



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



*Supporting Nepal in Building Back Better*

# UNDP'S EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY RESPONSE



# What is UNDP Doing



UNDP is assisting the Government of Nepal to respond to the devastating earthquakes. With a comprehensive programme spanning three years, under the leadership of the Government of Nepal, UNDP focuses on four main areas of work: assisting the Government in its recovery planning and implementation, revitalizing livelihoods and supporting the economic recovery of communities, restoring local governance systems and public service delivery, and helping to build a disaster resilient Nepal. UNDP links early recovery work with long-term development and is co-leading the Early Recovery Cluster under the leadership of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and the Ministry of Urban Development.

*UNDP is working through its established networks to deliver assistance where it matters most. Emphasis will be put on accountability and transparency throughout the recovery period, ensuring that existing vulnerabilities and inequalities, gender issues and environmental concerns are addressed.*

# Restoring Governance Systems and Public Service Delivery

Local governance centres were badly hit by the disaster and in many villages and districts, public services have been slow to recover. UNDP is assisting in the restoration of local governance systems, including justice, police, National Human Rights Committee, and legal aid to ensure affected communities have access to these services. Peace, gender equity and social cohesion issues cut across all UNDP's assistance during Nepal's recovery.

## **BUILDING BACK BETTER HOUSING**

With 800,000 structures in need of rebuilding or retrofitting, the bulk of the reconstruction efforts will tackle this enormous undertaking. UNDP's support can focus on ensuring those houses are rebuilt safer than before.

The workforce is trained in safer practices that follow government building codes; disaster and climate risk reduction is integrated into design and construction, and quality control takes place to ensure the reconstruction is in line with national standards.



# Helping Nepal Build A Disaster-Resilient Nation

UNDP is committed to helping Nepal build back better. With many years as Nepal's development partner and employing its wealth of lessons learnt from its work in other crises, UNDP is helping Nepal to develop a long-term recovery framework that emphasizes resilience. Existing programmes have been restructured to address urgent needs that emerged following the disaster such as changes to sensitive ecosystems like Lake Imja, and will include scaling up renewable energy alternatives for some of Nepal's most vulnerable people, building a culture of disaster risk awareness, and helping to ensure all reconstruction is done with a build back better approach.

## Partners

UNDP works under the leadership of the Government of Nepal and closely with the UN and other development partners.

### **BUILDING UPON UNDP'S DISASTER AND CLIMATE RISK REDUCTION WORK**

This disaster has not only highlighted the vulnerabilities of Nepal in the face of hazards, but the strides it has undertaken to reduce the impact of these hazards. Since 2011, UNDP has been assisting the Government of Nepal to strengthen its institutional capacities and legislative framework in disaster risk management. Under UNDP's Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme:

- Ministries have allocated an average of 4.85 percent of their annual budgets to disaster and climate risk management issues (2014)
- The Government has developed the Electronic Building Permit System, which enhances the National Building Code compliance for earthquake-safe construction
- The National Planning Commission has integrated disaster and climate risk management into its monitoring and evaluation guidelines and tools
- 2,000 community members have been trained in disaster risk management in 68 village development committees
- 26 Emergency Operation Centres at all levels of government are expanded and operational



# Nepal Reconstruction Authority Support

The National Reconstruction Authority, a body that oversees the billion-dollar reconstruction work, is expected to set policies and coordinate the massive undertaking. UNDP will apply its wealth of expertise and knowledge in similar authorities from previous disasters in Indonesia, the Philippines and Pakistan. In addition to providing technical support to the Authority through human resources and equipment provisions, UNDP offers tried-and-tested mechanisms that will ensure transparency, accountability, gender equity and social inclusion, and the development of a cohesive recovery strategy that brings all partners in line with a shared agenda.

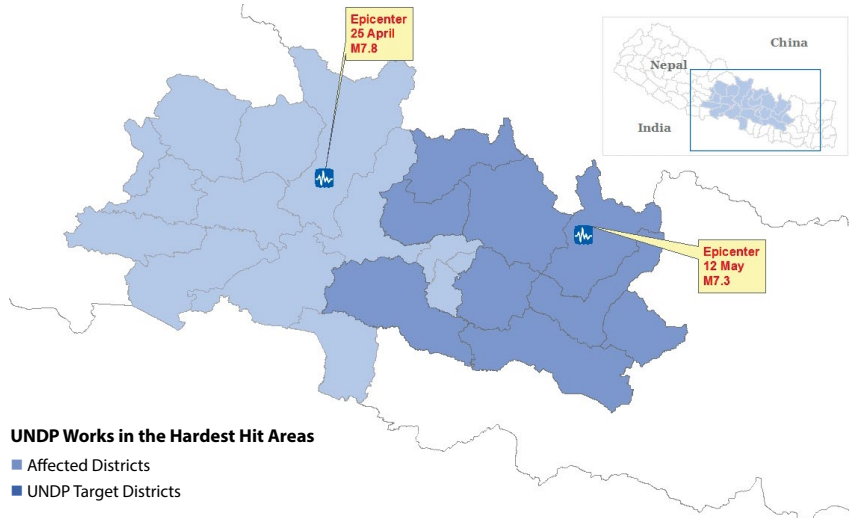
## Livelihoods and Economic Recovery

Clearing the large volume of earthquake safely is of utmost priority to allow for reconstruction. Within three months UNDP has employed 2,600 people (43 percent women) through its cash-for-work programme and has deployed teams comprising 90 Nepali civil engineers as UN Volunteers and international demolition and debris experts. Almost 2,000 structures in some of the hardest-hit and most remote areas have been safely demolished and 170,000 cubic metres of debris was removed.

Over the next year, UNDP will continue large-scale support focusing on public buildings, like schools and clinics, in the affected 14 districts. This will reach 15,000 people with emergency employment while over 240,000 people will benefit from the overall initiative. The income earned through emergency employment will give many of the

affected population much needed money to help bridge the economic gap, while ensuring public services can resume with little disruption.

Multiple industries have been affected by the disaster like tourism, agriculture and small businesses. UNDP is building on its existing initiatives to rapidly help people get back on their feet like the 12,000 micro-entrepreneurs under its Micro-enterprise Development Programme and, for the thousands of students enrolled in vocation and technical schools who have been unable to attend due to damaged classrooms, UNDP will help restore selected schools and develop new curricula particularly for professions needed in the construction effort. UNDP is also assisting in the reconstruction of community infrastructure, which will reopen vital markets and help to restore lost livelihoods.



**UNDP Works in the Hardest Hit Areas**

- Affected Districts
- UNDP Target Districts



DEBRIS MANAGEMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION



EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOODS



RESTORING GOVERNMENT SERVICES



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Two devastating earthquakes hit Nepal in April and May of 2015. The death toll climbed to over 8,700 while more than 22,000 people were injured. Out of 75 districts in Nepal, 33 were affected by the earthquakes, 14 of which were heavily damaged. In the hardest hit districts, as much as 95 percent of the structures were destroyed. Some 3 million people were displaced and 800,000 houses are destroyed or damaged. City centres in the worst-affected districts are in ruins and public infrastructure has been lost. Many frontline Government services are slow to return and hundreds of thousands of livelihoods are lost or damaged. UNDP is committed to helping Nepal recover from this disaster.

*The objective of UNDP's recovery programme is to provide immediate assistance to the affected population while addressing underlying vulnerabilities.*

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*UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.*



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