

Training and Capacity Enhancement of Local Governments in the Earthquake Affected Areas of Pakistan

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title:	Training and Capacity Enhancement of Local Governments in the Earthquake Affected Areas of Pakistan
Location:	Earthquake affected areas of Pakistan
Donor:	United Nations Inter-Agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) Contribution from the Government of European Union through the Voluntary Trust Fund for disaster reduction)
Name of the Institution:	Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) and Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies (KU GSGES)

1. Background

On 8th October 2005, an earthquake that measured 7.6 on the Richter scale hit the northern provinces of Pakistan. Following the confusion of the first few hours, reports started arriving documenting the magnitude of the disaster. Damages were on houses, schools, hospitals, government buildings, commercial buildings, and other vital infrastructures. The earthquake killed at least 73,000 people, severely injured 70,000 and leaving 2.8 million people without shelters. The direct economic losses were estimated around USD 2.3 billion. The human loss is the true tragedy of this disaster. Preventing long-term negative effects will depend on the capacity that government and the international community display in order to provide relief assistance quickly to those affected, and to **expedite reconstruction**.

A need assessment study conducted by the ISDR has pointed out the importance of training, capacity building and awareness at different levels. To address the rehabilitation and reconstruction issues in a holistic approach through a concerted action, the Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Authority (ERRA) was established for the overall coordination of earthquake relief and recovery process.

2. Context

On 19th September 1985, **Mexico City** suffered the devastating effects of an earthquake, which left 5,000 people dead and destroyed 48,000 houses. After the earthquake, 24,000 affected families had to live in temporary shelters for two years. The reconstruction work started right after the disaster and lasted for slightly over two years.

At least 8,000 people lost lives and 230,000 houses were seriously damaged or collapsed in the devastating earthquake that affected **Latur in Maharashtra in India** on 30th September 1993. About 30,000 affected families had to stay in temporary houses for four years. The reconstruction work begun in July 1994 and was completed in June 1999.

On 17th January 1995, 6,400 people were killed in the **Kobe** earthquake in Japan. As many as 134,000 houses were leveled to the ground and thereafter 31,000 affected families had to live in temporary houses for three to four years. The reconstruction work started in July 1995 and was completed in August 1999.

On 17th August 1999, the massive earthquake of **Turkey** took the lives of more than 9,000 people. The reconstruction program took more than 3 years with extensive efforts from the government, international communities and the civil societies.

In the case of the **Gujarat** earthquake of 26th January 2001, some 370,000 houses were destroyed, which had to be rebuilt, and around 650,000 other houses required repair. Also, about 300,000 families had to stay in temporary accommodation. The Gujarat state government launched a massive rehabilitation and reconstruction plan and the World Bank designed an assistance program to be implemented in three phases spanning 9-10 years. It took the affected area around 4 years to be rebuilt.

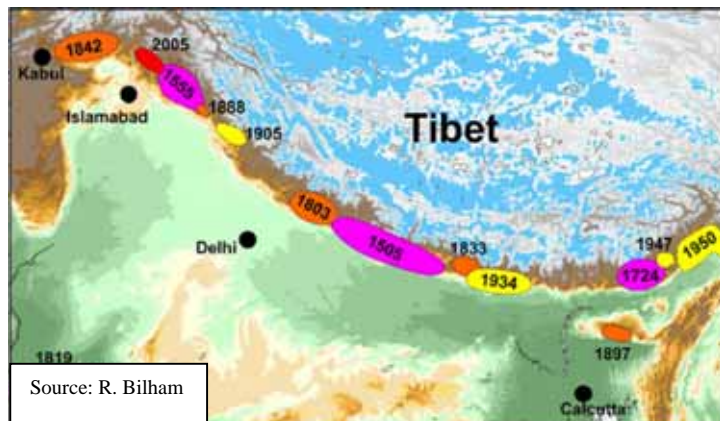
The earthquake of Bam of 26th December 2003 killed 35,000 people, and injured several thousands. The reconstruction process is still continued, and there has been extensive training programs conducted during the reconstruction process.

All these reconstruction process have documented extensive experiences and efforts of different parts of the society and community. Each reconstruction process was unique in its nature, and different innovations were made at different levels, from policy to grass-root community involvement. The reconstruction of Pakistan earthquake will need a strong component of **experience sharing**, and to transfer the **lessons learned from earlier reconstruction programs** in different others parts of the region.

3. Needs

Northern Pakistan is an earthquake prone area. The seismic gap shows that the current earthquake is possibly not the last. There are future possibilities of the earthquakes, since the area is located near the plate boundary, and seismically active zones.

Past reconstruction experiences point out the need of linking reconstruction to long-term preparedness. While, ISDR, in partnership with other agencies like ERRA and NSET, is committed to provide training to different stakeholders like school teachers, masons and engineers, capacity building of the local governments is of immense importance. It is of utmost important that the local governments, local academic institution, and local NGO make pro-active partnership for knowledge sharing and capacity enhancement, and link the post-disaster reconstruction process to long term recovery.



It has been found from the past experiences, that after the major disasters:

- The level of awareness among various stakeholders on issues of disaster mitigation and preparedness is very low,
- The level of inquisitiveness is high
- Where initiatives for sensitization and awareness generation have been taken up, they leave the target audiences aware of the issues, but without appropriate knowledge and skills to act
- Disaster mitigation and preparedness appears as a “generic topic” drawing substandard response
- A strategic intervention approach is required that raises awareness on issues of concern, imparts knowledge and skills to address these issues, and creates channels for snowballing of this transfer of knowledge and skills

- The post disaster scenario provides an immense opportunity to mainstream risk reduction issues with development practice.

Therefore, apart from the immediate needs, the long-term need of the reconstruction process is:

- To enhance capacity of local and national government focal point to cope with future disasters
- To link reconstruction experiences with longer-term preparedness and development
- To develop a monitoring and evaluation process for the reconstruction program

4. Scope of Work (Goal and Objectives)

The work mainstreamed risk reduction by building field level human resource capacity in development and disaster management sectors.

To fulfil the above-mentioned needs and goal, it is important to work with the local government institutions, and facilitate information and knowledge management system within the local governments. There are four district governments involved in the ISDR project sites: Manshera, Abotabad, Muzzafarabad and Bagh. The current work involved the Nazim offices of Manshera and Bagh districts, and closely with local NGO partners of the ADRRN.

Knowledge Resource Centers were developed at the district levels, and linked with the national focal point of the reconstruction (ERRA). It is expected that the role of ERRA will decrease after 3-4 years, and the resource centers will be actual node of information and technology in the local level.

The objectives were:

1. To develop knowledge resource center for education and training in risk reduction
2. To develop and test customized pilot packages on disaster mitigation and preparedness for development/risk managers
3. To establish a system of linking local stakeholders for sustainable operation of the knowledge resource centers.

The current work included:

- i) Designing an overall framework of knowledge resource center
- ii) Establishing four resource centers
- iii) Conducting pilot training programs for key resource persons of the centers
- iv) Periodic monitoring and evaluation of the training impacts

5. Outputs

The outcome of the current work is the development of a knowledge management system with links to risk reduction and development practices. The specific outputs are:

- Knowledge resource centers
- Trained local government officials
- Enhanced capacities of local governments, local institutions
- Monitoring and evaluation