

Emergency Operation Centre (MEOC), Lalitpur Metropolitan City



Mr. Chiribabu Maharjan, Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City inaugurating the Lalitpur Metropolitan Emergency Center.

Concept and process

Municipal Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) is a unit established for carrying out emergency preparedness, response, rescue, and emergency disaster management. An emergency operation center has emergency search and rescue (SAR) materials necessary for quick rescue during emergencies. It is an entity under the disaster management unit of the Metropolitan city office. One of the priorities of the Sendai framework is preparedness to build back better. The establishment of MEOC with

sufficient materials, technologies, and skilled human resources is fundamental for disaster risk reduction and preparedness. MEOC in Lalitpur Metropolitan City (LMC) has been established to provide quick/immediate services to save lives and property when disaster events occur.

The LMC disaster management committee decided to set up MEOC in 2018. Strengthening the Metropolitan City in disaster management was felt essential for disaster



Mr. Chiribabu Maharjan, Mayor LMC, Mr. Ajaya Dixit, then Executive Director of ISET Nepal and Ms. Radha Ale, ADRA Nepal during the MEOC handover program.

response, rescue, and management. ISET Nepal and Lalitpur Metropolitan Office signed a memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish MEOC in LMC. Safer Cities project purchased various search and rescue (SAR) materials to set up the operation center unit. The search and rescue materials included boot, helmet, rope, peak, shovel, light, gloves, jacket, stretcher, first aid materials, and bucket. Office setup materials provided included computer, backup system, solar panel, projector, table, chair, and cupboard. MEOC has access to the Disaster Information Management System (DIMS) to update data

and information for disaster management at wards.

Mr. Chiribabu Maharjan, Mayor, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, inaugurated the Emergency Operation Center on 17th January 2019. During the inauguration program, the Mayor taking ownership, stated that Lalitpur Metropolitan is achieving milestones every day with MEOC established. The metropolitan city office would top-off more material and equipment in the center. The office is also planning to develop an integrated disaster management center, the Metropolitan City.

Achievements/output

A well-equipped emergency operation center established in Lalitpur metropolitan city is a significant achievement. Disaster preparedness and management capacity of LMC has increased with the center in place. It has currently started to store and disseminate COVID-19 data of Metropolitan city using the DIMS application.

Learning

Building capacity of existing institutes to work on rescue and relief during disaster events was required. The project realized the importance of establishing the MEOC unit in LMC and requested Lutheran world Relief make changes in the budget to support this activity, which was approved.



The emergency operation center is a part of the preparedness and management of disaster events. For minimizing loss of lives and properties, similar emergency centers should be established at each local entity (ward) for easy and quick access by the local community when required.