

In April 2015, Nepal was struck by a devastating earthquake, marking one of the darkest chapters in the nation's history. The earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.8, and its aftershocks wreaked havoc across the country, causing widespread destruction, loss of lives, and displacing millions of people. The epicenter was near the capital city, Kathmandu, where centuries-old heritage sites, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as Durbar Square and Boudhanath Stupa, were reduced to rubble. The earthquake triggered avalanches in the Himalayas, posing additional challenges to rescue and relief efforts. The disaster unfolded a humanitarian crisis, with immediate needs for shelter, medical aid, food, and clean water. International aid poured in from across the globe, with neighboring countries like India, China, and Bangladesh leading the rescue operations. Despite the swift response, the scale of the disaster overwhelmed the existing infrastructure and resources, exacerbating the plight of the affected population. The earthquake not only caused physical destruction but also left deep scars on the psyche of the Nepalese people, traumatized by the loss of loved ones and the destruction of their homes and communities. The road to recovery has been long and arduous, requiring sustained efforts in reconstruction, rehabilitation, and resilience-building. The earthquake served as a stark reminder of Nepal's vulnerability to seismic hazards and the urgent need for preparedness, risk mitigation, and sustainable development practices to build a more resilient future.