

2 Objective, Scope and Approach

Objectives

The main objectives of the assessment study were:

- Development of a systematic approach towards assessment of non-structural vulnerability of hospital buildings and health institutions of Nepal through the implementation of such assessment of selected major hospitals in the country.
- Identification of appropriate measures for improving seismic performance of selected hospitals of the country.
- Dissemination of the findings in order to facilitate the implementation of the identified earthquake risk reduction measures.

Scope

The scope of the project was:

- a. Undertake quantitative assessments of the non-structural vulnerability of 5 hospitals in Kathmandu valley.
- b. Undertake structural and non-structural vulnerability assessment of 5 hospitals outside Kathmandu valley using qualitative methodology.
- c. Among the ten hospitals undertake rigorous qualitative analyses of 2 hospitals: one in Kathmandu valley and one outside it.
- d. Quantitative assessment of the typical non-structural elements for 1 hospital in Kathmandu valley.
- e. Identification of measures to improve the earthquake safety of the selected hospitals.
- f. Organization of a workshop for dissemination of the findings.
- g. Preparation of this report.

However, during the course of the methodology development and implementation of the assessment of the hospitals, the following modifications / alterations were made to the scope of the work:

- a. Only 4 hospitals were assessed in Kathmandu. Due to security reasons, the planned assessment of Birendra Army Hospital had to be cancelled.
- b. Rigorous qualitative non-structural assessment was made for all 9 hospitals in order to ensure that the proposed mitigation measures could in fact be implemented.
- c. It was not necessary to carry out a quantitative assessment of typical non-structural elements, as the level of the qualitative assessment and the recommended measures derived thereby was sufficient to start implementation.

Approach

Following approaches were taken during implementation of the assessment work:

- a. Collect primary data to make assessment and recommendation statement for each system and its components for mitigating the risk.
- b. Hospital staff, mainly maintenance personnel and doctors were involved during the visit and in the exploration of mitigation options.
- c. The choice of non-structural measures was made based on availability of materials / tools and local capacity to implement.

- d. The assessment work was taken as an awareness and education tool to promote personal and collective safety of hospital personnel.