

Earthquake Safety Day is celebrated in Nepal indicating the massive destruction caused by earthquake on Magh 2 1990's B.S (1934 Jan 15 AD) in Nepal, and this day is marked as the National Earthquake Safety Day.

On the occasion of 16th National Earthquake Safety Day 16 January 2014 (Magh 2 2070 BS), a week-long campaign on earthquake safety awareness was conducted from 10th to 16th January 2014 in Manma, Kalikot jointly by District Disaster Relief Committee Kalikot and Inclusive CBDRR project partners.

1. Campaign Inauguration

A week-long campaign on earthquake safety awareness was inaugurated by organizing a programme on 10th January 2014 (26 Poush 2070) in Manma, the district headquarter of Kalikot. The objective of the campaign was "To raise awareness about earthquake and prepare wider community on its safety measures." Tularam Pandey, District Coordinator of KIRDARC Nepal addressing to the session said that the earthquake is an unexpected hazard and it cannot be forecasted, therefore, the only way to save life and property is to prepare for it". In the programme representatives from DDRC, five local partner organizations, and local people, journalists and government agencies were present.



By following the inauguration, videos on earthquake of Kathmandu 1990 B.S., Tsunami of Japan- 2004 and glimpses of 15th earthquake safety day programmes were presented. The inauguration and video show programme was coordinated by Dalit Utthan Samaj, Kalikot.

2. Inter-School Drawing Competition on Earthquake Safety

In order to spread the message of earthquake safety through the expression of children's ideas on drawing, an Inter-School Drawing Competition was organized on 11th and 12th January, the third day of the campaign in Manma VDC hall. Altogether 23 students of 13 schools of Manma, Raku and Badalkot VDCs took part in the competition. The participants were inclusive as three students from each school including female, Dalit and other were invited in the programme. The students were

provided a short orientation about earthquake and how to save life and property from it. The competitor students were asked to choose one topic of their interest out of two: (i) how to be safe while at home and community during earthquake; and (ii) earthquake preparedness measures to reduce impact of earthquake in community/home. This programme was managed by Disability Rehabilitation Centre.

A five-member Judge Committee consisting of representatives from District Education Office, Teachers' Union, District Women and Children Office, and Nepal Red Cross Society, was formed. The committee reviewed all the drawings and decided the best five one. The best drawing students are Kushum Shahi (Grade 8) of Bal Vikash Boarding School, Sabita Shahi (Grade 9) of Janajivan Secondary School; Minraj Shahi (Grade 7) of Mahadev Lower Secondary School, Katak B.K. (Grade 8) of Bhawani Lower Secondary School, and Anuja Shahi (Grade 9) of Karnali Lower Secondary School. The best five drawings were awarded with bag, diary, pen and certificate whereas all the contenders of the programme were provided with diary, pen and certificate as consolation prize in the closing ceremony of the campaign by the President of DDRC, Yam Bahadur Budha Magar, the assistant CDO. The best five drawing were kept in photo exhibition.

As a result of the competition, the students those who participated in the competition got orientation as well as expressed their ideas in the drawing and the schools where they are schools studying are now aware of earthquake safety. During this process, a 13-member Teachers Coordination Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction has been formed in the chair of Keshav Raj Devkota.

3. Simulations on Earthquake Safety – Rescue and First Aid

On fourth day of the campaign, simulation on earthquake safety was organized at Pratima Chowk, Manma. The simulation was performed jointly by Nepal Red Cross Society Kalikot Chapter and Nepal Police.



Light search and rescue team of Nepal Police in simulation

In the simulation suddenly, a woman shouted in a loud voice stating that the earthquake stroke! Earthquake stroke! Pointing out to a damaged house, (There is a damaged house nearby Partima Chowk) said, "Look at that house! It has been affected by the earthquake!" The people watching the simulation standing nearby that house were asked to move away warning that the house might fall. Finally, some other women suggested to call the Police and other women called the Police. The rescue team of Nepal police arrived immediately. The women also called District Hospital to send an ambulance. The Ambulance came with loud siren by following Nepal Police. The Search and Rescue Team of Nepal Police entered into the damaged house and rescued three injured persons i.e. head injured, backbone injured and arm injured. The First Aid team of Nepal Red Cross Society immediately started to provide First Aid service to the injured. The Ambulance then took the injured to hospital (One medical camp like a hospital was made nearby).

At the final, all the audience of the simulation was requested to make a circle with joined hands each other and asked to make a commitment statement, "Earthquake is Natural! We can't prevent it! So let's be prepared on earthquake safety". The simulation was demonstrated by Nepal Red Cross Society Kalikot and Nepal Police and by coordinated by KIRDARC Nepal.

4. Photo Exhibition on Disaster

Photos relating to the day-to-day life and the incidents that occurred in the locality not only sensitizes the people about the issues but also aware them to be prepared. Therefore, a three-day photo exhibition was organised at Pratima Chowk of Manma from fifth day of campaign to final day [14-16 January 2014].



Sannighat dwellers explaining the photos to others

15 photos of Sannighat, Thirpu, and Manma relating to 'post-disaster situation, preparedness, risks and rescue', and the best five drawings and posters on earthquake safety were exhibited. Along the side, a white banner for commitment signature was kept to seek commitment for earthquake preparedness at individual and family level. More than 500 people from different parts of the district including Manma observed the photos and signed on commitment to prepare for earthquake safety. This programme was coordinated by Himalayan Community Resource Development Centre.



District Coordinator of KIRDARC Nepal Tularam Pandey explaining photos to Police personnel

The photos of Sannighat Flood strike (17 June 2013), Thirpu and Manma were observed by the local people with deep interest and also explained to other people. It has fostered discourse on disaster and risky behaviour of the people.

5. Video Show

On the fourth day of the campaign, photo exhibition was organised during the day and different documentaries on earthquake safety awareness were showed at the evening. Lalpurja Part-II of renowned comedy-artists viz. Madan Krishna Shrestha and Hari Bansa Acharya, different Television Spots on earthquake preparedness produced by NSET were showed at Pratima Chowk at evening of fifth day of the campaign.



People watching video show of Lalpurja-II at Manma

The Lalpurja Part-II gives a message about earthquake resilient building construction including Building Construction Code of Nepal Government of Nepal whereas different TV spots shown i.e. Go Bag, Duck-Cover-Hold etc. have sensitized the audience on the issues. Nearly 200 people watched the show.

6. Deuda Song Performance

Local folk song *Deuda* is a part of culture in mid and far west regions and popular among local communities. It is sang in different functions of different occasions. In *Deuda*, two groups with at least five person in each group sing songs asking questions to one another. The questions usually are challenging on any subject. Now days, it is being a popular means of spreading message for awareness-raising on different themes.



Women participating in Deuda performance

Thus, *Deuda* was performed at Pratima Chowk on sixth day of the campaign (15 Jan 2014), the day was Maghe Sankranti, a festival. Two teams performed the *Deuda*. Before the performance, both teams were oriented on disaster and earthquake safety. This was coordinated by Dalit Women Empowerment Centre.

7. Rally and Street Drama

On the final day of the campaign (16 Jan 2014), a rally was organised. In the rally, Assistant CDO,

Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Nepal Red Cross District Chapter and all the non-government organisations active in Kalikot participated with their organizational banner, placards, and chanting slogans earthquake safety.



Assistant CDO (second from right) in rally

The rally of around 350 started from Pratima Chwok and returned back to the same place reaching at Zero Point. This event was coordinated by Himalayan Community Resource Development Centre (HCRDC)

While the rally returned back to Pratima Chowk, a team of trained child artists performed a street drama "Earthquake and Safety Measures". The drama was managed by Chetana Abibirdi and Samaj Sewa Sangh.



Child artists performing street drama

During the rally 1500 pamphlets were distributed to all participants and local people and 300 caps with earthquake message were distributed to organizers and key representatives of different agencies including government.

8. Media Campaign

During this 16th Earthquake Awareness Campaign in Kalikot, radio and local news papers were covering the campaign events with high priority. A week-long campaign programme was publicized on local news paper. *Hamro Karnali Khabar*, only daily in the district, published editorial on the importance of earthquake safety campaign. Simultaneously,

different types of messages/jingles on disaster and earthquake safety preparedness were broadcasted by two local FM radios – Radio Naya Karnali and Nepali Aawaz. During the period, the FM radio also broadcasted series of interviews with experts and opinion makers on the issue.

9. Closing of the Campaign

The week-long campaign was closed by organizing a ceremony on 16 January in Manma. In the ceremony, the best five drawings were awarded with bag, diary, pen and certificate whereas all the contenders of the programme were provided with diary, pen and certificate as consolation prize. Likewise, all the participants of Deuda Song Performance were awarded with plate and certificate in the closing ceremony of the campaign by the President of DDRC.



Best drawing students receiving awards from CDO

The Assistant CDO addressing to the ceremony said, “This kind of earthquake safety awareness campaign is first in its kind in the district, therefore, I would like to thank to all the organizers.”



Assistant CDO addressing to the Closing Ceremony

Inclusive CBDRR project has been implemented in six VDCs Thirpu, Dhaulagoha, Khina, Ramnakot, Nanikot and Phukot and at district and national level. This project is funded by European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO) and technically assisted by Mission East and implemented in partnership with KIRDAC Nepal, Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation (NNDSWO), Samjhauta Nepal and local partners namely Chetana Abibirdi and Samaj Sewa Sangh, Dalit Utthan Samaj, Dalit Women Empowerment Centre, Disable Rehabilitation Centre, Himalayan Community Resource Development Centre.

10. Commitment for Disaster Risk Reduction

In order to seek commitment from stakeholders of disaster risk reduction, a district level interaction programme was organised with participation of civil society organisations working on the issue and government authorities including DDRC, DDC, VDC secretaries on 20th January 2014.

The interaction made a 7 point commitment for the disaster risk reduction initiatives towards building a disaster resilient Kalikot. The programme was coordinated by VDSEF and HRUNDEC.

STAKEHOLDERS' COMMITMENT FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN KALIKOT

1. Comply with the standards of Building Construction Code while constructing buildings in Manma.
2. Allocate at least 5% of programme budget in all 30 Village Development Committees and at least 2% budget in District Development Commitment every year for the disaster risk reduction initiatives.
3. Promote collective advocacy through Alliance amongst civil society organizations of Kalikot on the issues of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adoption and coordinate with District Disaster Relief Committee.
4. Put emphasis for the effective implementation of District Preparedness and Response Plan.
5. Prepare Local Disaster Risk Management Plan of all 30 VDCs of the district and implement them accordingly by 2073 B.S. (2017).
6. Prepare a standard of relief distribution to the disaster affected people in Kalikot.
7. Ensure inclusion of women, Dalit, persons with disability and geography in proportion to their population in all committees and sub-committees related to disaster risk management.