



JICA REKV News No.6

THE PROJECT FOR STRENGTHENING DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE
FOR RESILIENCE IN THE KATHMANDU VALLEY



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Mar 2024

1 Introduction & Project Summary



Introduction

The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, located in the area where the Indian and Eurasian plates hit, the Kathmandu Valley (KV), which includes the capital city of Nepal, has experienced several disastrous earthquakes, and the Gorkha earthquake that occurred on April 25, 2015, caused extensive damage. JICA's technical cooperation initiative "The Project for Assessment of Earthquake Disaster Risk for the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal (2015-2018)" (ERAKV) conducted the seismic hazard and risk assessment in KV, results of which show the possibility of significant damage to public facilities, bridges and major roads.

In order to address the concerns regarding Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), the Government of Nepal (GoN) established the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) as the central agency responsible for DRR in 2019. The Government of Japan was requested to provide technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Home Affairs (current NDRRMA) to implement this Project.

The Project contributes to strengthen the capacity of the NDRRMA and to establish a DRR investment system in allocating government funds in critical infrastructure, such as public facilities and major roads, to reduce disaster risks and strengthen the resilience (pre-disaster investment) before a disaster occurs.

Overall Goal

Disaster resilience is enhanced by implementation of DRR investment

Project Purpose

Disaster Risk Governance for promoting investment in DRR is strengthened

Project Output

Output1: The institutional capacity for DRR is developed in the NDRRMA

Output2: The fundamental mechanism for investing high priority DRR projects in the KV is developed

Output3: DRR mainstreaming is promoted in the Local Levels

Duration

Jan 2021 ~ March 2025 (Tentative schedule)

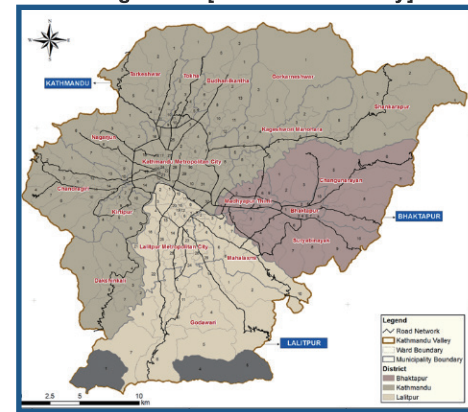
Implementation Agency

- 1) Responsible and Implementing Agency : NDRRMA
- 2) Collaborating Agencies: MoHA
Coordinating Agencies: MoFAGA, MoUD
- 3) Other Related Agencies: Concerned Ministries and 18 Local Levels in KV

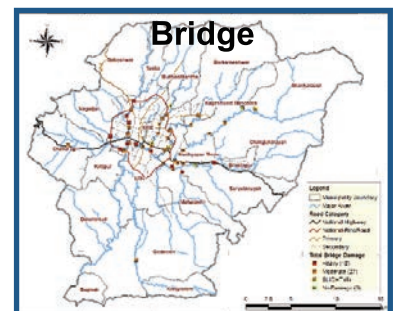
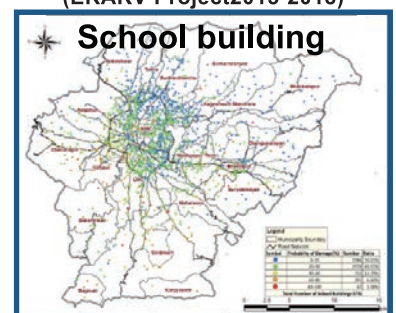


Surveying target sites

Target Area[Kathmandu Valley]



Results of Earthquake Risk Assessment (ERAKV Project2015-2018)



Outline of the Project

Output2

Development of fundamental mechanism for investing high priority DRR projects in the KV

Collaboration

Output3

DRR mainstreaming in the Local Levels (LLs) in the KV

National DRR Policy and Strategic Action Plan

Utilization of past outcomes (Seismic Risk Assessment, Resilience Plan)

Prepare a list of Priority DRR projects, Prepare financing options and develop financing models

Annual Work Plan of concerned ministries

Budgeting

Implementation of High Priority DRR Projects

DRM Planning(DRR part)
Operation of DM Fund

Budgeting

Output1

The institutional capacity development in the NDRRMA

Institutional Development and Human Resource Development as a central DRRM agency through the coordination/monitoring of the projects

Achievement of Project Purpose

2 Progress of the Project

Overall Progress

Invitation Program in Japan (November, 2023)

The Invitation Program in Japan was held from November 4 to 10, 2023. The following 5 high-level officials of relevant agencies participated in the program.

[Participants of the Invitation Program]

Ministry of Home Affairs: Secretary and Joint Secretary
National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) : Chief Executive and Joint Secretary
Ministry of Finance (MoF) : Under Secretary

In this program they visited Cabinet Office, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Hyogo prefecture and Sumida city, etc., and recognized the importance of DRR investment.



Cabinet Office (CAO)



Town walking (Sumida City)



Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism



School with seismic retrofitting

Counterpart Training in Japan (February 2024)

The third Counterpart Training in Japan named of "DRRM system and plan" was held for around 2 weeks from February 5 to 17, 2024. The following 11 persons participated in the training.

[Participants of the training (Number of participants)]

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) (1)
Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) (1)
Local Levels (9) (Each one person from Budhanilakantha, Tokha, Sankharapur, Changunarayan, Gokerneshwor, Nagarjun, Lalitpur, Dakshinkali and Kirtipur Municipality)

The 4 Mayors and 4 Deputy Mayors participated in this training and visited the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Kumamoto Prefectural Government, Mashiki Town Government etc., and learned about the DRRM systems and DRR investment of the national and local governments in Japan. The participants also visited landslide countermeasure sites, high-densely built-up wooden housing area and school with seismic retrofitting, earthquake movable remains and museum facility related to Kumamoto earthquake, etc.



Sabo (Debris Flow) Dam



Earthquake movable remains and museum facility

Output-1: Institutional Capacity Development in the NDRRMA

Capacity development of NDRRMA is in full swing according to the Institutional Development Plan

The objective of the Institutional Development Plan (IDP) is to illustrate the required actions and interventions of the NDRRMA for playing its role as the central lead agency responsible for comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Nepal.

The Human Resource Development Plan (HRDP) forms part of the IDP, which aims to elaborate the required human resources development activities to achieve the Expected Situation of the NDRRMA as stipulated in the IDP.

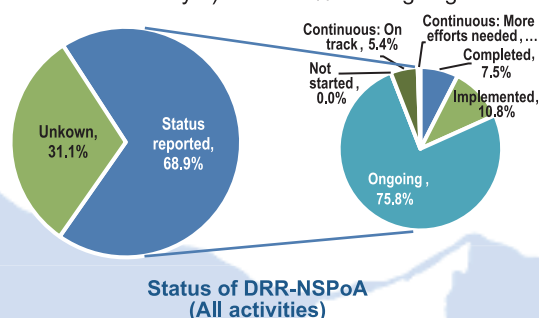
79 out of total 91 actions indicated in the IDP have already been initiated and relevant training courses has been identified or already been implemented for all 12 core competencies in the HRDP.

Monitoring process of DRR-NSPoA is now in place

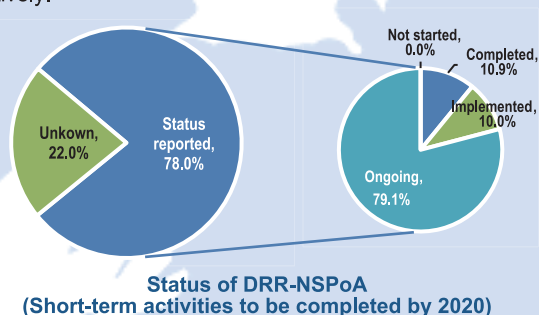
The Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Plan of Action 2018-2030 (DRR-NSPoA) has been enforced by the sanction of Executive Committee as per the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017. DRR-NSPoA consists of 4 Priority Areas, 18 Priority Actions and 270 Strategic Activities.

The Project is supporting NDRRMA to implement the annual monitoring and reporting cycle of DRR-NSPoA. In February 2023, a trial exercise was launched to establish and improve the monitoring process. The formal process was initiated in August 2023 for the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 after the end of the said fiscal year.

Responses have been obtained from the activity owners for 186 out of 270 activities, i.e. 68.9%. Out of these 186 activities, 7.5% have been completed, 10.8% have been implemented (but the objective is not achieved yet) and 75.8% are ongoing.



Regarding the short-term activities to be completed by 2020, status has been reported for 78.0%, and among those reported, 10.9% are completed, 10.0% and 79.1% are ongoing respectively.



Output-2: Fundamental Mechanism for Investing High Priority DRR Projects in the KV

Prepare high priority DRR projects in the KV

Target Facility:

In this project, three major facilities are focused on: (1) Building comprising schools, health facilities and government offices, and Civil Engineering facilities composed of (2) Bridge and (3) Road.

Progress:

(1) Building comprising schools, health facilities and government offices

The JICA Expert Team adopted the public building inventory prepared by the ERAKV as a long list and prepared a short list based on the risk assessment conducted by ERAKV and current status of buildings. The relevant ministries and municipalities identified the high priority DRR projects. The JICA Expert Team prepare the high priority DRR project profile and shared it with the ministries and municipalities. NDRRMA asked ministries to include high priority projects in their Annual Work Plan & Budget by letter. Even though the ministries confirmed necessity of the projects, the projects are not included in the Budget. Instead NDRRMA confirmed that some of the high priority DRR projects were planned to be implemented by the local governments by their own budget (9 projects are being planned/implemented in 5 LLs). Once the high priority DRR projects are approved by MoHA and confirmed by MoF, the high priority DRR projects will be introduced to other doners.



Current Status

Godawari H-1 (Primary Health Care Center)



Completion image

(2) Bridge

4 bridges have been recommended as the priority DRR projects from 145 candidate bridges in KV, which was listed and assessed its vulnerability against the future predicted earthquakes in the ERAKV by some criteria including the location of the bridges on the higher class of Emergency Transportation Road Network. Those proposed DRR bridge list was accepted by DoR and MoPIT on 4th Feb. 2022, and also approved in JCC meeting in Mar. 2022.

In order to formulate the implementation mechanism of the DRR projects, JICA Expert team has arranged a series of meetings with MoPIT, MoHA and municipalities. However, there were no positive reply from them to incorporate them into the annual budget plan so far. Furthermore, in order to officialize the DRR projects, NDRRMA issued the request letter for approval to MOHA in Nov. 2023, the reply has not reached to NDRRMA so far.

Output-3: DRR Mainstreaming in the Local Levels in the KV

Development of LDCRF guideline

The NDRRMA and the JICA Expert Team have been developing “**Guideline for the Formulation of Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Framework (LDCRF)**”.

After the draft was formulated, the guideline was revised many times based on discussions with NDRRMA, relevant ministries and agencies, and experts. The NDRRMA established a task force team consisting of the relevant ministries, such as MoFAGA, NPC, etc., and many times of meetings were held for the finalization of the LDCRF.

The task force team has finalized the draft final of the LDCRF guideline by the end of August 2023. The final draft of the LDCRF Guideline has been submitted to the relevant ministries officially as a formal circular to obtain feedback. A meeting was held with NDRRMA and MoHA for two days, February 28th and 29th, to confirm the results of responses to feedback, and a final agreement was reached.

Currently, the NDRRMA and the JICA Expert Team are proceeding with the procedures for approval by the Executive Committee.



LDCRF Guideline finalization meeting (February 28-29, 2024)



Discussions in the 3rd counterpart training in Japan



Discussion in the 3rd counterpart training (February 9, 2024)



In the third counterpart training, a discussion based on the procedures of LDCRF guideline was conducted. Specifically, the trainees including NDRRMA and MoFAGA were divided into two groups, and the discussions were carried out following the steps in the LDCRF, including identifying hazard/risk areas, and selecting priority projects based on risk, and budget allocation for the implementation. In the discussions, 4 Mayors and 4 Deputy Mayors in KV participated and discussed actively.

In the final presentation of the training, the following ideas to secure the budget for the implementation of DRR measures are presented.

* Ideas to secure the budget for the implementation of DRR measures

Most Priority: Formulation of LDCRF (Utilization of risk assessment results, selection of the priority projects)

Integration to the Development Plan

Collaboration with Federal and Provincial Governments

Direct allocation of the DRR budget to Local Levels

Utilization of donor agencies, NGOs/INGOs, PPP, etc.

Securing the DRR budget of a certain percentage of the total budget

3 Further Schedule

The high priority DRR projects identified in the Project, and the Guideline for the Formulation of Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Framework (LDCRF) will be approved soon.

4 Reports of Counterpart Training in Japan from JICA internship students



Namaste! My name is **Kodai MORI** and I am working at JICA as internship student. In February 2024, I accompanied a training course on the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) conducted in Japan for mayors, deputy mayors and staffs from local municipalities in the Kathmandu Valley, and I would like to report on the situation.

The participants visited the central and local governments of Japan to learn about the history and concept of disaster management, and to visit examples of countermeasures to urban flood and earthquake as a good practice of prior investment for disaster risk reduction (DRR).



Site visit of Seismic-Reinforced School



As a result, there were no casualties due to the collapse of school buildings in the 2011 Great Tohoku Earthquake, which is one of the achievements of Japan's disaster risk reduction investment. Through the training, participants actively exchanged opinions on DRRM before disaster strikes, such as consensus to persuade the residents living in hazardous area to move to safer area and effectiveness of counter measures to flood and earthquake.



Site visit of The Metropolitan Outer Area Underground Disaster Channel



Urban Disaster Mainstreaming of DRRM, and Disaster Prevention meeting in MLIT

The Metropolitan Outer Area Underground Discharge Channel was constructed at a cost of 270 billion yen to reduce flood damage in the eastside of Tokyo. It works an average of seven times a year and has reduced the amount of flood damage by approximately 148.4 billion yen in the 18 years. A mayor was surprised at its efficiency.

And we visited an elementary school that has been reinforced by local municipalities in Tokyo. After the experience of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, the Building Standard Law was revised and major public buildings across Japan have been made earthquake resistant over the past 20 years.

On the final day, participants discussed how to apply what they learned in Japan to DRR in Nepal. Mayor of Tokha emphasized that Japan has learned lessons from past disasters and reviewed its laws and management systems and we must focus on disaster prevention in advance, rather than responding to disasters as they occur and develop like Japan.

Although the environment in Japan and Nepal is different, the participating mayors and deputy mayors expressed their strong desire to reduce damage from possible future disasters in their respective cities. We hope that investing in DRR is made in Nepal and local residents can conduct economic activities without being hampered by disasters.



Site visit of zoned residential area



Discussing the disaster risks around Kathmandu Valley

Reports of Counterpart Training in Japan from JICA internship students



Namaste! My name is **Mizuki Funato**, and I am working at JICA as an intern. I had the opportunity to accompany the training course on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) in Japan for the mayors, deputy mayors, and officers from Kathmandu, Nepal. I hope to share with you the things we have learned, as well as the responses and opinions of the mayors and officers who attended.

During the course, a group discussion was conducted amongst the officers to brainstorm ideas on how to improve collaboration with ministries and local governments and how to secure budgets for the implementation of DRR projects. A few mayors and deputy mayors expressed that they thought the implementation would be the most difficult part but that they now have a few ideas about what to do through the course.

After the discussion, we visited the Tokyo Sky Tree to get a glimpse of Kyojima, a region where there is a high density of wooden buildings and a high risk of fire spreading if fire does occur.

Afterwards, we went to Kyojima to learn about and see the community based DRRM conducted to prevent widespread fires. A few examples of DRRM on a community scale are the implementation of pocket parks, plazas, and the widening of roads. Within the pocket



A pocket park (You can see the blue and white bucket that stores water)

parks and along the parks are multiple buckets of water stored for extinguishing fires.



A plaza that functions as a shelter



One of the roads that are planned to be widened

The pocket parks also function as a barrier to fires spreading from one building to another. We also visited plazas where the benches function as stoves in an emergency and where pumps are made available both to wash your hands and to flush portable toilets.



Throughout the Kyojima area, we saw many methods of fire spread prevention, which started being implemented from around 40 years ago.



One of the roads that was widened in the past

The methods used were ones such as the widening of roads, making the area more resistant to fire spread, and the stock of water buckets filled with water throughout the community. There was a large interest among the officials in these community based DRRM examples.

I believe that it is fundamental to expand the capacity of resources, both in terms of human resources and funds, to properly prevent disasters from occurring. On the other hand, I also believe it is necessary to find efficient disaster prevention methods that will work even with limited capacity. I hope that through the lectures and visits within the Tokyo area, it has provided the mayors and officers of Nepal with ideas of disaster prevention methods and plans that can be implemented within their own communities.