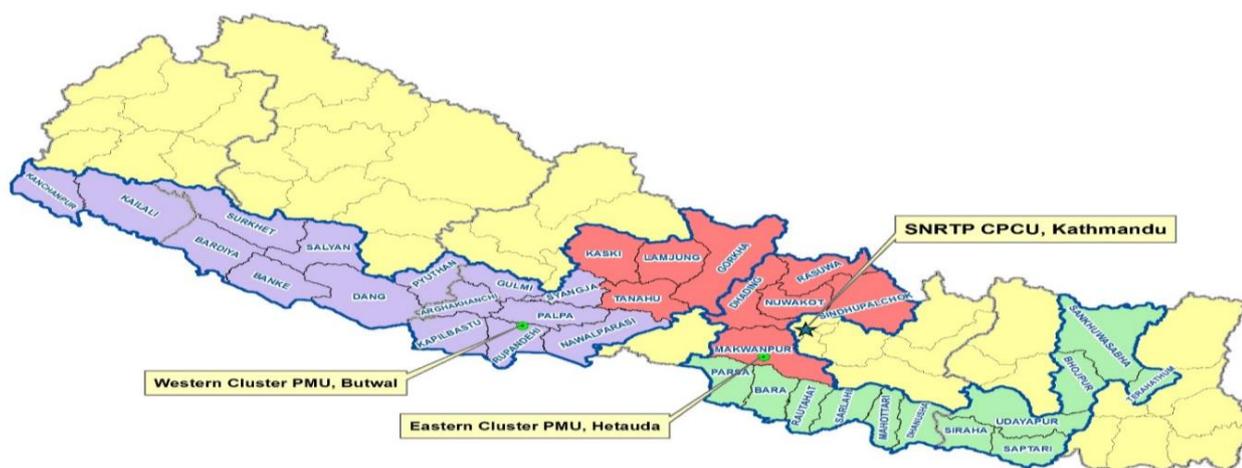


Emergency Cash for work programme for early recovery of Earthquakes victims

A powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal on 25 April 2015, with the epicentre in Gorkha District northwest of Kathmandu. Similarly, a second 7.4 magnitude quake took place on 12 May causing further damage. Government reports confirm that 41 out of 75 districts have been affected in Nepal's Western and Central Regions. Among them, Dhading, Gorkha, Lamjung, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Nuwakot, Dolakha, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Kaski, Makawanpur, Okahldungha and Ramechhap, total 14 district are severely affected.



According to initial estimates, 8 million people have been affected – more than a quarter of the population - of which over 2 million people live in the severely affected districts and claimed life of 9,000 people. As per report from Nepal's home ministry, at least half a million people have been displaced, and 1.4 million people are in need of food assistance. Major damages have been inflicted on local infrastructure in the rural areas including local roads and public services and private housing. In some areas more than 80 percent of private housing has been damaged or completely destroyed. Equally, public buildings such as district offices, schools and health posts, Village Development Committee office have been destroyed.



ILO Response to Earthquakes in Nepal

In order to support earthquakes affected victims, the ILO has launched an emergency Cash for Work Programme covering 9 SNRTP districts (Rushawa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Makaanpur, Sindhupalchowk, Tanahu, Gorkha, Kaski, Lamgunj) in red shade in above map. The programme is being implemented in close collaboration with DoLIDAR (Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads), the Government counterpart of the SNRTP (Strengthening National Rural Transport Programme), funded by the WB and the Government of Nepal and implemented with the ILO technical assistance.

Major achievements

Rural Roads Emergency Routine maintenance: In order to promote and facilitate the participation of affected people, the programme selected a total of 27 roads with length 418 km in the selected 9 earthquake affected districts. The maintenance of the roads identified is crucial to secure safe access to the rural areas while providing decent employment opportunities to the communities engaged in the works. During this course of action, the programme prioritized to clear landslides and debris from damaged roads, buildings and infrastructure for starting rehabilitation and reconstruction work along the periphery of 500 m of selected roads. Besides, routine, specific and emergency maintenances are also undergoing until the end of November, 2015. Additionally, Bio Engineering works through labour based technology has been also initiated in the roads of 5 districts to stabilize soils and landslides along the road effected by earthquake and further by monsoon rain. It will demonstrate innovative techniques of Bio Engineering in hilly roads that will be replicated and expanded in the future by the SNRTP.

Mason Training for Seismic Resistant Building Construction: There is a huge scarcity of trained Mason in the rural areas to participate in the reconstruction of the infrastructures destroyed and/or damaged by the Earthquakes. In order to respond to the challenge, the programme trained already a total of 800 masons on seismic resilient building construction in 65 VDCs (Village Development Committees) within the 9 targeted districts. The Nepalese Institute of Engineering (IoE), has been selected as implementing partner for this purpose. A group of 27 Master Engineers were provided 4 days Training of Trainers to prepare them to deliver field trainings to local Masons at Village Level. The trained local Masons are certified by IoE and ILO.



Employment creation: The programme has created 22,000 workdays of employment paid at the rate of NRs 450-500 (USD 4.4-5, according to the respective district wage rate per day). A total of 1,718 persons of local communities affected by the earthquakes directly benefited from road maintenance, debris management and local mason training activities. Trained Masons will play a critical role in the subsequent reconstruction works, guiding local communities and contributing to generate further employment opportunities.



Gender and Social Inclusion: The programme has been actively promoting gender equality and social inclusion with workforce diversity. Until the current stage of implementation, women represent 39% of the 418 workers engaged in the works.



Occupational Safety and Health: Personal protective equipment has been provided to all 418 length workers.

Insurance: Work-related injuries insurance was provided to all 418 workers.

Linkage with financial institution: A partnership with the Mega Bank (the largest Nepalese private bank) allowed the opening of individual bank accounts for all workers, representing their first relationship with a banking entity. All payments to the workers are processed through transfers to their bank accounts. The system increases financial transparency and banking literacy as well as increased saving habits of the workers.



Linkage with health centers: Despite its relatively short duration, the programme has given high importance for workers health and safety. In this line, the programme linked maintenance workers with health centers for their health checkups.

Linkage with district transport associations: Arrangements have been established with district transport associations for free transportation service for workers during their working period.

Capacity building: In addition to the 800 masons trained on seismic resistance building construction, all Road Maintenance Group workers were provided with training on Road Maintenance and debris management. The 25 Engineers and Sub Engineers recruited by the ILO, as well as the Government DoLIDAR Engineers who are supervising the ongoing works, were also provided with training on road emergency and routine maintenance.

Bio-Engineering: Bio-engineering method has been rolled out to all selected roads to minimize different types of landslides and soil erosion. A total of 40 technicians from district technical offices (DTOs) under local governments, as well as ILO engineers were trained theoretically and practically on Bio-engineering techniques before implementing maintenance programme.