

PROGRAM FOR ENHANCED EMERGENCY RESPONSE (PEER)

BACKGROUND

- USAID/OFDA is committed to saving lives and reducing the human and economic impacts of earthquakes through targeted earthquake preparedness and mitigation programming.
- Since 1998, USAID/OFDA has supported PEER as part of its regional preparedness and mitigation strategy. PEER presently operates in six countries—India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Pakistan—with a high earthquake vulnerability, the need for improved disaster readiness, and keen governmental and civil society commitment to the program.
- PEER promotes disaster preparedness through the development of national and regional cadres of professional emergency response instructors. PEER is geared primarily towards earthquake preparedness, but is widely applicable to any collapsed structure or mass casualty situation. The program assists local, national, and regional disaster management agencies in organizing and conducting trainings in Medical First Response, Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue, and Hospital Preparedness for mass casualties after a disaster.



Disaster responders participate in a Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue Course Practical Simulation in the Philippines.

PROGRAM UPDATE

- The first phase of PEER (1998–2003) targeted four of Asia’s highly earthquake prone countries—India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines. This phase was managed by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, based in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Phase II of PEER, implemented by the National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) based in Kathmandu, Nepal, continues the activities begun in the initial four countries, with the addition of Bangladesh and Pakistan (2006). During Phase II, PEER will increase the corps of trainers, adapt courses to national requirements, introduce a hospital-preparedness course for mass casualties, and promote a coordinating network of disaster responders in each country. Phase II of PEER began in March 2003 and will continue through March 2008.



Participants gain skills in a Medical First Responder Practicum in Indonesia.

- Over the last 7 years, PEER has graduated more than 800 personnel trained as instructors, rescuers, responders, and hospital preparedness professionals, including 117 in Indonesia, 195 in Nepal, 205 in the Philippines, 198 in India, and 87 in Bangladesh.
- Deployments of PEER-trained personnel have included an April 2005 response to a 9-story building collapse in Bangladesh and a response to the October 2005 earthquake in northern India.

Total FY 2006 USAID/OFDA PEER Assistance to Asia \$2,290,336
Total FY 1998 – FY 2006 USAID/OFDA PEER Assistance to Asia \$9,488,453