



EU & NEPAL

AFTER THE QUAKES

Relief · Recovery · Resilience

The EU and Nepal Partnership: Transition, Recovery and Resilience

The EU and Nepal are partners and friends. Education, rural development and democratic governance are our main fields of cooperation in which we will invest over the coming seven years €360 million in supporting Nepal's vision to transform into a more prosperous democratic country with better opportunities for all.

The recent earthquakes have dramatically reminded us that natural disasters are a constant threat to achieving these goals. That is why fostering resilience is a crucial element of our partnership. We firmly join hands in this hour of need. With collective efforts of the Government, the Private Sector, Civil Society and Youth Groups as well as Development Partners it is possible to overcome the trauma, to rebuild better and to emerge stronger from the ordeal.



EU with Nepal from day one

In its initial response to the first massive earthquake of 25th April 2015, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism was activated and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) released €6 million to help address the most urgent needs, including clean water, medicine, emergency shelter and household items. The total initial EU aid following the earthquakes amounts to €22.6 million including early recovery and rehabilitation. Within hours of the first earthquake, EU humanitarian aid and civil protection experts were deployed to the disaster area, to help in evaluating the needs and coordinating



the humanitarian response. The EU also facilitated the deployment of a large cargo of equipment to Nepal.

Search and Rescue and First-Aid teams were deployed as well within the first days after the earthquake through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, which enables EU Member States to obtain co-financing from the European Commission for such emergency deployments. Some relief items, including tents and sanitation facilities were sent through this channel, whilst the International Humanitarian Partnership countries (Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Luxembourg) established a “base camp” for 60 humanitarian workers to support relief operations in the Sindhupalchowk district.

EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, visited the affected areas with United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Valerie

In the photo, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, and Neven Mimica, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development.



Amos, shortly after the first quake to express EU solidarity at this time of need.

The EU supports Disaster Preparedness. Over recent years our cooperation has integrated disaster preparedness components. However, the earthquakes have shown that we need to expand this engagement.



Health Emergency Operation Centre helped saving lives

When a delegation from the European Parliament visited the Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC) on 10 April 2015 no one imagined that only a couple of weeks later this centre would start to work around the clock for weeks to come, helping to save lives. HECO was set up with the support of the EU and our project partners, the World Health Organisation, Handicap International, Save the Children and Oxfam. It remained the command centre of the Ministry of Health and Population to coordinate the overall health response during the first few weeks of the calamity.

Also other project activities became instrumental for the effectiveness of the health response in the aftermath of the earthquakes. Retrofitting of hospital premises saved many equipment and materials from being damaged, allowing hospitals to provide critically needed services. The mass casualty management plan and capacity development training for the medical staff proved crucial in managing the mass casualties. Trauma protocols facilitated the international and national medical teams to proceed with the treatment of the seriously injured.

Retrofitting: a cost effective way towards safer schools

We can only be very thankful that Mother Earth moved on a Saturday when classes were off. Many schools were destroyed. Yet, a pilot project of the Government in Kathmandu valley to retrofit school buildings proved to be successful. The children enrolled in the 160 retrofitted schools in the Kathmandu valley are back to school in premises that did not suffer any significant damage from the recent earthquakes. Many retrofitted schools are also welcoming girls and boys of displaced families. The EU has been supporting this programme since 2011 and contributes to reducing structural vulnerabilities of schools as well as enhancing disaster management by providing disaster safety education to children

and teachers. This programme needs to be expanded across the country. Overall the EU has been supporting Nepal's education sector for almost two decades with more than €100 million. The trend in the sector is positive: in an inclusive way, more and more girls and boys are completing their education, more adults reach literacy, technical education and vocational training (TVET) will better respond to labour market needs and requirements and teachers are improving their skills. The EU will continue to work jointly with the Ministry of Education, Civil Society, Teachers Associations, Parents and Development Partners to improve education in Nepal for all children.





Temporary Learning Centres address immediate education needs

It is essential for the young generation to restart learning and to overcome their shock and fear. School life needs to go on, yet reconstruction will take some time. This is why the EU will support Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs) to expand learning opportunities in these challenging times. This allows children affected by the earthquakes to have safe access to quality education opportunities and return to secure learning environments. To date about 800 TLCs have been completed, though works are continuing by communities and the Government. The EU will team up with UNICEF to provide TLCs.

Many remote communities that are only reachable on foot will remain in need of assistance over the coming months, especially during the monsoon season that will quickly be followed by winter. The “Last mile transport operation”, together with the World Food Programme, will allow to reach them by employing porters, mountaineers and local residents in these affected areas who are currently out of work due to the sudden drop in trekking tourism. This project will expand logistical capacities to transport food and other relief and reconstruction items to remote areas, and will contribute to the livelihood opportunities of these areas. The action will include rehabilitation of the trekking trails. This will not only allow relief goods to reach villages, but also the resumption of the local economy and tourism upon which many families in these areas of Nepal rely for their livelihood.

Porter operations will ensure to reach out to the remotest areas



NEPAL EARTHQUAKE 2015

Post Disaster Needs Assessment



Soon after the earthquake, the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (also known as NeKSAP) provided crucial information on priority areas to address food insecurity, access to safe drinking water, health services and sanitation in the affected districts and VDCs. In addition to this, within 72 hours after the first earthquake, specialised teams went in to the field to further check the information. This data provided specific post-earthquake information, which informed relief operations as well as the Post Disaster Needs Assessment and helped to prioritise relief responses. Since 2012, NeKSAP has been co-funded by the EU and jointly operated by the Departments of Agriculture at District level and the World Food Programme.

Relief and Recovery need reliable data

The EU supported the Post Disaster Needs Assessment

The road to recovery is rooted in the Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) carried out over the past few weeks. The EU significantly contributed to the exercise under the strong leadership of the National Planning Commission (NPC) and in close cooperation with line ministries and Development Partners, notably the WB, UNDP, ADB and JICA. The Private Sector and Civil Society also contributed to this process. This report will guide the recovery action and the allocation of national resources as well as the international pledges. It is a reference document for all stakeholders to build back better in a collective effort in the years to come.

The EU stands ready to support a swift recovery

Strong Government-led coordination as well as the use of country systems and the strengthening of the implementation capacities of the local administration in the districts and villages will be crucial for an effective, accountable and swift recovery. The positive attitude, ingenuity and determination of the Nepali people, as for instance demonstrated by the emergence of “Youth Group Movements” will be a key asset in driving this process. Relief operations need to continue for some time to come but, equally important, the larger development agenda for the rest of the country should not be forgotten. This is why the EU will launch in the next few weeks, together with the Government and UNICEF the “Partnership for enhanced Nutrition in Nepal” –an investment in the future generation of Nepalis. EU Commissioner for Development and International Cooperation, Neven Mimica, will attend the International Donor Conference on June 25, 2015 in Kathmandu, which is the point of departure for the recovery process.



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO NEPAL

Uttar Dhoka Sadak, Lainchaur, P.o. Box 6754, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel. +977 1 442 9445-6 • E-mail Delegation-nepal@eeas.europa.eu
<http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/nepal>