



Community member explains the hazard map

We also are aware that snake bites are a major threat in my district, so after the PER training I coordinated with the Disaster Management Committee and District Public Health Office and other stakeholders to establish a **primary snake bite treatment center**. This year, the casualty due to snake bite is zero.

I would like to request to ADPC/BMGF to continue this type of capacity building training all over Nepal for another several years to help make Nepal a disaster resilient nation.

Based on community input, don't be afraid to suggest changes to your program during meetings at your office, as these can make a big difference. ”

Program coordinators can do many things if they get more involved with the community. My advice for other coordinators is to listen and talk to community members as much as you can to make sure that your program is actually helping them. Based on community input, don't be afraid to suggest changes to your program during meetings at your office, as these can make a big difference.



Premuka holds an awareness session for community members on the disaster situation



From Lightning to Snakebites, Trainings in Nepal Jumpstart a Surge of Community-Driven Initiatives

Nepal Preparedness Partnership (NPP) trainings support local coordinators to make big changes in communities



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The interviewee has explicitly given consent to have their responses recorded and the content, including photographs, published digitally or in print for APP communication purposes.



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TITLE | **Program Coordinator,
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YEARS WORKING
IN DISASTER
RESPONSE | 5

WORKING AREA | **Udayapur district, Eastern
Nepal**



UDAYAPUR DISTRICT



*Premuka's
working district,
Udayapur*

CONTEXT

Udayapur district in Nepal is one of the most flood-prone districts in the country. Other major hazards include **lightning, landslides, fires, and earthquakes**. Another growing concern is **snake bites**, where annually, approximately 150 people are attacked and bitten by snakes in the district.



*Snake bite
treatment centre*

Growing up in Nepal, I have seen how vulnerable Nepal is to disasters. When I heard that Nepali Universities started offering programs in climate change and disaster management, I was especially interested. I knew that if I studied disaster management, I would be able to make a big impact in my country. I joined HURENDEC after completing my Master's in Disaster Management in 2015 .

PRACTICAL TRAINING

While working at HURENDEC, I was selected to participate in a **Preparedness for Emergency Response (PER) training** under NPP. Even though I had studied disaster risk reduction in the university, this training was my first practical experience in disaster risk reduction, management and associated policies. It was exciting to learn how to apply all the theoretical knowledge I had gained over the years. After the training, I spoke to HURENDEC about revising our program based on the specific disaster needs of Udayapur, such as lightning and earthquakes. They quickly agreed, and the new project strategy also encourages grassroots participation through community-engagement.

After the training, I also had the opportunity to participate in the **APP/NPP Protection against Lightning (PaL) orientation**. This one-day orientation sparked my interest and encouraged me to engage further through a three-day training on PaL. After these trainings I returned to my work with a strong understanding of how to address risks associated with hazards in my district. I think this training was important for my work because in Udayapur, five to six deaths occur annually due to lightning. While I personally do not have the technical skills to install lightning rods, I can at least share the information and training materials with the community so that they are aware and can take action.

MOVING FORWARD

With my new skills I was able to coordinate with the municipal representative to raise public awareness on PaL and we even installed a PaL system in addition to conducting 32 awareness raising orientation events.

To date, we have trained 64 people in each task force, who are ready to apply their skills in preparation for and response to disasters. ”

In four municipalities, I have worked closely with the local government to prepare Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans. Together we have also established **task force groups for First Aid, Search and Rescue, and Early Warning System and completed trainings for building capacity**. To date, we have trained 64 people in each task force, who are ready to apply their skills in preparation for and response to disasters. We have also worked together to establish an **early warning system** to monitor flooding near a few communities close to rivers. The vulnerable communities have identified safe places where people can take shelter in the case of a large-scale disaster situation.