



NEPAL SAFER SCHOOLS PROJECT

Making schools more resilient to disaster in Nepal



About the NSSP

The Nepal Safer Schools Project (NSSP) was originally conceptualized as a five-year project with three major outputs:

- 1) Safer learning facilities, particularly through seismically-resilient retrofitting and rebuilding;
- 2) School-level disaster management and resilience (DRR) education and awareness;
- 3) National-level technical assistance for safer learning facilities and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Initiated under the Strengthening Disaster Resilience portfolio funded with UK aid from the UK government, the Project area covered the Lumbini, Karnali, and Sudurpashchim Provinces, and engaged with a total of 17 municipalities in Achham, Bardiya, Jumla, and Surkhet districts.

The NSSP worked closely with 52 schools to improve school safety through a range of activities that follows the Government of Nepal's Comprehensive School Safety Minimum Package requirements. This included training of focal teachers on school safety; support in conducting Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCAs) and incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) components into School Improvement Plans; and making schools physical infrastructure safer, including a trial of retrofit methodologies on four schools in Achham, Bardiya, and Surkhet.

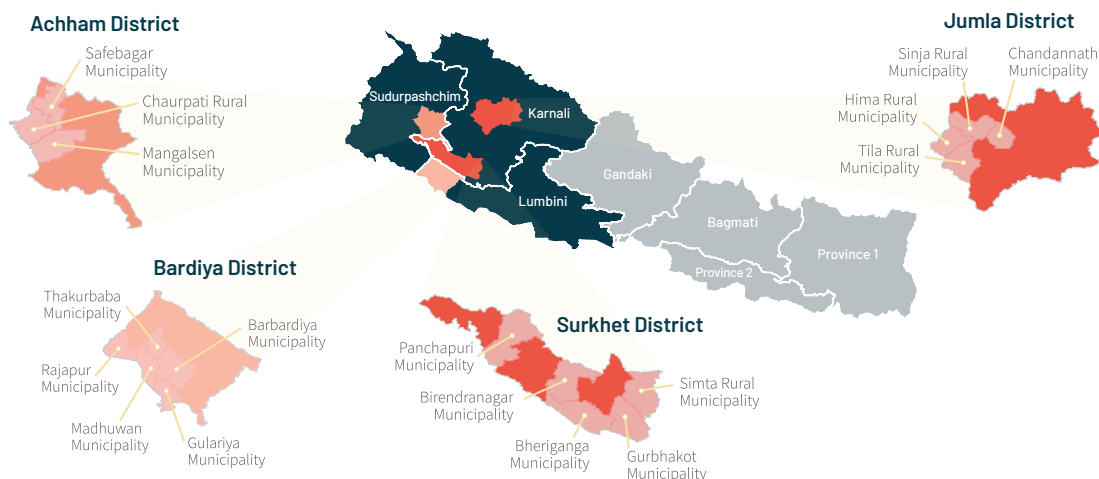
Due to changes in funding priorities to support the Covid-19 response, the Nepal Safer Schools Project was closed early. All field activities were completed in July 2021 and the Project closed in its third year in September 2021.

KEY PROJECT NUMBERS

4,135	Students and teachers attending safer schools
97	Classrooms retrofitted or rebuilt to improve earthquake resilience*
355	Masons trained
497	Teachers trained in school safety
48	School-level Complaint Response Mechanisms (CRM) put in place
5	Municipalities supported in integrating DRR into the local curriculum, and support for integrating DRR content into the national-level Grade 1 curriculum
17	Municipal-level Education Contingency Plans prepared
50	School Improvement Plans drafted or updated to include DRR components

* 4 classrooms were retrofitted in schools outside of the project with technical support from NSSP, driven by demand from the schools

PROJECT WORKING AREA





Supporting Pandemic Response

In 2020, the NSSP pivoted to help school communities respond to Covid-19. This included improving school WaSH facilities to help mitigate the spread of the virus; supporting distance education initiatives to keep children learning while schools were closed; distributing NFIs including masks, non-contact infrared thermometers, and additional WaSH items like handwashing soap and disinfectant; and training teachers in Psychosocial First Aid to help them identify children and community members in need of additional support. NSSP construction activities for retrofitting and WaSH were also oriented to prioritize engagement of workers from economically vulnerable backgrounds, to help mitigate the immense impact Covid-19 has had on livelihoods in the NSSP project areas.



RESPONDING TO COVID-19



52 Schools provided with NFI kits *including non-contact thermometers, masks, and cleaning and hand washing products to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19*



17 Municipality requests for Covid-19 response support *received and responded to with additional NFIs contributions for distribution in all schools across these areas*

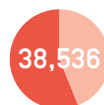


104 Handwashing stations installed
50% with accessibility ramps



52 Toilets constructed
CDGF (child, gender, and disability friendly) compatible

56%



44%

Students supported in accessing distance education

51%



49%

Teachers trained in Psychosocial First Aid

70%



30%

People from highly vulnerable backgrounds provided work opportunities on NSSP sites

Managing partner

Implementing partners