

Producing Near Real Time Information: International Responses to the April 2015 Gorkha-Nepal Earthquake

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This project involves discovering how post-event hazard and risk information helps those who depend on transnational communication get “back to normal” after a rapid onset hazard. The goal is to provide an overview of how post-event information is transmitted, by whom and what might be the implications to affected people in the aftermath of a catastrophic earthquake event.

In the immediate aftermath of the 2015 Gorkha-Nepal Earthquake, we began to investigate how hazard and risk specialists are collecting, managing and communicating data detailing the impact of the earthquake and its aftershocks on people, infrastructure and the environment.

Key themes investigated include:

- Local and regional context
- Availability of site specific natural hazard risk and disaster risk management information
- Preliminary analysis: worst natural disaster in 2015
- Earthquake event emergency response reporting
- Exponential information production and collaboration transformation in Earthquake event emergency response reporting

Our analysis is focused on the new technological applications, innovative research and monitoring utilized during the international response to the 2015 Gorkha-Nepal Earthquake. This presentation will highlight some preliminary research results on humanitarian data exchange platforms, FINDER (Finding Individuals for Disaster and Emergency Response) search and rescue technology, near real time data products - crisis mapping, humanitarian mappers – using drones, radar and satellite imagery, elevation models, land use and land cover maps with the intent to provide guidance for further research in using data management platforms for disaster relief efforts.

Discussion will focus on:

1. Collaboration on big data projects
2. Effective data management implementation
3. Data being turned into insights for more users
4. Critical analysis: acknowledge that much hazard and risk information and knowledge exists, but its implementation to reduce disaster risk has been faltering and flawed.

