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Fast Facts

Country: Indonesia; India; Fiji; Uzbekistan

Duration: December 2004 to December 2009

Implementing UN Agencies: DESA

Other Implementing Partners: UNCRD; national ministries

Budget: \$935,768.50

Key Words: Capacity-building; natural disasters; children

BACKGROUND

Earthquakes are among the deadliest of all natural disasters, inflicting huge losses on life and property and damaging the affected community's economy, social structure and cultural heritage. As countries underwent rapid urbanization and experienced large migration from rural areas, the new infrastructure in disaster-prone regions often

lacked seismic safety precautions as well as education in community disaster risk reduction and preparation. Although children are the most vulnerable to the impact of earthquakes, many schools in high-risk countries were poorly constructed without compliance to earthquake-proof safety standards.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project aimed to ensure that children in earthquake-prone areas had access to disaster resilient schools and that communities enhanced their capacity to cope with the impact of earthquakes through using schools as disaster mitigation and relief centres. To this end, the

project sought to (i) develop and transfer earthquake-proof technology to schools based on their seismic vulnerability; (ii) promote education and training related to earthquake disasters; and (iii) teach earthquake-safe construction techniques to masons and engineers.

BENEFICIARIES

The primary beneficiaries were children and teachers in selected schools in Bengkulu (Indonesia), Chamoli (India), Suva (Fiji) and Tashkent (Uzbekistan) who were able to study

and teach in earthquake-safe schools facilities. In addition, local masons, engineers and technicians received training on earthquake-resistant design and construction.