 00977-1-4211281, 4211246

### **Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers**

<http://www.opmcm.gov.np/en/>

The Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers performs the task of directing, coordinating, and facilitating the preparation of national policy and strategy for reduction of natural and man-made disasters. The office also facilitates the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

#### **Contact Information**

Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers  
Singh Durbar  
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P.O. Box: 23312  
Email: [info@opmcm.gov.np](mailto:info@opmcm.gov.np)

### **National Planning Commission (NPC)**

<http://www.npc.gov.np/new/eng/index.php>

The NPC is the advisory body for formulating development plans and policies of Nepal under the directives of the National Development Council (NDC). The NPC has been playing the lead role in formulations of long-term, periodic, and annual disaster management plans. The NPC has also been garnering resources from bilateral, multilateral and international sources for reconstruction of disaster damaged infrastructures and rehabilitation of the affected.

The present organization and functions of the NPC is based on a decision of the Government of Nepal on June 28 1993.

The NPC is chaired by the Prime Minister. The NPC has one full- time Vice-Chairman, seven Members and one Member-Secretary. The Chief-Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister's and Council of Ministers and Finance Secretary of the Ministry of Finance are ex-officio members of the NPC.

One of its main functions is carrying out support of the National Planning Commission Secretariat (NPCS) as a Secretariat of the NPC. The Member- Secretary of the NPC serves as the Secretary of the NPCS.

#### **Contact Information**

National Planning Commission  
Government of Nepal

Singha Durbar  
GPO Box 1284  
Kathmandu, Nepal.

Mr. Deependra B. Kshetry  
Vice-Chairman  
Tel: 977-1-4211136 or 4211694  
Fax: 977-1-421170 or 4211681

### **Ministry of Irrigation (Mol)**

Web: [www.moir.gov.np](http://www.moir.gov.np)

The Ministry of Irrigation (Mol) performs the task of formulating and execution of the policy on water induced disaster control, floods and river training. The Ministry also works for minimization of risk on construction and operation of irrigation projects, and carries out repair and maintenance of disaster-damaged projects.

#### **Contact Information**

Address: Singhdurbar, Kathmandu  
Tel: 977-1-4211426  
Fax: 977-1-4200026  
POBox:  
Email: [info@moir.gov.np](mailto:info@moir.gov.np)

### **Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC)**

Web: [www.mofsc.gov.np](http://www.mofsc.gov.np)

Mitigation of natural disasters like floods and landslides through formulation of policies on National Forestry Policy, and Soil Conservation fall under the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation. Responsibilities of the Ministry include hazards control through Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of development projects, works on reduction of natural disasters through environmental conservation and other balancing activities, and carrying out reforestation and soil conservation works in vulnerable areas.

#### **Contact Information**

Address: Singh Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal  
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Email: [mfscmed@ntc.net.np](mailto:mfscmed@ntc.net.np)

## **Ministry of Environment (MoEn), Science and Technology**

Web: [www.moenv.gov.np](http://www.moenv.gov.np)

The Ministry of Environment (MoEn) functions as a focal point of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), and formulates, executes, and monitors national policies on climate change and meteorology. The Ministry plays an important role in disseminating information on potential Glacial Lakes Outburst Floods (GLOF) based on disaster risk analysis. The ministry makes significant contributions in the mitigation of natural disasters by making seasonal estimations about heavy or rare rainfall, and drought. In addition to environmental protection, pollution control, and maintenance of environmental balance, issues related to climate change fall under the purview of this ministry. Early warning systems are in operation through installation of flood forecasting centers and hydrological measurement centers at various rivers of the country.

The then Ministry for Population and Environment was dismantled in 2005, and the Division of Environment was included with the Ministry of Science and Technology and renamed as Ministry for Environment, Science and Technology, according to the MoEn website.

Main Aims of the Ministry are as follows:

To promote the sustainable development of country through environmental protection;

To conserve the natural environment and cultural heritage;

To create the clean and Healthy environment through conserving the life- support elements (air, water, soil);

To help to attain the goal of poverty alleviation through environment related research activities;

To encourage the involvement of intellectuals creating oppurtunities so as to contribute to environment protection and promotion; and

To coordinate the adaptation and mitigation programs in order to minimize the negative impacts of climate change.

### **Contact Information**

Address: Singhdurbar, Kathmandu

Tel: 977-1-(4211661, 4211709, 4211860, 4211617, 4211698, 4211641, 4211734)

Fax: 977-1-4211754

Email: [info@moenv.gov.np](mailto:info@moenv.gov.np)

The following website portal is managed by the Ministry of Environment:

### **The Nepal Climate Change and Development Portal**

<http://www.climatenepal.org.np/main/>

The Nepal Climate Change and Development Portal are collaboratively managed by the Ministry of Environment and the climate change community of practice in Nepal. This portal provides climate change practitioners a platform to conduct research, network, discuss, and share climate change knowledge. It aims to empower and support individuals, institutions, and communities to undertake climate change action.

### **Contact Information**

Ministry of Environment

Singha Durbar

Post Box:

Phone: +977 4211 927  
Email: [info@climatenepal.org.np](mailto:info@climatenepal.org.np)  
URL: [www.climatenepal.org.np](http://www.climatenepal.org.np)

## **Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP)**

<http://www.mohp.gov.np/english/home/index.php>

The Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) plays a lead role in improving the health of the people of Nepal, for overall national development with the increased participation of the private sector and non-government institutions in the implementation of programs.

Role and Responsibilities of Ministry of Health and Population:

Health Policy, Planning & Implementation;

Research, Planning & Development of Public Sector Health Services;

Research and Development of Preventive, Promotive, Curative, and Rehabilitative services associated with Allopathy, Ayurveda, Homeopathy & Unani System of Medicine;

Health Trainings;

Non- Governmental Organizations associated with health services;

Research, Production, Quality Control, Price Control and Sales & Distribution of drugs and control of narcotic drugs and control in sales & distribution, import, export & use of unsafe & poor quality drugs;

Contact with International Health Organizations and International/ Regional Conferences, Workshops, Seminars etc.;

Family Planning & Maternal and Child Health & Population Planning;

Environmental Health Program;

Health & Nutrition Education;

Medical and Health Councils, Academics & other Health Institutions;

Nepal Health Services Act- Recruitment, appointment, transfer, disciplinary actions and other related activities;

Population Policy, Planning, Programming and Implementation;

Population Studies and Research, Surveys, Trainings and National/ International Seminars & Conventions;

Population related National & International Contact and Co-ordination;

Population related document publications and dissemination;

Migration Policy, Planning, Programming and Implementation;

Regular and Periodical review and Monitoring of population programmes implemented by Governmental and Non Governmental Organizations; and

Population related Manpower.

*(No contact info)*

## **Ministry of Local Development (MoLD)**

Web: [www.mld.gov.np](http://www.mld.gov.np)

The Ministry of Local Development (MoLD) raises awareness on disasters through local entities, and mobilization of such entities in emergency rescue operations. The Ministry has also initiated work on enhancing public awareness and people's participation in environmental protection for



safeguarding against disasters. The Ministry has started encouraging local entities for mainstreaming disaster mitigation measures while executing development activities.

**Contact Information**

Address: Sri Mahal Pulchowk, Lalitpur  
Tel: 977-1-5521727, 5521728, 5521731  
Fax: 977-1-5522045  
Email: info@mld.gov.np

**Ministry of Physical Planning and Works (MoPPW)**

Web: [www.moppw.gov.np](http://www.moppw.gov.np)

The Ministry of Physical Planning and Works (MoPPW) conducts hazard risk analysis prior to implementation of any development project; circulates and implements the seismic resistant buildings construction guidelines; and raises people's awareness for following the guidelines. The Ministry has also been following the practice of starting development, construction/rehabilitation works only after carrying out risk mapping for the mitigation of natural disaster; and housing building constructions are being carried out on the basis of building codes the Ministry has developed and circulated.

**Contact Information:**

Address: Singha Durbar, Kathmandu  
Tel: 977-1-4227280  
Fax: 977-1-4228420  
Email: moppwnp@ntc.net.np

**Ministry of Industries (Mol)**

Web: [www.moi.gov.np](http://www.moi.gov.np)

The Ministry of Industries (Mol) has been working in the area of disaster control by conducting Geo-hazards Mapping Study; conducting studies and preparing seismic zone maps; and working in the area of controlling pollution generated in industrial areas. In addition, the industry sector has been making significant contributions in managing relief activities.

**Contact Information:**

Address: Singhdurbar, Kathmandu  
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Fax: 977-1-4211619  
Email: info@moi.gov.np

**Ministry of Education (MoE)**

Web: [www.moe.gov.np](http://www.moe.gov.np)

The Ministry of Education provides knowledge and information on disasters, mitigation, preparedness, rescue and relief. The Ministry has also been carrying out construction of earthquake resistant school buildings, and raising awareness programs through schools.

**Contact Information**

Address: Keshar Mahal, Kathmandu

Tel: 977-1-4412804

Fax: 977-1-4418191

Email: infomoe@most.gov.np

**Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC)**

Web: [www.moac.gov.np](http://www.moac.gov.np)

The Ministry performs a number of tasks including necessary policy preparation and implementation so that agricultural production does not decline due to high or inadequate rainfall, onset of drought; and treatment and control of epidemics in livestock. Animal and plant quarantine check posts are established by the Ministry at international borders for the control of agricultural and animal related epidemics. The ministry is also responsible for food security.

**Contact Information**

Address: Singha Durbar, Kathmandu

Tel: 977-1-4211706, 4211950, 4211981

Fax: 977-1- 4211935, 4211839

Email: memoac@moac.gov.np

**Ministry of Defence**

<http://www.mod.gov.np/>

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is responsible for ensuring the defense of Nepal. The MOD undertakes this responsibility by formulating defense policies and coordinating the Nepalese defense affairs with other agencies of the government and the Nepal Army. Besides its primary responsibility of external security, it is also responsible for maintaining internal law and order by protecting the lives and properties of the people. The principal task of the MoD is to make policy directions on defence and security matters and communicate them for implementation to the Nepalese Army and its various service departments. The MoD also acts as a liaison or contact point for communication and interaction for Nepal Army with other Ministries and Departments.

**Contact Information**

Ministry of Defence (MoD)

Singa Durbar

Kathmandu, Nepal

Phone Number: 4211289

Fax: 4211294

**The Ministry of Energy**

Web: [www.moen.gov.np](http://www.moen.gov.np)

This Ministry is responsible for the use, safekeeping, promotion, electricity development, and other sources of energy, and is directly and indirectly active in managing disaster risk by bringing together mechanisms, conducting dialogues, and entering into international bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements.

**Contact Information**

Address: Singh Durbar, Kathmandu  
Tel: 977-1-4211516  
Fax: 977-1-4211510  
Email: info@moen.gov.np

**Ministry of Finance**

<http://www.mof.gov.np/>

In 1963, the Ministry of Economic and Planning (MEP) was established. In addition to the formulation of periodic plans, the MEP was given the responsibility of handling economic affairs of the country. In 1968, the MEP was dissolved and a separate National Planning Commission (NPC) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) was established. Since then, MOF has been responsible for all economic and financial affairs of the country.

According to its website, the MOF is the central authority of the Government of Nepal charged with the responsibilities for maintaining both micro and macroeconomic stability in the country. Moreover, the key role of the Ministry lies with the more rationale allocation of resources; better management of public expenditure; enhanced mobilization of both internal and external resources; greater performance in public investments and strengthening of public enterprises productive capacity; open and simple foreign exchange policies and regulation, and prudent fiscal and monetary policies.

**Contact Information**

Ministry of Finance  
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 977-1-4211412, 4211338  
Email: admindivision@mof.gov.np

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

<http://www.mofa.gov.np/>

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs maintains the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal's external relations and runs its international diplomatic missions.

**Objectives:**

1. To conduct Nepal's foreign relations in consonance with the policies and guidelines of Government of Nepal
2. To project and protect Nepal's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national interest abroad,
3. To promote bilateral, regional and multilateral relations for the socioeconomic development of the country
4. To promote friendly relations with all the countries of the world and particularly with its immediate neighbors, on the basis of mutual respect, trust goodwill and understanding, 5. To play an active role in the United Nations and other international Organizations in order to promote international peace and security, and development

6. To play a positive and meaningful role in the Nonaligned Movement in the context of a changed world.
7. To play an active role in the promotion of regional cooperation in South Asia under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
8. To act as a first point of contact for the outside world towards Nepal and also serve as Nepal's window to the world
9. To play an increasingly active role in the conduct of Nepal's economic diplomacy, thereby promoting our trade, investment, economic cooperation, tourism, and help tap and develop our immense water resources potential.

### **Contact Information**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Exchange: 4200182/83/84/85/86  
Reception: 0  
Fax: 4200061 / 56, 4200160  
Email: adm@mofa.gov.np

### **Ministry of Information and Communications**

<http://www.moic.gov.np/>

The Ministry of Information & Communications (MOIC) widely covers postal services, telecommunications, broadcasting, Press & Information and Film Development.

According to the MOIC its objective is to: develop and expand the information & communication sector up to the rural level in the form of infrastructure for social and economic development through wide spread participation of the private sector as well with emphasis on the dissemination of information and communication technology.

### **Contact Information**

Ministry of Information & Communications  
Singh Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 977-1-4211556, 4211647, 4211615, 4211728  
Fax: 977-1-4211979, 4211729, 4211610  
Email: moicppme@ntc.net.np, moicgon@ntc.net.np

### **Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies**

URL: [www.moics.gov.np](http://www.moics.gov.np)

Functions of the Ministry: Policy formulation, Planning & Implementation of Industry, Commerce and essential commodities; Policy, Planning & Implementation related to Mines & Mineral exploration; Study, Training, exploration and survey related to Mines & mineral development; Liaison activities for international & regional industrial institutions; Protection & Promotion of Domestic & rural skill & industries; Certification & Promotion relating to standard & metrology; Activities related to corporations & companies in connection with industries, commerce and supplies; Policies & Programs related to Productivity improvement; Activities related to technology transfer & development; Development & Training, innovation & survey of Industrial Manpower; Promotion & Protection of Industrial & Commercial Sections;

Administration of Companies; Study, Research & Survey concerning to internal & international Trade; Decisions related to import export trade policy & operation of International trades; Operation of governmental & public trades; Treaty, Agreement, Bilateral & Multilateral intergovernmental trade negotiation & evaluation activities related to trade & transit; Co-operation & Co-ordination with agencies related to national, regional, international trade & transit; Study, Survey of different vehicles of transportation & management of economic transportation for internal & international trade; Study, research, survey, analysis & training on supplies of essential commodities; Policy & Implementation on supply of consumable commodities; Management for regular & balanced supply of essential edible materials to the common people; Contact & Coordination with the agencies related to national, regional, & international supply; and Protection of consumer rights & welfare.

**Contact Information:**

Sinhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal.  
Phone: +977-1-4211967, 4211446, 4211686  
Fax: +977-1-4211619, 4211594  
Email: moc@wlink.com.np, info@moics.gov.np

**Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare**

<http://www.mowcsw.gov.np/>

**Contact Information**

Address: Singha Durbar, Kathmandu  
Tel: 977-1-4241728, 4241551  
Fax: 977-1-4241516  
P.O. Box:  
Email: mowcsw@ntc.net.np

**Departments/Agencies involved in Disaster Management**

**Social Welfare Council**

<http://www.swc.org.np/index.php>

In Nepal, the number and the size of NGOs have been on the rise, which necessitated a separate institutional arrangement on the part of government to deal with the entire NGO sector. The Social Welfare Council (SWC) was formed to look after the NGO sector by a separate Act known as the Social Welfare Act, 2049.

The SWC is responsible for the promotion, facilitation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the NGOs in Nepal. It is also responsible for the extension of its support to the government in the matters of developing the NGO sector policies and programs of the nation and to implement them in a coordinated way.

The Council provides with frequent training needs, small grants and back-up support to local (national) NGOs. It also creates the necessary environment to link up local NGOs with international NGOs and to assist with developing partnerships between them for the implementation of the activities.

The council does not encourage international NGOs to go directly into implementation without taking local NGOs as their implementing partners for reasons of sustainability, cost-effectiveness and genuine participation.

The SWC acts as a link between INGOs and the government ministries and/or agencies. It provides the INGOs with needful guidance, administrative supports and facility arrangements such as obtaining work permits, visas and duty-free facilities including taxes on commodities, materials and equipment based on prevailing laws and regulations.

### **Contact Information**

Social Welfare Council  
Lainchour, Post Box No. 2948  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel. 418111, Fax: 977-1-410279  
E-mail: [swc@info.com.np](mailto:swc@info.com.np)

### **District Development Committees (DDCs), Municipalities, and Village Development Committees (VDCs)**

As per Nepalese laws, and guidelines of the Local Self Governance Act, 75 DDCs, 58 Municipalities and 3915 VDC's have been performing the job of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, management of district level periodic plans and information on disasters as well as being First Responders.

### **Department of Hydrology and Meteorology**

<http://www.dhm.gov.np/>

The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) is an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Government of Nepal. Major tasks this department performs is the collection and dissemination of information related to hydrology and meteorology, and monitoring, analysis and forecasting of weather.

The government started hydrological and meteorological activities in 1962. The activities were initiated as a section under the Department of Electricity. The section was subsequently transferred to the Department of Irrigation and was ultimately upgraded to Department status in 1988.

The department with headquarters in Kathmandu has three basin offices: Karnali Basin Office in Nepalgunj, Narayani Basin Office in Narayanghat and Kosi Basin Office in Biratnagar. Meteorological activities in the Far-Western and Mid-Western region are managed by a regional office in Surkhet, whereas such activities in the Western Development Region and the Eastern Development Region are managed by meteorological regional offices located in Pokhara and Dharan, respectively.

As a member of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), DHM contributes to the global exchange of meteorological data on a regular basis. DHM actively participates in the programs of relevant international organizations, such as UNESCO's International Hydrological Program (IHP) and WMO's Operational Hydrology Program (OHP). In the past, DHM has hosted several

regional and international workshops, symposia, seminars and meetings on different aspects of meteorology, hydrology, sediment, water quality and snow hydrology. The department is also a focal point for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and for the meteorological activities of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has recognized DHM as an authority to provide meteorological services for international flights.

#### The Principal Activities of DHM

Collect and disseminate hydrological and meteorological information for water resources, agriculture, energy, and other development activities;

Issue hydrological and meteorological forecasts for public, mountaineering expedition, civil aviation, and for the mitigation of natural disasters;

Conduct special studies required for the policy makers and for the development of hydrological and meteorological sciences in the region; and

Promote relationship with national and international organizations in the field of hydrology and meteorology.

#### Contact Information

P.Box No. 406

Babar Mahal

Kathmandu, Nepal

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Email: dg@dhm.gov.np

#### Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention (DWIDP)

<http://www.dwidp.gov.np/>

This department under the Ministry of Irrigation is responsible for taking effective prevention measures against water induced disasters, and conducting studies and research on floods, landslides, and earthquake.

#### Background

In order to mitigate water induced disasters in Nepal, the Water Induced Disaster Prevention Technical Centre (DPTC) was established under the Ministry of Water Resources under an agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Government of Japan on October 7, 1991. The DPTC was continued for seven and half years under the participation of the concerned agencies of the Government and the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA).

To institutionalize the objectives and achievements of the DPTC, the Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention (DWIDP) was established on February 7, 2000 under the Ministry of Water Resources.

The then River Training Division of the Department of Irrigation was merged in the organizational structure of the DWIDP to strengthen its institutional capability. Seven Division and five sub-division offices were also established.

### Goal of the DWIDP

To contribute in achieving the national goal of poverty alleviation through minimizing human casualties and damages of infrastructures due to water induced disasters by the appropriate management and conservation of rivers and river basins of Nepal.

### Objective of the DWIDP

To implement the programs of river and river basins conservation and to develop related appropriate technology, research, information systems, human resource and institutional development activities and to raise awareness of communities so as to mitigate water-induced disasters.

### Contact Information

Pulchowk, Lalitpur  
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Fax: 977-1-5523528  
dwidp@ntc.net.np

### Department of Irrigation

<http://www.doi.gov.np/>

The Department of Irrigation (DoI) has a mandate to plan, develop, maintain, operate, manage and monitor different modes of environmentally sustainable and socially acceptable irrigation and drainage systems. Its ultimate aim is to provide year round irrigation facilities and increase the irrigable area of the country. The DoI also has to carry out river training activities to protect the floodways, floodplains and agricultural lands in the form of river bank protection such that the loss of properties caused by flooding is reduced.

Although the construction of modern irrigation system started in Nepal in 1922, the Department of Canal was formally established in 1952 under the Ministry of Construction and Communication. The department then passed different stages working under different ministries and finally ended up as the Department of Irrigation in 1987. Since the establishment of the Ministry of Irrigation (MoI) in 2009, DoI has been working under it. The Department of Irrigation under the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) used to be responsible for flood mitigation and river control but now deals only with disaster related to government-built irrigation systems. Their current flood control effort is constructing small dykes to save irrigation systems.

The Director General (DG) of DoI is supervised by the Secretary of MoI. There are four divisions under the umbrella of DG in DoI. Apart from these divisions, administrative branch, financial branch and legal branch are also directly administered by DG. There are five Regional Irrigation Directorates in each region under the supervision of DG. Twenty six irrigation development division offices and twenty irrigation development sub-division offices in all regions work under the supervision of respective irrigation directorates. There are also eight irrigation management divisions and 3 mechanical divisions in the structural organization of DoI.



## **Contact Information**

Department of Irrigation

Jawalakhel, Lalitpur

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## **Water and Energy Commission (WEC)**

<http://www.wec.gov.np/>

To view organization chart: <http://www.wec.gov.np/uploads/WECS%20ORGA2.pdf>

The Water and Energy Commission (WEC) is engaged in conducting studies on rivers and streams for the development of water resources in Nepal. In addition, the WEC has been making necessary recommendations for hazard reduction by identifying disaster prone rivers and streams. It has been playing an important role in controlling water induced disasters by developing a long-term water resource policy.

**Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS)** is a multidisciplinary institution engaged in the coordinated development of water and energy and which supports the Government in formulating water policy and strategy. The WECS carries out studies, surveys and investigations and offers its opinions on issues relating to the development of the nation's water and energy resources.

According to the WEC, the available amount of water resources in the country is sufficient to provide year-round irrigation to the entire irrigable land, to generate around 43,000 MW of techno-economically viable hydropower from 83,000 MW total potential and meet the demands of other uses such as domestic, industrial, recreational, navigational, aqua-culture etc. Although Nepal has a large hydropower potential, less than 2% techno-economical potential has been harnessed so far.

Objectives of the WEC:

To formulate and assist in developing policies and strategies in the water resources and energy sector;

To provide suggestions, recommendations and guidance in the development of irrigation, hydropower, and drinking water projects. WECS is also mandated to formulate and develop policies and plans related to industrial use of water, flood management, in-land navigation, fisheries and other sectors related with water resources, along with the protection of the environment relating to the above sectors;

To provide assistance to the concerned ministries in formulating policies and objectives to be included in the perspective/periodic plan relating to the water resources and energy sector;

To render opinion, advice and recommendations on bilateral and multilateral issues relating to water resources and energy; and

To act as a documentation center for all regional water resources and energy related issues.

## **Contact Information**

Water and Energy Commission Secretariat

Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Phone: 4211415, 4211416, 4211417, 4211418  
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Email: info@wec.gov.np

## **Department of Forests**

<http://dof.gov.np/>

The Department of Forests falls under the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation. It is one of the five departments under the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation.

The forest area of Nepal is estimated to be about 5.83 million hectares or 39.6% of the total geographical area of the country. The main mandate of DoF is to manage the country's forest resources for the conservation of the natural environment and to supply the forest products to the people.

The specific functions of the department are as follows:

- Protection, management and utilization of forests and conservation of natural resources;
- Planning, implementation and coordination of forestry development activities;
- Support and facilitate the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation on policy formulation;
- Increase people's participation in forest management; particularly in plantation and resource conservation in forests;
- Contribute to the economic development of the country through revenue generation from forest products; and
- Improve the livelihood of the community through implementation of effective forestry programs.

### **Contact Information**

Department of Forest  
Babarmahal, Kathmandu  
Phone: 977-1-4220303, 977-1-422123, 977-1-4216379  
Fax: 977-1-4227374  
Email: info@dof.gov.np

## **Department of Mines and Geology**

<http://www.dmgnepal.gov.np/>

The Department of Mines and Geology (DMG) is under the Ministry of Industry and is the sole government organization which is responsible for all types of geological survey, mineral exploration and administration of Mining Rules and Regulations in Nepal.

This Department has been performing tasks like geological research; collection and dissemination of geo-science related information; taking geological calamities mitigation measures; operation of seismic measurement stations; collection of earthquake data; and preparation of geo-hazard mapping.

### **History**

The DMG is the only government organization that deals with systematic geo-scientific studies, investigation of mineral resources and their development activities in the country. The department was first created as the "Office of Irrigation and Geology" in 1926. In 1942, after

separation from its parent institution, it was renamed as the “Office of Mines” which was ultimately expanded to a departmental institution called “Bureau of Mines” in 1961. Since then, it has further expanded its activities towards fulfillment of its objectives to provide diversified geo-scientific services to the country. In 1967, the Government has created a new, separate institution and named as “Nepal Geological Survey”. The Nepal Geological Survey was formed in order to undertake more specific geo-scientific survey and research activities. In 1977, both the Bureau of Mines and the Nepal Geological Survey were amalgamated and renamed as the “Department of Mines and Geology”.

#### Objectives

To conduct all types of geological investigations and research, mineral resources exploration., development., promotion of mineral based industries and administer mining rules and regulations;

To provide the basic geo-scientific information and expert services to mineral exploration & development entrepreneurs, institutions and individuals involved in infrastructure development planning, mitigation of natural hazards and environment;

To manage the government investment in mineral exploration & development and promote mineral based industry sector through formulation of sound mineral policies and legislation ultimately to uplift national economy;

To regulate and monitor the mineral exploration., mining and mineral based industries and ensure that mineral development activities are carried out in compliance with the government's mineral policy and related rules and regulations; and

To advise the government on matters related to geology, mining, mineral development, geological hazards and environment protection.

#### Contact Information

Department of Mines and Geology

Lainchour, Kathmandu, Nepal

Telephone: +977-1-4410141, 977-1-4421828

Fax: +977-1-4412056

Email: [nscdmg@mos.com.np](mailto:nscdmg@mos.com.np)

Email: [info@dmgnepal.gov.np](mailto:info@dmgnepal.gov.np)

#### The Department of Women and Children

<http://www.dwd.gov.np/index.php>

The Department of Women and Children is the implementing wing of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. Its mandate is to empower women, especially those who are economically poor, socially deprived or otherwise put at a disadvantage. Enabled by a structure stretching out across the country, it runs the Women Development Program, a national priority intervention targeted on the intersection of poverty and discrimination. The Department was created in 2000.

The Government of Nepal entrusted the following tasks to DWD on its establishment:

1. Implement the approved program on women's development;
2. Assist the Ministry in formulating policy and legislation on women's development;
3. Monitor and evaluate programs on women's development;
4. Impart the necessary skill training to women;

5. Carry out functions related to women's empowerment;
6. Carry out functions related to controlling trafficking in girls, prostitution, domestic violence and other offences against women;
7. Carry out functions related to national or international seminars, symposia and conferences on women; and
8. Collect and publish information on women's development.

Three years later, on 21 July 2003, the Government of Nepal designated the Women Development Office as district focal agency in matters concerning women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and NGOs. Further, on 16 September 2004, it approved the Mainstreaming Gender and Child Rights Guidelines (District Level).

*\*No Contact Information available*

### **Nepal Academy of Science and Technology**

Website: <http://www.nast.org.np>

According to the Ministry of Environment, the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) is a national statutory body with the mandate to develop and promote science and technology in the country. It undertakes and promotes scientific research, technology development and science literacy. NAST hosts the Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Center, which has been recently established in partnership with the Ministry of Environment under the NAPA Project and with support from the Embassy of Denmark, UK Department for International Development, Global Environment Facility, and UNDP Nepal.

#### **Contact Information**

Contact Person: Dinesh R. Bhujju, Chief, Faculty of Science

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Phone: 5547714, 5550828

Email: [info@nast.org.np](mailto:info@nast.org.np)

### **Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC)**

<http://www.nhrc.org.np/>

The Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC) was developed as an example of the commitment of the Nepal Government to promote scientific study and quality research in health in Nepal. It started as Nepal Health Research Committee under the Ministry of Health, chaired by the Secretary of Health in 1982. On 12 April 1991, the committee was developed into the Nepal Health Research Council, a statutory and autonomous body.

#### **Contact Information**

Nepal Health Research Council

Ramshah Path,

P.O. Box 7626

Kathmandu, Nepal

Telephone: 977-1-4254220/4227460  
Fax: 977-1-4262469/4268284  
Email Address: nhrc@nhrc.org.np

### **National Seismological Centre (NSC)**

<http://www.seismonepal.gov.np/>

*(\*Note: Information on recent earthquakes and past earthquakes with magnitude greater than four is regularly updated on this website).*

The National Seismological Center (NSC) is under the Department of Mines and Geology which is under the Ministry of Industry. Activities of the NSC include monitoring of earthquakes, crustal deformation monitoring, Paleoseismology, Precursor Monitoring, Preparation of Seismic Hazard and Risk Map, Public Awareness for teachers, Technical Personnel and Engineers.

#### **Main Objectives:**

Operation of seismological network, record both local and distant earthquakes, localization of recorded earthquakes and their interpretation;  
Determination of hypocentral (latitude, longitude, depth and originated time) parameters of local earthquakes with magnitude greater than 4 magnitudes in time (within one hour in office hours) and its release to home ministry and local media (Radio Nepal, NTV etc.);  
Intensity mapping of medium ( $M < 7$ ) to large earthquakes ( $M > 7$ ) and assessment of damage;  
Study of seismotectonics of the Nepal Himalaya based on the seismic data collected from the 20 seismic stations of the National Seismological Network;  
Preparation of epicenter map and seismic hazard map from the collected data and other geological and geophysical data/information;  
Distribution of seismic data to agencies involved in infrastructure development and researchers upon official request;  
Operation of 13 Continuous Global Positioning System (GPS) stations to study crustal deformation, which may closely monitor tectonic movement of tectonic plates and displacement on faults before, during and after earthquake generation; and Seismic microzonation of Urban Areas.

Other tasks of NSC include: Organize public awareness programs/campaign to make general public aware, through high school science teacher and engineers involved in infrastructure development activities, about the causes and effect of earthquakes, their consequences and educate them to be prepared for great earthquakes so that loss of lives and property could be minimized.

#### **Contact Information**

Seismological Centre, Surkhet  
Department of Mines and Geology  
Birendranagar, Surkhet, Nepal  
Telephone: +977-83-520534  
Fax: +977-83-520534  
Email: [skt.rsc@gmail.com](mailto:skt.rsc@gmail.com)

National Seismological Centre  
Department of Mines and Geology  
Lainchaur, Kathmandu, Nepal

Telephone: +977-1-4410141, 977-1-4421828  
Fax: +977-1-4412056  
Email: nscdmg@mos.com.np

## **Department of Health Services**

<http://dohs.gov.np/>

The Department of Health Services (DoHS) provides services throughout the 75 district health offices, a number of health posts, and health centers of Nepal. District Health Offices dispatch health teams during disasters and the DHS acts to control epidemics that may affect a disaster stricken area.

Major functions of the DoHS have been to avail preventive, promotive, and curative health services throughout Nepal. The DoHS is one of three departments under the Ministry of Health (MoH). In addition to general medical services, the Department has also the responsibilities of making necessary arrangement for controlling epidemics; providing health services in emergencies; and providing first aid medical services in the event of disasters. It has also been performing tasks of collection, analysis, and dissemination of information on public health. The Department has also been implementing the Hospital Preparedness in Emergency (HOPE) program.

### **Description of Tasks:**

To provide HMG with necessary technical advice in formulating health related policies, develop and expand health institutions established in line with these policies;  
To determine requirement of manpower for health institutions and develop such manpower by preparing short and long term plans;  
To ensure supply of drugs, equipment, instruments and other material at regional level by properly managing these resources;  
To mobilize assistance in the implementation of approved programs by preparing, asking for preparation of objective programs related to various aspects of public health (family health, family planning, child health, infectious disease control, eradication of malnutrition, control of AIDS and STDs);  
To manage the immediate solution of problems arising from natural disasters and epidemics;  
To establish relationships with foreign countries and international institutions with the objective of enhancing effectiveness and developing health services and assist the Ministry of Health in receiving foreign aid by clearly identifying the area of cooperation;  
To create a conducive atmosphere to encourage the private sector, non-governmental organizations and foreign institutions to participate in health services, maintain relation and coordination, control quality of health services by regular supervision and inspection;  
To systematically maintain data, statements and information regarding health services, update and publish them as required;  
To fix designated positions of employees up to gazetted 2nd class, inter-directorate transfer, initiate departmental action and provide reward, etc; and  
To clear audit irregularities of central level offices, projects and regional level offices.

### **Contact Information**

Department of Health Services  
Teku, Kathmandu  
Telephone: 977-1- 4261712  
Fax: 977-1- 4262038

Email: [info@dohs.gov.np](mailto:info@dohs.gov.np)

## **Department of Local Infrastructure and Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR)**

<http://www.dolidar.gov.np/>

The Department of Local Infrastructure and Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR) has been performing a number of tasks such as making local entities technically capable and strong; involving them in local infrastructure development; and carrying out sector programs like housing building and urban development, drinking water, sewerage and sanitation, irrigation and river control in cooperation with local entities. In relation to disaster mitigation, the Department has been facilitating implementation of infrastructure development program by avoiding environmental degradation at the local level.

The objective of DoLIDAR is to undertake infrastructure development programs in accordance with decentralization policies for attaining the goals set forth by the GON's National Strategy for Rural Infrastructure Development by making the local authorities technically capable and competent and ensuring their accountable participation.

### **Contact Information**

Shree Mahal, Pulchok, Lalitpur, Nepal

Telephone

977-1-5521021, 5546355, 5546354, 5555001

Fax: 0977-1-5531850

Email: [contact@dolidar.gov.np](mailto:contact@dolidar.gov.np)

[dg@dolidar.wlink.com.np](mailto:dg@dolidar.wlink.com.np)

## **Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management**

<http://www.dscwm.gov.np/>

Under the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, the Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management has been taking mitigation measures against natural disasters by maintaining ecological balance, and checking soil erosion through conservation and development of important watersheds.

The combined effect of geologically unstable, steep and rugged mountain topography and intense monsoon rainfall make the country prone to high soil erosion rates. Cultivation of marginal hill slopes to meet the demands of increasing population further aggravates the naturally high soil erosion rate. Deforestation, overgrazing and poorly maintained marginal lands contribute to the degradation of our watersheds. In addition, other human activities such as improper land use, unscientific cultivation practices and construction of development infrastructures without integrating conservation measures have also exacerbated the problems of soil erosion, landslide, flooding and environmental degradation.

The Government established the Department of Soil and Water Conservation in August, 1974 under the then Ministry of Forests. In 1980, it was renamed as Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management (DSCWM) to better represent its roles and responsibilities of watershed management. Since its establishment, various efforts have been continuing to meet the challenges of soil erosion and watershed degradation faced by the country. Reorganization of the Departmental structure was carried out in 1993 and 1997. At present DSCWM is

providing SCWM service to 73 out of the 75 districts of Nepal through 56 District Soil Conservation Offices (DSCO). The DSCOs have also been classified into "Ka" (headed by a Gazetted Class II Officer) and "Kha" (headed by a Gazetted Class III Officer) categories. Out of 56 district offices, 14 are under "Ka" category and 42 under "Kha" category. Of the 31 "Kha" categories, 11 are temporary offices. There is altogether 640 staff within the department out of which 532 are permanent and 108 are temporary.

DSCWM has been planning, implementing and monitoring soil conservation and watershed management programs/activities based on the principles of integrated watershed management. To reflect the multi dimensional needs of SCWM measures, DSCWM is staffed with multi disciplinary personnel. Foresters, agriculturist, civil engineers, chemist and geologist are the main disciplinary staffs in the department.

Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management  
G.P.O. BOX 4719  
Babar Mahal, Kathmandu  
Nepal  
Tel: 977-1-4220828/4220857  
Fax: 977-1-4221067  
Email: dscwm2031@yahoo.com

### **Department of Urban Development and Building Construction**

<http://www.dudbc.gov.np/>

The Department of Urban Development and Building Construction was formed under the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works for attaining the institutional objective of sustainable urban development, organized settlements, and safe building construction. The Department has been gradually implementing the Building Code.

#### **Contact Information**

Department of Urban Development & Building Construction  
Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 977-1-4262969/4262535  
Fax: 977-1-4262729  
Email: info@dubdc.gov.np



Ministry/Department Capability Summary from MoHA:

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Capabilities</b>
Department of Mines & Geology	Geological mapping of entire country at 1:50,000 scale; engineering geological maps at 1:10,000 scale for majority of towns and cities; and a network of 21 short-period seismic stations capable for monitoring uniformly any Magnitude 2 Richter earthquake.
Survey Department	Mapping of entire country at 1:25,000, and 1:50,000 scales; digital maps of VDCs, Municipalities; aerial photographs at various scales; real-time continuous operation of GPS stations; regular access to satellite mapping and interpretation capacity.
Department of Hydrology & Meteorology	Country-wide hydro-meteorological stations; weather monitoring, analysis, and forecasts; and information dissemination for public use.
Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention	Capacity for research and river/hydraulic modeling; field research stations for erosion/landslides studies; flood control researches; and implementation of mitigation measures for floods, and landslides/ erosion.
Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC)	Building research; disaster-resistant building design; construction training directorate; curricula and training centers; and training program for engineers, architects, and masons.
Ministry of Local Development and District Development Committees (DDCs)	Focal point for disaster risk management in each DDC; information management networked with 75 districts; ; integration of disaster reduction concerns ; periodic plans for many districts.
Academic Institutions (public and private)	Capacities for conducting studies, research, teaching, and risk reduction training on various aspects of natural and human induced disasters.
Emergency Responders (Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Nepal Armed Police Force, Nepal Red Cross Society etc.	A cadre of >150 Medical First Responders and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue personnel including >25 of international standard; training equipment for search and rescue operation; country-wide networks; logistics including warehouses, surface and air transports available.
Hospitals (Government and Private)	A cadre of trained personnel, and Trainers for Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies; Hospital preparedness plans; and experience of regular mock drills.
Municipalities	Cadres of trained personnel, trained masons; disaster management committees in some wards; pre-positioned emergency warehouses at many locations.
Ministry of Home Affairs, Disaster Rescue Committees from Central to Districts level	Sufficient experience in responding to disasters including establishment of a coordination mechanism; cadres of professionals trained in UNDAC and INSARAG.
Ministry of Health and Department of Health Services	Rapid Response Teams to tackle epidemic outbreaks; Working Group on Avian Influenza; emergency health profile of the country; Disaster Health Working Group.
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	Damage assessment capacity; experience on responding to fast onset (debris flow as well as slow-onset hazard (drought)).

Source: Government of Nepal, Ministry of Home Affairs. National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management, 2009

## Nepal Security Forces

After a disaster strikes, both the Nepal Army and Nepal Police play an important role, particularly in carrying out rescue operations. In the event of a large scale disaster, the Nepal Police establish command posts to facilitate rescue operations. Nepal police collect most of the disaster information and data and inform officials.

The District Chief of the Nepal Army Unit, the District Police Chief and other officials help the Chief District Officer who acts as the Crisis Manager during the time of disaster and in mitigating natural disasters in the district.

### Nepal Army

<http://www.nepalarmy.mil.np/index.php?>

#### Nepalese Army HQ

According to the Nepalese Army website, the President of Nepal is the Supreme Commander in Chief of the Nepalese Army. The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), a four star General, is responsible for looking after the routine affairs of the army. There are two Lieutenant Generals, the Chief of the General Staff (CGS) and the Chief of Staff (COS), who are directly responsible to the COAS.

The CGS is mainly responsible for the Operations, Intelligence and Training branches. Under him the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) is responsible for operations, planning, policy, staff-duties, budget requisition and allocation and public relations. Similarly, the Director General of Military Training (DGMT) and Director of Military Intelligence (DMI) are responsible for training and intelligence respectively. The DGMO and the DGMT are Major Generals while the DMI is a Brigadier General.

The COS is responsible for some operations other than war like United Nations Peace Support Operations, nature conservation and assistance to wildlife preservation, National Cadet Corps and various welfare schemes of the army. Nepal has committed about 5000 army personnel for UN operations and another 5,000 NA troops are involved in the nature conservation and wildlife protection duties at any given time.

The Adjutant General (AG), the Quarter Master General (QMG), the Master General of Ordnance (MGO) and the Inspector General (IG), all two star generals, are the other principal staff officers (PSOs) of the COAS. The Research and Development Directorate, the Defense Ordnance Productions Directorate and the office of the Director General of Development and Construction are directly responsible to the COAS.

The AG branch is mainly responsible for NA personnel. In the last decade, a new Directorate of Human Rights has also been added to this office for ensuring the implementation of human rights and humanitarian laws into the operational doctrine and for processing any allegations of

violation of such rights. The QMG branch looks after the accommodation, rations, clothing, weapons, ammunition and explosives, equipment and maintenance of the whole army. The MGO branch is responsible for procuring the requirement of the army both domestically and internationally. The IG branch inspects the operational readiness of the army.

#### Combat Division & Brigades

According to its website, the Nepalese Army is primarily composed of Combat Divisions. The Division Commanders are given the necessary freedom to plan and execute operations in their own sectors, which has improved the overall operational efficiency of the army. At present there are six Combat Divisions, one in each of the five development regions and one in Kathmandu valley. Each Combat Division contains Combat Brigades, Combat Support units and Combat Service Support units. Each Combat Division / Brigade is responsible for a particular area and is augmented with necessary combat support and combat service support elements. There is also a Special Operations Brigade which includes a special Mechanized Battalion, a Para Commando Battalion, a Special Forces Regiment, a Ranger Battalion and a Commando Battalion along with the requisite support elements.

A Major General commands a Combat Division and a Brigadier General commands a Combat Brigade. The Brigade comprises of Infantry Battalions and Independent Infantry Companies. Depending upon the geographical region of the country each Combat Brigade may have two to three Infantry Battalions and up to six or more independent Infantry Companies. A Signals Company, an Engineer Field Company, a Light Artillery Battery, an Air Defense Battery, a Field Ambulance Company, Transport element, Ordnance elements and Repair workshop elements augment each Brigade.

An Infantry Battalion, commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel, comprises of Rifle Companies, Support Company and a Logistics Company. Major's command Companies and Lieutenants command Platoons. Captains are the Company Seconds in Command (2ICs) and Jemadars (Junior Commissioned Officers - Warrant Officer II equivalents) are the Seconds in Command of the Platoons. A Platoon consists of three Sections and each Section is commanded by a Hudda (Sergeant), a Non Commissioned Officer (NCO).

The Support Company of an Infantry Battalion consists of a Mortar Platoon, Medium Machine Gun Platoon, Anti-Tank Platoon, Signals Platoon and an Assault Pioneer Platoon. A Captain commands each of these Platoons and Subedars (Junior Commissioned Officers - Warrant Officer I equivalents) are their Seconds in Command. A Doctor Captain commands the Medical Platoon in the Administrative Company.

#### Combat Support Directorates

Brigadier Generals command all the Support Directorates. Field Artillery, Air Defense Artillery, Engineers and Signals have their own Directorates, according to the army website. Each Directorate is responsible for the training, posting and promotion of the other ranks. Each Director is also responsible to advise the COAS on matters pertaining to his respective arm.

## Combat Service Support Brigades

Similar to the Combat Support Directorates the Combat Service Support Brigades are also commanded by Brigadier Generals. Similarly the Brigade Commanders are their respective services' advisors to the COAS. They are also responsible for producing the relevant, trained and skilled manpower for the army.

## Disaster Relief

The Government of Nepal views the Nepalese Army as an inseparable agency in Disaster Relief Operations. Furthermore, Nepal's status as a developing country does not justify the high costs of maintaining a separate disaster relief organization. Consequently, the Nepalese Army plays a major role in providing emergency assistance.

Nepalese Army has historically provided vital relief during floods, earthquakes, avalanches, fires, landslides, air and other transportation disasters. The primary roles of the Nepalese Army in disaster relief are:

- Search & Rescue Missions
- Medical assistance & Evacuation, Air Rescue
- Mass evacuation, flood control etc.

According to the Nepalese Army website listed below is a sampling of some of the diverse incidents in which the Nepalese Army has provided assistance in disaster response:

- A huge fire broke out in Singha Darbar in 1971, in which is located the Prime Minister's Office and many other important government offices. The Nepalese Army was called in to help control the fire.
- In 1988, torrential rains washed away large portions of the Arniko Highway (the sole road link to China) in the 11 Km Lamosangu – Barhabise Road section. The Nepalese Army was mobilized to completely rebuild a 6 Km road section.
- An earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale occurred in Nepal with its epicenter in Udaypur on 21st August 1988. It left 722 dead, 1421 seriously wounded and 11000 injured. The Nepalese Army helped in evacuation, first aid, distribution of relief material and reconstruction.
- In 1993 torrential rainfall affected Taplejung, Panchthar, Sindhuli, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Makwanpur, Chitwan and Dhading. The Nepalese Army was mobilized and 3842 severely effected people were evacuated and another 201 people received medical treatment from the Army. The roads connecting Kathmandu to the rest of the country were washed away. The Army repaired the Thribhuvan and Prithivi highways. Combat engineers erected Bailey bridges over Malekhu and Belkhu. A diversion was built at Mahadevbesi.
- The Nepalese Army pulled off an aerial rescue operation on 15th May 1995, just above Camp 1 in Mt Everest that found a place in the record books. Three people were evacuated by a helicopter from an altitude of 19,200 feet.
- In 2007, heavy rainfall resulted in wide spread floods and landslides across the country. Army ground and air assets consisting of 2885 personnel were mobilized. Over 10,000 people were rescued and provided medical treatment.

- In August 2008, river Kosi eroded the Eastern dyke near Kusaha and spilled over to change its course of flow. In the resultant flood the Nepalese Army rescued 15,060 persons from the inundated areas.

- In Jan 2010, a devastating earthquake hit Haiti. The Nepalese Peacekeepers deployed there were effectively mobilized in search and rescue, provided medical assistance, provided security and escort in distribution of relief materials and assisted in management of displaced people.

#### UN Peacekeeping Operations

According to the Nepalese Army website, the participation of the Nepalese Army in the UN peacekeeping operations spans a period of 53 years covering 36 UN Missions, in which over 85,311 personnel have participated. The Army's long association with UN Peace Support Operations began with the deployment of five Military Observers in the Middle East (United Nations Observer Group in Lebanon) in 1958. The first Nepalese contingent, Purano Gorakh battalion was deployed in Egypt in 1974. Nepalese troops have taken part in some of the most difficult operations, and have suffered casualties in the service of the UN. To date, 58 personnel of the Nepalese Army have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty and 58 have been disabled.

#### Infrastructure Development:

The Nepalese Army has played an important role in developing road networks in remote and rugged areas.

### **Nepal Police**

<http://www.nepalpolice.gov.np/>

The prime responsibility of the Nepal Police Organization is to maintain peace and security; control crimes and carry out investigations in society. However, the organization has responsibilities in the management of natural disasters, rescue operations and creating public awareness.

According to its website, The Nepal Police realized the need of proper policy to mitigate natural disasters and for the management of rescue operations in an organized way and thus has prepared a Directive on Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) to set up Natural Disaster Rescue and Management Committees from central to local levels to mitigate, rescue and manage potential disasters in Nepal. The directive also aims at producing skilled manpower in mitigating and the management of disasters and proper mobilization of local resources in rescue operations.

#### Objectives of the SOP directive:

Structuring internal organizations from center to grass root level in order to rescue and management of disasters;

To determine the role, duties and responsibilities of Nepal Police from center to local level for management and rescue of natural and man-made disasters;

To manage and cause manage to formulate necessary policy and working procedures to employ for the management and rescue of natural calamities;  
Manage and cause to manage production and mobilization of necessary manpower in rescue and management of natural disaster;  
Identification and supply of necessary resources needed in rescue operation;  
Direct and observe and cause to direct and observe concerned departments of police organization regarding pre preparations for potential disasters, rescue operations, security, relief package distribution to victims, collection of statistics, and rehabilitation of the victims;  
Execute and cause to execute effective coordination between and among concerned bodies of similar objectives in rescue and management of natural disasters; and  
Proper mobilization and cause to mobilize Nepal Police in management and rescue of natural disasters and calamities.

### **Contact Information**

info@nepalpolice.gov.np

### **Nepal Armed Police Force (APF)**

<http://www.apf.gov.np/>

The Armed Police Force (APF) is a paramilitary force with the basic roles of maintaining law and order. The APF works with the Nepalese Army and Civil Police. The APF was formed in 2001 and has one of its aims rescue during disasters. The APF has recently established a disaster school in Kurintar. Article 6e of the Armed Police Force Act 2001 mentions one of the grounds for mobilization is for assisting victims of disasters and epidemics.

The APF also assists in disaster response. APF aims at training its personnel in this regard and in due course of time gradually getting equipped. At the central level a board has also been formed called the Border Control and Disaster Management Cell.

According to the Armed Police Force website the duties of the APF include:

To control any ongoing or would be armed rebellion within the state;

To Control armed conflicts insurgency or separatist movement;

To encounter terrorist activities;

To control riots;

*Render active assistance in the relief activities incurred by natural calamities and epidemic outbreak;*

To rescue any citizen or else from hostage captivity or in the event of occurrence of heinous or serious crimes or control unrest of grave nature in progress or imminence;

To guard international border of the state;

To assist under the Nepalese Army in condition of ingression;

To protect the vital installations and physical infrastructure predefined by Government of Nepal;

To protect the personalities and institutes considered to be given protection by Government of Nepal;

To carry out duties as mentioned in the very act and the by product regulation or prevalent law of the land; and

In addition there are occasions of other would be tasks given by Government of Nepal.

### Background

In February 1996, the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) operating as the United People's Front of Nepal declared its so-called "People's War" against the government of Nepal. In response, the then His Majesty's Government of Nepal felt the need for an elite force and upon the recommendations by the Armed Police Force Establishment Suggestion Task Force, the Armed Police Force was founded on October 24, 2001.

### Armed Police Force HQ

According to the APF website, the Inspector General is the Chief of the APF (at par to a three star Lieutenant General of the army), and is responsible for looking after the routine affairs of the organization. There are five Additional Inspector Generals as well--respectively chiefs of the departments of Administration, Operations, Human Resource Development, Academy and Border Security who are directly responsible to the IG.

Various departments within the APF include the Department of Administration, Department of Operations, Department of Human Resource Development; National Armed Police Force Academy; and the Department of Border Security.

### Combat Brigades

The APF is a paramilitary force organized as combat brigades. Each combat brigade is responsible for one of the five regions and Kathmandu Valley in the country.

A combat brigade is commanded by a Deputy Inspector General (DIG) and comprised of infantry battalions and independent infantry companies. Depending upon the geographical region of the country each combat brigade may have two to three infantry battalions and up to four or more independent infantry companies.

Senior Superintendents are the regional level commanders for training colleges located at five regions with status of principal.

An infantry battalion commanded by a Superintendent (SP) is comprised of rifle companies, support company and an administrative company. Deputy Superintendents (DSP) command the companies and the Inspectors command platoons. Sub Inspectors are the platoon second in command. A platoon consists of three sections and an Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) commands each section.

### Combat Support Brigade

The brigadier generals command all the support brigades. Each brigade is responsible for the training, posting and promotion of the other ranks. Each brigade commander is also responsible to advise the IG on matters pertaining to his respective brigade and region.

### UN Peacekeeping Operations

According to the APF website, after becoming a member of the UN in 1955, Nepal has been fully committed to the objectives and principles of the UN and has made significant contributions, especially in the field of UN Peacekeeping.

Since October 2002, the APF has participated in various missions such as the (UNGCI) Iraq, (UNMIK) Kosovo, and (UNMIL)-Liberia, (UNAMSIL) - Sierra Leone, (MINUSTAH) - Haiti, and (UNMIS) - Sudan, (UNAMID) Darfur, Sudan (UNMIT) East Timor and (UNFICYP) Cyprus. The APF has two Formed Police Units each comprising of 120 personnel in Liberia (UNMIL) since December 2003.



## **Key US Government Agencies and Programs in Nepal**

### **US Government and Overseas HADR**

The US Department of State (DoS) are the lead US agency in responding to overseas disasters. Within the DoS, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is responsible for coordinating international disaster assistance. Within USAID, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is responsible for coordinating humanitarian assistance. DoD involvement in overseas humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations must be requested and coordinated with USAID through OFDA and the relevant US embassy.

### **Foreign Disaster Relief and Emergency Response (FDR/ER)**

#### **Disaster Relief Program Description**

Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 404, the Department of Defense (DoD) can assist foreign countries to respond to man-made or natural disaster situations when necessary to prevent loss of lives. After the local U.S. Embassy has officially declared a disaster, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) assesses the needs and priorities of the country and may request DoD assistance. The assistance may be in the form of transportation, excess property items, Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDR), or some other commodity. The Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid (OHDACA) appropriation or AID may fund transportation of disaster relief.

#### **Foreign Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Program Process**

When a foreign country suffers a disaster, it may request assistance through the U.S. Embassy. The Department of State (DoS) and Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) validate the request. If deemed necessary, the DoS requests disaster relief assistance from the DoD. Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict) ASD(SO/LIC) approves the request and forwards it to Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) for action. DSCA (Programs Directorate) identifies the required supplies (HDRs, Excess Property, etc.) and works directly with the Joint Staff Logistics Directorate (J4) to provide transportation in support of disaster relief efforts.

#### **Congressional Notification for Foreign Disaster Assistance**

Not later than 48 hours after the commencement of disaster assistance activities, the President is required by law (10 U.S.C. 404) to transmit a report to Congress containing notification of the assistance (proposed or provided) and a description of the following as is available: the manmade or natural disaster for which disaster assistance is necessary; the threat to human lives presented by the disaster; the U.S. military personnel and material resources involved; the disaster assistance provided by other nations or public or private relief organizations; and the anticipated duration of the disaster assistance activities.

<http://www.dsca.osd.mil/samm/ESAMM/C12/12.09/htm>

## **US Embassy Nepal**

Website: <http://nepal.usembassy.gov/>

According to the US Embassy website, the mission of the U.S. Embassy in Nepal is to assist Nepal's development as a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic nation that contributes positively to regional stability. In pursuit of this goal, the United States encourages multi-party democracy, including respect for human rights and the rule of law, and sustainable, market-oriented, and private-sector-led economic development. In addition, the Embassy seeks Nepal's support on global issues such as counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, narcotics control, protection for the environment, and prevention of AIDS and other communicable diseases. USAID-Nepal contributes more than US\$40 million each year to the country's development, and other Embassy and State Department programs encourage mutual understanding between the United States and Nepal.

The Department of Defense has taken the lead on developing joint disaster response plans with the Nepalese Army. DOD's ongoing engagement focuses on building response capacity through training, exercising disaster plans and synchronizing them with civilian plans, and investing in infrastructure to mitigate risk and increase response effectiveness. Reinforcing these efforts is the State Department's diplomatic engagement of the Nepalese Government and other public and private actors to put more focus on DRR, as well as integrating DRR into ongoing training and exchange programs through the U.S. Embassy.

The US is also engaging India, China, and SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) members in disaster mitigation activities. Regional assets and cooperation will be necessary in any major disaster, particularly since Nepal is a landlocked country with extremely challenging geography and infrastructure that can complicate a major humanitarian response, according to the embassy.

Current Ambassador: Scott H. DeLisi (left post on June 25, 2012)

*\*As of this writing, President Obama has named Ambassador Peter Bodde to be DeLisi's successor in Nepal, pending confirmation by the US Senate.*

Deputy Chief of Mission: Patricia A. Mahoney

The Defense Attache Office (DAO)

The Office of Defense Cooperation:

DATT: Defense Attaché COL Gregory Winston

ODC Chief: MAJ Michael Rembold

### **Contact Information**

Embassy of the United States of America

Maharajgunj, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel.: 977-1-400-7200

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E-mail: [usembktm@state.gov](mailto:usembktm@state.gov)

Consular Section  
Fax: 977-1-400-7281  
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Public Affairs Section  
Fax: 977-1-400-7280  
Email: [kathmandumedia@state.gov](mailto:kathmandumedia@state.gov)  
Website: <http://nepal.usembassy.gov>  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/nepal.usembassy>  
Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usembassykathmandu>  
YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/usembassykathmandu>

American Library  
E-mail: [kathmandupdlibrary@state.gov](mailto:kathmandupdlibrary@state.gov)

## **USAID Nepal**

Website: <http://nepal.usaid.gov/>

On January 23, 1951, the United States and Nepal signed an agreement that began a long relationship. The US became the first bilateral donor to Nepal, and has provided more than US\$1.2 billion in development assistance since then, according to USAID.

According to its website, USAID's current programs seek to build peace, strengthen democracy and governance, improve health services, support economic growth and education, and assist with humanitarian crises. The programs seek to cement recent gains in peace and security, stabilize the transitional government, strengthen the delivery of essential social services, and address the global challenges of food insecurity and climate change. In each of these areas, there is a special focus on supporting Nepal's youth and socially disadvantaged populations.

According to its website, these are the following USAID programs in Nepal:

### **Disasters**

USAID has focused on risk reduction and preparedness in Nepal for years. USAID has also supported the Program for the Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) in Nepal, through which hundreds of emergency responders have been trained in collapsed structure search and rescue and medical first response.

In collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service, USAID has sponsored training for Nepal Government officials in the Incident Command System—a management framework designed to integrate personnel, equipment, procedures, facilities, and communications during complex events, enabling more effective response operations.

A number of USAID programs in Nepal now serve as global models. This includes the Hospital Emergency Response Program and the School Earthquake Safety Program, through which existing buildings are retrofitted, earthquake preparedness plans are devised, and teachers and students are trained in earthquake response.

#### Disaster Risk Reduction

According to USAID, former U.S. Ambassador DeLisi made DRR a top priority, promoting a whole-of-government approach to address the risk of a catastrophic earthquake in the country. DeLisi developed an integrated U.S. Government approach and created an interagency DRR office led by a USAID Foreign Service Officer.

In September 2011, an interagency team conducted a broad-based, multi-hazard assessment and produced the “Five-Year DRR Strategic Framework” with clear objectives for U.S. Government DRR engagement in Nepal coupled with indicators to measure and evaluate performance and outcomes.

Currently, USAID is building resilient communities by mainstreaming DRR throughout its development programs, developing first-responder capability and engaging the private sector on solutions.

USAID has partnered with the Kathmandu-based National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) on DRR. The partnership began in 1997 and USAID has provided more than US\$8 million in support of NSET’s activities.

In 2005, USAID provided funding to NSET for the Nepal Earthquake Risk Management Program. NSET has improved the seismic safety of public schools, residences, hospitals, and other public structures in the Kathmandu Valley, and trained engineers and masons on proper building techniques. The ongoing school safety program retrofits schools while also training local masons by using the actual retrofitting as hands-on instruction and practice. as masons are responsible for the construction of some 95 percent of the buildings in Nepal.

The second phase of the program aims to coordinate long-term earthquake risk reduction planning among governmental and non-governmental entities, as well as to continue to increase earthquake awareness and preparedness among Nepal’s population, according to USAID.

#### Peace and Security

USAID programs support Nepal’s national and local peace-building initiatives by providing expert advice and facilitating dialogue and cooperation among political parties, according to its website. At the local level, USAID is bringing together communities, civil society, and government to repair damaged infrastructure, strengthen governance, and encourage dialogue about development priorities and the peace process. USAID also continues to work closely with the Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation to support Local Peace Committees in all 75 districts to resolve community conflict.

### Governing Justly and Democratically

USAID provides technical assistance to constitution-drafting committees, strengthens political parties and civil society organizations, builds institutional capacity of the judiciary and election commission, promotes alternative dispute resolution, and facilitates more involvement of women in the political process. USAID supports local government and community-based organizations to engage youth in efforts to improve governance and to ensure basic service delivery at the local level, especially in conflict-prone areas where government remains weak or absent.

### Health

As a key partner in the Nepal Government's health sector, USAID contributes to considerable progress in helping control HIV/AIDS prevalence, improving maternal and child health, and increasing access to family planning.

USAID is working with the GON and civil society organizations to shore up health systems and to ensure the continuity of operations plans for health facilities, including prioritization of services and mobilization of frontline health workers.

### Economic Growth

Strategically targeted activities are improving the income-generating potential of the poorest of the poor and stabilizing conflict-prone regions. USAID works to rebuild the livelihoods of flood-affected people, expand youth's access to jobs, and increase farmers' incomes. The flood recovery program provides an integrated package of flood recovery assistance, including community infrastructure projects and new agriculture technologies.

USAID also supports a multifaceted "education for income generation" program that trains disadvantaged and conflict-affected youth for employment. Up to 70,000 youth will graduate and secure gainful employment by 2012.

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### **DoD HADR engagement with Nepal**

As the US Embassy in Nepal has organized a coordinated USG effort led by USAID to engage the GON across multiple sectors to respond when the next natural disaster hits, the key USG players in this effort are USAID, Department of Defense (DoD) and the US State Department. Through active involvement in joint USG planning, the DoD through US Pacific Command (USPACOM), works directly with the Government of Nepal, Nepal's security forces and civilian groups on joint disaster response planning and coordination as well as exercising those plans, such as a response to a potential earthquake.

DoD's ongoing engagement focuses on building response capacity through training, exercising disaster plans and synchronizing them with civilian plans, and investing in infrastructure to mitigate risk and increase response effectiveness, according to USAID. Reinforcing these efforts is the State Department's diplomatic engagement of the Nepalese Government and other public and private actors to put more focus on DRR, as well as integrating DRR into ongoing training and exchange programs through the U.S. Embassy.

According to former USPACOM Commander Admiral Robert F. Willard, in Nepal, USPACOM's focus was humanitarian assistance and efforts to support the peaceful integration of members of the Maoist People's Liberation Army into the Nepalese security forces.

### **US Global Health Initiative**

<http://www.ghi.gov/>

Info on work in Nepal: <http://www.ghi.gov/country/nepal/documents/160493.htm>

According to its website, the US Global Health Initiative (GHI) was launched by President Barack Obama in 2009. GHI supports countries by strengthening health systems by training health workers, establishing disease monitoring and laboratories, repairing health clinics and improving procurement. GHI includes U.S. global health programs in about 80 countries.

The GHI, now coordinated from the State Department, is an integrated approach to unify the US Government's (USG) investments in global health. This approach draws upon the expertise and

programs of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] and its other agencies), PEPFAR, Peace Corps, and the Department of Defense. GHI supports better integration coordination among programs at both the headquarters and country-level with the U.S. Government, countries, donors, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and all partners working in a community.

#### Work in Nepal

According to GHI, Nepal has been selected as one of eight “GHI Plus” countries. GHI works to save the lives of mothers, children and families through programs that address:

Family planning

Sanitation & hygiene

Nutrition

Infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS

Neglected tropical diseases and

Maternal, newborn and child health

According to its website, these are the Three Focus Areas of the Nepal GHI Strategy

- Increase Government of Nepal ownership and capacity to govern, manage and improve decision-making in the health sector.
- Build public, private and not-for-profit partnerships that integrate services and facilitate exchange of innovative approaches.
- Improve health care and opportunities for women, children, and marginalized populations in the context of extending services to all.

The GHI in Nepal is part of the U.S. Mission in Nepal’s “whole-of-government” plan using development, diplomacy and defense, and represents in itself a whole-of-government health strategy. The GHI Nepal Strategy will contribute significantly to help the Government of Nepal (GON) take leadership to more successfully manage sustainable, high-quality, equitable health services for its people. USG health assistance will augment GON efforts to reach its Millennium Development Goals (MDG) for health as articulated in the GON Nepal Health Sector Plan II (2010-2015), particularly to reduce maternal and child mortality – MDG 4 and 5. USG assistance will also contribute to MDG 6 – to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV among most at risk populations.

#### Cooperation among the GON, the USG, and Other Donors

Operating under a sector-wide approach (SWAP) model, the MOHP works closely and effectively with the donor community in Nepal. All stakeholders plan and implement a single national health strategy resulting in a single national workplan, a single set of targets and indicators that are entered into a single HMIS system that monitors health care from the villages to the capital. The Nepal Health Sector Programme-Implementation Plan, Phase II (NHSP-II) is in force from 2010 to 2015 and was developed over an 18-month period.

The USG collaboration in health reaches beyond the MOHP to include work with the Nepal Army, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Ministry of Planning and Public Works, Ministry of Local Development, and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

#### USG Mission Management of GHI

GHI's website says the the GHI Nepal Strategy will be implemented by a Mission-wide GHI Nepal team overseen by the US Ambassador to Nepal. The GHI Nepal team includes USAID as the planning lead agency, with Ms. Anne M. Peniston designated as the GHI Field Deputy. The GHI team includes a representative from CDC who has been seconded to the WHO Vaccine Preventable Diseases Office, the Department of Defense, and the Department of State sections including the Health Unit; the Population, Refugee and Migration Office; the Public Affairs Office; the Political and Economic Office; and Consular Affairs.

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## Early Warning Systems

There are or have been a number of pilot or test programs for various Early Warning Systems in Nepal:

### **Flood Watch Towers**

The UK-based NGO, Practical Action and the European community's DIPECHO program are working on developing flood early warning systems which can be managed by local communities and have long term sustainability. Local Nepalese were familiar with the use of early warning for dangerous wild animals based on tall lookout towers, so Practical Action built on this idea by using flood watch towers that included sirens. A pilot program was started in 2001 for flood-affected communities in Chitwan district. Sites were expanded in 2006 and 2007 in other areas of Chitwan and Nawalparasi district.

### **EWS for Glacial Lake Outburst Flooding (GLOF)**

In May 2012, communities living in the vicinity of the Tsho Rolpa Glacial Lake received an early warning system which may alert them about GLOF. The system will send a message to the Global Packet Radio System, which can be forwarded to all locals. An automatic weather monitoring system and a web camera are also part of the equipment. The system is being set up by the UNDP who is working with the Department of Hydrology and Metrology and the NGO, Practical Action, to install the early warning system.

UNEP, also through its facilities at the Environment Assessment Program (EAP.AP) Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand, is trying to establish an operational EWS to monitor GLOFs. EAP.AP will implement the project with the group, Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). The project will also help in assessing the environmental conditions of the high mountain regions as well as to help mitigate forest fires and drought.

As a collaborative pilot initiative between the ICIMOD and Kieo University, Japan, Wi-Fi based lake monitoring system in Imja Tsho Lake of Dudh Koshi basin has been installed. The uniqueness of this system is in the extended utility offered by internet connectivity and opportunity thereby allowing for different actors to pull resources thus making replication more viable financially. Other added unique features of a system like this are to utilize the system for other possible on-line services including distance education, tele-medicine and communication to the rural populace. The partnership feels that Wi-Fi based lake monitoring systems has huge potential to be adapted for GLOF EWS in the future. The only two technical EWS (TEWS) installed in the eastern Himalaya are Rolwaling valley and Tama Koshi valley GLOF Warning System. The ICIMOD says that there is still a need for web based EWS as more local people are getting access to the Internet via wireless interconnectivity.

## **Flood Awareness**

Although not a EWS system per se, the ICIMOD notes that education and awareness can also help mitigate the effects of flooding. A recent example occurred on May 5, 2012, where flash flooding in the Kaski district of northwestern Nepal resulted in the death of at least 31 people, left dozens more missing, and caused loss of property including homes, businesses, crops, and livestock. The flood occurred in a tributary of the Seti River originating from the east of Mount Machhapuchhre and believed to be due to the outburst of a landslide-dammed lake.

In this case the ICIMOD says some lack of awareness on the part of communities was observed. When the landslide occurred and blocked the river, the downstream flow dropped drastically. This in itself should have been a good early warning, the ICIMOD says. However, the community did not have the awareness to react appropriately. This indicates a great need to increase awareness and preparedness at the local level. There is also a need to increase the capacity of concerned agencies, particularly at the district level, on measures to reduce flood risk, according to ICIMOD.

According to the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), there is a simple practice of early warning between India and Nepal regarding the Koshi River. In the Koshi River flood of 2008 communities were informed about the flood by red flags. As water levels rose above normal and reached danger levels, a red flag is hung over the bridge.

## **Landslides**

Similarly, in an effort to prevent possible landslide disasters, local people including community groups, governmental agencies and security troops, have reported potential landslides to the Dept. of Water Induced Disaster Prevention (DWIDP) so that mitigation measures could be taken. The DWIDP in 2008 received around 50 such concerns.

The DWIDP attempted to install a landslide early warning system a few years ago. The EWS was installed at the Dahachowk Sabo Model Site in the outskirts of Kathmandu Valley. A hazard map and evacuation plan was prepared; however, the system did not come into operation because of a problem with the equipment.

## **Early Warning and Reporting System (EWARS) [Disease Outbreaks]**

EWARS is a hospital-based sentinel surveillance system. It includes six diseases: three vaccine-preventable diseases or VPDs (polio, measles and neonatal tetanus or NNT) and three vector-borne diseases (malaria, kala-azar (KA), and Japanese Encephalitis (JE)). It was designed to provide timely information to decision makers to facilitate early response. EWARS was started in 1996, and the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) of the MOH has been the implementing agency. The number of sentinel sites has grown to the current 28, and they are expected to report every week on the number of cases and/or deaths of the six priority diseases. The EDCD compiles the information from the reporting districts and publishes a weekly EWARS Bulletin.

# **Key Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Relief and Development Organizations in Nepal**

## Summary

Nepal has a very large Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) community, with hundreds of local and international organizations present, including various United Nations Agencies. Listed below are a comprehensive listing of key organizations which have had a long-term and/or active presence in Nepal, a history of quality programming, and the capacity, local knowledge, and resources to respond to a disaster in Nepal. However, the list provided below is not intended to be an all-inclusive list.

## NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS): REGULATION & REGISTRATION

The **Social Welfare Council (SWC)** is the Nepali government's central coordinating agency for NGOs (*see Key National and Regional Agencies in Disaster and Hazard Management section for more information*). The SWC is composed of members of who are representatives of the different ministries of the government, or are nominated by the government. The legal foundation for the operation of civil society organizations in Nepal is set out by the **Social Welfare Act**. (*See laws Policies and Plans on Disaster Management section for further information*)

The SWC's purpose is to support social organizations and institutions by granting or denying approval to receive support from foreign governments, missions, etc. To receive such approval, the receiving organization submits an application to the SWC describing the project and generally, the SWC acts on the application within 45 days.

All newly created domestic NGOs are required to register with either the appropriate government office or the SWC or the Chief District Office (CDO). Registration with the SWC is renewable annually.

According to the SWC, some of the key legislative provisions laid down in the Social Welfare Act, which must be abided by NGOs and INGOs prior to the implementation of their programs/projects in Nepal, are as follows.

1. As laid down in article 12, Section 1, of the Social Welfare Act 2049, the international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) seeking to work in the Kingdom of Nepal must apply to the Social Welfare Council and seek permission prior to starting work. The Council upon receiving such applications may give permission to such INGOs, not exceeding three months of time, from the date of receiving the applications.
2. INGOs, given permission under Article 12, Section 3, will have to enter agreement with the Social Welfare Council prior to starting any project in the kingdom.
3. As laid down in Article 16, section 1, the social institutions seeking financial, technical or commodity help from HMG/N of foreign governments of international community, donor

organizations or international social institutions must apply to the Social Welfare Council with complete details relating to its project and take its approval. However, in the case of projects needing immediate implementation, the NGO may receive financial assistance worth Rs. 2 lakh (two hundred thousand) annually, by giving a prior notice to the SWC. In this case, the NGO must submit its project report with the Social Welfare Council within three months of time from the date of the completion of the project.

4. As laid down in Article 16, Section 2, the Social Welfare Council upon receiving the project proposals shall approve such proposals after coordinating with concerned ministries and government institutions, not exceeding 45 days.

5. The Social Welfare Council may disapprove any such schemes and proposals found detrimental to the national interest.

6. Irrespective of the legislative provisions laid down in Article 16 (1), the international non-governmental organizations established under the International Charters signed by the HMG/N, can offer emergency relief commodities or conduct rescue operations in any part of the Kingdom by giving a notice to the Social Welfare Council.

7. As laid down in Article 16, Section 3, while implementing the accepted proposals, the NGO should execute its projects in Co-operation and coordination with local authorities.

8. As laid down in Article 16, Section 5, the international organizations extending assistance to the SWC accepted projects should carry out its financial transactions through the commercial banks operating within the kingdom Nepal.

## **United Nations in Nepal**

### **UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nepal:**

The Humanitarian Coordinator coordinates among the UN and other international agencies to support the government and ensure an effective response to the country. The Resident Coordinator since 2008 in Nepal is Robert Piper.

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#### **United Nations Nepal Information Platform**

Web site: <http://www.un.org.np/>

The UN Nepal Information Platform is the website for the UN Country Team in Nepal. This site aims to provide information about what the UN system does in Nepal. All UN Agencies active in Nepal are represented in this website.

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## **United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Nepal**

Website: *See UN Nepal Information Platform*

There are some 21 UN agencies active in Nepal. UN Country Teams (UNCTs) help prepare a Common Country Assessment (CCA) which is intended to provide insights into key development challenges facing a country, that are then addressed in a multiyear United Nations Development Assistance Framework or UNDAF. A CCA is typically organized around particular themes or sectors.

According to the UNCT, it has chosen to depart from this more standard approach by attempting to conduct a country analysis (CA) with people at its core—a 'country analysis with a human face'.

*For further details please see: "A Country Analysis, 2011." UN Country Team in Nepal.  
<http://www.un.org.np/sites/default/files/2012-05-25-country-analysis-2011%20.pdf>*

## **Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and OCHA Humanitarian Support Unit (OCHA HSU)**

Main OCHA Web site: <http://www.unocha.org/>

OCHA is the part of the UN Secretariat responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. OCHA also ensures there is a framework within which each actor can contribute to the overall response effort.

OCHA's mission is to:

- Mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies.
- Advocate the rights of people in need.
- Promote preparedness and prevention.
- Facilitate sustainable solutions.

## **OCHA in Nepal**

OCHA Nepal Website: <http://ochaonline.un.org/Default.aspx?alias=ochaonline.un.org/nepal>

According to the OCHA website, OCHA has been present in Nepal since 2005 with the aim of coordinating effective and principled humanitarian action. OCHA works on four core functions: alleviate human suffering in Nepal caused by Conflict; promotion of preparedness and prevention efforts to reduce future vulnerability to natural disasters; advocating for the rights of people in need; and facilitating sustainable solutions to address root causes.

OCHA sits within the Resident Coordinator's Humanitarian Support Unit. The OCHA Nepal office was established to address the humanitarian consequences of the former conflict. OCHA

Nepal's main office is in Kathmandu. It has sub-offices in Biratnagar in the east and Nepalgunj in the west.

The office functions as the secretariat and chief adviser to the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for Nepal. The HC is appointed by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator (also Under-Secretary-General and Head of OCHA) after consultation with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee of organizations from the UN system, Red Cross Movement, and key non-governmental consortia.

According to its website, OCHA also facilitates the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium Flagship Programme II on emergency preparedness. OCHA facilitates the cluster-specific disaster response contingency plan processes and maintains the contingency plan "chapeau" for the Humanitarian Country Team.

In support of the Government of Nepal, OCHA with support from the Resident Coordinator's field coordination offices works closely with the regional and district authorities, UN Agencies, I/NGOs, the donor community, local communities and civil society to formulate district preparedness plans and to ensure adequate readiness and response activities at the time of a disaster.

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#### **OCHA Nepal Humanitarian Support Unit (HSU)**

OCHA HSU in Nepal is situated in the Office of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators in Kathmandu. The objective of OCHA HSU is to work on disaster preparedness initiatives, inter-cluster coordination, and capacity building of key stakeholders for emergency response capacity, according to OCHA.

To ensure the UN system is able to respond to peace-building and recovery needs and continuing humanitarian situations, an 'Early Recovery Initiative' has been implemented, creating a joint RC/HC office, with four regional 'field coordination offices'. The OCHA Country Office Nepal transferred into the OCHA Nepal Humanitarian Support Unit (HSU) within the RC/HC Office. OCHA HSU contributes to field coordination units, under the RCHCO, that leverage OCHA coordination tools and services for residual humanitarian needs. Emphasis is placed on working with the apex disaster management body in the Government and transferring mechanisms to local capacities for disaster response.



OCHA HSU is facilitating the comprehensive planning processes for disaster preparedness and contingency planning, with a specific focus on earthquake preparedness. The earthquake response plan will incorporate all stakeholders, including bilateral partners, regional forums, as well as activate OCHA tools such as UNDAC, INSARAG and Civil-Military Coordination. OCHA is also supporting the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRC) initiative as a framework for OCHA engagement in response preparedness to ensure more defined roles and responsibilities.

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**OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

<http://www.unocha.org/roap/>

OCHA plays a key role in coordinating international humanitarian preparedness and response in the region. OCHA's work in Asia and the Pacific is focused around four key areas:

- Emergency preparedness
- Emergency Response
- Regional partnerships
- Humanitarian analysis

OCHA in Asia and the Pacific supports 36 countries and 14 territories. It has offices in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. It also has regional offices in Fiji and Thailand.

OCHA set up its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) in 2005. Based in Thailand, the offices focuses on emergency response, response preparedness and building partnerships at the regional level.

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## **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

Nepal Website: <http://coin.fao.org/cms/world/nepal/Home.html>

Main FAO website: <http://www.fao.org>

Nepal became a member of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1951. Since that time Nepal and FAO have been cooperating to improve the agricultural and rural development of Nepal. FAO was the first among the different UN agencies to start its office and field level work in Nepal focusing initially on agriculture and water resource management.

Almost 300 projects have been implemented by the organization, embracing a broad range of programs related to crop, vegetables, forestry, livestock, fishery, food safety, nutrition, planning, policy, rural development and environment conservation.

Through its Emergency Centre, FAO has been assisting the Government of Nepal in strengthening its capacities to control and contain transboundary animal diseases such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Towards that end a Regional Support Unit has been established in Kathmandu. This unit is contributing towards strengthening and empowering the SAARC member states to deliver improved and quality veterinary and public health services.

Currently, FAO is supporting the Government of Nepal in operationalizing the Agriculture Perspective Plan (APP), which was approved in 1995 and that covers a period up to 2015. It also is collaborating with other development partners in supporting the Government in formulating an Agriculture Development Strategy and a National Food and Nutrition Security Plan, both of which have a vision for 20 years.

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### **Inter-Agency Standing Committee/Cluster System**

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) involves key UN agencies as well as selected representative bodies of INGOs and the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as standing invitees. The “IASC Principals” meeting, comprising the country heads of the represented agencies, meets every two months to discuss developments in the humanitarian sector regarding disaster preparedness and response.

The IASC is also complemented by the cluster system, which has been in place since the Koshi floods of 2008. Eleven clusters are currently active in Nepal and are led by the respective global cluster leads at the country level. Each cluster meets on a monthly basis. Each cluster is also tasked with developing a contingency plan based on a large-scale disaster scenario, which are then summarized and combined into an “IASC Contingency Plan.” The cluster leads then meet on a monthly basis at an “IASC Operations” meeting to discuss current disaster response and preparedness efforts.

### **International Labor Organization (ILO)**

Nepal Website: <http://www.ilo.org/kathmandu/lang--en/index.htm>  
Main Web site: <http://www.ilo.org>

The International Labor Organization (ILO) is the UN agency that brings together governments, employers and workers in common action to promote decent work. This tripartite structure makes the ILO a unique forum in which the governments and the social partners of the economy of its 183 Member States can freely and openly debate and elaborate labor standards and policies.

#### **ILO in Nepal**

Nepal joined the ILO in 1966. Before 1966, the ILO Office in Nepal did not have a formal country program and was represented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The Office of the Senior ILO Adviser was established in January 1994 in Nepal. The Kathmandu Office transitioned to a Country Office in 2000 with a Director replacing the Senior ILO Adviser.

One of the most significant contributions of the ILO Office in Nepal from the beginning was in the sphere of employment generation through labor-based activities. The ILO Office in Nepal has made considerable efforts in promoting labor standards and capacity building of its social partners. Promotion of decent and productive employment opportunities for the Nepalese is always the primary goal of ILO's country program.

The ILO Office in Nepal operates a wide range of projects focusing on jobs for peace through local economic development, child labor, indigenous peoples, migration, HIV/AIDS, and other development challenges. The Employers' and Workers' organizations play an active role in formulating and implementing these projects. The overall purpose of this technical cooperation is to support the implementation of the Decent Work Country Program in Nepal.

The ILO activities and programs are concentrated on the following major areas:

1. Poverty alleviation through employment promotion;
2. Improvement of industrial relations and labor administration;
3. Elimination of child and bonded labor; and
4. Improvement of working conditions, occupational safety and health at work places and promotion of social protection. Gender mainstreaming is a key strategy for gender equality.

The following ILO-executed programs are ongoing in Nepal:

1. Time Bound Program (TBP) on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor
2. Prevention of HIV/AIDS in the World of Work in Nepal
3. Capacity Building of Employers' Organizations in Productivity and Competitiveness
4. Sustainable Elimination of Bonded Labor in Nepal
5. Combating Child Trafficking for Labor and Sexual Exploitation
6. Extending Social Protection to Workers in the Informal Economy
7. Community Action for the Elimination of Child (bonded) Labor from Exploitative and Hazardous Work Type of assistance and programming

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## **UNAIDS**

Nepal Website: <http://www.unaids.org.np/>  
Main UN Website: <http://www.unaids.org/en/>

UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, is an innovative partnership that leads and inspires the world in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

### UNAIDS in Nepal

According to the UNAIDS Nepal website, the following Cosponsors of UNAIDS are present in Nepal working in the sector of HIV and AIDS:

#### ILO

Gender-sensitive training and awareness-raising activities on HIV/AIDS in the world of work; Establishment of tripartite plus task force on HIV/AIDS in the world of work, chaired by the Ministry of Labor; Capacity strengthening through social dialogue and political commitment of ILO constituents on HIV/AIDS, migration and social protection. Development of a project on HIV/AIDS prevention in the world of work.

#### UNDP

Rural urban partnership program;  
District local governance support program; and  
HIV/AIDS Harm reduction for injecting drug users in Nepal.

#### UNESCO

Community-based awareness raising on HIV/AIDS prevention through education as part of UNESCO's integrated CLC program and  
Research-based HIV/AIDS prevention among out-of-school street-based children.

#### UNFPA

Strengthening reproductive health services;

Adolescent reproductive health education in schools and non-formal education and family life education program;  
Institutionalization of reproductive health into the Women Development Program;  
Provision of RTI/STI and HIV/AIDS services; and  
Youth Friendly Services

#### UNHCR

Coordination: Coordinating HIV/AIDS activities of implementing and collaborative NGO partners, WFP and UNHCR through monthly interagency meetings chaired by UNHCR.

Protection: prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence inside the camps.

Health services: Safe blood supply and testing for blood transfusion; provision of condoms; syndromic STI treatment; safe deliveries; universal precautions; referral to VCT centre.

Education: Formal education and peer education within schools; informal community education via networks of community health volunteers.

#### UNICEF

HIV and AIDS within the education sector through formal education, through non-formal education and policy support to the Ministry of Education;

Youth Friendly Access Service Center for vulnerable urban out of school young people;

Basic awareness raising program to reach young people with basic HIV information;

Prevention of mother to child transmission;

Care and support for children affected by HIV and AIDS;

Media based education/entertainment program; and

HIV and AIDS at the workplace

#### WFP

HIV/AIDS awareness raising workshops for health workers under the Maternal and Child Health Care project;

Truck drivers working for WFP are provided with HIV/AIDS training; and

HIV/AIDS workplace training

#### World Bank

Budget support to the Ministry of Health and to the National Center for AIDS and STD control and

Partial secondment of a Senior Health, Nutrition and Population specialist to the government for development of appropriate institutional arrangements for HIV/AIDS program

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### **UN Development Program (UNDP)**

Nepal Website: <http://www.undp.org.np/>  
Main Website: <http://www.undp.org>

UNDP is the UN's global development network. UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. World leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. UNDP's network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach these Goals.

UNDP's focus is helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of:  
Democratic Governance;  
Poverty Reduction;  
Crisis Prevention and Recovery;  
Environment & Energy; and  
HIV/AIDS

UNDP helps developing countries attract and use aid effectively. The annual Human Development Report, commissioned by UNDP, focuses the global debate on key development issues, according to UNDP.

In each country office, the UNDP Resident Representative normally also serves as the Resident Coordinator of development activities for the UN system as a whole.

#### UNDP in Nepal:

According to UNDP Nepal, since 1963, UNDP has worked at building linkages that address effective design and implementation of poverty alleviation programs in Nepal. UNDP's activities span almost 75 districts and 1,000 out of 4,000 villages.

#### Current Program priorities:

Transitional Governance;  
Inclusive Growth & Sustainable Livelihood;  
Peace Building and Recovery;  
Energy, Environment and Natural Disaster Management; and HIV/AIDS

In early 2008, UNDP approved its Country Program Document (CPD) for 2008-2010 in support of the Interim Development Plan of the Government of Nepal. The Country Program Action Plan (CPAP) will be the legal agreement between the Government of Nepal and UNDP.

Since late 2006, UNDP has provided key technical support to implement the peace agreements alongside UNMIN's support to the political negotiations.

During 2009-2010, UNDP also supported the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) to formulate a capacity development strategy based on the capacity assessment and the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) with technical advice and assisted it to produce its action and work plans. The NPTF received over US\$95 million of contributions from the government and donors by the end of 2009 which are going to support a range of nationally led peace-building initiatives.

UNDP's Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal (SPCBN) project is providing technical assistance to the Constituent Assembly and invaluable support to a broad range of stakeholders that has helped to increase knowledge on constitutional issues, promoted widespread, balanced and meaningful public involvement in constitution making and helped the assembly function efficiently and effectively.

The Centre for Constitutional Dialogue (CCD), established on 19 January 2009, has provided a technical resource centre, a neutral dialogue space and a facility for interactions between assembly members, experts, civil society and the interested public. To give Nepal's citizens the chance to contribute to Constitution making, SPCBN has mobilized NGOs representing marginalized groups to run an outreach program.

The Quick Impact for Peace Support Initiative (QIPSI) and the Livelihoods Recovery for Peace (LRP) projects are providing infrastructure and livelihoods support to households badly affected by the conflicts and who have been neglected by previous development interventions.

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### **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

Nepal Website: <http://www.unesco.org/kathmandu>  
Main: <http://www.unesco.org/>

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO's) mission is to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

#### **UNESCO in Nepal**

The UNESCO Office in Kathmandu was established in 1998. The Office contributes to building peace, alleviating poverty, and fostering sustainable development and intercultural dialogue in Nepal through education, science, culture, communication and information, according to its website.

The Office's ability to assist the Government of Nepal in strategy and policy development has increased and contacts have been developed into effective working partnerships. The Office has access to a wide network of regional and international expertise of technical and advisory bodies in South and South-East Asia.

The Office implements UNESCO's main functions across Nepal, such as: a laboratory of ideas; a standard-setter; a clearing house; a capacity builder in Member States in UNESCO fields of competence; and as a catalyst for international cooperation.

UNESCO works to attain a quality Education for All, focusing on gender equality and adult literacy, to mobilize scientific knowledge and science policy for sustainable development, to preserve cultural heritage, promote cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, and to empower people through the free flow of ideas and access to information and knowledge.

UNESCO actively participates in the work of the UN Country Team in Nepal and closely cooperates with other development partners in the country.

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## **UN Habitat**

UN Habitat Regional Office: [http://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/index\\_en.html](http://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/index_en.html)  
Main: <http://www.unhabitat.org/>

The UN Human Settlements Program (Habitat), established in 1978, is the lead agency within the UN system for coordinating activities in the field of human settlement development. The overall objective of UN-HABITAT is to promote sustainable urbanization. According to its website, it is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. It also serves as the focal point for monitoring progress on implementation of the Habitat Agenda - the global plan of action adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996.

Priority Areas in Nepal:

Habitat Country Program Document (HCPD) 2011-12 is the program framework of UN-HABITAT in Nepal. The program has the following focuses:

Promoting 'shelter for all' with emphasis on urban poor and vulnerable populations, both at the policy level and in implementation;  
Promoting water and environmental sanitation, water demand management, WATSAN governance, integrated water resource management and capacity building at various levels;  
Disaster preparedness and recovery, particularly actively involving CERF activities and shelter cluster including preparing building codes and norms and post disaster recovery support;  
Supporting climate change management issues in terms of cities including Cities and Climate Change Initiatives;  
Raising urban agenda through Nepal Urban Forum, National Urban Observatory, and similar collaborative works;

Under the program framework UN-HABITAT has supported landless Koshi flood victims of 2008 with integrated shelter, promoting urban water and sanitation under Water for Asian Cities Program, initiated full sanitation coverage in five selected districts through Global Sanitation Fund, prepared Nepal Urban Housing Sector Profile Study, etc.

UN-Habitat's activities has been expanded to almost 9 peri-urban towns in Kathmandu Valley, 35 Municipalities and 15 small towns through Water for Asian Cities Program and 5 Districts and 5 Municipalities through Global Sanitation Fund Program. Around US\$ 9.7 million has been spent.

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### **UN Information Centre**

Nepal Website: <http://kathmandu.unic.org>  
Main: <http://www.unicwash.org/>

The UN Information Center (UNIC) in Nepal is the body charged with the responsibility of public information dissemination and of promoting an informed understanding among the people of Nepal of global issues and the role of the UN in dealing with them. UNIC provides extensive

press activities, publications, audio-visual products in addition to carrying out public relations and liaison responsibilities. UNIC Nepal also houses and runs a library.

The mission of the UN Information Centre is:

To promote an informed understanding and awareness among the people of Nepal of the work and purpose of the UN;

To co-ordinate UN's public information activities with Government, media organizations, public and private institutions within the parameters of the country's priorities in addressing Nepal's development concerns;

To provide news-gathering organizations, government officials, diplomats, the research community and the general public with up-to-date information about the activities of the UN in general and in Nepal in particular on a timely basis;

To provide the fullest possible access to information on the UN especially by the media organizations, public and private institutions, NGOs and other elements of the society through dissemination of documentation and audio visual products and issuance of press releases and pamphlets on developments related to the UN;

To ensure the timely distribution of the information products to the widest possible audience in all regions of Nepal through a wide range of organizations and dissemination channels;

To develop and maintain strong liaison with NGOs, governmental and academic institutions, publishing organizations and other elements of civil society;

To solicit support and co-operation from public and private organizations to promote public information activities of the UN in Nepal;

To monitor the media reports in Nepal concerning the work of the UN in the areas of promoting peace, development, democracy, social justice, gender, human rights, social tolerance and multiculturalism; and

To encourage academic and other educational and publishing institutions to develop information materials for use in teaching about the UN and its activities.

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## **UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD)**

<http://www.unrcpd.org.np/>

According to its website, the mandate of the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD): To provide, on request, substantive support for initiatives and other activities, mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia Pacific region, for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, and to coordinate the implementation of regional activities in Asia and the Pacific (UN General Assembly resolution A/42/39D of 30 November 1987).

### Programmatic Areas:

- 1) Promoting global disarmament and non-proliferation norms
- 2) Enhancing regional dialogue on disarmament, non-proliferation and security matters
- 3) Outreach and Advocacy activities

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## **UNWomen**

Regional: <http://www.unwomensouthasia.org/>

Main: <http://www.unwomen.org/>

UN Women was created in July 2010 when the UN General Assembly voted to merge the following four UN entities:

Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), established in 1946

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), established in 1976

Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), established in 1997

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), established in 1976

UN Women focuses on five high priority areas:

- 1) Increasing women's leadership and participation;
- 2) Ending violence against women and girls;
- 3) Engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes;
- 4) Enhancing women's economic empowerment; and
- 5) Making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting

Priority Areas in Nepal:

UN Women will, among other issues, work for the: elimination of discrimination against women and girls; empowerment of women; achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. UN Women will provide substantive support to UN bodies on all aspects of gender equality issues.

UN Women in Nepal focuses on the following key areas:

Violence against women;

Peace and security;

Leadership and Participation;

Economic Empowerment; and

National planning and budget

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### **World Health Organization (WHO)**

Nepal website: <http://www.nep.searo.who.int/EN/Index.htm>  
Main: <http://www.who.int/en/>

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the UN System, with its headquarters situated in Geneva, Switzerland. The WHO main goal is the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health. WHO has six Regional Offices. The South East Asia Regional Office, located in New Delhi, India, covers eleven countries including Nepal.

#### **WHO in Nepal**

The WHO Country Office in Nepal is headed by the WHO Representative. In addition to the Representative, there is 14 international professional staff in the WHO country office including six short-term professionals and one Administrative and Program Officer. The WHO program for immunization preventable diseases (IPD) has 62 staff members including two expatriate professionals, one national professional officer and one administrative and program officer. Presently there are 21 national operations officers, 15 for IPD and the remaining six for other program areas. The total number of general staff presently in position is 17.

WHO provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and Population. In addition, WHO has a central immunization and vaccine preventable disease office in Kathmandu and 9 field

offices with 15 Surveillance Medical Officers (SMOs) that support a surveillance network of 73 active surveillance sites and 416 - weekly zero reporting sites consisting of hospitals, government and private clinics and health centers throughout the country. They are responsible for measles, neonatal tetanus and acute encephalitis syndrome cases as well as for outbreak investigation and control.

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**International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

IFAD Asia: <http://asia.ifad.org/web/nepal>

IFAD in Nepal: <http://operations.ifad.org/web/ifad/operations/country/home/tags/nepal>

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) works with governments through low-interest loans and grants to develop and finance programs and projects, according to its website. The loans are on highly concessional terms, repayable over 40 years, including a grace period of ten years with a 0.75% service charge per annum. IFAD's lending priority is dominated by the need to increase food production and to improve the nutritional level of the poorest populations in the poorest food deficit areas.

**IFAD in Nepal**

Nepal became a member of the IFAD in 1978 and was among the first countries to benefit from the Fund. The main strategic thrusts of the IFAD financed projects in Nepal are poverty alleviation and improvement of household food and income security of the rural poor. IFAD's goal in Nepal is to empower poor rural women and men to achieve higher incomes and improved food security.

Integrated Rural Development Project (in Sagarmatha), effective from November 1979 with a loan amount of US\$11.5 million was the starting point of economic co-operation between Nepal



and IFAD. Since then, IFAD has financed altogether 15 projects of which 10 projects are completed and 5 projects are in ongoing phase. Since 1978, IFAD has provided a total of US\$ 115 million in loans for 12 projects and has also provided technical assistance.

IFAD is active mainly in the hill and mountain areas of far and mid-western Nepal. Geographical coverage by ongoing operations is as follows:

1. Skill Enhancement for Employment Project: Darchula, Baitadi, Dadeldhura, Kanchanpur and Bajhang.
2. Western Uplands Poverty Alleviation Project: Humla, Jumla, Mugu, Dolpa, Kalikot, Bajhang, Bajura, Jajarkot, Dailekh, Rukum and Rolpa.
3. Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Program: Baitadi, Dadeldhura, Doti, Achham, Salyan, Pyuthan, Tanahun, Lamjung, Gorkha, Dhading, Chitwan, Makawanpur, Kavre, Sindhupalchowk, Dolkha, Ramechhap, Sindhuli, Okhaldhunga, Khotang, Bhojpur, Terhathum, Panchthar.
4. High Value Agriculture Project in Hill and Mountain Areas: Surkhet, Dailekh, Kalikot, Jumla, Salyan, Jajarkot, Achham, Mugu, Dolpa, Humla
5. Poverty Alleviation Fund: Co-financing with World Bank and is operational in 59 districts.

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#### **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

Nepal Website: <http://www.nepal.iom.int/>  
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Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. With 146 member states, a further 13 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

IOM works in the four broad areas of migration management:

- Migration and development
- Facilitating migration
- Regulating migration
- Forced migration.

Work in Nepal

According to IOM Nepal, the following work is being done in Nepal after the country became an IOM member state in 2006. During that same year, IOM opened a small office in Kathmandu. In 2007, the Government of Nepal (GoN) and IOM signed a memorandum of understanding, and since then the organization has increased rapidly in size (27 international officials and 380 national staff) and scope.

Bhutanese Refugee Resettlement:

In cooperation with the Government, UNHCR and numerous implementing partners, IOM organizes all post-selection activities related to the resettlement of Bhutanese refugees from Nepal to eight resettlement countries.

Migration Health Department (MHD):

In addition to refugee health assessment activities for Bhutanese refugees the Migration Health Department operates a Migration Health Assessment Clinic (MHAC) in Kathmandu for Nepali nationals seeking immigration to the United States.

Assisted Voluntary Returns:

IOM assists failed Nepali asylum seekers in Switzerland, Norway, Belgium, the UK and Australia to return and reintegrate to Nepal.

Labor Migration:

IOM provides technical assistance to the Government of Nepal in three ways: 1) capacity-building for GoN officials, 2) services to labor migrants, including the establishment of a Migrant Resource Center in Kathmandu which provides potential labor migrants with information on

destination countries and 3) review and recommendation of policies and legislation related to labor migration.

**Counter-Trafficking:**

In cooperation with the GoN and private sector businesses, IOM provides economic rehabilitation to returned victims of trafficking through the business models or setup with franchise from private sector where in GoN assist in the legal aspects, local NGOs support with coaching and mentoring to the survivors while enterprise is owned by the survivors.

In addition, IOM is engaged in a research project in collaboration with New Castle University in the UK and Shakti Samuha, a local NGO comprised of returned victims of trafficking aimed at investigating livelihood opportunities for victims of trafficking.

**Reparations:**

Supported by the UN Peace Fund for Nepal, and in cooperation with the GoN and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, IOM is working closely with the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction in the design and implementation of a transparent reparation system to provide assistance to victims who suffered human rights violations during the ten-year armed conflict.

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### **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

<http://nepal.ohchr.org/en/index.html>  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx>

Note: The UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) in Nepal has ceased all new substantive work as of December 8, 2011, on account of termination of the agreement between the Government of Nepal and OHCHR. OHCHR's website in Nepal will no longer be updated; it will merely serve as a "web resource" site.

OHCHR opened its office in Nepal in May 2005, following an Agreement with the Government of Nepal. Its mandate included:

Monitoring the observance of human rights throughout the country, including by carrying out investigations;

Monitoring the human rights provisions of the November 2006 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA);

Advising the authorities on policies, programs and measures for the promotion and protection of human rights. Providing advisory services and support to the National Human Rights Commission, civil society, human rights NGOs and individuals.

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## **United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)**

<http://www.uncdf.org/>

According to its website, UNCDF was established in 1966 as a special purpose organization primarily for small-scale investment in the poorest countries. UNCDF today works to help reduce poverty by piloting small-scale investments in two areas of concentration: local governance and microfinance. UNCDF is a member of the UNDP Group, is represented at the country level by the UNDP Resident Representative and reports to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board.

UNCDF in Nepal:

UNCDF is one of the UN joint partner agencies contributing to the Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP). The LGCDP was declared effective by the government of Nepal in 2008 and is a national program managed and implemented by the Ministry of Local Development (MoLD).

Micro Finance

The "Enhancing Access to Financial Services (EAFS) in Nepal" program results from a joint formulation exercise between UNCD, UNDP and World Bank to promote inclusive finance by increasing financial access to micro finance services in the remote and un-served areas of Nepal. The aim of the program is to expand poor people's access to new and/or improved financial services, outreach in remote locations, rural areas and new market segments including in existing geographical locations where the Financial Service Providers (FSPs) have a presence, targeting specially for small business and low income households, especially women, poor youth and excluded groups in a sustainable manner.

The program increases access to financial services either through establishing new branch of FSPs/ MFIs or with financial services linkage with existing bankable Saving and Credit Groups ( SCGs) / enterprise groups promoted by GoN, UNDP programs, / project and INGos.

According to UNCDF, the intended outcome of the program is to reach 330,000 new clients and link with 10,000 SCG groups by providing technical assistance to the FSPs/ MFIs and financial literacy campaign for increasing the frontier of micro finance services. The project is in operation from 2008- 2012.

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## **UN Population Fund (UNFPA)**

Nepal Website: <http://www.unfpanepal.org/en/index.php>  
Main: <http://www.unfpa.org/public/>

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is an international development agency that extends assistance to countries at their request. UNFPA promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity.

UNFPA's work is guided by the Program of Action adopted by 179 governments at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. At that meeting, delegates agreed that reproductive health is a basic human right and the individuals should be able to freely choose the number, timing and spacing of their children. The ICPD objectives helped shape the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Significantly, the MDGs also include gender equality and the empowerment of women, which are fundamental principles of UNFPA's work.

The ICPD roadmap for progress includes:

Universal access to reproductive health by 2015;

Universal primary education and closing the gender gap in education by 2015;

Reducing maternal death by 75 per cent by 2015;  
Reducing infant death; and  
Reducing HIV infections rates

#### UNFPA in Nepal

According to its website, UNFPA's support to Nepal began in 1971. UNFPA works closely with the Government ministries and UN agencies to contribute to peace-building and national development goals.

Program priorities in Nepal include assisting the government in:  
Achieving universal access to family planning for all citizens;  
Forecasting family planning needs and supplying contraceptives;  
Making sure that all women enjoy the right to give birth safely;  
Increasing the socio-economic development of the country through promoting the use of population data in the national planning;  
Scaling-up HIV prevention efforts; and  
Promoting legal and policy reforms to bring about women's empowerment.

UNFPA supports the Government of Nepal in carrying out population and reproductive health related activities in all 75 districts of the country. In line with the UN Development Assistance Framework and Nepal's Local Self Governance Act 1999, UNFPA has been focusing technical and financial support in selected districts in coordination with UN agencies.

At the district level UNFPA supports work in: Dadeldhura, Dang, Kapilvastu, Rautahat, Saptari and Mahottari districts. From 2009, UNFPA support interventions were extended to six new districts: Udaypur, Sindhuli, Rolpa, Rukum, Pyuthan, Bajhang. The local personnel support the local agencies to strengthen their capacity to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate quality reproductive health services. The local communities, especially the excluded groups, benefit from UNFPA's work as their participation is increased.

UNFPA is working in Far and Mid Western regions making access to reproductive health check-ups and treatment available for communities in remote villages. Thanks to the support of International Partners like European Union, Government of Denmark, Government of Norway or Government of Japan UNFPA's partner NGOs have been organizing mobile reproductive health camps throughout Western regions since 2006.

UNFPA is also present whenever a natural disaster occurs, delivering humanitarian assistance.

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## **UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated by the UN to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems. UNHCR's primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees, according to its website. In its efforts to achieve this objective, the Office strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, and to return home voluntarily. By assisting refugees to return to their own country or to settle permanently in another country, UNHCR also seeks lasting solutions to their plight. UNHCR's Executive Committee and the UN General Assembly have authorized involvement with other groups. These include former refugees who have returned to their homeland; internally displaced persons; and people who are stateless or whose nationality is disputed.

### Priority Areas in Nepal:

#### Refugees from Bhutan

As of 31 January 2012, there are 53,886 refugees from Bhutan living in three camps in eastern Nepal: Beldangi, Khudunabari and Sanischare. With substantial reductions in the camp population due to resettlement departures, UNHCR together with the Government of Nepal (GoN) and NGO partners, started implementation of the camp consolidation initiative in 2011. The administrative consolidation of the three Beldangi camps and the closure of Goldhap and Timai were completed in 2011, leaving only three camps remaining out of the original seven. Khudunabari camp is expected to be closed by mid-2012.

#### Third Country Resettlement

Resettlement as a durable solution began in late 2007 and is continuing successfully with the strong cooperation between the GoN, UNHCR, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the resettlement countries.

#### Community-Based Development Program

To address the needs of remaining refugees, UNHCR initiated a five-year Community Based Development Program (CBDP) aimed at promoting peaceful co-existence between refugee and hosting communities in Jhapa and Morang districts, while making the transition from humanitarian assistance to self-reliance and sustainable development.



## Tibetans

For Tibetan new arrivals, UNHCR facilitates their safe transit through Nepal to India and ensures that their protection and material needs are addressed while in Nepal. Emphasis is placed on the needs of women and children, particularly unaccompanied minors. An average of 800 Tibetans transit through Nepal annually. There are also approximately 15,000 Tibetan refugees who arrived in Nepal before 1990 and are allowed to remain in the country. The majority of them remain undocumented and as such their rights in Nepal are limited. UNHCR advocates for the need for comprehensive registration and the issuance of identity documents.

## Urban refugees and asylum-seekers

UNHCR provides protection and assistance to some 300 asylum-seekers and refugees living in urban areas, who are considered by the GoN to be illegal migrants. Monthly financial assistance, medical care through identified facilities and educational assistance is provided. The Kathmandu Community Centre provides integrated services to these refugees, while building refugee capacity.

## People without access to citizenship certificates

UNHCR has developed a comprehensive approach to addressing statelessness in Nepal, which is aimed both at addressing the problem of lack of access to citizenship certificates and advocacy in relation to the Constitution. Working with the UN and national partners, UNHCR supports legal aid and awareness raising projects to enable disadvantaged groups to acquire citizenship certificates, and carries out comprehensive advocacy aimed at bringing the draft text of the new Constitution into compliance with international standards.

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## **UNICEF**

Main: <http://www.unicef.org/>

Nepal info: <http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/nepal.html>

Guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), UNICEF advocates and works for the protection of children's rights. UNICEF's mandate also includes building the capacity of communities and local government.

### **Priority Areas in Nepal:**

UNICEF initiated cooperation with Nepal in 1964, according to its website. Today, UNICEF/Nepal's country program is one of the 18 largest UNICEF programs in the world. The program seeks to advance the respect, protection and fulfillment of the human rights of children and women in Nepal.

According to UNICEF, the Decentralized Action for Children and Women (DACAW) program provides the basic framework for the implementation of programs addressing nutrition and childcare, health, environment, education, child protection and HIV/AIDS in focus districts. In addition, UNICEF supports the implementation of programs such as immunization and micronutrients (Vitamin A supplementation, control of iodine deficiency diseases and iron deficiency anemia) in all 75 districts.

The country program tackles not only the immediate causes influencing child survival, growth and development, but also addresses the underlying causes. Particular efforts are implemented to promote changes in gender disparities. Other priorities are to reach out to the most disadvantaged groups and children in Nepal; especially communities in very remote areas, groups discriminated due to caste and ethnicity, and children in need of special protection. To respond to the ongoing conflict situation, the DACAW program is also being expanded in the conflict affected areas to address the rights of children affected by armed conflict, through the Quick Impact Program (QIP) in collaboration with the World Food Program.

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### **United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

South Asia Website: [www.unodc.org/southasia](http://www.unodc.org/southasia)  
Main Website: <http://www.unodc.org/>

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established in 1997 as part of the UN reform combining the previous United Nations Drug Control Program and the Center for International Crime Prevention. The office is committed to achieving health, security and justice for all by tackling threats from illicit drugs, organized crime and terrorism worldwide.

#### **UNODC in South Asia**

According to its website, the UNODC Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) is located in New Delhi covering six countries in the region: India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The UNODC-ROSA assists states in developing strategies to address crime, drugs

and corruption, with particular emphasis on assisting vulnerable groups. At present the office's technical cooperation program focuses on:

- Drug use prevention, treatment and care
- Prevention of HIV and AIDS
- Prevention of drug use and HIV in prisons
- Prevention of human trafficking
- Prevention of smuggling of migrants
- Anti corruption, and
- Law enforcement, drug and precursor control

#### UNODC in Nepal

In Nepal, UNODC's technical cooperation program comprises specific interventions on HIV prevention, care and support for drug users and in prisons. It also supports the government in the implementation of elements of the comprehensive package for HIV prevention as well as capacity-building in drug law enforcement through a regional program.

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#### **World Food Program (WFP)**

Nepal Website: <http://www.wfp.org/countries/nepal>

Main: <http://www.wfp.org/>

The World Food Program (WFP) is the food aid arm of the UN. The policies governing the use of WFP food aid must be oriented towards the objective of eradicating hunger and poverty. The

ultimate objective of food aid should be the elimination of the need for food aid, according to the WFP.

The core policies and strategies that govern WFP activities are to provide food aid:

To save lives in refugee and other emergency situations;

To improve the nutrition and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times in their lives; and

To help build assets and promote the self-reliance of poor people and communities, particularly through labor-intensive works programs.

#### WFP in Nepal

WFP's ultimate goal in Nepal is to break the cycle of poverty and hunger. WFP's focus is to:

Prevent acute hunger and meet emergency food and nutrition needs;

Empower hundreds of thousands of families through food- and cash-for-work to build assets that will improve long-term food security; and

Support the government and partners to develop and implement effective food security and nutrition strategies.

WFP's work in Nepal primarily targets the most food insecure and hard to reach districts of the Mid and Far Western Hills and Mountains. These areas of Nepal experience both the greatest need for assistance and the greatest gap in government and development partner support.

WFP maintains a field presence with activities in 32 districts in Nepal. WFP maintains three field offices: Damak which covers the Bhutanese refugee camps in Jhapa and Morang districts, Nepalgunj which covers projects in Mid-Western Nepal as well as provides critical support to air operations based in Surkhet, and Dadeldhura which covers projects in Far-Western Nepal.

School Feeding/Girls Incentive Program: serves as a magnet for increasing enrollment, attendance and improves the nutritional status of children by providing a fortified mid-day meal. Girls receive monthly-take home rations of cooking oil as an incentive for regularly going to school.

Maternal and Child Health Care: improves nutritional status of pregnant and lactating mothers and their young children with monthly take-home rations of fortified food. This critically timed intervention reduces irreversible developmental damage from malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

WFP's strategic priorities in Nepal are to support the country's protracted peace and recovery process by reducing hunger and undernutrition, fostering increased resilience amongst vulnerable communities, and providing humanitarian response to and preparing for increased environmental disasters.

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## International Organizations and NGOs

The following is an alphabetical listing of key International NGOs working in Nepal:

### **Action Contre La Faim (Action Against Hunger)**

<http://www.actionagainsthunger.org/countries/asia/nepal>

Action Contre La Faim (ACF), also known as Action Against Hunger (AAH), focuses on women and children. AAH/ACF International aims to save the lives of malnourished children while providing communities with access to safe water and sustainable solutions to hunger. ACF has 30 years of expertise in emergency situations of conflict, natural disaster, and chronic food insecurity, and runs programs in some 40 countries benefiting five million people each year.

ACF's 4,600+ professionals work to carry out programs in nutrition, food security & livelihoods, and water, sanitation, & hygiene. ACF's humanitarian programs assist people through capacity building programs in collaboration with government ministries.

ACF integrates activities in emergency nutrition, longer-term food security, and water, sanitation & hygiene. The organization also focuses on the prevention of child abuse and exploitation.

#### Work in Nepal

According to ACF, the northwest of Nepal has been affected by drought for more than six months. This has led to a crisis among people living in isolated areas of the region. A one-month assessment in the region by teams from ACF found that more than 85% of the population has used up all its stores of food.

In addition to chronic food insecurity and the consequences of political conflict, the current drought threatens the population: 57% of farmers have not been able to harvest and the rest have collected only one-quarter to one-half of their usual harvest.

The Results of ACF assessment are alarming:

- Less than 15% of the population has any food left
- Some 38% of the population already suffers from anemia (if more than 20% of a population suffers from anemia, the international community considers it a national public health problem)
- Three out of five children examined are suffering from chronic malnutrition
- Three out of 100 children suffer from the most fatal form of malnutrition. These very high malnutrition rates are higher than those in current humanitarian crises such as Darfur. However, little attention has been paid to the sparsely populated and isolated regions in northwestern Nepal.

ACF teams are setting up nutrition centers to treat malnutrition. A distribution of seeds for the next agricultural season is planned.

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**ActionAid**

Nepal Website: <http://www.actionaid.org/nepal>  
Main: [www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org)

ActionAid focuses on education, women, food and land, health, local democracy, conflict management and peace building. ActionAid works in over 40 countries across the world.

**Work in Nepal**

Since 1982 ActionAid has worked in Nepal to empower the poor and excluded members of society. According to ActionAid, in 2011, ActionAid Nepal managed 18 Development Areas (DAs)/Development Initiatives (DIs) incorporating 35 long-term partners. The DAs/DIs are sponsorship funded programs, in 30 districts of Nepal. Partners comprised local NGOs, CBOs and people's organizations. ActionAid worked with over 130 short-term partners in the same year.

ActionAid Resource Centers, located geographically in the eastern, central and western regions of Nepal manage long-term DAs/DIs being implemented in districts. They are termed as Eastern Resource Center, Biratnagar; Central Resource Center, Bharatpur; and Western Resource Center, Nepaljung.

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### **ADRA Nepal**

Nepal Website: <http://www.adranepal.org/>  
Main: [www.adra.org](http://www.adra.org)

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is a global network of independent humanitarian organizations established in 1984 by the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the specific purpose of providing individual and community development and disaster relief.

## Work in Nepal

ADRA established an office in Nepal in 1987. ADRA helps people in need, especially those most vulnerable.

According to its website, community is the theme of ADRA's work in Nepal. Community begins with the 120 or so employees who work on a diverse range of projects in 18 districts around the country, but quickly broadens to include many thousands of Nepali people from government, non-government and community-based groups with whom they partner daily to implement development and relief activities.

ADRA Nepal has strong and decentralized program, finance and human resource management systems. It has an expanded portfolio of five focused areas namely; Reproductive Health, Economic Development, Education, Emergency Management and Good Governance.

Partners include: Backward Society Education (BASE), Resource Identification and Mobilization Society (RIMS), Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), British Nepal Medical Trust (BNMT), Integrated Community Development (ICD), Indreni Rural Development Center Nepal (INDRENI), Safe Motherhood Network Federation Nepal (SMNF), Community Service Center (CSC), Scheer Memorial Hospital (SMH), Ecosystem Ltd, , Habitat for Humanity International, Engineers without Borders and District Health Offices as well as other district level government organizations.

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### **Asia Foundation**

<http://asiafoundation.org/>

The Asia Foundation, founded in 1954 in San Francisco, California is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous, just,

and open Asia-Pacific region. The Foundation supports Asian initiatives to improve governance and law, economic development, women's empowerment, the environment, and regional cooperation. Drawing on nearly 60 years of experience in Asia, the Foundation collaborates with private and public partners to support leadership and institutional development, exchanges, and policy research.

With 17 offices throughout Asia, an office in Washington, DC, and its headquarters in San Francisco, the Foundation addresses these issues on both a country and regional level. In 2011, the Foundation provided more than \$97 million in program support and distributed nearly one million books and journals valued at over \$41 million.

#### Work in Nepal

According to its website, the Asia Foundation works with governmental and nongovernmental institutions to address a range of issues that is central to conflict transformation, peacebuilding, and the long-term democratic, economic, and social development of Nepal. The Foundation provides financial support, technical assistance, research and training in four critical areas: supporting an effective political transition, including the Constituent Assembly process; facilitating conflict transformation and peacebuilding; safeguarding women's rights and security; and broadening economic opportunities.

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## **Asian Development Bank**

<http://www.adb.org/countries/nepal/main>

Since its founding in 1966, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been driven by an inspiration and dedication to improving people's lives in Asia and the Pacific. ADB is committed to helping developing member countries evolve into thriving, modern economies that are well integrated with each other and the world. The ADB aims for an Asia and Pacific free from poverty.

The main devices for assistance are loans, grants, policy dialogue, technical assistance and equity investments. Economists, sociologists, engineers, gender experts and environmental scientists are amongst the hundreds of professions at the ADB.

### **ADB in Nepal**

According to its website, ADB's Nepal country partnership strategy, 2010–2012, is built on four pillars—broad-based and inclusive economic growth, inclusive social development, governance and capacity building, and climate change adaptation and environmental sustainability.

The environment for governance and project implementation, including public procurement, continues to be challenging as Nepal undergoes political transition. Implementation is impeded by poor infrastructure, weak institutions and governance, and difficult topography.

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### **Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)**

<http://www.adpc.net/2012/?>

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) works towards the realization of disaster reduction for safer communities and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, according to its website. Since its inception in 1986, ADPC has promoted disaster awareness and the

development of local capabilities to foster institutionalized disaster management and mitigation policies.

ADPC was originally established as an outreach center of the Asian Institute of Technology after a feasibility study conducted jointly by two agencies of the United Nations, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (currently the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) and the World Meteorological Organization in January 1986. Funding for the study was provided by the United Nations Development Program in response to requests from countries in the region for international assistance to strengthen their national disaster management systems.

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### **Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)**

<http://www.adrc.asia/>

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) was established in Kobe, Hyogo prefecture, in 1998, with the mission to enhance disaster resilience of the member countries, to build safe communities, and to create a society where sustainable development is possible. The ADRC works to build disaster resilient communities and to establish networks among countries through many programs including personnel exchanges in this field. It has 29 member countries and five advisor countries.

The ADRC works in cooperation with a variety of UN agencies and international organizations/initiatives, such as the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WHO/WPRO).

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## **CARE Nepal**

Nepal Website: <http://www.carenepal.org/index.php>  
Main: [www.care.org](http://www.care.org)

CARE Nepal operates through a basic agreement with the Social Welfare Council, Government of Nepal that allows it to implement various community development projects and programs in the country. These projects and programs are guided by the government's priorities, CARE's global programming principles and the need of the local communities. The organization works closely with various ministries and departments such as the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Local Development, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation.

According to its website, since 2000, CARE Nepal began working in partnership with local NGOs, networks, federations and community groups to address the underlying causes of poverty, conflict and vulnerability through the promotion of gender and social inclusion, rights based approach and social mobilization. In 2010 CARE Nepal implemented 22 community development projects in 45 districts of the country in partnership with more than 80 local NGOs, 1,000 community groups, several local governments, 10 different networks and about 1,000 community based organizations to implement on-going programs. CARE Nepal works with rural communities to increase their capacity to plan, manage and implement activities on their own. Capacity building has been an efficient and effective method to ensure sustainable development. CARE Nepal places special emphasis on involving poor, vulnerable and socially excluded groups.

CARE Nepal currently works in the following areas to contribute to the objectives of the core programs:

- Climate Change and Natural Resource Management;
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response;
- Food Security;
- HIV and AIDS;
- Maternal/Child/Family Health Services;
- Formal and Popular/Informal Education;
- Rural Infrastructure/Quick Impact Program;
- Peace Building;
- Psychosocial Wellbeing of Women;
- Rural Micro Financing;

Water and Sanitation;  
Economic Opportunities;  
Advocacy and Policy Engagement; and  
Strengthening the Civil Society

CARE Nepal has 184 staff in Nepal. All of CARE Nepal's programs are focused towards areas that are geographically challenged and remote. Its primary focus is areas of Churia and other remote areas. Its secondary focus is Far/Mid-western and Central Terai of Nepal.

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Eva Lystad, Chairperson  
Robert Glasser, Secretary General  
Marcy Vigoda, Deputy Secretary General

### **Caritas Nepal**

Nepal Website: <http://www.caritasnepal.org/eng/index.php>  
Main: <http://www.caritas.org/>

Caritas is the name by which the Roman Catholic Church's relief, development and social service organizations operating around the world are known. According to Caritas website, there are 162 Caritas agencies in existence in over 200 countries and territories around the globe. These national Caritas organizations operate as the social arm of the Catholic Church in the country.

The first Caritas organization was started in Freiburg, Germany, in 1897. Collectively, Caritas organizations around the world have formed an international confederation of Catholic relief, development and social service organizations, which is known as Caritas Internationalis. Its General Secretariat is located in the Palazzo San Calisto in Vatican City, Rome, Italy.

#### **Caritas in Nepal**

Caritas Nepal was established in 1990. According to its website, Caritas Nepal works in solidarity with the poor, downtrodden, marginalized people of Nepal with a mission to empower them to overcome poverty and realize basic human rights and social justice and to provide relief to those suffering from disasters and conflict.

Caritas Nepal focuses its projects in the areas of disaster preparedness, response and rehabilitation. CRS also works towards providing food security, reducing poverty, promoting peacebuilding, supporting women and children's rights, offering Bhutanese refugee children's education and empowering grassroots movements.

There are some 50 staff members, 30 of who are employed by the Central Office in Kathmandu and the rest by the regional and sub offices located in Damak, Pokhara, Nepalgunj and Bardiya.



Caritas Nepal carries out its work in the field through partnership with selected local NGOs. Caritas Nepal's local partnership network now covers the length and breadth of the country. It also partners with UN agencies and occasionally collaborates with other INGOs.

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### **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**

Nepal Website: <http://crs.org/countries/nepal>  
Main: <http://crs.org/>

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) was founded in 1943 and has since expanded in size to reach more than 100 million people in more than 100 countries on five continents. CRS mission is to assist impoverished and disadvantaged people overseas.

#### **CRS in Nepal**

According to its website, CRS focuses primarily on supporting Caritas Nepal in emergency aid to families affected by disasters. In 2005, CRS broadened its scope to include projects in counter-trafficking and civic education. In 2007, CRS provided 214 families with permanent shelter following severe monsoon floods. CRS also provided food to more than 5,000 families whose crops and food stocks were lost in the 2008 monsoon flooding and helped them rebuild their livelihoods.

CRS also funds education programs for refugee youth from neighboring Bhutan, whose families were displaced in Nepal. CRS covers tuition for 275 students each year.

In 2005, CRS began supporting Caritas Nepal in raising awareness of human trafficking of women and children. CRS continues this prevention work and is collaborating with Caritas Nepal in order to empower those affected by trafficking and migration.

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### **Dan Church Aid**

Nepal Website: <http://www.danchurchaid.org/projects/asia/nepal>  
Main: [www.danchurchaid.org](http://www.danchurchaid.org)

DanChurchAid's aim is to strengthen the world's poorest people in their struggle for a life in dignity. DanChurchAid is part of the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) – that consists of more than 100 churches and humanitarian organizations across the world. ACT Alliance works with development, humanitarian assistance and advocacy in more than 120 countries.

#### **Work in Nepal**

Since the end of the 1980s, DanChurchAid has been supporting development work in Nepal, according to its website. The work is focused on traditional development fields like clean drinking water, irrigation systems and improvement of infrastructures. DanChurchAid is also focusing on improving the rights of the poor.

DanChurchAid works to improve everyday life for:

People with no caste who are denied food, education and health services;  
Poor villagers who need help to prepare for future disasters; and  
Migrants looking for jobs in other countries.

DanChurchAid cooperates with numerous local partners, other national and church organizations as well as international networks.

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### **Danish Red Cross**

<http://www.rodekors.dk/in+english>  
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International Activities:  
Development Activities  
•Capacity building of National Societies worldwide  
•Community-based health  
•HIV/AIDS prevention and care

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## **Duryog Nivaran**

<http://www.duryognivaran.org/>

Duryog Nivaran is a research, training and advocacy network committed to promoting disaster risk reduction in South Asia. According to its website, it strives to build the knowledge base of stakeholders by sharing research findings, information, experiences and insights on emerging issues of disaster management in the region.

The Duryog Nivaran network was established in 1995 to fill a void in cross border dialogue and experience sharing among organizations, governmental or otherwise. The initial partnership began with a number of organizations from five South Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and ADPC. The current membership has been extended to the Maldives, Afghanistan and Bhutan.

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## **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

<http://www.thegef.org/gef/>

The GEF unites 182 countries in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives. The GEF is the largest public funder of projects to improve the global environment, according to its website. The GEF provides grants for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants.

Since 1991, the GEF has achieved a strong track record with developing countries and countries with economies in transition, providing \$10.5 billion in grants and leveraging \$51 billion in co-financing for over 2,700 projects in over 165 countries. Through its Small Grants Programme (SGP), the GEF has also made more than 14,000 small grants directly to civil society and community based organizations, totaling \$634 million.

The GEF also serves as financial mechanism for the following conventions:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

The GEF was established in October 1991 as a US\$1 billion pilot program in the World Bank to assist in the protection of the global environment and to promote environmental sustainable development. The United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Program, and the World Bank were the three initial partners implementing GEF projects. In 1994, the GEF was restructured and moved out of the World Bank system to become a permanent, separate institution, however, the bank has served as the Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund and provided administrative services.

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### **Habitat for Humanity International**

Nepal Website: <http://www.habitatnepal.org/>  
Main: <http://www.habitat.org>

Habitat for Humanity (HFH) is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian ministry founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a decent, safe and affordable place to live. HFH builds houses that are simple, decent, and affordable to low-income families around the world and whenever possible, builds sustainable, energy-efficient and healthy housing.

Families left homeless by natural disasters, war and civil unrest often face dire housing situations as they struggle to rebuild their lives. HFH's Disaster Response program provides shelter and housing solutions to help these families recover.

#### **Work in Nepal**

According to its website, HFH first began working in Nepal in 1997. In the eight years to 2005, Habitat helped 830 families to build decent housing. In June 2011, HFH Nepal celebrated the 10,000th family it had helped.

HFH Nepal provides a decent home with access to water and sanitation facilities. Typically, a Habitat house measures about 31 sq. m. in area. Habitat favors the use of the low-cost and environmentally sustainable bamboo which is especially popular in the east where Habitat has set up a bamboo processing enterprise which produces corrugated bamboo roofing sheets or presses woven bamboo mats into panels for walls. Women from the local community earn

income by weaving bamboo into mats for the enterprise. In other areas, Habitat commonly uses cement blocks or bricks and mud.

Each home partner family contributes their own labor, to build their own house as well as those of others. Families also provide raw materials such as timber, bamboo or mud from their own land to reduce the loan they have to repay. The mortgage loan repayment period is about 30 months and repayment averages US\$7 per month.

Habitat rebuilds homes following disasters such as the Koshi flooding in August 2008 and trains families to protect their lives and property against future calamities. To ensure timely and effective response, HFH Nepal has built up a network of suppliers which are ready to provide 1,000 prefabricated bamboo emergency shelters and transitional shelters.

In July 2011, Habitat launched the “100,000 Housing Campaign” to mobilize partners, people and resources to tap locally available construction techniques and materials to help overcome the country’s chronic housing shortage. As part of this ambitious campaign, HFH Nepal is encouraging other non-governmental organizations and community-based groups to work with Habitat to add housing-related components to the services and activities they offer.

For the year ended 30th June 2011, Habitat hosted 26 teams or more than 400 volunteers. HFH Nepal is aiming to host 50 volunteer teams per year with over 35 teams lined up for 2012. Habitat will also hold “Everest Build II” in Kavre district in October 2012. International volunteers will work with home partner families to build 40 environmentally friendly homes.

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### **Handicap International**

Nepal Website: [http://www.handicap-international.org.uk/where\\_we\\_work/asia/nepal](http://www.handicap-international.org.uk/where_we_work/asia/nepal)  
Main Website: <http://www.handicap-international.us/>

Handicap International (HI) is an independent and impartial aid organization working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. HI works alongside people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, taking action and bearing witness in order to respond to their essential needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights. Since its start in 1982, Handicap International has operated in 63 countries and its work has benefited several million people.

#### Work in Nepal

According to its website, Handicap International is supporting the Nepalese physical rehabilitation services by supporting five physical rehabilitation centers in different regions of the country, training local medical professionals and improving patient access to specialized services. Since 2000, it has carried out community-based initiatives with around twenty local partner organizations, in the fields of community-based rehabilitation, disabilities prevention and awareness raising campaigns, and the inclusion of people with disabilities as full stakeholders in community, social and socio-economic life.

HI aims to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders involved in disaster management and local organizations working on disability to help them integrate disability into disaster planning. The project is also building the capacity of specific groups, including people with disabilities, to reduce their vulnerability in disaster situations and make them more prepared to face natural disasters.

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#### Heifer International

Nepal Website: <http://www.heifernepal.org/>  
Main: <http://www.heifer.org/>

Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. With gifts of livestock and training, Heifer projects help families improve their nutrition and generate income in sustainable ways. We refer to the animals as "living loans" because in exchange for their livestock and training, families agree to give one of its animal's offspring to another family in need--called Passing on the Gift.

#### Work in Nepal:

According to its website, Heifer International originally became involved in Nepal in 1957 and 1958, when the government requested specific breeds of cattle, pigs, poultry, and sheep in order to introduce high-yielding livestock into the native animal population.

Heifer Nepal works with the communities that have the greatest need for its assistance. It uses livestock and trainings as tools for poverty alleviation rather than solutions to poverty. Heifer believes development is not only about distributing inputs but about building communities, producing deeper level impact and transformation. The livestock and trainings allow Heifer to reach the community and form a relationship with them, after which Heifer works with them for their holistic transformation according to the community's vision.

In 1993, Dr. Mahendra Nath Lohani worked as a volunteer to implement Heifer's first Baruwa Goat Raising Project for a group of 25 women in Gitanagar Village Development Committee of Chitwan District. As a result of the success of the first project, another buffalo project was initiated in Sunkhani Village Development Committee of Nuwakot District in 1995. In September 1997, Heifer Nepal signed the first formal agreement with Social Welfare Council to begin its full-fledged operation in Nepal as a country office and Dr. Mahendra Nath Lohani began his service as the first country director. He currently works as the Vice President of Asia and South Pacific Programs in Heifer International.

Over 13 years, Heifer Nepal has steadily expanded its program to 38 districts of Nepal to reach over 46,000 families through 100 NGO partners.

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## **Helen Keller International**

<http://www.hki.org/>

Founded in 1915 by Helen Keller and George Kessler, Helen Keller International (HKI) is an international NGO devoted to preventing blindness and reducing malnutrition in the world. HKI currently works in 22 countries: 13 in Africa, 8 in Asia-Pacific, and the United States. HKI's commitment is to eradicate preventable blindness and to ensure children and adults no longer suffer the debilitating effects of poor nutrition.

### **Work in Nepal**

According to its website, HKI has worked in Nepal with national partners, since 1989.

Current programs include:

- Vitamin A Supplementation
- Action Against Malnutrition through Agriculture
- School Health/Trachoma Control

Vitamin A Supplementation

Nepal's national vitamin A supplementation (VAS) campaign is a public health success story thanks to the partnership that includes HKI, the Government of Nepal, UNICEF, the Nepali Technical Assistance Group (NTAG), and other NGOs. HKI works in Kathmandu, Kirtipur, Lalitpur, Madyapur, and Bhaktapur to sustain vitamin A distribution coverage for 90% of children 6-59 months. Last year, nearly 98,000 children were reached with sight-and life-saving vitamin

A. HKI works closely with NTAG to develop innovative public outreach strategies to improve vitamin A supplementation efforts.

While vitamin A supplementation has achieved 80-98% coverage in most areas of Kathmandu, there are some areas where it is notably lower. HKI has begun to look closely at the reasons for these discrepancies. The growing slum areas pose a serious problem; without access to clean water, toilets and appropriate services, the health and nutrition of children and families are at risk. HKI is gathering data to assess not only vitamin A coverage, but the overall nutritional status in these under-served areas.

#### Action Against Malnutrition through Agriculture (AAMA)

HKI's signature Homestead Food Production (HFP) programs have been improving household food security and diversification for over 10 years in Nepal. HKI's four-year AAMA program, which began in October 2008, expands on the Homestead Food Production model to deliver a package of Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) to the most vulnerable communities and populations in Nepal. The model will combine food security, behavior change communication and high impact maternal and child interventions to improve maternal and child nutrition and health. AAMA means mother in Nepalese.

AAMA provides integrated training in HFP and ENA to volunteers across the terai district of Kailali and the hill district of Baitadi in the Far West Region of Nepal with a combined population of 860,000. The limited availability of food, especially in variety and with high nutrient content, and high poverty rates contribute to the higher rates of stunting, underweight and anemia in the Far West Region.

The program develops village model farms that in turn support almost 11,000 home gardens through their associated Mothers Groups. Key ENA messages are also conveyed to these mothers and their wider communities. HKI is building on Nepal's highly successful Female Community Health Volunteer program to expand nutritional skills and introduce incentives to sustain the motivation of these community-based agents.

Over the four years, HKI expects to reach a total target population of 206,156 women of reproductive age and 41,414 children under two with Essential Nutrition Action (ENA) behavior change communications, while Homestead Food Production will benefit an estimated 40% of the population of Baitadi and 15% in Kailali. The interventions addressed include infant and young child feeding, vitamin A supplementation, control of diarrheal diseases, and maternal and neonatal care. The project is designed to be adapted and taken to scale in other areas.

The AAMA project has begun to expand beyond Kailali and Baitadi districts including: an extension of the program to Bajura and Kanchanpur districts, the implementation of a study on the added value of micronutrient powder, and a governance component that works in all 9 districts of the Far Western Region.

### School Health Project (SHP)

The SHP project in Nepal is mainly focused on trachoma elimination. The program will promote increased face-washing among school children, and improved environmental cleanliness and proper sanitation on school grounds.

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### **The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)**

<http://www.icimod.org/>

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing center serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. It is based in Kathmandu, Nepal. ICIMOD aims to assist mountain people, while addressing upstream-downstream issues.

According to ICIMOD, the center supports regional transboundary programs through partnership with regional partner institutions, facilitate the exchange of experience, and serve as a regional knowledge hub. Overall, ICIMOD is working to develop an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem to improve the living standards of mountain populations and to sustain vital ecosystem services for the billions of people living downstream.

ICIMOD has developed resource manuals on non-structural and community-based flash flood risk management and training materials based on regional and international experiences. Similarly, ICIMOD has developed techniques to identify risk areas based on advanced

geospatial data and tools. These materials can be used to build the capacity of concerned agencies in the future.

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### **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**

Nepal Website: <http://www.icrc.org/eng/where-we-work/asia-pacific/nepal/index.jsp>  
Main: [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)

The ICRC, established in 1863, works worldwide to provide humanitarian help for people affected by conflict and armed violence and to promote the laws that protect victims of war. An independent and neutral organization, its mandate stems essentially from the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, it employs some 12,000 people in 80 countries; it is financed mainly by voluntary donations from governments and from national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

#### **Work in Nepal**

Since the end of the armed conflict in 2006, the ICRC has focused on addressing the lasting humanitarian consequences of the conflict and responding to the needs of people affected by current unrest. It supports the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), relevant institutions and State authorities to improve their emergency preparedness and response capacities and promotes international humanitarian law (IHL). Most activities are conducted jointly with the NRCS, whose capacities are boosted through ICRC financial, technical and material support and training.

During the early years of the civil war, the ICRC worked in Nepal through its regional delegation in New Delhi before opening a delegation in Kathmandu in 2001. Since the end of the armed conflict, it has focused on: addressing the residual humanitarian consequences of the conflict; responding to the needs of people affected by current unrest; supporting the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), relevant institutions and State authorities to improve their emergency preparedness and response capacities; and promoting international humanitarian law (IHL). Most activities are conducted jointly with the NRCS, whose capacities are boosted through ICRC financial, technical and material support and training.

Working in the interests of families of people missing in connection with the armed conflict remains a priority for the ICRC. In cooperation with the National Society and other organizations, it assists the families of missing persons and addresses their psychosocial, economic and legal needs.

The ICRC and the NRCS help people who were injured or sustained disabilities during the armed conflict to access government reparation schemes and refer some of them to two physical rehabilitation centers supported by the ICRC with equipment, consumables and training to provide custom-made artificial limbs and support devices.

Since unexploded weapons such as improvised explosive devices continue to kill and maim civilians, the ICRC supports the NRCS' Emergency Mine Risk Education Program.

The ICRC works to ensure that NRCS is recognized as an independent and impartial humanitarian actor and supports the development of its capacity to assist victims of both situations of violence and natural disasters. This includes: first aid and ambulance services; tracing the whereabouts of persons separated from their relatives and restoring family contact; and management of mortal remains to ensure that victims are properly identified.

Similar support is provided by the ICRC to other Nepal health and rescue services to improve their emergency preparedness and response capacity, including training hospital personnel in the management of emergency trauma cases and the handling of mass casualties.

The ICRC continues to visit a small number of people detained for security reasons as it did during the conflict period, and in association with the NRCS, it enables Bhutanese refugees living in Nepal to stay in contact with and visit their relatives detained in Bhutan.

### **Contact Information**

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### **International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**

<http://www.ifrc.org/>

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network. It reaches 150 million people in 187 National Societies through the work of over 13 million volunteers.

According to its website, the IFRC strives to act before, during and after disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people. Its strength is in its volunteer network, community-based expertise and ability to give a global voice to vulnerable people. By improving humanitarian standards, working as partners in development, responding to disasters, supporting healthier and safer communities, the IFRC helps reduce vulnerabilities, strengthen resilience and foster a culture of peace around the world.

(\*See Nepal Red Cross Society for additional information on Red Cross activities in Nepal)

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**International Medical Corps**

<http://internationalmedicalcorps.org/>

International Medical Corps (IMC) is a global, humanitarian, nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives and relieving suffering through health care training and relief and development programs. Established in 1984 by volunteer doctors and nurses, IMC is a private, voluntary, nonpolitical, nonsectarian organization. Its mission is to improve the quality of life through health interventions and related activities that build local capacity in underserved communities worldwide, according to its website. By offering training and health care to local populations and medical assistance to people at highest risk, and with the flexibility to respond rapidly to emergency situations, IMC rehabilitates devastated health care systems and helps bring them back to self-reliance.

IMC Worldwide is a global humanitarian alliance that comprises the resources and capabilities of two independent affiliate organizations, International Medical Corps and International Medical Corps UK.

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## **International Rescue Committee**

<http://www.rescue.org/>

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) responds to humanitarian crises and helps people to survive and rebuild their lives. Founded in 1933 at the request of Albert Einstein, the IRC offers lifesaving care and life-changing assistance to refugees forced to flee from war or disaster. The IRC works in over 40 countries and in 22 U.S. cities.

### Work in Nepal:

#### Child and Youth Protection and Development (CYPD)

IRC's CYPD program helps conflict-affected children across Nepal, from the mid-west region, which was a hotbed of violence during the former civil war, to the eastern region, which is the center of current tensions. Funded principally by the Danish Embassy (Nepal) and UNICEF, IRC builds the capacity of communities, local government and NGOs to protect child rights and improve education and economic opportunities for conflict affected children.

### Activities include:

- Helping former child soldiers and vulnerable children return to school, access non-formal education and integrate into local income generation groups
- Working with local government agencies to train former child soldiers in vocational skills, basic literacy and business development
- Training government teachers on "Healing Classrooms," a methodology that helps teachers address needs of children in post-conflict settings
- Providing materials to schools that host conflict-affected children
- Acting as a lead agency in a national working group headed by UNICEF (Conflict Affected and Associate Children, or CAAC, Working Group)

### Protection and Governance

IRC's Protection and Governance Program promotes good governance and rights in conflict-affected communities throughout Nepal. Funded by the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, the program works on three main fronts: increasing local government's support of the recovery process, equipping communities with tools to earn a living, and helping communities mitigate, prepare for and respond to future conflict or natural disaster.

Activities include:

- Training local community groups on human rights and conflict transformation; capacitating them to become viable civil society organizations that advance participatory peace building and development in their communities and advocate on behalf of vulnerable groups
- Supporting local government to conduct community information campaigns on entitlements and rights
- Supporting local government to provide services to their citizens (issuing ID cards to Internally Displaced Peoples, issuing death/birth/marriage certificates)
- Monitoring and reporting on human rights
- Providing vulnerable households with livelihoods support and training
- Supporting community groups to implement economic infrastructure projects, such as off-season vegetable farming, animal husbandry, food processing, etc.
- Training local governments on strategies to reduce humanitarian risk

## Health

Funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department, IRC's health program aims to increase quality of and access to health care in Nepal's mountainous Jajarkot District, one of the most remote and underserved areas of the country. The program delivers short-term improvements in healthcare while helping communities be able to sustain and build on those improvements in the future. It works closely with the District Health Office and the Interdependent Society, a local NGO partner.

Activities include:

- Physically restoring and making improvements to government-run rural clinics (sub-health posts) to bring them up to a functional standard
- Supplying drugs and medical equipment to sub-health posts
- Delivering stretchers to each small community in the program's working area
- Providing health education to village women's groups while improving the skills of Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) to lead health education sessions
- Conducting community-level outreach and mobile clinics with FCHVs and health staff, giving on-the-job training in treatment of pneumonia and diarrhea to FCHVs
- Conducting community-level reproductive health clinics and providing treatment (including surgery) for women suffering from uterine prolapsed

## Contact Information

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## **Lutheran World Federation (LWF)**

<http://www.lwfnepal.org/index.htm>

A country program of the LWF/Department for World Service, The Lutheran World Federation Nepal (LWF Nepal) has been working with marginalized and disadvantaged communities for the past 24 years in the areas of relief and rehabilitation, advocacy and networking, empowerment and organizational development.

According to its website, LWF Nepal was established in 1984 and is a leading international INGO active in both development and humanitarian works. Originally engaged in sectoral development, then community development projects, LWF Nepal made a major switch in 1997 to empowerment projects. It considers a rights-based approach as the key to development process.

### **Governance and mandate**

LWF Nepal is affiliated to the Social Welfare Council—an agency of the Government of Nepal. LWF Nepal implements programs and projects, which are approved by LWF/DWS in Geneva, and the Social Welfare Council in Nepal.

The programs of this organization are guided by the Global Strategy priorities of LWF/DWS and a five-year country strategy, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, Millennium Development Goals, and Interim Plan (2007-2009) of the Government of Nepal.

### **Contact Information**

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## **Lutheran World Relief (LWR)**

<http://lwr.org/site/c.dmJXKiOYJgl6G/b.6319053/k.BDBF/Home.htm>

Our development projects focus on issues at the root causes of poverty. These debilitating causes tend to domino into more and more problems that trap people in poverty. By the same token, attacking just one of these issues can help break the cycle, making people's lives better.

According to its website, LWR works with local partners to improve rural communities' access to water, digging wells and drilling boreholes, building and restoring irrigation systems, providing clean drinking water during emergencies, and training communities on sanitation practices and water management.

### **Agriculture**

LWR works with small-scale farmers to access credit, learn about improved agricultural inputs and techniques, increase their yields, access markets and, ultimately, improve their incomes.

### **Emergency Response**

When disaster strikes, LWR provides life-saving relief and support to those most in need. LWR's response continues long after the headlines have faded, working with communities to rebuild their lives, recover their livelihoods, build resilience and pave the path to a brighter future.

### **Climate and DRR**

LWR helps rural communities adapt to the detrimental effects of changing weather patterns by focusing on agricultural techniques that make the best use of the land and water resources available. LWR implements Disaster Risk Reduction programs on the principle that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

### **Health & Livelihoods**

LWR works both to educate people about malaria and other diseases of poverty and to improve their economic situation so they are able to access health care services.

### **Civic Participation**

LWR educates and empowers marginalized people to raise their voices, advocate with their governments, and participate in the decision making processes that affect their lives.

LWR works with more than 1,000 Nepalese families on ending poverty and the suffering caused by natural disasters.

#### Health & Livelihoods

- Leading disaster planning efforts for community and health facilities
- Providing skills training in farming, livestock raising and other income-generating possibilities for women, youth and other marginalized groups

#### Climate

- Training community groups to manage their disaster risk and lessen the effects of frequent natural hazards
- Educating people on the need to preserve forests and constructing solar and hydroelectric energy sources as alternatives to wood
- Teaching people how to minimize the detrimental effects of deforestation, including flooding and desertification

#### Lutheran World Relief

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#### **Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders)**

<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>

International: [www.msf.org](http://www.msf.org)

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international medical humanitarian organization created by doctors and journalists in France in 1971. According to its website, MSF provides independent, impartial assistance in more than 60 countries to people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe, primarily due to armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, exclusion from health care or natural disasters. MSF provides independent, impartial assistance to those most in need. MSF also reserves the right to speak out to bring attention to neglected crises, challenge inadequacies or abuse of the aid system, and to advocate for improved medical treatments and protocols. In 1999, MSF received the Nobel Peace Prize.

On any given day, more than 27,000 committed individuals representing dozens of nationalities can be found providing assistance to people caught in crises around the world. They are doctors, nurses, logistics experts, administrators, epidemiologists, laboratory technicians, mental health professionals, and others.

MSF field staff is supported by their colleagues in 19 offices around the world. The vast majority of MSF's aid workers are from the communities where the crises are occurring, with ten percent of teams made up of international staff.

MSF is an international movement made up of 19 associative organizations: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States.

MSF has worked in Nepal since 2002.

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### **Mennonite Central Committee**

<http://www.mcc.org/>

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has workers or financial commitments in more than 50 countries around the world, including the U.S. and Canada. Together, MCC U.S. and MCC Canada administer this work.

According to its website, MCC continues to meet basic needs around the globe, supporting local communities and churches by sending food or material goods and funding other projects in regions recovering from war and disasters.

MCC works alongside local congregations and communities to seek long-term solutions to poverty, hunger and poor health. This includes projects to ensure access to sufficient food, clean water and quality education and to respond to the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

MCC supports local peacemakers, congregations and communities in efforts in healing, reconciliation and peace, especially in regions torn by war or armed conflict.

#### Work in Nepal

MCC Nepal's development initiatives focus on supporting a Nepali network for rural NGOs, supporting educational programs that help community workers to build peace in their local contexts and helping to extend access to sanitation, hygiene, and health services. Much of MCC Nepal's recent work has focused on HIV/AIDS awareness among migrant workers. MCC Nepal supports programming that teaches both men and women about the consequences and transmission of HIV in hopes that increased awareness and caution will help keep Nepal's infection rate from rising.

#### **Contact Information**

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(717) 859-1151  
toll-free 1-888-563-4676  
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#### **Mercy Corps**

<https://www.mercycorps.org/>

Mercy Corps is helping 19 million people recover from disasters, build stronger communities and find their own solutions to poverty, according to its website. Since its founding in 1979, Mercy Corps has provided US\$2.2 billion in assistance to people in 114 countries. Over the last five years, more than 88 percent of resources have been allocated directly to programs that help families turn crisis into opportunity in some of the world's most challenging places.

#### **Contact Information**

Mercy Corps  
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Portland, OR 97208-2669 USA  
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## **Merlin**

<http://www.merlinusa.org/>

International: <http://www.merlin.org.uk/>

Merlin is a leading UK international health charity, sending medical experts to the frontline of global emergencies. Merlin was founded in 1993. To date, Merlin has worked in over 40 countries and responded to some of the most serious humanitarian emergencies of recent history. Merlin now has over 6,000 staff members, 99% of whom are based in the field and reaching the lives of 10 million people on average each year.

### **Work in Nepal**

Merlin staff in Nepal: 30

According to its website, Merlin has been working in the isolated mid-western region in Rolpa and Pyuthan districts since 2006. They run 12 mobile clinics, providing health care to rural, conflict-affected and isolated communities who can only be reached on foot across difficult, mountainous terrain.

Merlin also supports a referral service for patients in need of specialist or hospital treatment, the majority of whom are women suffering from serious gynecological cases. Many women in this area give birth without skilled help and as a result, debilitating uterine prolapses and other complications are common.

Merlin's work also focuses on training health workers and female community health volunteers in maternal and child health care, as well as reconstructing and equipping health facilities. Merlin has built more than 450 sanitation points, helping to address the very high levels of waterborne diseases in the area.

Each month, Merlin holds 12 mobile medical camps in different areas for patients referred from local clinics. These clinics provide essential care, as well as supporting referrals for more serious cases to larger district hospitals. Teams prioritize women and children, highly vulnerable groups in Nepal.

Merlin is training health workers and female community health volunteers in community health, essential newborn care and community birth preparedness as part of the Nepalese Ministry of Health national strategy.

To strengthen the health system, Merlin is reconstructing and equipping health facilities. Since 2006, 10 health facilities have been rehabilitated and provided with furniture, medical equipment and drugs.

Female community health volunteers are essential to improving health services in remote villages. Being trained in safe birthing practices, hygiene and health promotion means that these women are an important source of knowledge in their villages. Merlin is also conducting a hygiene and sanitation promotion campaign with local partners.

### Key Achievements

- Since 2006, Merlin in Nepal has directly helped 115,290 people
- 255 health workers and 287 female community health volunteers have been trained in essential newborn care and community birth preparedness
- We have so far operated on 231 women suffering from severe uterine prolapse

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or at [info@merlinusa.org](mailto:info@merlinusa.org).

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Email: [hq@merlin.org.uk](mailto:hq@merlin.org.uk)

### Nepal Community Development Foundation (NCDF)

<http://www.nepalfriends.org/>

The Nepal Community Development Foundation (NCDF) is a registered Canadian and United States charity that supports development projects in eastern Nepal, according to its website. Since its beginning in 1989, the NCDF has helped bring water, education, health, and hope to thousands of people in rural Nepal.

The NCDF is based in Toronto, Canada and Boulder, Colorado. Projects are implemented by a sister agency in Nepal, The Namsaling Community Development Center (NCDC). The NCDC is a Nepali non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 1985 to facilitate initiatives in community self-reliance. NCDC works in partnership with community members and organizations, local and central governments, other Nepali NGOs, and international partners.

### Contact Information

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Nepal:  
Nepal Community Development Foundation  
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In eastern Nepal, please contact the NCDC office in Ilam:  
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NCDC, Ilam Bazaar, Ward - 2, Ilam District, Nepal  
tel: 977-27-20411  
email: ncdcilam@ntc.net.np

Field Office:  
Namsaling Community Development Centre (NCDC) Field Office  
Namsaling - 4, Sukrabare Bazaar, Ilam District, Nepal  
tel: 977-27-20240

### **Nepal Youth Foundation**

<http://nepalyouthfoundation.org/index.html>

The Nepal Youth Foundation (NYF) is a U.S. based nonprofit that brings hope to impoverished Nepali children by providing what should be every child's birthright – Freedom, Health, Shelter, and Education.

According to its website, the NYF's goals are:  
Increase access to education for children in Nepal;  
Improve the quality of education available in the country;  
Improve the health of children throughout Nepal;  
Empower Nepali youth to achieve their potential; and  
Enable girls in Nepal to receive equal treatment and education

The NYF's staff in Nepal has a wealth of experience with operating effective programs that help children in sustainable ways. They are entirely Nepali and are deeply committed to improving the plight of disadvantaged children in Nepal. Between NYF and partner organizations throughout Nepal, some 150 staff members implement projects.

### **Contact Information**

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Nepal Youth Foundation



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## **Oxfam**

<http://www.oxfam.org/en>

Oxfam is an international confederation of 17 organizations networked together in 92 countries, as part of a global movement for change, to build a future free from the injustice of poverty.

Working with thousands of local partner organizations, Oxfam works with people living in poverty striving to exercise their human rights, assert their dignity as full citizens and take control of their lives.

Oxfam focuses efforts in these areas:

### Development

Oxfam works with and through partners and communities on long-term programs to eradicate poverty and combat injustice.

### Emergencies

Oxfam delivers immediate life-saving assistance to people affected by natural disasters or conflict, and helps to build resilience to future disasters.

### Campaigning

Oxfam is part of a global movement for change and raises public awareness of the causes of poverty and encourages ordinary people to take action for a fairer world.

### Advocacy

Oxfam presses decision-makers to change policies and practices that reinforce poverty and injustice.

### Policy research

Oxfam speaks with authority as a result of thorough research and analysis, and the real experience of partners in developing countries.

## Work In Nepal

Oxfam is paying the community (mainly women) to build micro irrigation systems, which will enable them to grow their crops relying less on the rain. Skilled workers such as stone cutters will be paid \$5 a day and unskilled workers, who will mainly be digging and carrying stones, will be paid around \$3 a day. Oxfam supplies tools and building materials and trains the community on how to build and manage their irrigation systems, this is important because it ensures that they can maintain and fix it if anything goes wrong.

The systems work by channeling water from a local water source (spring or river) into a central reservoir located within the village. Hundreds of meters of pipes transport the water from the reservoir out onto individual pieces of land. The whole community (mainly women) work together to dig out the channels, the reservoir and construct the pipe network. The average system will take 80-100 people 3 weeks to build and is likely to serve up to 25 families. Oxfam plans to build two to three systems per community depending on the population and water sources.

## Contact Information

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## Plan International

Nepal Website: <http://plan-international.org/where-we-work/asia/nepal>  
Main: <http://plan-international.org/>

Founded 75 years ago, Plan is one of the oldest and largest children's development organizations in the world. Plan works in 50 developing countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas to promote child rights and lift millions of children out of poverty. In 2011, Plan

reached 56,500,000 children in 58,053 communities. Plan is independent, with no religious, political or governmental affiliations.

#### Work in Nepal

According to its website, Plan has been working in Nepal since 1978, helping poor children to access their rights to health, education, economic security and protection.

Plan Nepal reclaims children's rights through programs and participatory activities that place children at the center of their own development. Currently, one of our priorities is supporting early childhood care and development centers to secure young children's right to a good education. More than 30,000 children are benefiting from the program.

Plan is also working with local organizations and government agencies to ensure that policies to protect child rights are central in the new constitution.

Plan's core areas of activity include:

Strengthening health services;

Supporting early childhood care and development centers; and

Providing skills and financial assistance to disadvantaged families.

Plan's strategy in Nepal covers 5 core areas, all of which are rooted in child rights:

Health, water, sanitation and hygiene;

Basic education;

Household economic security

Child protection;

Child-centered disaster risk management; and

Health, water, sanitation and hygiene.

Plan Nepal works to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates through Pregnant Women's Groups by establishing, equipping and staffing birthing centers and training health workers.

Plan works to establish birthing centers in rural health posts and hospitals. Plan also focuses on supporting the construction of community-managed piped water supply systems, enhancing community capacity, managing services and promoting the treatment of drinking water. Plan facilitates sanitation campaigns led by children and the community to keep the environment healthy and clean.

Plan Nepal seeks to ensure that children and adults acquire basic knowledge and life skills so they can realize their potential and push development in their communities. This program helps to increase access to basic education. Plan campaigns to enroll more girls in school and provide them with scholarships to continue their education. We also work with the government to develop learning materials and curricula that are sensitive to local contexts. The main activities under this program are: supporting early childhood care and development centers, providing training to teachers, and supporting schools to have better infrastructure.

Plan encourages disadvantaged families to engage in agroforestry, fisheries, and vegetable and goat farming. Plan provides vocational skills training that can help support rural cooperatives and self-reliant groups. This program includes creating financial services for the poorest and most marginalized households, especially women who are not reached by microfinance organizations.

For high-risk women, including survivors of violence, women rescued from trafficking and those who are vulnerable, Plan operates special programs for their rehabilitation and reintegration into families.

Plan helps to implement programs that protect children's rights, particularly the elimination of child labor, gender-based violence, child marriage, human trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation. This program includes preventive interventions, awareness raising, community-protection groups and life-skills education for children at risk.

Plan Nepal operates programs to protect children, communities, staff and partners so that they can join together in times of natural and man-made disasters. We ensure health, education and other essential services are capable of addressing the needs of the children when disasters strike. More specifically, Plan works to develop a model for the government to adopt with its own child-centered disaster risk management.

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## **Practical Action**

<http://practicalaction.org/>

Practical Action (PA) uses technology to challenge poverty in developing countries. PA finds out what people are doing and helps them to do it better. Through technology they enable poor communities to build on their skills and knowledge to produce sustainable and practical solutions. By doing this each year PA helps around a million people break out of the cycle of poverty.

According to its website, PA works directly in more than 40 developing countries across the world. We have offices in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Peru, Sudan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, and our consultancy work extends across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

PA was founded by radical economist and philosopher E.F. Schumacher over 45 years ago.

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### **Save the Children**

Nepal Website:

<http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.6150545/k.B8DE/Nepal.htm>

Main: [http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.6115947/k.8D6E/Official\\_Site.htm](http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.6115947/k.8D6E/Official_Site.htm)

Save the Children (SC) is a leading independent organization creating lasting change in the lives of children in need around the world. SC works with other organizations, governments, non-profits and a variety of local partners.

SC assists with disasters, providing food, medical care and education and remains to help communities rebuild through long-term recovery programs.

SC serves impoverished, marginalized and vulnerable children and families in more than 120 nations. SC programs reach both children and those working to save and improve their lives, including parents, caregivers, community members and members of our partner organizations.

Through disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, rapid humanitarian relief and long-term recovery programs, SC also assists millions of girls and boys at risk of or affected by natural disasters, conflicts and ethnic violence.

In Nepal

As of April 1st, 2009, Save the Children became one of the largest child-focused organizations in Nepal, working with over 90 partners in 56 districts and reaching over 1.5 million children.

### **Contact Information**

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1.202.640.6600 (9:00AM - 5:00PM EST)

twebster@savechildren.org

### **South Asia Cooperative Environment Program (SACEP)**

<http://www.sacep.org/default.htm>

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region. SACEP member countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

According to the SACEP website, most of the South Asian nations share many similar environmental problems, stemming from poverty and its consequences on natural resources.

Many countries of the region have taken actions for the protection and management of the environment. They are also party to many multilateral environmental agreements requiring them to work cooperatively for the mitigation of concern issues. SACEP supports national government's efforts for environmental protection and sustainable development

Since its creation, SACEP has implemented a number of projects and programs in the areas of environment education, environment legislation, biodiversity, air pollution, and the protection and management of the coastal environment. SACEP is also secretariat for the South Asian Seas Program.

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## **Transparency International**

Nepal website: <http://www.tinepal.org/>  
<http://www.transparency.org/>

Transparency International Nepal (TIN) is a civil society institution dedicated to increasing public accountability and curbing corruption in all walks of life. TIN is an important part of the worldwide network of national chapters of Transparency International generating a global movement against corruption. Transparency International is active in more than 90 countries with a small secretariat in Berlin. It coordinates the national chapters and builds up support for them as part of a growing international movement for a transparent and corruption-free society.

TIN envisions a Nepal in which government, politics, business, civil society and the people are free of corruption. TIN's mission is to work towards a corruption-free Nepal.

### **Contact Information**

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## **Water Aid**

<http://www.wateraidamerica.org/>

According to its website, WaterAid international was officially formed in 2010 as part of WaterAid's development into a global organization.

WaterAid enables the world's poorest people to gain access to safe water and sanitation. Together with improved hygiene, these basic human rights underpin health, education and livelihoods, forming the first essential step in overcoming poverty.

WaterAid works with local partners, who understand local issues, and provide them with the skills and support to help communities set up and manage practical and sustainable projects that meet their real needs. WaterAid also works locally and internationally to change policy and practice and ensure that water, hygiene and sanitation's vital role in reducing poverty is recognized.

### **Work in Nepal**

According to its website, WaterAid has worked in Nepal since 1986, to help poor people gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education.

Although it is estimated that most people in Nepal have access to water, in highland areas distances to water sources can be great and the journeys treacherous. The lowland Terai wells are often highly polluted and the quality of water is affected by the presence of arsenic in many areas. Over half of the population does not have access to sanitation, spreading disease through unhygienic living environments.

Water Aid's activities with six partner organizations are vital as without safe water to drink and somewhere hygienic to go to the toilet, the poverty cycle remains unchallenged.

WaterAid has implemented 700 rural water, sanitation and hygiene projects serving more than 800,000 rural people and 100 urban projects reaching more than 70,000 people; Provided water, sanitation and hygiene education to 3% of the total rural population; Helped establish civil society organizations such as NGO Forum on Urban Water and Sanitation and Federation of Rural Water and Sanitation Users Groups to improve governance in the water sector.

The extreme topography of Nepal is a challenge in itself and determines which areas can be accessed and the methods used to ensure safe drinking water and improved sanitation. Technologies are chosen that are appropriate to local conditions, affordable and easy to set up and maintained by the communities themselves.

Ensuring the quality of water sources is another major challenge. In the lowland Terai arsenic has been found in 17% of wells. WaterAid and its partners use arsenic detection and mitigation methods to keep wells safe.



Falling water tables and ground water pollution pose additional problems to providing water and sanitation services to the poorest communities.

In the hills WaterAid-supported projects use gravity flow piped supplies where water can be transported by pipes from natural springs to tapstands near to homes. In Kathmandu traditional wells are rehabilitated and shallow tubewells installed.

Hygiene education is included in WaterAid's projects so that communities learn the importance of handling water safely and associated hygiene practices.

WaterAid's partner, NEWAH has piloted the establishment of SaniMarts in the Eastern region of Udayapur. SaniMarts are easily accessible shops, staffed by trained sanitation promoters, where otherwise hard to come by latrine construction materials, are sold at affordable rates. This has hugely increased the accessibility of latrine parts.

WaterAid works with its NGO partners to campaign for policy change to keep water and sanitation high on the national agenda. A recent campaign is one calling on the government to provide adequate toilet facilities in schools.

WaterAid supports the Federation of Water and Sanitation Users Group (FEDWASUN) - a network with more than with 700 water and sanitation users groups representing 50,000 households.

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### **World Bank**

<http://www.worldbank.org/>

The World Bank (WB) Group has been a development partner in Nepal for the past four decades, providing financing, technical assistance and advice. The primary purpose of the WB is: the reduction of poverty to raise the living standards of the Nepali people.

The WB provided its first technical assistance grant to Nepal in 1964 to finance and organize a transport survey. The first credit was approved in 1969 for a telecommunications project. Over the next decade, the Bank's assistance focused mainly on agriculture, irrigation and infrastructure development in telecommunications, highways, power, and water supply and sanitation.

In the following decades it became increasingly apparent that greater investments were needed in its human resources for Nepal to attain its full potential. At the same time, for development to be sustainable, it needed to include measures to protect the country's natural resources.

While Bank assistance in the traditional areas continued, an increasing amount of assistance was provided in education and health, and to support forest management aimed at conserving Nepal's precious biodiversity. Protection of the environment was also given increasing importance in all Bank financed projects.

The World Bank Group will continue to help Nepal develop the systems, institutions and skills required to ensure that the future Nepali State prospers and deliver the benefits of development to its citizens in an inclusive and accountable manner.

The Bank will continue to support Nepal's efforts at overcoming constraints in terms of productivity, connectivity and the delivery of public services, as well as help disadvantaged Nepalese cope with economic and social vulnerabilities.

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### **World Vision**

Nepal Website: <http://nepal.wvasiapacific.org/>  
Main: <http://www.worldvision.org/>

World Vision (WV) is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. According to its website, World Vision started out in Korea in 1950 to meet the needs of children orphaned by the war in Korea. From there, the program expanded to other Asian nations and gradually spread to over one hundred countries.

## Work in Nepal

World Vision (WV) first started its development initiatives in Nepal in 1982 by donating funds to local groups for building hospitals and providing health care. In response to the 1988 earthquake, WV supported local non-governmental organizations in providing assistance to quake victims. Likewise, in 1993, WV helped flood victims through local partners. WV formally started its long-term development work in Nepal after signing both general and project agreement with the Social Welfare Council in 2001. Over the past eight years, WV has funded community development and currently WV is operational in 12 districts of Nepal; namely, Bhaktapur, Doti, Rupandehi, Jumla, Kathmandu, Kaski, Kailali, Lamjung, Lalitpur, Morang, Sunsari and Udayapur.

In July 2009, World Vision International Nepal (WVIN) introduced two new Area Development Programs (ADPs) pilot testing the Integrated Program Model (IPM) with Udayapur IPM (WV Taiwan Funded) and Doti IPM (WV Japan funded).

At present, WVIN puts a special focus on Early Childhood Care and Development, Community Health (water and sanitation), Education, Livelihoods support, HIV and AIDS, Leadership and Local Governance in community development along with advocacy and relief programs in 12 districts across Nepal.

Child focused ADP is WV's primary approach to carry out the transformational development in the community where WV works. ADP is a long term development program (10 to 15 years) in which World Vision works with the poor and its partners in specific, defined, targeted geographical locations to address micro and macro poverty issues in the areas of Community Health focusing on Water and Sanitation, Education, Early Childhood Care and Development, Emergency Relief and Disaster Mitigation, Livelihoods and HIV and AIDS initiatives.

Development in World Vision is defined as transformational development and encompasses five domains of change; well-being of children, their families and communities; empowered children to be agents of transformation; transformed relationships; interdependent and empowered communities; and transformed systems and structures. Recognizing that girls and women are often marginalized in the development process, transformational development highlights and addresses the situation and potential of women and girls, and strengthen families and communities to intentionally empower girls and women in Nepal.

Advocacy is one of the main ways of bringing about changes in unjust policies, systems and structures. WV Nepal seeks to engage in advocacy campaigns at local and national levels on the themes and issues impacting children.

In Nepal, World Vision has established relationships with various governmental, non-governmental and multilateral agencies for rapid emergency response.

Sponsorship is a way to enable vulnerable children to have access to basic services such as health and education. Using the child as a link, sponsorship builds relationship between individual sponsor and the child's community in our Area Development Program. By the end of 2008, 23,866 children were registered as sponsored children and WVIN regularly monitored their health and education status as well as other children in the community. Funds from sponsorship supported a wide range of development activities that benefited children, their families and the communities they live in. Children from marginalized and economically deprived group were taken into the sponsorship program through a transparent identifying process involving local community committees.

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### **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/home-full.html>

For 50 years, WWF has been protecting the future of nature. The world's leading conservation organization, WWF works in 100 countries and is supported by close to 5 million globally.

Goal and Strategies:

By 2020, WWF will conserve 15 of the world's most ecologically important regions by working in partnership with others to:

- Protect and restore species and their habitats
- Strengthen local communities' ability to conserve the natural resources they depend upon
- Transform markets and policies to reduce the impact of the production and consumption of commodities
- Ensure that the value of nature is reflected in decisions made by individuals, communities, governments and businesses
- Mobilize hundreds of millions of people to support conservation

### **Contact Information**

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## Foreign Government Overseas Development Agencies

### **DANIDA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark**

<http://um.dk/en/danida-en/>

Danida is Denmark's development cooperation agency, which is an area of activity under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. Denmark is engaged in development policy at the global level, but the engagement is focused on the poorest countries where the needs are greatest.

According to its website, Denmark's development policy aims to combat fighting poverty through promotion of human rights and economic growth. Danida has responsibility for the planning, implementation and quality assurance of Denmark's development cooperation. There is local and posted staff at Danish embassies and missions abroad. Danish bilateral development cooperation is decentralized, and the relevant embassies have the primary responsibility for development cooperation in the priority countries.

Denmark has a broad network in many countries: national and local government authorities, international agencies, civil society organizations, private companies, the research environment and other relevant actors. In the vast majority of cases the government authorities are important partners.

Development cooperation in Asia is targeted at reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development, good governance and respect for human rights. Assistance in Asia goes primarily to countries in South Asia with active engagements in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan, according to Danida.

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### **DFID, United Kingdom (UK) Department for International Development**

Main: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/>

Nepal: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/where-we-work/asia-south/nepal/>

The Department for International Development (DFID) was set up in 1997, and made fighting world poverty its top priority, according to its website. This marked a turning point for Britain's aid program, which until then had mainly involved economic development. Among its key

objectives, DFID set out to make global development a national priority and promote it to audiences in the UK and overseas, while fostering a new 'aid relationship' with governments of developing countries.

## Work in Nepal

DFID's top priorities:

Supporting the peace process, strengthening governance and improving security and access to justice;

Helping poor and excluded people benefit from growth;

Helping to deliver better health and education;

Helping people adapt to climate change;

Reducing risk from disasters, including earthquakes; and

Improving the lives of women and girls.

DFID is providing £331 million over the four years from April 2011 to March 2015. DFID Nepal's Operational Plan is divided into four main areas: inclusive wealth creation; governance and security; human development (basic services, including education and health); and climate change/disaster risk reduction. It includes a strong focus on supporting girls and women.

DFID predicts that the results will include 230,000 additional jobs created; 1.8 million more people brought within four hours' walk of the nearest road; reduced vulnerability to climate change of 3 million poor; and 110,000 more people benefiting from safe latrines.

DFID also announced a new fund for earthquake preparedness in Nepal in January 2012. DFID will provide around Rs 2 billion over four years for Nepal's disaster risk management and as well as to help reconstruct at least 162 schools damaged by the September earthquake last year. DFID's new disaster preparedness program will strengthen Nepal's disaster risk management and support building code compliance. It will scale up resilience of people to earthquake and other disasters.

(Source: UK aid for disaster risk management <http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=UK+aid+for+disaster+risk+management+&NewsID=316809>)

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## **European Commission's European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO)**

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm)

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) was created in 1992 as an expression of the European solidarity with people in need all around the world. In its 20 year existence it has provided €14 billion of humanitarian assistance to victims of conflict and disasters in 140 countries around the globe. Over the last five years ECHO's annual budget has averaged €1 billion. In 2011 alone these funds reached nearly 150 million of the world's most vulnerable people in over 80 countries, according to its website.

ECHO has more than 300 people working in its headquarters in Brussels and more than 400 in 44 field offices located in 38 countries around the world. Immediately following a disaster they go to the crisis to carry out needs assessments, following this they monitor the implementation of the EU-funded humanitarian projects.

In order to implement humanitarian operations, ECHO cooperates with over 200 partners, including the UN, and NGOs. In partnership with these humanitarian organizations ECHO has a very fast response capacity allowing funding and staff to be rapidly deployed.

Another type of crisis is the one forgotten by the world's media and most of its donors, and thus receives very little aid. ECHO conducts an annual 'forgotten crisis assessment' to identify crises, ensure they get funding and attempt to raise their profile within the humanitarian community.

The key instrument for European civil protection is the Civil Protection Mechanism (CPM) which was established in 2001. EU Civil Protection Mechanism is made up of 32 states which cooperate in the field of civil protection to better protect people, their environment, property and cultural heritage in the event of major natural or man-made disasters occurring both inside and outside the EU. The assistance can take the form of in-kind assistance, equipment and teams, or involve sending experts to carry out assessments. It relies on government resources and, if assistance is required in third countries, usually works in parallel with or hands over to humanitarian aid.

The operational heart of CPM is the European Commission's Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is currently being transformed into the



European Emergency Response Centre (ERC). Any country inside or outside EU affected by a disaster and overwhelmed by its magnitude can make an appeal for assistance through the MIC/ERC.

The European Civil Protection Mechanism has responded to many emergencies outside the EU. The European Union has a number of agreements with third countries, regional initiatives and international organizations to facilitate the provision of civil protection assistance and to undertake joint preparedness measures.

The European civil protection covers three phases of the disaster management cycle: Prevention, Preparedness & Response.

#### Prevention

The European Commission supports and complements prevention efforts of Participating States in the CPM, focusing on areas where a common European approach is more effective than separate national approaches.

#### Preparedness

Preparatory measures are undertaken at EU level to allow rapid mobilization of assistance intervention teams in case of emergency, as well to ensure effective response capability and complementarity of assets. The EU also supports cooperation projects helping to prepare communities and the general population.

#### Response

The CPM interventions cover all types of major emergencies, including natural and man-made disasters, acts of terrorism and technological, radiological and environmental accidents, including accidental marine pollution.

#### Work in Nepal

According to its website, ECHO has been working in Nepal for many years, implementing community-based disaster preparedness, assisting the Bhutanese refugees and helping the survivors of civil conflict in remote areas. Humanitarian aid to Nepal has totaled over €65, 3 million since 2001.

#### 'Forgotten' Bhutanese refugees

Almost 80,000 Bhutanese refugees remain in camps in South-Eastern Nepal. With little hope for a political solution, the refugees are dependent, landless and officially forbidden from working. ECHO's 2010 €1.5 million humanitarian aid will help with food assistance.

#### Prone to natural disasters

Nepal is prone to natural disasters impacting hundreds of thousands of people. The European Commission both responds to disasters and helps communities build their resilience to natural catastrophes by mitigating the risks. ECHO's current €2.8 million will help vulnerable communities to better prepare.

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## **Germany Technical Cooperation Agency (GIZ) (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH)**

<http://www.giz.de/en/>

According to its website, the services delivered by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH draw on regional and technical expertise and tried and tested management know-how. As a federal enterprise, GIZ supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. GIZ is also engaged in international education work around the globe.

GIZ operates in many fields: economic development and employment promotion; governance and democracy; security, reconstruction, peacebuilding and civil conflict transformation; food security, health and basic education; and environmental protection, resource conservation and climate change mitigation. In crises, GIZ carries out refugee and emergency aid programs. GIZ also second development workers to partner countries.

### **Work in Nepal**

GIZ has been active in Nepal since 1975 on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and opened its own office in the capital, Kathmandu, in 1979. At present 19 seconded staff and about 250 national staff, 11 CIM experts, 25 development advisors, 7 of them working under the auspices of the Civil Peace Service (CPS), and 12 weltwärts volunteers are working in Nepal, according to its website.

The goal of GIZ in Nepal is to reduce poverty, to ensure inclusive development and to improve the country's economic and political framework.

The priority areas of German-Nepalese cooperation are:

- Local self-government and civil society
- Renewable energies and energy efficiency
- Health care and family planning.

GIZ is also supporting economic development and the peace process.

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## **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/index.html>  
<http://www.jica.go.jp/nepal/english/index.html>

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) aims to contribute to the promotion of international cooperation as well as the sound development of the Japanese and global economy by supporting the socioeconomic development, recovery or economic stability of developing regions, according to its website. JICA was established October 1, 2003. Full-time Staff is 1,827 (estimate; end of fiscal 2011)

### JICA's Assistance for Nepal Poverty Reduction

JICA supports poverty reduction in Nepal by implementing various programs in agriculture, rural development, education and health.

### Agriculture and Rural Development

JICA-Nepal contributes to the improvement of rural livelihood through agriculture by addressing food security, income generation, and capacity development of government and farmers' groups. It also aims to ensure that people have equal access to assets and services.

### Basic Education

JICA-Nepal provides support to improve access, quality and management of basic education through different schemes.

### Health

JICA-Nepal aims to improve health conditions in Nepal by extending support to the basic health and medical service delivery through different schemes.

### For Democratization and Peacebuilding

JICA supports Nepal's Democratization and Peacebuilding process with a focus on democratic institutionalization, as well as strengthening governance at the central and local level.

### Support Democratization Process

JICA-Nepal promotes the democratization process through capacity development in significant political development, such as constitution making and general elections, adoption of electoral

system, development/reformation of basic laws and strengthening access to laws and justice. JICA also supports the development of free and fair media.

#### Strengthen Capability of the Central Government

JICA-Nepal assists state building in Nepal by strengthening governance at central and local levels. It provides capacity building at central level primarily on project planning, implementation, and monitoring & evaluation. The main strategy is to develop awareness of the central government on ownership and to reinforce planning and implementation capacity, policies and systems for effective development programs as well as improving government institutions.

#### Empowerment of Local Government and Communication

JICA-Nepal helps to strengthen local government's capacity for project implementation and better service delivery. It endorses models for participatory development planning and implementation responding to local needs with particular focus on socially disadvantaged and conflict-affected people, while strengthening the citizen and community's protection and their capacity

#### For Establishment of Social and Economic Infrastructure

JICA-Nepal's support in this area is focused on transport infrastructure, electric power, water supply, and urban environment by incorporating Technical Cooperation, Grant Aid and Yen Loan.

#### Transportation

JICA-Nepal aims to secure a land route that is stable, reliable, and highly disaster-resistant by establishing and maintaining a road network that links the capital of Katmandu with India and the Terai Plain. JICA will also conduct a study securing a safe transportation network by establishing regional roads, bridges, and other facilities.

#### Electric Power

JICA-Nepal aims to improve planning and facility establishment toward stable power supply as well as the planning capabilities of Ministry of Water Resources, and the technical standards of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) in order to contribute to sustainable economic and industrial development and stable livelihoods.

#### Water Supply

JICA-Nepal is supporting construction of new waterworks facilities as well as improvement of water-supply services through better management and development of technical capacity for water-supply entities.

#### Urban Environment

JICA-Nepal aims to resolve urban environmental problems and improve living environments, as well as to contribute towards reduction of earthquake-caused damages.

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### **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**

<http://www.saarc-sec.org/>

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) comprises Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The SAARC was established on December 8, 1985. The SAARC Secretariat is situated at Thamel, Kathmandu, Nepal.

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SAARC has two regional centers located in Nepal:

#### **SAARC TB and HIV/AIDS Centre**

<http://www.saarctb.org/>

SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC) is one of the Regional Centers of SAARC working for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National TB Control Programs (NTPs) and National AIDS Control Programs (NACPs) of Member Countries.

## **Contact Information**

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## **SAARC InformationCenter**

<http://www.saarc-sic.org/beta/index.asp>

The SAARC Information Centre (SIC) will serve as a hub for the projection of SAARC activities as well as SAARC Regional events or information and media matter.

SAARC Disaster Management Framework:  
(For full text: <http://saarc-sdmc.nic.in/pdf/framework.pdf>)

In the aftermath of Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004, a Special Session of the SAARC Environment Ministers was held at Male on 25 June 2005. The Ministers concluded the meeting by adopting the "Male Declaration," which decided that an Expert Group of the member countries shall meet at Dhaka, Bangladesh to formulate a Comprehensive Framework on Early Warning, Disaster Management and Disaster Prevention, according to the SAARC.

The Expert Group met on 7-9 February, 2006 in Dhaka and developed a comprehensive framework on disaster management in South Asia. The framework is aligned with the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. The Framework was approved by the SAARC Council of Ministers on 30 July 2006 and by the Fourteenth SAARC Summit in New Delhi in 3-4 April 2007.

The Framework provides a platform for South Asian countries to:

- Establish and strengthen the regional disaster management system to reduce risks and to improve response and recovery management at all levels;
- Identify and elaborate country and regional priorities for action;
- Share best practices and lessons learnt from disaster risk reduction efforts at national levels;
- Establish a regional system to develop and implement regional programs and projects for early warning;
- Establish a regional system of exchanging information on prevention, preparedness and management of natural disasters;
- Create a regional response mechanism dedicated to disaster preparedness, emergency relief and rehabilitation to ensure immediate response; and
- Create a regional mechanism to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of achievements towards goals and strategies.

## **SAARC Disaster Management Center**

<http://saarc-sdmc.nic.in/index.asp>

The SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) was set up in October 2006 at the premises of the National Institute of Disaster Management in New Delhi. The Centre has the mandate to serve the members of SAARC by providing policy advice and facilitating capacity building services including strategic learning, research, training, system development and exchange of information for effective disaster risk reduction and management in South Asia, according to the SAARC website.

The Centre is a sleek body of professionals working on various dimensions of disaster risk reduction and management in South Asia. The Centre is networking through the National Focal Points of the Member Countries with the various Ministries, Departments and Scientific, Technical, Research and Academic institutions within and outside the Government working on various aspects of disaster risk reduction and management.

The Centre conducts studies and research, organizes workshops and training programs, publishes its reports and documents and provides various policy advisory services to the Member Countries.

### **Contact Information**

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### **US Agency for International Development (USAID)**

*For information see "Key US Government Agencies in Nepal"*

## National (Nepal) NGOs

Following is a list of some of the key local and national NGOs in Nepal:

### **Friends Service Council Nepal (FSCN)**

<http://www.fscnepal.org/>

Friends Service Council Nepal (FSCN) works in socio-economic development and human rights in Nepal. According to its website, FSCN aims to fight against poverty and injustice through empowerment of the poor and marginalized people living in difficult circumstances. Registered in 1991, under the Government registration act, and affiliated with Social Welfare Council and NGO Federation of Nepal, the central office is based in Lalitpur district.

Objectives:

- To empower women, Dalit and marginalized groups to fight against all forms of social discriminations
- To increase livelihood options and food security of the right holders through sustainable agriculture
- To increase health, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion of right holders
- To increase community resilience to cope with disaster & climate change adaptation
- To protect, promote and practice human rights, governance and democracy.

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### **Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC)**

<http://www.insec.org.np/>

INSEC was founded in 1988 by HR defender Prakash Kaphley and prominent HR activist Sushil Pyakurel. Started with the objective of protecting the rights of people engaged in informal sectors, it has significantly contributed in protecting and promoting the fundamental rights of people in virtually all sectors. The efforts made during its early days made effective contributions



in institutionalizing the democratic polity in the nation from a rights-based approach, both at the policy and grassroots levels, especially after the restoration of democracy in 1990/91.

Immediately after its inception, INSEC implemented a program targeting the cart pushers of the Kathmandu valley. The program sought to protect their economic rights through study, advocacy and campaigning for ensuring appropriate labor wages. INSEC has gradually identified its core competency areas which are organizing campaigns, victims' reparation, reconciliation, awareness creation and education programs for making people capable of asserting their civil and political rights and documentation of human rights situation of the country and its dissemination at national and international arenas. Education, monitoring, lobbying, advocacy, research and training on issues related to human rights have also been major regular undertakings for INSEC.

INSEC is focused towards working with disadvantaged groups. Its targeted working groups have been the agricultural laborers, conflict victims', underprivileged women, and socially discriminated people and children.

#### Mission

INSEC's focus is to work towards the promotion of policies, institutions and capacity that contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights and democratic freedom. It aspires to be a watchdog, lobbyist and policy interventionist while pursuing its stated mission.

#### INSEC Online

INSECOnline.org (<http://www.inseconline.org/>) is the first human rights news portal in Nepal. It was launched on July 31, 2004 on the occasion of the 12th death anniversary of human rights defender late Prakash Kaphley. INSECOnline is run by INSEC, recognized for its reliable database on human rights violations.

INSECOnline has human rights reporters in all 75 districts of the country. They send the news related to human rights issues to the desk as soon as possible. INSECOnline also gets information from the INSEC partner organizations present in nearly 50 districts. Five regional offices are also crucial for the smooth functioning of service. INSECOnline uploads fact finding reports on human rights violations, periodic reports and human rights magazines along with other relevant activities and information.

#### Contact Information

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Syuchatar, Kalanki, Kathmandu, Nepal  
G.P.O. Box: 2726, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel.: +977-1-4278770  
Fax: +977-1-4 270551  
E-mail: [insec@insec.org.np](mailto:insec@insec.org.np)

Eastern Regional Office Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC)

Janpathtole, Biratnagar-15  
Morang, Nepal  
Tel: +977-21-524025, 977-21-528127  
Fax: +977-21-528521  
Email: [biratnagar@insec.org.np](mailto:biratnagar@insec.org.np)

Mid Regional Office Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC)  
Satya Sai Marga, Pulchowk  
Lalitpur, Nepal  
Tel: 977-1- 5526466  
Fax: 977-1-5531701  
Email: [kathmandu@insec.org.np](mailto:kathmandu@insec.org.np)

Western Regional Office Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC)  
AnnapurnaTole, Pokhara-7  
House NO. 106-2  
Kaski, Nepal  
Tel: 977-61-526512, 977-61-533709  
Fax: 977-61-533792  
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Mid-Western Regional Office Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC)  
National Trading Road, Nepalgunj  
Banke, Nepal  
Tel: +977-81-524504, +977-81-522068  
Fax: +977-81-526949  
Email: [nepalgunj@insec.org.np](mailto:nepalgunj@insec.org.np)

Far Western Regional Office Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC)  
Uttarbehadi, Ratopul, Dhangadi-4  
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Fax: +977-91-523244  
Email: [dhangadi@insec.org.np](mailto:dhangadi@insec.org.np)

### **Jalshrot Vikash Sanstha (JVS)**

#### **GWP Nepal**

<http://www.jvs-nwp.org.np/>

Jalshrot Vikash Sanstha (JVS) – Association for Water Development, Nepal was formed in 1999 and works in the field of water resource development. It works as the Nepal Water Partnership office as a local-level institution of the Global Water partnership.

GWP Nepal/JVS strives to realize the following objectives to:

Help formulate policies on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM);  
Help sustainable conservation, utilization and management of water resources;  
Analyze the prevailing differences among donor agencies and recipient countries and suggest remedial measures;  
Help develop methods for optimal utilization of water resources;  
Work for the development of integrated approach at the local, national, bilateral and regional level;  
Coordinate and work collaboratively with partner institutions; and  
Share experience, knowledge and information on the development of water resources.

### **Contact Information**

Ratopool, Rudramati Marg,  
House No. 2567, Ward No. 2  
General Post Box No. 20694  
Kathmandu, Nepal.  
Phone: 977-1-4434424  
Fax: 977-1-4434431  
Email: [jvs@wlink.com.np](mailto:jvs@wlink.com.np)

### **Maiti Nepal**

<http://www.maitinepal.org/>

Maiti Nepal was born out of a crusade to protect Nepali girls and women from crimes like domestic violence, trafficking for flesh trade, child prostitution, child labor and various forms of exploitation and torture. A group of socially committed professionals like teachers, journalists and social workers together formed Maiti Nepal in 1993 to fight against all the social evils inflicted upon our female populace. Most of all, its special focus has always been on preventing trafficking for forced prostitution, rescuing flesh trade victims and rehabilitating them. Maiti Nepal also actively works to find justice for the victimized lot of girls and women by engaging in criminal investigation and waging legal battles against criminals.

Maiti's focus has always been on prevention of girl trafficking, a burning issue for Nepal. Rescuing girls forced into prostitution and helping to find economic alternatives have been our key struggle. Rehabilitation, although not literally possible especially with former prostitutes, is one major challenge we have accepted in our work. The practical steps would be to counsel them and provide non-formal education on health, laws, basic reading and writing. They are also trained to develop income-generation skills and provided Maiti's shelter until they are ready to stand on their feet. The sexually abused girls, abandoned children, potential victims of trafficking, destitute women, prisoner's children, returnees from Indian brothels, girls and children infected with HIV and Hepatitis B, intercepted girls are the major target groups of programs.

**Contact Information:**

Maiti Nepal  
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E-Mail: [info@maitinepal.org](mailto:info@maitinepal.org)  
[program@maitinepal.org](mailto:program@maitinepal.org)

**Namsaling Community Development Center (NCDC)**

<http://ncdcilam.org.np/index.php>

The Namsaling Community Development Centre (NCDC) was founded in 1984 to facilitate initiatives in community self-reliance. NCDC works in partnership with community members and organizations, local and central governments, other Nepali NGOs, and international partners.

NCDC facilitates initiatives in non-formal education, agriculture, health and sanitation, water, income generation, communications, savings and credit, and environmental planning.

Started from Namsaling, at present the NCDC has been working in the eastern hills in the eastern region of Nepal. For the successful implementation of projects, NCDC has advisory committees in the VDC, District and National level.

**Contact Information**

Namsaling Community Development Centre  
Dhobidhara, Ilam, Nepal  
Postal Code: 977  
Tel: +977 27-520411/520792  
Fax: +977-(0)27520792  
Email: [ncdcilam@ntc.net.np](mailto:ncdcilam@ntc.net.np)

**National Centre for Disaster Management**

[http://www.ncdm.org.np/projects\\_current.php](http://www.ncdm.org.np/projects_current.php)

The Nepal Centre for Disaster Management (NCDM) was established in February 2002 with an aim to help effectively mitigate the impact of disasters in the country.

The NCDM believes that helping to empower the people and enhancing the capacity of the local communities in disaster preparedness and management by way of training and increased awareness is the most effective means to mitigate the effects of natural disasters in the country.

The NCDM has also helped prepare emergency preparedness plans for organizations such as Oxfam, CARE Nepal, GTZ and UNDP.

### **Contact Information**

Nepal Centre for Disaster Management  
G.P.O. Box 4058  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Location: Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal  
(opposite the UN Building)  
Telephone: 977-1-5010098  
977-1-5528493  
Email: [ncdm@wlink.com.np](mailto:ncdm@wlink.com.np)

### **Non-Resident Nepali Association**

<http://www.nrn.org.np/>

Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) was established with the purpose of uniting and binding the Nepali Diaspora under one umbrella on 11 October, 2003. NRNA has developed into a non-governmental global organization and a network of Nepali origin by establishing National Coordination Council (NCC) in 60 countries to represent its interests, concerns and commitments.

The Nepali Diaspora, through the NRNA, has focused on disaster preparedness, and three NRN professional societies are working on medical, communication, and engineering disaster preparedness measures.

The Government of Nepal has given legal status to Nepali Diaspora by promulgating the Non-Resident Nepali Act 2064, according to the NRNA website. For practical purposes Nepali citizens living outside South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries or People of Nepali Origin (PNO) holding foreign nationality other than SAARC nations are considered as NRNs.

The objective of NRNA is to unite and bring Nepali citizens residing all over the world under one umbrella; protect and promote their interest in and outside Nepal and utilize their potentials and resources for the welfare of Nepal.

### **Contact Information**

Non Resident Nepali Association  
FNCCI Building  
P.O. Box: 269  
Pachali  
Shahid Shukra FNCCI Milan Marg  
Teku, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: (+977-1) 4215247, 4262255  
Fax: (+977-1) 4262255  
Email: nrn@nrn.org.np, contact@nrn.org.np

### **National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET)**

<http://www.nset.org.np/nset/php/english.php>  
Web: [www.nset.org.np](http://www.nset.org.np)

NSET was founded by a meeting of professionals on June 18, 1993 with the vision "Earthquake Safe Communities in Nepal by 2020."

According to the organization, NSET was conceptualized with its main objective "to foster the advancement of science and practice of earthquake engineering and technology for mitigating the earthquake risk and increasing the seismic safety, to enhance professionalism, professional engineering and scientific ethics and to further the objectives of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering as applicable to Nepal."

Bringing "substantial change in the application of technology to the many facets of earthquake disaster management for saving the lives of the people" has remained the guiding philosophy of NSET since its inception.

Today, NSET is Nepal's foremost institution working on earthquake risk management. Its seismic risk reduction activities are now being carried out in various parts of the world.

NSET has conducted workshops, seminars, and conferences on earthquake safety and preparation for wide swaths of Nepal's citizenry, including students, and has supported capacity building of local government authorities through awareness programs.

#### **Contact Information:**

National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET)  
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Fax: (977-1) 5592692

#### **Postal Address:**

National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET)  
P.O. Box: 13775, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Email: [nset@nset.org.np](mailto:nset@nset.org.np)

## **Natural Disaster Management Forum Nepal, 2002**

Website: [www.ndmfnepal.org.np](http://www.ndmfnepal.org.np)

The Natural Disaster Management Forum (NDMF Nepal) Nepal was established in May 2002 with an aim to help people who have been suffering from disasters. According to its website, the NDMF believes that mitigation of natural disasters is possible only through a proper understanding of their nature along with the sustainable management of natural resources and watershed management in relation to climate change with the involvement of concerned stakeholders, including local communities.

According to the NDMF, it has been established to mitigate and manage hydro-climatic disasters, and to promote eco-friendly lifestyles to adapt to climate change stimulus through knowledge development, extension & promotion among the concerned stakeholders and communities. The forum is also engaged in the study of environment and natural resources management in multi dimensional perspectives including technical, social, and economic in order to interface up and down stream linkages.

### **Contact Information**

Natural Disaster Management Forum Nepal (NDMF Nepal)

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Tel 00977-1-4114512 or 9841647398

Fax 00977-1-4114512

Email: [info@ndmfnepal.org.np](mailto:info@ndmfnepal.org.np), [ndmfnepal@gmail.com](mailto:ndmfnepal@gmail.com)

## **Nepal Geologic Society (NGS)**

<http://ngs.org.np/web/>

The Nepal Geological Society (NGS) was established in 1979. The Society has its office in Kathmandu, with an office located in the premises of the Department of Mines and Geology, Lainchaur. The Society has over 440 members encompassing almost all the geoscientists of Nepal as well as many geoscientists of other countries who are actively engaged or interested in the geological research of the Himalaya-Tibet region.

According to the NGS, the society is also gradually fulfilling a role of a regional geoscientific organization. It is hoped that the Society may be able to help to develop a better networking of the scientists of the region and overseas and foster an atmosphere for a more effective regional and international scientific cooperation in the field of research in the Himalayan earth sciences.

Main objectives of the society:

- To develop and promote the research and application of geological sciences to the national development;
- To foster high professional standard among its members;
- To promote and protect the professional interests of earth scientists of the country; and

- To be active in protection and conservation of environment and in reduction of natural disaster

Main activities:

- Publication of the Journal of the Nepal Geological Society (Regular and Special Issues), News Bulletin of the Nepal Geological Society and other relevant materials,
- Organization of national and international seminars, workshops and symposia on geoscience and related fields,
- Establishment and development of effective cooperation with other national as well as international professional and scientific societies,
- Encouragement of geoscientific research in the Nepal Himalaya,
- Provision of expert services and advice to the government and other agencies in the related fields such as on natural resources development, environmental issues, mitigation and management of natural hazards etc.,
- Organization of special lectures by national and international geoscientists and other professionals.

**Contact Information**

Mailing address:

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Email: [info@ngs.org.np](mailto:info@ngs.org.np)

President: Mr. Uttam Bol Shrestha

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General Secretary

Mr. Sudhir Rajaure

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Lainchaur, Kathmandu

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**Nepal Landslide Society (NELS)**

<http://www.nels.org.np/>

Nepal Landslide Society (NELS) is a national non-governmental professional scientific organization. The secretariat of the NELS is located at Kathmandu, Nepal.

NELS aims at contributing to the reduction of loss of life and property due to landslides, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), erosion, floods and so on through study and research on related



science and technology to mitigate and prevent such disasters. NELS intends to undertake measures to raise awareness through related institutions, enhance professional and scientific qualities of experts and organizations working in this field, and to help landslide-affected communities with rescue and relief work.

NELS undergoes the following main activities:

Fostering the human quest for understanding landslides and related phenomena through research and study;

Catalyzing new scientific ways of thinking about natural disasters; and

Applying knowledge and insight to human needs and aspirations and stewardship of the countermeasures against such disasters.

Nepal Landslide Society

P.O. Box: 5944

83 Pashupatinath Marg, Chuchchepati, Kathmandu 6, Nepal

Tel/Fax: 977-1-4479761

E-mail: mail@nels.org.np

Web site: www.nels.org.np

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President

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Dr. Vishnu Dangol

General Secretary

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### **Nepal NGO Society**

<http://www.nepalngo.org/>

Nepal Ngo Society (NNS) aims at building up more concern from the international community in the development of Nepal. NNS aims at building a forum for people from around the world who would like to contribute in their own ways. It seeks support from various national agencies, individuals, governmental and non-governmental donors to extend their support aimed at boosting the living status of more needy and poor people.

NNS was initiated to meet the growing challenges of Nepal's development through the initiation of non-government sectors and means.

Priority Areas:

- Human Rights
- Conflict Resolution
- HIV/AIDS/ Tuberculosis/ Malaria Prevention, care and support.
- Primary Education (primary school construction, scholarship for children)
- Prison Reform
- Organizing Health Camp
- Harm Reduction and drug abuse prevention.
- Migration
- Youth Development
- Environmental Management
- Women Empowerment.
- Suicide Prevention
- Tourism “Talk to Five” Programs
- Management of Seminars and Conferences

**Contact Information**

Nepal NGO Society

P.O. Box: 5360, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Phone: +977-1-4232296

Fax: +977-1-4252473

Email: [info@nepalngo.org](mailto:info@nepalngo.org)

**Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS)**

<http://www.nrccs.org/home/index.php>

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) came into being in 1963. It was recognized by the ICRC in 1964 and affiliated to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in the same year. NRCS is the largest humanitarian organization in Nepal, with its network of District Chapters (DCs) extended in each of the 75 districts of the country. District Chapters receive organizational support from more than 800 Sub-Chapters and Co-operation Committees under them. A significant portion of its activities are also borne by students and youth volunteers of Nepal Junior and Youth Red Cross Circles organized at schools, campuses and communities.

The NRCS is also a member of the Central Disaster Relief Committee

The mission of the NRCS is to relieve human suffering and to reduce vulnerability through community participation and mobilization of an increased number of volunteers, by expanding and strengthening the organizational structure of the society and by building links with governmental and non-governmental organizations.

With the primary objective of alleviating or reducing human suffering without discrimination, the Society shall have the following functions:

To serve war-victims, both civilians and army personnel, in times of armed conflict, and to work in the fields identified by the Geneva Conventions, including Tracing, in times of peace;

To contribute to promoting and improving health condition, preventing of diseases and reducing suffering;

To arrange for emergency relief services for disaster victims;

To organize Junior and Youth Red Cross as an integral part of Nepal Red Cross Society and to conduct activities promoting their participation;

To promote the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Movement and International Humanitarian Law with the objective of developing humanitarian ideals;

To ensure respect for the International Humanitarian Law and protection of the Red Cross Emblem; and

To perform other functions of community development and public welfare.

### **Contact Information**

Nepal Red Cross Society National Headquarters

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Phone: +977-1-4272761 (hunting)

Fax: +977-1-4271915, 4273285

E-mail: nrcs@nrcs.org, info@nrcs.org

Telegram: REDCROSS KATHMANDU

Telex: 2569 NRCS NP

### **Nepal Scouts**

<http://www.nepalscouts.org.np/index.php>

The Nepal Scouts are the national scouting and guiding organization of Nepal. Scouting and guiding was founded in Nepal in 1952 and became a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in 1969 and of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 1984. The organization serves 19,952 Scouts (as of 2011) and 11,962 Guides (as of 2003).

Service activities include adult literacy campaigns, food production, child vaccination and drug abuse education. Relief operations are mobilized during earthquakes, floods, landslides, fires and other natural disasters.

### **Contact Information**

National Headquarters

Lainchour, Kathmandu, Nepal

Postal Address:

Nepal Scouts, National Headquarters

P.O. Box 1037  
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## **Nepal Water Conservation Foundation (NWCF)**

<http://www.nwcf.org.np/>

NWCF conducts interdisciplinary research on interrelated issues that affect the use and management of water with specific focus on the Himalaya-Ganga region. Since its establishment, the foundation has dedicated its focus to generate and disseminate knowledge on water management through research, publications and engagement in public dialogues. It has also sought to address emerging challenges and ever changing educational needs of water management. NWCF works with local communities as well as with organizations at local, national, regional and international levels.

NWCF focuses on three primary areas of:

- Research and training
- Publications; and
- Maintaining information source and repository of gray literature

### Objectives

- Undertake research and education on water and related issue at national and regional scales.
- Publish a journal of water management studies
- Organize *pani satsang*: A forum for discussions on issues related on water and its management
- Support and help build capability of younger generation of professionals to analyze the issues of water management with the view of facilitating creation of a pool of competent and professional expertise
- Develop a repository of gray literature on water and its related fields that will be made available to researchers; and
- Develop national, regional and international network with organization working in similar themes and topics.

### **Contact Information**

Nepal Water Conservation Foundation  
Balutar, Kathmandu , Nepal  
Email: [info@nwcf.org.np](mailto:info@nwcf.org.np)

## **Shakti Samuha**

<http://www.shaktisamuha.org.np/>

According to its website, Shakti Samuha is the first organization in Nepal to be established and run by survivors of trafficking. Since 1996 the group has been organizing and empowering returning trafficking survivors by providing shelter, legal aid, vocational training and counseling. The group has set up Adolescent Girls Groups based in the poorest communities in order to pass on the message about the dangers of trafficking and is reaching out to rural districts where trafficking is prevalent, helping to keep women safe and make a united stand against traffickers.

Shakti Samuha has the following objectives:

- To establish income generating and skills based programs that create a sustainable livelihood for trafficking survivors
- To advocate and lobby for necessary changes to the law
- To organize meetings and campaigns to raise awareness and minimize the risk of trafficking
- To establish safe house and emergency support for the rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficking survivors
- To manage and update data on trafficking survivors
- To assist trafficking survivors with legal, employment and counseling services.
- To coordinate with local, national and international organizations.
- To protect vulnerable girls and women from trafficking
- To organize the development of staff-members for effective program implementation.

Its network includes:

- Global Alliance Against the Trafficking of Women
- Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal
- NGO Federation Nepal
- International Organization for Migration

### **Contact Information**

Shakti Samuha

Gaurighat-Kumarigal, Kathmandu, Nepal.

P.O. Box: 19488

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[shaktisamuha.nepal@gmail.com](mailto:shaktisamuha.nepal@gmail.com)

## **Umbrella Organizations**

The following are key NGO umbrella organizations for local NGOs working in Nepal:

### **Association of International NGOs (AIN)**

<http://www.ain.org.np/>

The Association of International NGOs (AIN), formed by INGOs working in Nepal in September 1996, is an important network in the development sector of Nepal as members have been implementing various people-centered development programs throughout the hills, mountains and Terai areas. According to its website, the AIN comprises around 100 INGOs, working on a wide-range of issues and sectors to contribute to development efforts in Nepal.

#### **Contact Information**

Association of International NGOs in Nepal  
C/O Save the Children  
China Town Complex  
JDA Building 5th Floor  
Sundhara, Kathmandu  
Telephone: 977 1 4222271/4222247  
Fax: 977 1 4222235  
Email: [lucky@ain.org.np](mailto:lucky@ain.org.np)  
[reshma@ain.org.np](mailto:reshma@ain.org.np)  
[spacenwater@gmail.com](mailto:spacenwater@gmail.com)

### **Child NGO Federation Nepal (CNFN)**

<http://www.cnfnepal.org/index.php>

Child NGO Federation-Nepal (CNFN) is an umbrella organization of NGOs working in the child sector in Nepal. CNFN was established in January 1994 with the initiation of a group of professionals and representatives from NGOs working in various fields of child development and child rights. It received affiliation to the Social Welfare Council (SWC), the apex body of national and international NGOs working in Nepal. CNFN is a member based organization and to date, about 100 organizations have received its membership.

#### **Contact Information**

Mr. Manoj Kumar Kandel  
General Secretary  
Child NGO Federation-Nepal (CNFN)  
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Tel. / Fax: 977 1 423 8041  
Email: [cnfnepal@wlink.com.np](mailto:cnfnepal@wlink.com.np)  
[lawyersnepal@gmail.com](mailto:lawyersnepal@gmail.com)

## **Disaster Preparedness – Network Nepal (DPNet)**

<http://www.dpnet.org.np/>

According to its website, Disaster Preparedness Network Nepal (DPNet) is a forum for NGOs to supplement the government's efforts in addressing challenges of disasters. There are some 76 national organizations affiliated with DPNet. The network acts as a resource and information center and contact point for groups involved in disaster management.

Established in 1996, DPNet-Nepal is envisioned as a loose association of individual organizations within the development sector and concerned about disaster issues in Nepal, which are concerned with disaster management.

The network aims to assist individuals and organizations to prepare for, and respond to and manage disaster should it strike. DPNet works closely with the government through its agencies, which are concerned with disaster preparedness and management. DPNet complements the effort of these agencies to inform and prepare organizations and communities to deal effectively with disasters.

The goal of the network is to enhance emergency preparedness and disaster management in general and the self-reliance and safety of disaster-prone communities.

### **Contact Information**

DPNet-Nepal Contact Address

DPNet-Nepal Secretariat

C/O NRCS, Red Cross Road, Kalimati

PO Box 12294, Kathmandu Nepal

Phone: 977-1-4672165, 6226613

Fax: 977-1-4672165

Email: [dpnet@dpnet.org.np](mailto:dpnet@dpnet.org.np)

### **Eco Friends- Nepal (EFN)**

Website: <http://www.efn.org.np>

EFN is an NGO established in 2008 by a group of young people dedicated toward environmental conservation, public health & environmental sustainability. Enhancement of environmental conservation, Improvement of public health and finally achievement of sustainable development through the mobilization of youth, student's participation, awareness campaigns, researches, development and adoption of appropriate eco-friendly technologies are the mission of the organization, according to its website.

Contact Person: Kabindra Dhakal

Contact Address: New Plaza, Putalisadak, Kathmandu  
Phone: 014413213  
Email: [ecofriendsnepal@gmail.com](mailto:ecofriendsnepal@gmail.com)

### **Nepal Public Health Foundation**

<http://www.nphfoundation.org/display/index.php>

The Nepal Public Health Foundation is a multi-sector health network for NGOs and the medical community in Nepal.

According to its website its objectives are:

Engage public health stakeholders for systematic review and analysis of existing and emerging health scenario to generate policy recommendations for public health action; especially in the context of the changing physical and social environment, the increasing health gap between the rich and the poor, and the impact of other sectors on health;

Prioritize public health action and research areas and facilitate pilot interventions in collaboration with national and international partnerships with special emphasis to building communities' capacity;

Strengthen health system through systems thinking for effectively responding to the problems of public health;

Support/establish existing or new community based public health training institutions;

Ensure continued public health education (CPHE) by disseminating latest advancements in public health knowledge and research. Publish books, monographs, educational materials and self-learning manuals; and

Provide research fund for deserving researchers and public health institutions, with priority given to community-based institutions.

### **Contact Information**

Nepal Public Health Foundation  
101/2 Dhara Margh,  
Maharajganj, Kathmandu-4.  
PO.BOX 11218  
Phone: 977-1-4412787, 4410826  
Fax: 977-1-4412870  
Email: [info@nphfoundation.org](mailto:info@nphfoundation.org)

### **Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRC)**

In May 2009, the Government of Nepal (GoN) launched the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRC) to promote the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). The NRRC was also formed to support the Government of Nepal in taking forward a number of key priorities in the NSDRM. The NRRC seeks to support the Government in developing a long term Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan building on the NSDRM.



According to the UN Nepal Information Platform, the NRRC is a unique grouping that brings together financial institutions, development partners, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the UN in partnership with the GoN. The NRRC was formed to support the GoN in developing a long term Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan building on the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM).

The original members of the NRRC are the Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA and the World Bank.

Newer members of the NRRC include the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and the Australian Agency of International Development (AusAID).

The NRRC has identified five flagship areas for disaster risk management in Nepal. They are:

1. School and hospital safety – structural and non-structural aspects of making schools and hospitals earthquake resilient;
2. Emergency preparedness and response capacity;
3. Flood management in the Koshi river basin;
4. Integrated community based disaster risk reduction/management; and
5. Policy/institutional support for disaster risk management.

Flagship #5 identifies the upgrading, harmonization and streamlining of the NSDRM legislation (including the DM Act), DM policies and regulations, by-laws and implementation plans as one of its key activities. This work also aims at ensuring that the new Constitution is the umbrella document for disaster management in Nepal, and that emergency and disaster powers and mechanisms for the declaration of a disaster are codified in the law.

*For further details on the NRRC report “Flagship Programmes, Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium, April 2011,” see:*

*<http://www.un.org.np/sites/default/files/report/2011-04-19-nrrc-document-version-april-2011.pdf>*

## **NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN)**

<http://www.ngofederation.org/>

NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) emerged as an umbrella organization of NGOs and was established in 1991. Apart from defending NGOs’ autonomy, NFN has been fighting for promoting human rights, social justice and pro-poor development. Today, it has evolved as a

leading civil society organization in Nepal with over 5,227 NGOs affiliated with it from across the country, according to its website.

NFN is an autonomous, independent and politically non-partisan organization, governed by its own constitution. It has prepared and endorsed an NGO Code of Conduct (CoC) to guarantee the accountability and transparency of NGOs. NFN has 75 district chapters and 5 regional offices with regional resource centers for effective coordination among members.

Mission:

- Organize and mobilize people to promote a democratic and just society.
- Strengthen the NGO movement and promote capacity building processes.
- Safeguard the autonomy of civil society and work as a change agent.

Objectives:

- To strengthen the dynamic and pro-people NGO movement in Nepal, thus ensuring the autonomy and freedom of civil society.
- To enhance the capacity of NGOs to improve organizational good governance.
- To mobilize member organizations to implement pro-poor development initiatives.
- To promote and protect human rights, social justice and lasting democratic peace.

Strategic Framework

Areas of intervention requiring immediate consideration and remedial action in human rights, social justice, democratic governance and pro-poor development are immense. NFN has developed a four-pillar strategy:

1. Capacity building and NGO governance reform
2. Women empowerment and inclusion
3. Youth mobilization
4. Broad-based civil society networking

### **Contact Information**

P.O. Box: 7768

Buddhanagar, Naya Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977 1 4782908, +977 1 4781368

Fax: +977 1 4780559

Email:info@ngofederation.org

### **NGO Forum for Urban Water & Sanitation**

[http://www.ngoforum.net/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1](http://www.ngoforum.net/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1)

NGO Forum for Urban Water & Sanitation is a forum of civil society organizations active in water supply policy reforms, policy analysis of water, sanitation and other relevant issues. NGO Forum conducts research on different aspects of urban water and sanitation issues which form a strong

basis of its advocacy activities. It also shares the research findings in addition to engaging the stakeholders in consultations, debates and policy dialogues for better policy influence.

#### Mission

The mission of the forum is to ensure that the water supply and sanitation services of the cities are improved in a manner that ensures;

- I. Equity of access, especially among the poor
- II. Long term performance and sustainability of water supply and sanitation utilities
- III. Enhanced environment in urban areas

#### Objectives

1. Advocate for equal and enhanced access to safe and sustainable water and sanitation services in general and urban poor in particular
2. Promote information/knowledge sharing among members and partners for collective actions
3. To advocate for good governance in water supply and sanitation at community, city and national level
4. Empower civil society groups to amplify their collective voices on WatSan to influence policy decisions
5. Facilitate the preservation and promotion of indigenous knowledge and culture of water resource management and sanitation practices
6. To strengthen collaboration with local, national and international organizations having similar objectives
7. Develop understanding on the disaster risks and climate change issues in relation to water and sanitation and assist in preparation of adequate responses

#### **Contact Information**

Secretariat  
119 Purneshwor Marg,  
Tripureshwor, Kathmandu  
Tel: 977-01-4216606

## Academic Institutions

### **Institute of Engineering (IOE), Tribhuvan University**

<http://www.ioe.edu.np/>

The first institutional objective of the Institute of Engineering (IOE) is to produce different levels of engineering manpower needed for meeting the national aspirations and goals. At present it is producing engineers and overseers as well as offering Master and Ph. D. study in various disciplines.

The second objective of the IOE is to perform various research and development works so as to strengthen the national engineering capabilities and solve engineering problems.

The Third IOE objective is to offer various types of trainings, sponsored courses, conducting problem oriented research and providing engineering consultancy services. This objective caters towards greater mobilization of the IOE human and physical resources for the technical advancement of the nation.

#### **Contact Information**

Email Address: [sysadmin@ioe.edu.np](mailto:sysadmin@ioe.edu.np)  
[cit@ioe.edu.np](mailto:cit@ioe.edu.np)

### **Nepal Engineering College (Affiliated to Pokhara University)**

[http://www.nec.edu.np/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=47&Itemid=74](http://www.nec.edu.np/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=47&Itemid=74)

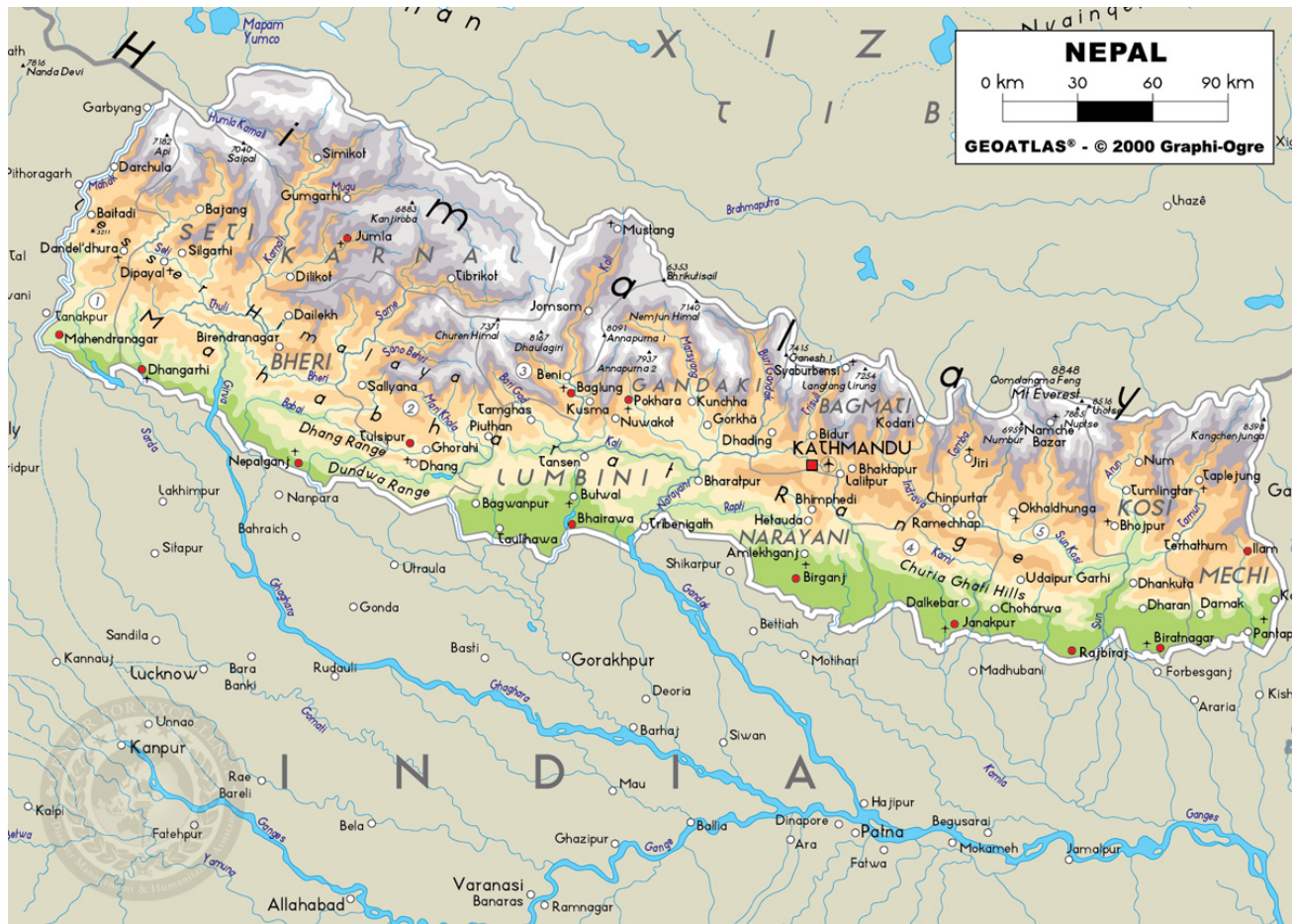
The Nepal Engineering College (NEC), is a private engineering college established in 1994 as a nonprofit institution under private sector initiative. According to its website, a course on disaster risk management was introduced in 2003 and is also involved in disaster management research. NEC also organizes seminars and workshops on disaster preparedness and mitigation. It has organized five national-level seminars and workshops in the field of disaster management with Ehime University of Japan. In May 2006 it established the Centre for Disaster Risk Studies within the college with the help of Ehime University. The center studies the causes and effects of natural disasters

#### **Contact Information**

Nepal Engineering College  
(An ISO Certified Engineering College)  
Changunarayan VDC, Bhaktapur, Nepal.  
Phone: +(977)015090744  
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## **Country Background**

# Nepal Country Profile



The following facts and figures are from the CIA World Factbook

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/np.html>

## Background

In 1951, the Nepali monarch ended the century-old system of rule by hereditary premiers and instituted a cabinet system of government. Reforms in 1990 established a multiparty democracy within the framework of a constitutional monarchy. An insurgency led by Maoist extremists broke out in 1996. The ensuing 10-year civil war between insurgents and government forces witnessed the dissolution of the cabinet and parliament and assumption of absolute power by the king. Several weeks of mass protests in April 2006 were followed by several months of peace negotiations between the Maoists and government officials, and culminated in a November 2006 peace accord and the promulgation of an interim constitution. Following a nation-wide election in April 2008, the newly formed Constituent Assembly declared Nepal a federal democratic republic and abolished the monarchy at its first meeting the following month. The Constituent Assembly elected the country's first president in July. Between 2008 and 2011 there have been four different coalition governments, led twice by the United Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist, which received a plurality of votes in the Constituent Assembly election, and

twice by the Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist-Leninist. In November 2011, Maoist Prime Minister Baburam BHATTARAI, who was elected in August 2011, and the leaders of the main political parties signed an agreement seeking to conclude the peace process and recommit the Constituent Assembly to finish drafting the constitution by a May 2012 deadline.

## **Geography**

Location: Southern Asia, between China and India

Geographic coordinates: 28 00 N, 84 00 E

Map references: Asia

Area:

Total: 147,181 sq km

Country comparison to the world: 94

Land: 143,351 sq km

Water: 3,830 sq km

Area - comparative: slightly larger than Arkansas

Land boundaries:

Total: 2,926 km

Border countries: China 1,236 km, India 1,690 km

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims: none (landlocked)

Climate: varies from cool summers and severe winters in north to subtropical summers and mild winters in south

Terrain: Terai or flat river plain of the Ganges in south, central hill region, rugged Himalayas in north

Elevation extremes:

Lowest point: Kanchan Kalan 70 m

Highest point: Mount Everest 8,850 m

Natural resources: quartz, water, timber, hydropower, scenic beauty, small deposits of lignite, copper, cobalt, iron ore

Land use:

Arable land: 16.07%  
Permanent crops: 0.85%  
Other: 83.08% (2005)

Irrigated land: 11,680 sq km (2008)

Total renewable water resources: 210.2 cu km (1999)

Freshwater withdrawal (domestic/industrial/agricultural):

Total: 10.18 cu km/yr (3%/1%/96%)

Per capita: 375 cu m/yr (2000)

Natural hazards: severe thunderstorms; flooding; landslides; drought and famine depending on the timing, intensity, and duration of the summer monsoons

Environment - current issues: deforestation (overuse of wood for fuel and lack of alternatives); contaminated water (with human and animal wastes, agricultural runoff, and industrial effluents); wildlife conservation; vehicular emissions

Environment - international agreements: party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands signed, but not ratified: Marine Life Conservation

Geography - note: landlocked; strategic location between China and India; contains eight of world's 10 highest peaks, including Mount Everest and Kanchenjunga - the world's tallest and third tallest - on the borders with China and India respectively

## **People and Society**

Nationality:

Noun: Nepali (singular and plural)

Adjective: Nepali

Ethnic groups:

Chhettri 15.5%, Brahman-Hill 12.5%, Magar 7%, Tharu 6.6%, Tamang 5.5%, Newar 5.4%, Muslim 4.2%, Kami 3.9%, Yadav 3.9%, other 32.7%, unspecified 2.8% (2001 census)

Languages:

Nepali (official) 47.8%, Maithali 12.1%, Bhojpuri 7.4%, Tharu (Dagaura/Rana) 5.8%, Tamang 5.1%, Newar 3.6%, Magar 3.3%, Awadhi 2.4%, other 10%, unspecified 2.5% (2001 census)

note: many in government and business also speak English (2001 est.)

Religions:



Hindu 80.6%, Buddhist 10.7%, Muslim 4.2%, Kirant 3.6%, other 0.9% (2001 census)

Population:

29,890,686 (July 2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 41

Age structure:

0-14 years: 34.6% (male 5,177,264/female 4,983,864)

15-64 years: 61.1% (male 8,607,338/female 9,344,537)

65 years and over: 4.4% (male 597,628/female 681,252) (2011 est.)

Median age:

Total: 21.6 years

Male: 20.7 years

Female: 22.5 years (2011 est.)

Population growth rate:

1.768% (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 67

Birth rate:

21.85 births/1,000 population (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 78

Death rate:

6.75 deaths/1,000 population (July 2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 144

Net migration rate:

2.58 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 31

Urbanization:

Urban population: 19% of total population (2010)

Rate of urbanization: 4.7% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)

Major cities - population:

KATHMANDU (capital) 990,000 (2009)

Sex ratio:

At birth: 1.04 male(s)/female

Under 15 years: 1.04 male(s)/female

15-64 years: 0.93 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.87 male(s)/female

total population: 0.96 male(s)/female (2012 est.)

Maternal mortality rate:

380 deaths/100,000 live births (2008)

Country comparison to the world: 38

Infant mortality rate:

Total: 43.13 deaths/1,000 live births

Country comparison to the world: 54

Male: 43.15 deaths/1,000 live births

Female: 43.1 deaths/1,000 live births (2012 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

Total population: 66.51 years

Country comparison to the world: 161

Male: 65.26 years

Female: 67.82 years (2012 est.)

Total fertility rate:

2.41 children born/woman (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 85

Health expenditures:

5.8% of GDP (2009)

Country comparison to the world: 116

Physician's density:

0.21 physicians/1,000 population (2004)

Hospital bed density:

5 beds/1,000 population (2006)

Drinking water source:

Improved: urban: 93% of population

Rural: 87% of population

Total: 88% of population

Unimproved: urban: 7% of population

Rural: 13% of population

Total: 12% of population (2008)

Sanitation facility access:

Improved: urban: 51% of population

Rural: 27% of population

Total: 31% of population

Unimproved: urban: 49% of population  
Rural: 73% of population  
Total: 69% of population (2008)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:  
0.4% (2009 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 71

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:  
64,000 (2009 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 51

HIV/AIDS - deaths:  
4,700 (2009 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 40

Major infectious diseases:  
Degree of risk: high  
Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever  
Vectorborne disease: Japanese encephalitis, malaria, and dengue fever (2009)

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:  
38.8% (2006)  
Country comparison to the world: 7

Education expenditures:  
4.6% of GDP (2009)  
Country comparison to the world: 79

Literacy:  
Definition: age 15 and over can read and write  
Total population: 48.6%  
Male: 62.7%  
Female: 34.9% (2001 census)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):  
Total: 9 years  
Male: 10 years  
Female: 8 years (2003)

## Government

Country name:

Conventional long form: Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

Conventional short form: Nepal

Local long form: Sanghiya Loktantrik Ganatantra Nepal

Local short form: Nepal

Government type:

Federal democratic republic

Capital:

Name: Kathmandu

Geographic coordinates: 27 43 N, 85 19 E

Time difference: UTC+5.75 (10.75 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions:

14 zones (anchal, singular and plural); Bagmati, Bheri, Dhawalagiri, Gandaki, Janakpur, Karnali, Kosi, Lumbini, Mahakali, Mechi, Narayani, Rapti, Sagarmatha, Seti

Independence:

1768 (unified by Prithvi Narayan SHAH)

National holiday:

Republic Day, 29 May

Constitution:

15 January 2007 (interim Constitution); note - in April 2008, a Constituent Assembly was elected as an interim parliament to draft and promulgate a new constitution by May 2010; the deadline has been extended four times, most recently until May 2012

Legal system:

English common law and Hindu legal concepts

International law organization participation:

Has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; non-party state to the ICCT

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

Chief of state: President Ram Baran YADAV (since 23 July 2008); Vice President Paramananda JHA (since 23 July 2008)

Head of government: Prime Minister Baburam BHATTARAI (since 29 August 2011); Deputy Prime Ministers Bijay Kumar GACHHADAR (since 29 August 2011) and Narayan Kaji SHRESTHA

Cabinet: cabinet was formed in August-September 2011 by a majority coalition made up of the United Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist, Madhesi People's Rights Forum-Democratic, Madhesi People's Rights Forum-Republic, Madhesi People's Rights Forum-Nepal, Terai-Madhes Democratic Party, and several smaller parties

Elections: president elected by Parliament; term extends until the new constitution is promulgated; election last held on 21 July 2008; date of next election NA

Election results: Ram Baran YADAV elected president by the Constituent Assembly in a second round of voting on 21 July 2008; Ram Baran YADAV 308, Ram Jaja Prasad SINGH 282

Legislative branch:

Unicameral Constituent Assembly (601 seats; 240 members elected by direct popular vote, 335 by proportional representation, and 26 appointed by the Cabinet (Council of Ministers))

Elections: last held on 10 April 2008; note - the Constituent Assembly failed to draft a new constitution by the 27 May 2012 deadline, forcing a November election of a new Assembly

Election results: percent of vote by party - CPN-M 38%, NC 19%, CPN-UML 18%, Madhesi People's Right Forum 9%, other 11%; seats by party - CPN-M 229, NC 115, CPN-UML 108, Madhesi People's Rights Forum 54, Terai Madhes Democratic Party 21, other smaller parties 74; note - 26 seats filled by the new Cabinet are included in the totals above

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court or Sarbochha Adalat (the president appoints the chief justice on recommendation of the Constitutional Council; the chief justice appoints other judges on the recommendation of the Judicial Council)

Political parties and leaders:

Chure Bhawar Rastriya Ekata Party [Badri Prasad NEUPANE]; Communist Party of Nepal-Marxist Leninist or CPN-ML [C.P. MAINALI]; Communist Party of Nepal-Marxist Leninist Samaibadi [Jaqat Bahadur BOGATI]; Communist Party of Nepal-Unified [Raj Singh SHRIS]; Communist Party of Nepal-United [Chandra Dev JOSHI]; Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninist or CPN-UML [Jhalanath KHANAL]; Dalit Janajati Party [Vishwendraman PASHWAN]; Federal Democratic National Forum; Federal Democratic National Party [Yogendra CHAUDHARI]; Federal Sadbhayana Party [Anil JHAL]; Madhesi People's Rights Forum-Democratic [Bijay Kumar GACHHADAR]; Madhesi People's Rights Forum-Nepal [Uendra YADAV]; Madhesi People's Rights Forum-Republic [Jaya Prakash GUPTA]; Nepal Loktantrik Samajbadi Dal [Laxmi Lal CHAUDHARY]; Nepal Pariwar Dal [Eknath DHAKAL]; Nepal Workers and Peasants Party [Narayan Man BIJUKCHHE]; Nepali Congress or NC [Sushil KOIRALA]; Nepali Janata Dal [Harish Chandra SHA]; Newa Rastriya Party [Keshav Man SHAKYA]; Rastriya Janamorcha [Chitra Bahadur K.C.]; Rastriya Janamukti Party [Malwar Singh THAPA]; Rastriya Janashakti Party or RJP [Surya Bahadur THAPA]; Rastriya Prajantantra Party [Pashupati Shumsher RANA]; Rastriya Prajantantra Party Nepal [Kamal THAPA]; Sadbhavana Party [Rajendra MAHATO]; Sadbhavana Party-Anandi Devi [Sarita GIRI]; Samajbadi

Prajantrik Janata Party Nepal [Prem Bahadur SINGH]; Terai Madhes Democratic Party [Mahantha THAKUR]; Terai Madhes Democratic Party-Nepal [Mahendra YADAVI]; Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) [Pushpa Kamal DAHAL, also known as PRACHANDA]

Political pressure groups and leaders:

Other: several small armed Madhesi groups along the southern border with India; a variety of groups advocating regional autonomy for individual ethnic groups

International organization participation:

ADB, BIMSTEC, CP, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO (correspondent), ITSO, ITU, ITUC, MIGA, MINURSO, MINUSTAH, MONUSCO, NAM, OPCW, SAARC, SACEP, UN, UNAMID, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNMIL, UNMISS, UNMIT, UNOCI, UNTSO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US:

Chief of mission: Ambassador Shankar Prasad SHARMA  
Chancery: 2131 Leroy Place NW, Washington, DC 20008  
Telephone: [1] (202) 667-4550  
FAX: [1] (202) 667-5534  
Consulate(s) general: New York

Diplomatic representation from the US:

Chief of mission: Ambassador Scott H. DELISI  
Embassy: Maharajgunj, Kathmandu  
Mailing address: use embassy street address  
Telephone: [977] (1) 400-7200  
FAX: [977] (1) 400-7272

Flag description:

red with a blue border around the unique shape of two overlapping right triangles; the smaller, upper triangle bears a white stylized moon and the larger, lower triangle displays a white 12-pointed sun; the color red represents the rhododendron (Nepal's national flower) and is a sign of victory and bravery, the blue border signifies peace and harmony; the two right triangles are a combination of two single pennons (pennants) that originally symbolized the Himalaya Mountains while their charges represented the families of the king (upper) and the prime minister, but today they are understood to denote Hinduism and Buddhism, the country's two main religions; the moon represents the serenity of the Nepalese people and the shade and cool weather in the Himalayas, while the sun depicts the heat and higher temperatures of the lower parts of Nepal; the moon and the sun are also said to express the hope that the nation will endure as long as these heavenly bodies

note: Nepal is the only country in the world whose flag is not rectangular or square

National symbol(s):

Rhododendron blossom

National anthem:

Name: "Sayaun Thunga Phool Ka" (Hundreds of Flowers)

## **Economy**

Nepal is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world, with almost one-quarter of its population living below the poverty line. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, providing a livelihood for three-fourths of the population and accounting for about one-third of GDP. Industrial activity mainly involves the processing of agricultural products, including pulses, jute, sugarcane, tobacco, and grain. Nepal has considerable scope for exploiting its potential in hydropower, with an estimated 42,000 MW of feasible capacity, but political instability hampers foreign investment. Additional challenges to Nepal's growth include its landlocked geographic location, civil strife and labor unrest, and its susceptibility to natural disaster.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$37.74 billion (2011 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 100

\$36.52 billion (2010 est.)

\$34.88 billion (2009 est.)

note: data are in 2011 US dollars

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$18.3 billion (2011 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

3.5% (2011 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 115

4.6% (2010 est.)

4.4% (2009 est.)

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$1,300 (2011 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 205

\$1,300 (2010 est.)

\$1,200 (2009 est.)

note: data are in 2011 US dollars

GDP - composition by sector:

Agriculture: 34.9%

Industry: 15%

Services: 50.1% (2010 est.)

Labor force:

18 million

Country comparison to the world: 33

Note: severe lack of skilled labor (2009 est.)

Labor force - by occupation:

Agriculture: 75%

Industry: 7%

Services: 18% (2010 est.)

Unemployment rate:

46% (2008 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 191

42% (2004 est.)

Population below poverty line:

30.9% (2011)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

Lowest 10%: 3.2%

Highest 10%: 29.5% (2011)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:

47.2 (2008)

Country comparison to the world: 32

36.7 (1996)

Investment (gross fixed):

3% of GDP (2011 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 186

Budget:

Revenues: \$3.9 billion

Expenditures: \$5.3 billion (FY11)

Taxes and other revenues:

21.3% of GDP (FY11 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 148

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-7.7% of GDP (FY11 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 184

Inflation rate (consumer prices):



7.8% (2011 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 173

10% (2010 est.)

Central bank discount rate:

6% (31 December 2010 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 54

6.5% (31 December 2009 est.)

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

7.5% (31 December 2011 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 121

8% (31 December 2010 est.)

Stock of narrow money:

\$3.693 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 108

\$3.175 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

Stock of broad money:

\$11.88 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 100

\$10.34 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

Stock of domestic credit:

\$9.226 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 98

\$8.069 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

Market value of publicly traded shares:

\$4.492 billion (31 July 2011 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 80

\$4.843 billion (31 December 2010)

\$5.485 billion (31 December 2009 est.)

Agriculture - products: pulses, rice, corn, wheat, sugarcane, jute, root crops; milk, water buffalo meat

Industries:

Tourism, carpets, textiles; small rice, jute, sugar, and oilseed mills; cigarettes, cement and brick production

Industrial production growth rate:

1.4% (FY10)

Country comparison to the world: 141

Electricity - production:

3.156 billion kWh (2010 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 126

Electricity - consumption:

4.833 billion kWh (2010 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 115

Electricity - exports:

0 kWh (2010 est.)

Electricity - imports:

70 million kWh (2010 est.)

Oil - production:

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 208

Oil - consumption:

20,000 bbl/day (2010 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 129

Oil - exports:

0 bbl/day (2010 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 201

Oil - imports:

13,740 bbl/day (2009 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 135

Oil - proved reserves:

0 bbl (1 January 2011 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 171

Natural gas - production:

0 cu m (2010 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 108

Natural gas - consumption:

0 cu m (2009 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 115

Natural gas - exports:  
0 cu m (2010 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 154

Natural gas - imports:  
0 cu m (2010 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 106

Natural gas - proved reserves:  
0 cu m (1 January 2011 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 175

Current account balance:  
-\$437.9 million (2010 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 105  
\$537 million (2009 est.)

Exports:  
\$896 million (2011 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 156  
\$901.9 million (2010 est.)

Exports - commodities:  
Clothing, pulses, carpets, textiles, juice, pashima, jute goods

Exports - partners:  
India 66.4%, US 6.8%, Germany 4.8%, Bangladesh 5.4% (2011)

Imports:  
\$5.4 billion (2011 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 120  
\$5.016 billion (2010 est.)

Imports - commodities: petroleum products, machinery and equipment, gold, electrical goods, medicine

Imports - partners:  
India 65.2%, China 11.5% (2010)

Debt - external:  
\$4.5 billion (2009)  
Country comparison to the world: 117  
\$3.285 billion (2008)

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:  
\$NA

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:  
\$NA

Exchange rates:

Nepalese rupees (NPR) per US dollar -

83.31 (2011 est.)

73.15 (2010 est.)

77.44 (2009)

65.21 (2008)

70.35 (2007)

Fiscal year:

16 July - 15 July

Communications

Telephones –Main Lines in Use

841,700 (2010)

Country comparison to the world: 87

Telephones - mobile cellular:

9.196 million (2010)

Country comparison to the world: 75

Telephone system:

General assessment: poor telephone and telegraph service; fair radiotelephone communication service and mobile-cellular telephone network

Domestic: mobile-cellular telephone subscribership base is increasing with roughly 90% of the population living in areas covered by mobile carriers

International: country code - 977; radiotelephone communications; microwave and fiber landlines to India; satellite earth station - 1 Intelsat (Indian Ocean) (2010)

Broadcast media:

State operates 2 TV stations as well as national and regional radio stations; roughly 30 independent TV channels are registered with only about half in regular operation; nearly 400 FM radio stations are licensed with roughly 300 operational (2010)

Internet country code: .np

Internet hosts:  
41,532 (2011)  
Country comparison to the world: 99

Internet users:  
577,800 (2009)  
Country comparison to the world: 116

## **Transportation**

Airports: 47 (2010)  
Country comparison to the world: 93

Airports - with paved runways:  
Total: 11  
Over 3,047 m: 1  
914 to 1,523 m: 9  
Under 914 m: 1 (2010)

Airports - with unpaved runways:  
Total: 36  
1,524 to 2,437 m: 1  
914 to 1,523 m: 4  
Under 914 m: 31 (2010)

Railways:  
Total: 59 km  
Country comparison to the world: 130  
Narrow gauge: 59 km 0.762-m gauge (2010)

Roadways:  
Total: 17,282 km  
Country comparison to the world: 118  
Paved: 10,142 km  
Unpaved: 7,140 km (2007)

## **Military**

Military Branches

Nepal Army (2010)

Military service age and obligation:

18 years of age for voluntary military service; 15 years of age for military training; no conscription (2011)

Manpower available for military service:

Males age 16-49: 6,941,152

Females age 16-49: 7,618,397 (2010 est.)

Manpower fit for military service:

Males age 16-49: 5,260,878

Females age 16-49: 5,947,512 (2010 est.)

Manpower reaching militarily significant age annually:

Male: 380,172

Female: 367,103 (2010 est.)

Military expenditures:

1.6% of GDP (2006)

Country comparison to the world: 92

## **Transnational Issues**

Disputes: International

Joint border commission continues to work on contested sections of boundary with India, including the 400 square kilometer dispute over the source of the Kalapani River; India has instituted a stricter border regime to restrict transit of Maoist insurgents and illegal cross-border activities; approximately 106,000 Bhutanese Lhotshampas (Hindus) have been confined in refugee camps in southeastern Nepal since 1990

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

Refugees (country of origin): 107,803 (Bhutan); 20,153 (Tibet/China)

IDPs: 50,000-70,000 (remaining from ten-year Maoist insurgency that officially ended in 2006; displacement spread across the country) (2007)

Illicit drugs:

Illicit producer of cannabis and hashish for the domestic and international drug markets; transit point for opiates from Southeast Asia to the West

Source: CIA World Factbook. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/np.html>

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