



## FACT SHEET

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Disaster Risk Reduction Office

# BUILDING CODE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM IN MUNICIPALITIES OF NEPAL (BCIPN)



*Briefing on earthquake resistant construction*

BCIPN supports municipal governments in Nepal to develop and administer building permits and control systems to improve seismic performance of new building constructions.

## BACKGROUND

The majority of buildings in Nepal are poorly constructed and—due to unplanned growth, poor implementation and enforcement of building codes, and a lack of awareness by the public and building professionals of seismically safe construction practices—extremely vulnerable to earthquakes. While legislation has made compliance to building codes mandatory, municipalities lack appropriate mechanisms and capacities for building code implementation. This fact was very clearly demonstrated by a recent survey, which showed that only two engineers, on average, are available in a municipality in which an average of 400 new building permits are issued every year. Intervention to ensure safer construction is required to address these huge risks. Effective building code implementation is one of the most effective ways to decrease potential risk of earthquake casualties.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project will conduct a series of training courses on seismically safer construction for technical personnel, including building contractors and masons. It will also build the capacity of municipalities to implement and enforce building codes, at grassroots and policy levels. The project's objectives include the following:

- Raise public awareness of building safety regulations in seismically active areas.
- Develop capacity of municipal professionals to effectively implement building code.
- Develop policy recommendations to improve residential building codes.

### SNAPSHOT

**Life of Project:** June 1, 2012 – May 31, 2015

**Goal:** Improved earthquake disaster resilience of Nepal

**Implementing Partners:** National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal

**Geographic Focus:** 24 municipalities of Nepal

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Assist municipalities to develop mechanisms for building code implementation through certification and registration of trained masons, municipal policy, and a field monitoring system.
- Provide training to masons on earthquake resistant construction and design.
- Conduct home owners' orientation program.
- Prepare earthquake scenario and earthquake risk management action plans.
- Conduct exposure visits for municipal officials to other municipalities.
- Organize lessons-learned and sharing workshops on earthquake resistant construction.



*Female masons trained on earthquake resilient construction*

## PLANNED RESULTS

- At least 19 municipalities establish building code implementation system
- 120 settlements adopt hazard mitigation measures
- 25,000 houses incorporate hazard mitigation measures
- Approximately 150,000 population live in earthquake resistant buildings
- At least 400 engineers and junior engineers trained in earthquake resistant construction
- At least 1,800 masons trained in earthquake resistant construction
- More than 20,000 people participate in earthquake awareness and orientation programs

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