

IRG Project Profiles



PROGRAM FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE (PEER)

Through much of South and Southeast Asia, seismic activity represents a major hazard for nations already under strain from economic, population, and other pressures. This hazard can quickly turn into a disaster if there is a lack of basic preparedness in the affected countries in such key areas as training in Medical First Responder, Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue, and Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies. The USAID-funded Program for the Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) aims to raise preparedness and response capacity in India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, and most recently Bangladesh.

Activities

Because of the program's initial success, efforts are underway to nationalize and institutionalize the training courses so that the programs will be both sustainable and country specific.

Following identification of the major technical specializations and preliminary trainings, IRG and its partners have adjusted the program to include Bangladesh as one of the target countries, because of seismic activity in its northern territory. The project also is placing greater emphasis on the creation of a regional network of disaster managers and responders to enable a decreased reliance on extra-regional assistance (an important

Region: Asia/Near East
Countries: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines
Sector: Relief & Reconstruction
Duration: March 2003–2008
Client: USAID
Partners: National Society for Earthquake Technology (a local NGO based in Nepal)
Johns Hopkins University Center for International Emergency, Disaster and Refugee Studies
Safety Solutions, Inc.

Key Accomplishments

- ◆ Carried out Medical First Responder and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue training
- ◆ Initiated Training for Instructors courses
- ◆ Created a regional network of disaster managers
- ◆ Decreased reliance on extra-regional assistance
- ◆ Developed a small grants program that funds training and promotes local participation

point in the crucial first 24 hours after a major seismic event, known as the “golden hour”). The focus on Medical First Responder and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue training has been increased and a Training for Instructors course added so participant countries can create a core group of specialists to train others. A small grants program funds nationally organized training programs or events to promote local participation.

In addition to its technical expertise in disaster management and preparedness, training, and policy development, IRG also provides administrative, financial, and logistical services with the added support of its other project offices in the five participant countries.

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