

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE COORDINATION

A. Aid Coordination and External Assistance

1. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake on 25 April 2015, the Government of Nepal sought assistance from the international community for relief operations and immediate humanitarian response. The international community responded swiftly and provided relief, rescue, and medical teams.
2. After the strong aftershock on 12 May 2015, the government convened a donors' meeting on 15 May 2015 and requested that the post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) be initiated immediately to enable transition from the relief and recovery phase to rehabilitation and reconstruction. Accordingly, a PDNA secretariat was established under the leadership of the Nepal Planning Commission (NPC), with strong support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Union (EU), World Bank and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Consultations were held with the donor community and their affiliates and partners present in Nepal, to agree on a common approach to conducting the PDNA.
3. At the request of NPC, a 2-day PDNA training workshop was held, attracting more than 30 donor agencies and some 230 other participants. It resulted in a work plan for each sector team and the launch of the PDNA—by far the largest yet undertaken. The PDNA was completed and will be presented at a seminar on 15 June 2015. NPC will then detail the initial PDNA findings at a donors' conference on 25 June 2015, to seek financial assistance for the government's rehabilitation and reconstruction (R&R) program.
4. The Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund was established in the aftermath of the earthquake to pool and coordinate funds flowing in from diverse sources to help Nepal's relief, recovery, and R&R program. Grants from donors—e.g., \$20 million from the Government of Australia and \$3 million from ADB—were immediately transferred to the prime ministerial fund to start relief and recovery operations.
5. The government requested the donor community to assist the immediate and medium-term reconstruction and rehabilitation effort. In response to this, the World Bank is processing a project of about \$200 million to support the (i) reconstruction of homes destroyed by the earthquake; (ii) establishment of social protection programs, including a cash-for-work program; (iii) restoration of livelihoods and economic activities, with a special focus on ensuring social protection for vulnerable groups; and (iv) overarching capacity building to strengthen disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is focusing its efforts on the housing and education sectors (flagged as the worst affected), in addition to general DRR activities. The UN community is collectively supporting community-based disaster risk management (DRM) efforts, improvements in health and child education, and social protection programs. The UN community also proposed technical assistance for the restoration of Nepal's cultural heritage and tourism, which is the dominant revenue generator in Nepal.
6. **Pre-earthquake donor focus.** Before the 2015 earthquake, most donors (including JICA, UN, and World Bank) focused on activities like disaster preparedness, mitigation, and adaptation, and research on seismic activities in the Himalayan range (Table 1).

Table 1: Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development			
ADB	Mainstreaming Climate Change Risk Management in Development	2011–2017	7.2
	Building Climate Resilience of Watersheds in Mountain Eco Regions	2011–2013	1.4
	Water Resources Project Preparatory Facility	2012–2016	11.0
	Strategic Strengthening of Flood Warning and Management Capacity	2011–2014	3.0
	Emergency Flood Damage Rehabilitation Project	2009–2015	25.6
Education			
ADB and DFAT	School Sector Program (School Safety)	2012–2014	9.0
DFID	Support to Build Earthquake Resilience in Nepal (Early recovery activities in Eastern Nepal in the aftermath of the Sikkim Earthquake)	2012–2015	1.2
Multidonor	Supporting MOE/DOE to Operationalize Cluster Management to Provide Education Response during Emergencies	2008–2015	0.5
JICA	School Earthquake Safety Program	2011–2015	0.2
UNICEF	Capacity Building of the Education Stakeholders and Integration of the DRR Contents in formal, nonformal, and local curriculum	2009–2015	0.1
Health			
DFID and WHO	Nepal Hospitals Seismic Retrofitting Program	2012–2015	3.1
Transport			
USAID	Tribhuvan International Airport Critical Infrastructure Retrofit and Others		
Water and Other Urban Infrastructure and Services			
ADB	Strengthening Municipalities for Urban Service Delivery	2012–2016	11.0
DFID	Urban Wash Preparedness and Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Urban Risk Management for Municipalities in the Terai Region in Nepal	2012–2015	3.2
	Building Code Implementation Program	2012–2015	1.8
Multi-sector			
DFID and WFP	Augmentation of Kathmandu Emergency Logistics and Telecommunications Common Services	2014–2015	3.4
USAID	Nepal Earthquake Risk Management Program Stage II	2011–2015	1.3
	Community Action for Disaster Response Expansion Project	2011–2015	0.4
DFID	Monitoring and Evaluation	2012–2015	1.1
USAID and IOM	Preparedness and Management of Open Spaces	2014–2015	0.1
DFID	Nepal Earthquake Preparedness for Safer Communities Program	2012–2015	6.8
JICA	Community Initiatives for Disaster Risk Reduction in Chitwan	2011–2015	0.3
DFID and UNDP	Earthquake Preparedness and Disaster Reduction in Nepal	2012–2015	8.3
UNDP	Micro Capital Grants	2011–2015	0.6
	Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in Academia	2012–2015	0.2

ADB = Asian Development Bank, DFAT = Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Government of Australia), DFID = Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, DOE = Department of Education, DRM = disaster risk management, DRR = disaster risk reduction, IOM = International Organization for Migration, JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency, MOE = Ministry of Education, UNDP = United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF = United Nations Children's Fund, USAID = United States Agency for International Development, WFP = World Food Programme, WHO = World Health Organization.

Sources: Asian Development Bank and Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium database (June 2015).

7. In 2009, the government launched the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRC) in partnership with several development partners, including ADB, to strengthen preparedness, response systems, and the overall policy framework. ADB and the World Bank have been supporting and financing climate- and disaster-resilient infrastructure in their respective sectors of intervention for many years. They have, under previous and ongoing projects, conducted multi-hazard risk assessments in urban areas to develop a database and baselines for risk

financing in the public and private sectors. JICA and other Japanese institutions have supported various interventions to develop the technical capacity for and share knowledge on disaster-resilient approaches and interventions. Bilateral donors such as the governments of Australia and the United Kingdom (UK), as well as the European Commission (EC) and the UN have also been active in supporting the national DRM agenda by improving response capacities, building emergency storage facilities, providing training on and strengthening the capacities for disaster risk assessments and disease surveillance systems, and mainstreaming DRM in Nepal's broad development agenda.

8. **Potential donor financing.** Discussions have begun among the G-7 nations¹ on the establishment of a multidonor trust fund to provide additional financial aid. However, the fund's management structure and operational procedures and processes need to be defined in further discussions with donor members. Several bilateral donors have shown interest in supporting such a fund.

9. The EU, UNDP, and World Bank have proposed to support the government in the development of disaster mitigation policies and assessments of building works and safety in urban areas. Additionally, ADB, UN, and World Bank have been working separately with bilateral donors to mobilize funds for accelerated reconstruction. JICA has already expressed interest in financing school reconstruction. The governments of Japan and the UK, as major donors, are in dialogue with the Government of Nepal and the international community on possible funding for DRM activities.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

10. Donors have come together to jointly support the government in undertaking the PDNA. ADB and the World Bank jointly led five of the sectors covered under the PDNA. Currently, the main DRM donor group is facilitated by the UN through the NRRC and is focused on strengthening preparedness, response systems, and the overall DRM policy framework.

11. Historically, donors have played a crucial role in coordinating R&R processes during disasters in Nepal. After the 1988 Udayapur earthquake and the 1993 and 2008 floods, the capacity of various institutions in Nepal has certainly improved, but not enough to handle the relief and recovery operations without external support from international agencies.

C. Summary and Recommendations

12. The government's major challenge now is to reconstruct damaged infrastructure and other physical assets with disaster-resilient features, while maintaining transparency and accountability. ADB should use the attached technical assistance to expedite the establishment of the R&R special purpose vehicle (SPV), help define key SPV management functions, and build the capacity of not just the SPV but also of the project implementing agencies, to enable effective and efficient financial, safeguard, and technical due diligence for all R&R activities.

¹ Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States