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NEPAL FACT SHEET

COMMUNITY ACTION FOR DISASTER RESPONSE (CADRE) PROGRAM

Nepal is one of the 20 most disaster-prone countries in the world. It is ranked 11th in terms of earthquake risk, 30th in terms of flood risk, and 4th in terms of risk from the impacts of risk related to recurrent climatic hazards. A World Bank study in 2005 classified Nepal as one of the global “hot-spots” for natural disasters. Losses caused by disaster—such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, snowfall, avalanches, fires, and cold waves—include deaths, injuries, and property damage that can be reduced when effective disaster preparedness and response systems are in place.

Local community members are crucial first responders in the immediate aftermath of disasters, particularly in a country like Nepal where access to many rural areas is hindered by extreme geography and inadequate infrastructure, and professional capacity to respond is limited. The key role played by community members was clearly evident after the 2015 earthquake and aftershocks, when emergency aid services took days to reach many communities in Nepal and the only frontline responders were often family members, neighbors, and other community members, most of whom had no training in disaster response.

As part of the USAID/OFDA's regional Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER), the American Red Cross (ARC), Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), and National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) are collaboratively conducting Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE) courses in Nepal. The program aims to enhance community-level first responder capacity in Nepal. USAID/OFDA has supported CADRE courses in Nepal since 2012.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

CADRE has two major objectives: (1) to enhance the capacity of community members to serve as first responders in disaster-prone areas and (2) to institutionalize the CADRE system at Village Development Committee (VDC), municipality, district, and national levels. CADRE will provide a foundation and model for rolling out this modality across Nepal. The program will be implemented in coordination with government, specifically the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRC), District Development Committees, VDCs, and municipalities. The importance of community-level responders is highlighted in the Government of Nepal's National Strategic Action Plan for Search and Rescue (MoHA, 2014); CADRE was identified as a key community level response tool in the final report submitted to MoHA on March 2015 by the Search and Rescue (SAR) technical advisor and the SAR technical working group.

CADRE trainings incorporate simple elements of medical first responder training, dead body management, community incident command systems, and basic search and rescue techniques into a four-day modular course. CADRE trainings focus on knowledge and skills that help prepare vulnerable communities to respond to possible local hazards. Twelve participants from each VDC or municipality will receive training and form response teams under the Local Disaster Management Committee, aligning CADRE response teams with local government authority's response mechanisms.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Update/revise CADRE curriculum
- Train CADRE facilitators/instructors and community responders
- Establish and equip community response teams
- Establish and strengthen community response committees
- Conduct community simulations, awareness programs, and advocacy
- Support preparation of local- and district-level disaster preparedness and risk management plans

RESULTS ACHIEVED

- 1,080 community responders trained
- 240 CADRE facilitators/instructors trained
- 46 VDCs and 4 municipalities have response teams and response committees
- 25,000 community members covered