



DRR IN Nepal

According to UNDP report 'National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management in Nepal', Nepal is ranked very high in terms of vulnerability to natural calamities. Due to population growth, urbanisation and climate change the risks continue to increase at alarming rates. Nepal is ranked 11th in terms of its

vulnerability to earthquakes, 6th to climatic hazards and 30th in terms of floods and landslides. Thousands of people are displaced every year by floods and landslides with more than 300 lives lost last year. The country is equally vulnerable to epidemics.



Save the Children's Presence 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 57 districts and reaching over 1.5 million children. The main areas of work include education, health and nutrition, child protection, child rights, HIV/AIDS, emergency response and livelihoods.

Over the past 5 years Save the Children has implemented 4 DRR programs in Nepal with over \$2.9 million USD from Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, USAID and Save the Children Finland and Save the Children Italy. Collectively the programs have directly reached over 151,700 children and over 219,000 community members. Our programs have focused strongly on building resilience amongst children and communities through preparedness, adaptation and mitigation.

Disaster Management

Through the 'Recovery & Rehabilitation of Children and their Families Affected by Koshi Flood', Save the Children strengthened the capacity of the community on DRR. Community Disaster Management Committees have been formed in villages to carry out local DRR activities. These committees are comprised of representatives from schools/children, youths (peer group member), community members, and political and religious leaders.

Save the Children has strengthened coordination and cooperation with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), the main Governmental body looking after the overall disaster management issues, to increase coordination among key DRR actors in Nepal. A contingency plan was prepared in 63 highly flood and landslide prone districts in which Save the Children is responsible for twelve districts.

Save the Children strengthened local capacity on disaster preparedness and response through the creation of networks. We increased the support to disaster relief networks through the provision of sub grants and through the establishment of non food item (NFI) stockpiles and distribution mechanisms. Small sub-grants were provided to NGOs to enable them to work during disaster and emergency situations.

We accomplished the task of preparing effective disaster preparedness and response network mechanisms to vulnerable communities and even among the agencies working in the humanitarian sector in district and regional level. To ensure better preparedness and to enhance the capacity of immediate humanitarian response, Save the Children provided a series of capacity building training and orientation on disaster management to the network members. Directives and guidelines were circulated for timely and effective mobilization of human and physical resources available among network members to mitigate and/or alleviate acute human suffering from disasters.



Top: Children in Keshari's village help their parents doing chores at home and working in the field, Sathipaila village, West Nepal.

Bottom: Akali Devi and her family are among the hundreds of thousands who have received life saving assistance through a Save the Children Disaster Preparedness and Response program immediately following a disaster. Akali, seven months pregnant at the time, walked with her husband and young daughter for five hours in waist deep water when flooding hit her village in Nepal.

Cover: Children walking to school, Sathipaila village, West Nepal.

Preparedness and Adaptation

Save the Children has promoted indigenous early warning and communication systems to ensure that communities are prepared for disasters. A community based river gauge reading was initiated.

In addition, Save the Children has focused on advocacy with the government to be sensitive towards children in their disaster policies and encouraged the government to promote safer schools. Production of IEC materials and a study on the involvement of Junior Red Cross Circle in disaster preparedness have also been conducted as well as some training for partners and workmen in ensuring safe school construction in East and Mid-West Nepal.

We have been advocating for community preparedness and the need to make necessary adjustments in natural or human systems in response to climatic stimuli or its effects. We have taught communities about the effects of global warming; the changes of weather; and possible community and household level actions to prevent, or adapt to, the effects of global warming.