

DISASTER DIPLOMACY

THE UNITED KINGDOM'S ENGAGEMENT IN 2015 NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

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Letter of Recommendation

I hereby certify that this dissertation entitled “Disaster Diplomacy: The UK’s Engagement in 2015 Nepal Earthquake” was prepared and completed by Jasmine Maharjan under my supervision. I hereby recommend this dissertation for final examination by the Research Committee Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University, in fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER’S IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY.

.....

Maj. Gen. Himalaya Thapa (Retd.)

Date: November, 2020

Declaration

I hereby declare that this dissertation is my own work and that it contains no materials previously published. I have not used its materials for the award of any kind and any other degree. Where other authors' sources of information have been used, they have been acknowledged.

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Jasmine Maharjan

Date: November, 2020

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Abstract

Disaster diplomacy encourages cooperation among two or more parties nationally and internationally through disaster response activities. Such activities are an opportunity to improve state's political, economic, military and development sectors. The emergency response and relief are the first phase while approaching disaster diplomacy which usually takes place through humanitarian / foreign aid. In 2015, Nepal faced a massive earthquake and required international support like any other developing countries. Nepal's earthquake comprised with many international humanitarian and development aid. Among those, the UK is one of the countries that has been supporting Nepal for many decades. The Nepal-UK bilateral relation is embraced with military diplomacy and development cooperation. For the existing countries involved in foreign policy, approach to disaster diplomacy is often successful.

Nepal's relation with the UK is prolonged with the soft power including public diplomacy, economic diplomacy, tourism, military diplomacy and other non-state actors. The success of the UK's support during Nepal earthquake 2015 is determined by the aid and assistance provided during the phase of response, recovery and preparedness. From the perspective of diplomacy, this study takes an account to challenges (such as the case of Nepal Army officer, Col. Lama and refusal of RAF helicopter carrying British relief) and opportunities (cooperation for post-earthquake recovery and resilience) faced by both countries while accomplishing disaster diplomacy.

Keywords: Disaster diplomacy, Nepal earthquake 2015, Nepal-UK relation

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIN – Association of INGOs in Nepal

APF- Armed Police Force

BBC- British Broadcasting Corporation

BIMSTEC- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

CBS- Central Bureau of Statistics

CERF- Central Emergency Response Fund

CNDRC- Central Disaster Relief Committee

DDRC- District Disaster Relief Committee

DFID- Department for International Development

DOHS- Department of Health Service

DPNet- Disaster Preparedness Network

DRC- Disaster Relief Committee

EERI- Earthquake Engineering Research Institute

EHRP – Earthquake Housing Reconstruction Program

FAO- Food and Agriculture Organization

FCO- Foreign and Commonwealth Office

FDI- Foreign Direct Investment

FES – Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

FY- Fiscal Year

GDP- Gross Domestic Product

GoN- Government of Nepal

HCIDC- House of Common International Development Committee

HEOC- Health Emergency Operation Centre

HRRP- Housing recovery and Reconstruction Platform

ICC – International Criminal Court

ICJ – International Criminal Justice

ICRC – International Committee of Red Cross

IDA – International Disaster Association

IFA- Institute of Foreign Affairs
IMF- International Monetary Fund
INGO- International Non-Governmental Organization
JICA- Japan International Cooperation Agency
MCM- Mass Casualty Management
MDTF- Multi Donor Trust Fund
MNC- Multi-National Corporation
MOF- Ministry of Finance
MOFA- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOHA- Ministry of Home Affairs
MOHP- Ministry of Health and Population
NA- Nepal Army
NASC – Nepal Administrative Staff College
NDRRMA – National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
NFN - NGO Federation of Nepal
NGO- Non-Governmental Organization
NP- Nepal Police
NPC- Nepal Planning Commission
NRB- Nepal Rastriya Bank
NSET- National Society for Earthquake Technology
ODA – Official Development Assistance
PATA- Pacific Asia Travel Association
PDNA- Post Disaster Need Assessment
PDRF- Post Disaster Recover Framework
RAF- Royal Air Force
RNDRC- Regional Disaster Relief Committee
SAFTA- South Asian Free Trade Area
SAR- Search and Rescue
SDC- State Data Centre

SWC - Social Welfare Council
TIA- Tribhuvan International Airport
TIFA- Trade and Investment Framework Agreement
UK- United Kingdom
UKAID- United Kingdom Aid
UN- United Nations
UNDAC- United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination
UNFPA- United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF- United Nations Children's Fund
UNISDR- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNOCHA- United Nations for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
USA- United States of America
EU- European Union
NRA- National Reconstruction Authority
USAID- United States Agency for International Development
ADB- Asian Development Bank
WB- World Bank
WHO- World Health Organization
WTO- World Trade Organization

Chapter 1 : Introduction

1.1. General Background of the study

There is a big question if a catastrophe brings peace when a disaster hits a war zone. Similarly, if a country face devastation or calamities, could setting up a disaster relief bring the countries closer?

On April 25, 2015, Nepal faced a devastating earthquake. Overall, 8857 people lost their lives and many lost the shelter (MOHA, 2015). The unexpected disaster concerned people about what to do next for shelter. More than 30 countries helped Nepal by providing disaster relief aid and assistance (Bisri and Beniya, 2016 pp.19-26). As a developing country, Nepal needs foreign aid or voluntary support from other countries. This includes transfer of resources and flow of capital.

Disaster aftermath never happens in isolation because wherever a huge disaster occurs, there will be many countries offering relief and aid support (Bisri and Beniya, 2016 pp.19-26). Although the activities related to disaster do not create fresh diplomatic opportunities, there is a chance that diplomatic action takes place. This could be either pre-disaster (including disaster risk reduction, prevention, mitigation, readiness, adaptation and planning), during a disaster (including relief, response, crisis management and emergency management) or post-disaster (reconstruction and recovery).

Since 1952, Nepal has been the recipient of foreign assistance when it joined Colombo Plan for Cooperative, Economic, and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific through “Nepal Development Forum” (MOFA,2016). Nepal is highly dependent on foreign aid and external donors to coordinate the development aid policy. Nepal relies on both financial institutions and inter-governmental organizations such as World Bank and United Nations for the development. Asian Development Bank and the World Bank are the largest multilateral donors. Similarly, the Britain’s development aid ministry, UK AID has been helping Nepal to improve and develop several sectors including climate change, disaster response, health, women, wealth creation, education, governance and other disadvantages (Budhathoki, et.al., 2018 p.33). Funding from UK AID has also helped Nepal make progress in health, water and sanitation in nine years since it ended civil war of more than ten years long (Chapman et.al., 2007). As the UK is a largest bilateral aid donor, this study shows the

disaster diplomacy among Nepal and the UK during 2015 Nepal earthquake. Further, it also discusses the engagement and role of UK before, during and after the occurrence of calamity.

1.1.1. History of Nepal-UK relation

In the year 1816, diplomatic relations between Nepal and United Kingdom was established. Similarly, the relations between these two countries were formalized in 1923, when the “Treaty of Friendship between Great Britain and Nepal” was agreed and signed (MOFA, 2016). Being the first country with whom Nepal established a diplomatic relation, both countries forms a friendship, mutual understanding, cooperation, respect and cordiality for each other’s national interest. As a development partner, the UK always remained on the top with its British aid on the sectors such as tourism, trade and the British Gurkha connection (Tiwary, 2009 pp. 802-813). These sectors became the major dimensions of the bilateral relations among two countries. Since this time, the relations between Nepal and UK continued to grow with a new treaty “Treaty of Perpetual Peace and Friendship” signed in the year 1950 (Subedi, 1994 pp.273-284). This treaty enhanced the areas of cooperation and an exchange of Stat Visits.

Nepal continues to become the source of the Gurkha soldier’s recruitment into the British army. From the 19th century till now, such tradition has been playing an important role in the modern British army (MOFA,2016).

On 7th January 2014, Nepal and UK signed a MOU with a vision to enhance the friendship, cooperation and promote their bilateral relations with each other (Adhikari, 2018 pp.43-74). Some of the finalized agreements (before 2015 Nepal Earthquake) between Nepal and the UK were 1965 Trade Agreement, Agreement on the promotion and protection of the investment in 1993 and Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) in 2011. Similarly, in December 2013, Development Partnership Agreement between Nepal and UK replaced the Technical cooperation agreement desiring to strengthen the traditional cooperation and friendly relation between two countries that was signed on May 31, 1994 (MOFA, 2016)

Nepal and UK have a strong cooperation in a development partnership. In the year 1961, was started in various sectors of Nepal. Since 1950s, the UK has been offering a fellowship to the Government of Nepal and since 1964, British volunteers were engaged in Nepal (DFID, 2012). The development programs by UK aid has contributed to needs of Nepal such as specialized manpower and developed links among the people of these two

countries through people-to people diplomacy or cultural diplomacy (House of Commons, 2015). In 1999, established an in-country office staffed through a multi-disciplinary team of both, UK national and staff appointed in the country to understand poverty issues in Nepal (MOFA, 2016). Along with the cooperation and coordination with the Government of Nepal, UK AID has greatly assisted to develop the networks and promote opportunities for a good change.

1.1.2. Gurkhas as an important asset to develop Nepal-UK relation

The service of Gurkha in the British Army has importantly strengthened bilateral relation between Nepal and UK. According to the report of The Himalayan Times (2019), the Prime Minister of Nepal visited the UK in June 2019 to discuss on the matter of Gurkhas. During two world wars, Nepal was one of the allies of Great Britain. It showed the bravery of Gurkhas and became the bridge between Nepal and UK building a sincere friendship in the history. Thousands of Nepalese soldiers fought in the battlefield where more than hundreds sacrificed their life (Tiwary, 2009 pp. 802-813).

As per the communique agreed by Jeremy Hunt (Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the UK) and Pradeep Kumar Gyawali (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nepal) in the meeting, there were two side shared discussion about the reinforcement of the trade and investment relations among Nepal and Britain. Both sides had an agreement regarding the necessary contribution of the UK to support economic development of Nepal by becoming the largest bilateral donor of the country (The Himalayan Times, 2019). As per ther interaction, the UK would also provide support by encouraging the potential investors to invest in Nepal to improve the environment for inward investment (The Economic Times, 2018). Similarly, the effort of Nepal to achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030 was acknowledged by both sides where, Foreign and Commonwealth Office agreed continuing the support for development efforts of Nepal under the new polity as a strong development partnership (The Himalayan Times, 2019).

On behalf of the Nepal Government, the MOFA appreciated most important role of UK AID to help Nepali people in post-earthquake reconstruction through the National Reconstruction Authority (The Himalayan Times, 2019). With the fact that both UK and Nepal are the members of United Nations Human Rights Council, both countries committed to protect and promote human rights on behalf of their governments. Through the work of UK AID in Nepal, both sides also agreed to work together focusing on the issue of human

trafficking. Through the meeting, both sides committed to build more strong and stable partnership by welcoming the work of the British Council (Tiwary, 2009 pp. 802-813).

Although, the UK has been providing support to Nepal in many aspects, there are some diplomatic perspectives that upsets Nepal. For example: the detention of Nepal Army Colonel Kumar Lama in London who was accused of a torture to a victim during the Nepal's civil war (Hovell, 2017). The further explanation about the case of Col. Lama is in 5.2 segment of this study.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Geographically and ecologically, Nepal is considered as a disaster-prone country (MOHA, 2015). From the historical records, it is observed that Nepal had been facing occurrence of many disasters including Earthquake, Landslides, Floods and others. During and after the earthquake, like any other countries, Nepal engaged with international support for rescue and relief.

In 2015 earthquake, Nepal had many issues to operate the diplomacy and mobilize the international aid for post disaster relief and reconstruction (MOHA, 2017). Nepal also encountered diplomatic hassle and exhaustion. After an earthquake, Nepal faced difficulties to rise and build the destruction again. Numerous foreign aids and assistance entered to the country (Bisri and Beniya, 2016 pp.19-26). It was challenging for the government of Nepal to manage the relief materials immediately for the needy people (MOHA, 2015). So, international organizations supported the Nepal government. Among the providers of the foreign aid, UK is one of the countries that has been supporting Nepal for the post-earthquake resilience (DFID, 2016).

1.3. Research Questions

Following are the research questions that are needed to be addressed:

- a. How was Nepal's disaster diplomacy with the UK during 2015 Nepal earthquake?
- b. How was the engagement of Nepal - UK during and after 2015 Nepal earthquake?
- c. What is the practice/implementation of UK in post-2015 Nepal's disaster diplomacy?

1.4. Research Objectives

Following are the objectives of the research:

- a. To introduce and discuss about the disaster diplomacy with reference to Nepal Earthquake 2015
- b. To assess the relation between Nepal and the United Kingdom
- c. To examine the implications of the UK in Nepal Earthquake 2015

1.5. Organization of the study

In the beginning, the research will contain an abstract to acknowledge the readers about the main gist of the study. Basically, there will be five chapters as Introduction, Literature Review, Research Methodology, Disaster Diplomacy, Nepal-UK Engagement in 2015 Earthquake, Implications of UK-Nepal Engagement with aspect to Disaster Diplomacy and, Summary and Conclusion.

The first chapter is “Introduction” that includes the background of the study, as it is important to come along with the knowledge of background and histories till the present context. It also includes Statement of the problem in order to identify the reason behind the research. To make the study clear, the objectives and research questions are added along with the significance of the study. The second chapter of a study is “Literature Review” that includes past reviews on related topic from various book and articles. Likewise, the third chapter is “Research Methodology” which includes the research methods, data collection methods and sources of data. The fourth chapter is “Disaster Diplomacy”. This contains detail information about diplomacy that takes place during the occurrence of disaster in a country. The fifth chapter is “Nepal-UK Engagement in 2015 Earthquake” which includes the diplomatic relation between two countries during 2015 Nepal earthquake. The sixth chapter is “Implications of UK-Nepal Engagement with aspect to Disaster Diplomacy”. The last chapter is “Summary and Conclusion” for completing the study. At the end of the study, References and Annexes is also added.

1.6. Delimitations

The research title is “Disaster Diplomacy: UK Engagement in Nepal Earthquake 2015”. This study will be confined in the Nepal earthquake 2015 in broad framework of disaster diplomacy. The role, impact and engagement of the UK is highly prioritized and discussed in the study. Moreover, it includes data that are accessible in the authorized sources. So, the focus is clearly on disaster diplomacy with the aspect of Nepal Earthquake 2015 signifying the diplomatic relation between Nepal and the UK. Some data related to foreign aids provided to the government might not be transparent.

Chapter 2: Review of Literature

2.1. What is Disaster Diplomacy?

Disaster is a serious commotion for a community involving enormous human, material, economic or environmental losses and aftermath impact which affects a country for a long-term. Depending on a disaster's type, the crisis in a country occur and a country with poor socio-economic might face challenges to cope using its own resources (UNISDR, 2009). Diplomacy is a peaceful cooperation and negotiation among the officials of two governments (Haddadin, 2012). Disaster diplomacy is a type of diplomacy that inspects the reason if disaster related activities influence conflict and cooperation. Several actions occur before, during and after disaster such as preparedness, response and recovery (Simkhada, 2018). Disaster diplomacy is a developing concept that highly considers both the strategies for effective humanitarian action as well as the political consequences of such actions (Machiver, 2012).

For most of the practitioner, disaster diplomacy is concerned as a disaster related activity which encourages cooperation among two parties both nationally and internationally. This acquires the management of international relation and cooperation through the official interaction among the governmental representatives from two parties (Hannigan, 2013). However, the lack a strategy for integration into formal diplomatic efforts and a dedicated training program for humanitarian agents planning to engage in such form of diplomacy.

Moreover, there are various other aspects of international relations, peace and conflict in disaster diplomacy other than referring strictly to the bilateral/multilateral relations of entities, representing sovereign-state governments and other government bodies involved in the world politics (Kontar et.al., 2018). Understanding disaster diplomacy could include bodies such as sovereign states, non-profit groups, non-sovereign territories, businesses or international organizations (Kelman, 2016).

2.2. Brief history of disastrous earthquake in Nepal

In the world, Nepal is recognized as the 11th most earthquake prone country due to its geographical structure (Aryal, 2012 pp.147-154). Nepal has a long history of destructive earthquakes. The earthquake of 7.7 magnitude occurred in 1255 AD killed nearly one-third of Nepal's population living in Kathmandu valley (Dixit, 2004). Among the killed population, Abhaya Malla (the king of Kathmandu valley) was also killed. In the history of Nepal, it was

the first recorded earthquake. The second recorded earthquake was during the reign of king Shyam Singh in 1408 AD which destroyed many buildings and temples including Rato Machhendranath. Similarly, the earthquake of 1810 AD also damaged many buildings and temples. Then, in 1934 AD (1990 BS), people in Nepal experienced the most destructive earthquake of 8.4 magnitude (EERI, 2016).

The destruction of many infrastructure and heritage sites thus, had to rebuild. However, in the year 1980, the earthquake of 6.5 magnitude killed 125 people, injured 248 people and damaged many buildings and temples. Similarly, in 1988, the earthquake of 6.5 magnitude injured 6553 people killed 721 people, destructed 64174 private houses, 468 public houses and 790 government buildings (NSET Nepal, 2018). In 2011, the earthquake of 6.8 magnitude took place damaging few temples and buildings (Petal et al., 2017).

According to the information from Department of Mines and Geology, Nepal has been experiencing earthquakes of 5.0 or more than 5.0 Richter scale at least once a year (Graph Nepal, 2015). During the disastrous earthquake Nepal often received funds, aids and relief through the relation with several countries. This shows that Nepal has a good diplomatic relation with other countries in terms of aids and assistance.

2.2.1. British Empire during Nepal Earthquake 1934

In 1934, the devastating Nepal-Bihar earthquake occurred which caused 16,000 total casualties in Nepal and India (Petal et al., 2017). The earthquake destroyed one-fourth of private houses in Kathmandu valley, more than 126,000 houses were damaged and more than 80,000 buildings were collapsed. Correspondingly, in 1934, 20 percent of all structures were destroyed and another 40 percent of the valley's buildings were damaged (EERI, 2016).

During this period, India was colonized by British Empire. In the world, the United Kingdom is a first country with which Nepal had established diplomatic relations and established its Embassy in Kathmandu. In 1934 (same year when a deadly earthquake hit Nepal), Nepal had established its delegation in London. It was the first diplomatic mission of Nepal established in foreign country. It then prominent to Ambassador level in 1947 A.D (during the year of India's independence from British colonization). Since then, the relation among the UK and Nepal had been reinforced by many high-level official's visits and the Britain continued to provide development and economic support through several cooperation (Sparkes, 2013). During this time, Nepal was ruled by the Rana dynasty.

In 1934, Major General Brahma Shamsheer was the only person who published a book “Nepalko Maha Bhukkampa 1934” which was translated to “The Great Earthquake of Nepal 1934 AD” by Kesar Lal (Adhikari, 2015b). During that time, Brahma Shamsheer had a primary access to the first-hand reports due to his designation as a director of hospital management. In his book, he has provided an intense reflection and experience to the disaster and the successive rescue operations (Raj, 2015). In his book, he has mentioned that the Nepal armies were the most reliable responders to the earthquake who showed its hardship during the rescue, treatment of the injured, rebuilding and restoration. According to him, there were also an involvement of volunteers, the list of donors and the received aid (Raj, 2015).

As presented in the book, during 1934, the Prime Minister Juddha Shamsheer Jung Bahadur Rana immediately announced relief efforts to the earthquake and accommodated shelterless people. Nepal showed its self-capability for disaster management as the government efficiently tackled the earthquake, provided relief to the victims, implemented the process of reconstruction and build the nation that nearly collapsed. Therefore, the Juddha Shamsheer was praised due to his ability to do every possible effort during the devastation (Adhikari, 2015b).

Moreover, Brahma Shamsheer fought with distinction in the British 14th Army and was presented with the Assam-Burma Medal in 1945. In the same year, the author was received British 39/45 and Burma stars as well as Defense and War medals (Adhikari, 2015b). This shows that since many years, Armies of Nepal are known for the courage and valor in every potential situation.

2.3. Nepal Earthquake 2015

The Nepal earthquake of 2015 is also called as Gorkha earthquake. Overall, 8857 people were killed, more than thousands were injured and, many infrastructures and houses were destroyed or damaged (MOHA, 2015). Throughout the central and eastern Nepal, earthquake was felt along with the Ganges River plain in northern India, northwestern Bangladesh, western Bhutan as well as in the southern parts of the Plateau of Tibet (Fan and Shearer, 2015 pp. 5744-5752). The earthquake was of 7.8 magnitude and its epicenter was in Gorkha district. Many aftershocks occurred within an hour with the magnitude of 6.7 and on May 12, a magnitude of 7.3 hit the east-northeast of Kathmandu which killed more than hundred people and injured almost 1,900 people (EERI, 2016). In the world, the Himalayan

region is one of the most seismically active however, large earthquakes have occurred there uncommonly. The earthquake followed more than 300 aftershocks which were greater than 6.0 magnitudes (Goda et.al., 2015, p.8).

It also produced other disasters like landslide and avalanche. During the emergency and immediate response, the entire army, and other security forces were mobilized for rescue, relief and recovery operations with the declaration of the state of emergency by the Nepalese government. Nepal Army were the first responders who worked very efficiently to save people's life and also helped them to build a temporary shelter. Aid and assistance from the international community played a major role to respond a disaster (Bura, 2015). The quick establishment of the "Nepal Earthquake 2015 Flash Appeal" fund was started by UN with the goal of raising at least \$415 million for the earthquake relief (UNOCHA, 2015). However, by two weeks, more than \$330 million was pledged and directly provided. Being the nearest country India and China responded quickly by sending the rescue teams and aid. Many other countries including the UK, supported Nepal during crisis (Cook et.al., 2016).

During 2015 Nepal Earthquake, along with the loss of lives, most of the people were shelter less (Khazai et.al., 2015). Out of 75 total districts, 31 districts were affected by the earthquake among which 14 districts were declared as a worst-hit. There were many absentees people in the community of those districts as most of them were migrant workers due to which remittance to the country increased rapidly. The death toll did not only increase in Nepal but also in the neighboring countries. As recorded, the 78 people died in India, 27 in China and 4 in Bangladesh due to this event (Nepal Risk Reduction Portal, Humanitarian Data Exchange, 2015). The government had to immediately demand philanthropic associations for the materials like temporary shelter and health essentials (Khazai et.al., 2015).

People started living in tent and keeping it focused, CGI sheets were provided to the shelter less people by the government and aid providers (Khazai et.al., 2015). The traumatic event caused a widespread damage to both public and private building, health center, schools, bridges, hydropower plants, trekking routes, heritage sites and other infrastructures (Soden and Palen, 2016). Even after a month of earthquake, it was reported that tens of thousands of people were staying in a temporary shelter which was not safe from heavy rainfall and landslide (Khazai et.al., 2015). To rebuilt a resilience shelter as a priority, Nepal government along with the international community focused on the affected districts such as Gorkha,

Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Kavreplanchok, Sindhupalchok and Dhading. Due to the rugged terrain and improper infrastructure, the aid providers faced logistical challenges. In some of those districts, up to 90 percent of health facilities were destroyed which has been rebuilt and retrofitted by the government (Khanal et.al., 2015).

Although the nations at risk from earthquake, Nepal ranks high on the list, it lacked disaster risk management and preparedness. To prepare Nepal for the natural calamities, international efforts focused on the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (DFID, 2012). The huge issue in Nepal and worldwide disaster response was communication and coordination. The protocols and mechanisms like “National Disaster Response Framework” and “United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Nepal” were developed by the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations (UNOCHA, 2015). As assessed, Nepal belongs to one of the world’s most disaster-prone countries thus, the coordination system was established in Nepal under the portent of OCHA and UNDAC. In the aftermath of the Nepal Earthquake 2015, many pre-disaster initiatives were held.

2.3.1. Humanitarian Crisis

The main priority during the earthquake was saving lives and rescuing people in which government and international agencies were involved. For rescuing people, the team of India, Pakistan, Israel, China and the USA arrived in Kathmandu. The total number of people affected by the tragedy was 6.6 million as estimated by the UN (Cook et.al., 2016). According to UNICEF (2015), approximately 940,000 children were affected from earthquake. Even the hospitals did not have enough space to place the patients because of emergency. However, several injuries were also treated on the streets. The crisis made children vulnerable the most due to the limited access to safe drinking water and waterborne diseases (Goda et.al., 2015 p.8).

Immediately after the news of earthquake, India, China and other neighbouring countries sent aid and assistance including relief material such as health and rescue teams, much needed helicopters and essential supplies. The USA provided support of 1 million dollars to help and support the victims and EU provided 3 million Euros for the emergency relief (Cook et.al, 2016). Many other countries provided technical assistance and water purification systems. Due to the fear of staying in the building, thousands of people slept in the open space. Not only the victim, even most of the aid workers were traumatized due to the tragic scenario of humanitarian crisis (Welle, 2015).

2.3.2. Earthquake damages in Nepal

As shown in the Table 1, the surveys from the post-earthquake, illustrates the damages and losses faced by Nepal due to an earthquake. In the mountain areas of Nepal, various number of villages were merely devastated due to the sequence of earthquake and major landslide that triggered. Roads were blocked and made it challenging for the people to move to other remote villages. The local transportation network become poorer in Nepal and lack of resilience of rural communities took place (Goda, et.al, 2015 p.8).

Due to the major aftershocks, severely damaged buildings in the main shock were collapsed. However, after the years, the government with the help of other organizations, have been building the repairs, building inspection and tagging, building evacuation procedure and retrofitting to alleviate the damage potential of the earthquake (Rafferty, 2015). Earthquake also damaged most of the old historical buildings and heritage sites. As observed, the damaged buildings were that of stone/ brick masonry structures with wooden frames but the buildings with Reinforced Concrete (RC) frame were good enough for the earthquake. It was not a worst case- scenario because the ground motion intensity as experienced in Kathmandu was not that intense as compared to the predicted motion from the seismic hazard studies of Nepal (Goda, et.al., 2015 p.8).

Table 1: Earthquake damages and losses in Nepal

	Disaster Effects (NPR million)			Distribution of Disaster Effects (NPR million)		Losses in personal income (NPR million)
	Damages	Losses	Total	Private	Public	
Social Sectors	355,028	53,597	408,625	363,248	45,377	-
Housing and Human Settlements	303,632	46,908	350,540	350,540	-	-
Health	6,422	1,122	7,544	1,394	6,150	-
Education	28,064	3,254	31,318	2,365	28,953	-
Cultural Heritage	16,910	2,313	19,223	8,948	10,274	-
Productive Sectors	58,074	120,046	178,121	158,079	20,043	17,124
Agriculture	16,405	11,962	28,366	25,813	2,553	4,603
Irrigation	383	-	383	-	383	-
Commerce	9,015	7,938	16,953	16,953	-	2,667
Industry	8,394	10,877	19,271	19,271	-	3,654
Tourism	18,863	62,379	81,242	75,105	6,137	6,200
Finance	5,015	26,890	31,905	20,937	10,969	-
Infrastructure Sectors	52,460	14,323	66,783	17,281	49,502	-
Electricity	17,807	3,435	21,242	15,569	5,673	-
Communications	3,610	5,085	8,695	1,712	6,983	-
Community Infrastructure	3,349	-	3,349	-	3,349	-
Transport	17,188	4,930	22,118	-	22,118	-
Water and Sanitation	10,506	873	11,379	-	11,379	-
Cross-Cutting Issues	51,872	1,061	52,933	1,755	51,178	-
Governance	18,757	-	18,757	-	18,757	-
Disaster Risk Reduction	155	-	155	-	155	-
Environment and Forestry	32,960	1,061	34,021	1,755	32,267	-
Total	517,434	189,027	706,461	540,362	166,100	17,124
Total (US\$ million)	\$5,174	\$1,890	\$7,065	\$5,404	\$1,661	\$171

Sources: Nepal Planning Commission. (2015). Nepal Earthquake 2015, Post Disaster Need Assessment. Government of Nepal

Moreover, in Kathmandu, the damaged building was localized to specific area. It was resulted that the building collaged sites were affected due to the local soil structural deficiencies (Rafferty, 2015).

2.3.3. Relief and aid support during Nepal Earthquake 2015

Immediately, within an hour of earthquake, Nepal government made an official request for international assistance. For seeking and coordinating international assistance to search and rescue, several meetings with donor communities were held. Nepal had limited trained human resources and equipment (Shrestha & Pathranarakul, 2018). The first responders were Nepal Army (NA), Nepal Police (NP) and Armed Police Force (APF) to carry out an effective SAR operation. With the coordination of Multi-National Military Coordination Centre, dozens of international military SAR teams arrived. The community relief efforts were supported by the network of NGOs and INGOs based in Nepal. Numerous volunteers (national or international), business associations, government employees, political

parties, community organizations and other humanitarian agencies set up temporary shelters, mobilized the treatment of injured and provided relief materials including food and non-food items (Manandhar et.al., 2017).

Nepal is an aid dependent country which needs to maintain a good foreign relation for an effective hand-in-hand support. Through external development partners such as foreign government, INGOs and multilaterals, Nepal had been receiving foreign aid since more than 60 years through diplomatic practices. These partners have been involved in several sectors of Nepal like program design, policy making and implementation in a range of areas (Pradhan and Zellmann, 2018). Yet, Nepal lack progress in policy making. Some of the important areas receiving international aid in Nepal are infrastructure, local development, health and education (Giri et.al., 2013, p.1).

After Nepal Earthquake 2015, on June 25 2015, the government organized an “International Conference on Nepal’s Reconstruction”. The conference was held to raise foreign aid for post-earthquake recovery. According to Regmi (2016), during the conference, the development partners of Nepal pledged US\$4109.52 million for financial assistance. After the earthquake, through USAID, the US announced to donate financial assistance of \$10 million (Regmi, 2016 pp.76-96). Additionally, disaster-assistance response team were sent for search and rescue. This supported and built risk-reduction partnership in Nepal. Similarly, India sent more than thousands of National Disaster Response Force personnel for searching and rescuing the victims. Similarly, 13 aircraft, six Mi-17 helicopters and two Advanced Light Helicopters were deployed from India. Tons of blankets, water, food items and medicine were sent to Kathmandu.

Approximately, \$7.6 million funding was provided by the UK addressing immediate needs in Nepal (Regan, 2015). The UK sent Royal Air Force plane that carried more than 1,700 solar lanterns and 1,100 shelter (Regan, 2015). Nepal also received clean water, household items, shelter and blankets from the UK. These aids could be tracked through the activation of Rapid Response Facility. Further, the aid reached to £15 million and became one of the top Financial Donors due to the generous contribution (Santana, 2015).

As soon as the earthquake occurred, along with \$3.3 million funding, China sent search and rescue team of 62 member and materials such as blankets, clothing, power generator and emergency shelters. Israel sent a rescue and relief team of 260 members along with 95 tons of resources such as aid and medical supplies. Israel also sent the medical team

including doctors, nurses and paramedics (Regan, 2015). Several complications seemed to occur during the delivery of relief services in Nepal Earthquake 2015. Such complications might have occurred due to the remoteness of villages, inconvenient transportation network, congested international airport and shortage of helicopters, trucks and other vehicles that lowered the capability to transport the relief materials and aids (Karkee and Comfort, 2016 p.177).

For the developing countries with less capacity, the tremendous aid could be challenging for the government in terms of coordinating the international cooperation. More foreign aid refers to more pressure on the government to ensure that needy are served so that NGOs and other donor organizations would not be discouraged (Simkhada, 2018 pp.189-193).

2.3.4. Geographical challenges of Nepal

Due to the mountainous terrain and lack of good infrastructure, accessing logistic in different parts of Nepal became the major issue during 2015 Earthquake (Soden & Palen, 2016 pp.2796-2807). Besides, there is only one international airport in the country which is located in Kathmandu and entire international response team had to land in Kathmandu before moving to the other villages with no access to the services. This showed logistical challenge to serve the entire country (Baharmand et al., 2017 pp.549-559). The international airport, Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu is also not big enough to land several airplanes at the same time. The airport has just one 3 km runway and is only capable of accommodating 8 large maximum aircrafts at the same point of time. Traffic congestion occurred in the airport when international response teams, aid and equipment from various countries were sent to Nepal (Sanderson and Ramalingam, 2015).

Most of the destructions were occurred outside the area of Kathmandu valley but due to the poor infrastructure and challenging international response management, the relief aids were inaccessible in the remote areas during the emergency (Paul et.al., 2017 pp.1169-1188). The airplanes were filled with relief goods and off-loaded without no prior information or notice to the Nepal government. It showed very fragile and overstretched system because the international response team were not unaware about whether the items were needed and who was supposed to collect/distribute the aids (Sanderson and Ramalingam, 2015).

The international responders also faced challenges due to the unawareness on Nepal's geography, topography and altitude (in some cases). This is the difficult terrain so, many

international responders faced problematic situation. Additionally, lack of adequate physical infrastructure made the aids inaccessible to reach the disaster-hit areas (Soden and Palen, 2016 pp. 2796-2807). The earthquake led to landslide and blocked the road and made the responders extremely difficult to deliver aids in vulnerable communities. However, the only means of transportation to deliver the relief item were small aircrafts and helicopters. In some rural areas, there were no existence of roads so the services were also delivered through porters and mules were also used as the means of transportation for delivering relief goods (Paul et.al., 2017 2017 pp.1169-1188).

Therefore, due to the challenging Himalayan terrain, the humanitarian response was complex. Some of the worst affected areas were in remote rural places that had inaccessibility of road and high in the mountains so, relief providers had to be physically active and make sure the right kind of support reach to right people timely and efficiently (Khanal, 2020 pp.1-34).

2.3.5. Nepal and United Kingdom relation during 2015/16

In the year 2016, Nepal and the UK celebrated bicentenary of bilateral relations between them. This included the cooperation in the various areas of mutual interest. Featuring bilateral relations during 2015/2016, these two countries had high-level exchange of visits in terms of political and economic matter (Poudel, 2016b).

In December 2015, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kamal Thapa visited the UK for attending bicentenary reception as organized by the UK government. During the visit, Kamal Thapa (former Foreign Affairs Minister, Nepal) met the British Counterpart Secretary of States for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Phillip Hammond where various features of bilateral relations were exchanged (The Kathmandu Post, 2015). The discussion was about the political status of Nepal including the declaration of new Constitution and challenges faced by Nepal due to India's blockade of essential commodities including, supplies of fuel and other services at Nepal-India border check points (Nepal Foreign Affairs, 2015).

The issue on British Gurkha was raised which included the request for British Government in terms of solution for the problem based on equality through the execution of the endorsements contained in the parliamentary report of a British Conservative Party politician, Jackie-Doyle Price on Gurkha Army's pension system (Nepal Foreign Affairs, 2015). The important discussion was also held regarding the release of Col. Kumar Lama,

particularly in the context of the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Nepal. Welcoming the adoption of Nepal's new constitution, Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Philip Hammond assured the development support from Britain (The Kathmandu Post, 2015). Regarding the problem of British Gurkha, he guaranteed about the possible effort for solving the problem. While attending the Bicentenary reception as hosted by Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, the friendly and close relations among Nepal and the UK was highlighted where, Kamal Thapa showed his appreciation towards the continuous development support and cooperation to progress the democratic and political process of Nepal (Government of the UK, 2015).

Meeting with the Minister of State for International Development outlined the humanitarian situation of Nepal on reconstruction plans of the Government (Pandey, 2015). During the meeting, Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister approached the British Government to develop its cooperation and support to advance the process of post-earthquake housing reconstruction (Pandey, 2015). The discussion also comprised exchange of views on the 's priorities in Nepal and five-year development plan on the five-years cooperation programs (The Kathmandu Post, 2015).

The visit also embraced issue of British Gurkha's remaining grievances. The second meeting among the delegations of Nepal and UK took place in London leading "Nepal-UK Bilateral Consultation Mechanism". Both sides covered the updates of bilateral relations including major issues and developments ongoing in the regional and international context (Poudel, 2016b).

It is acknowledged that the development cooperation partnership among Nepal and UK has been very important since 1816. Before earthquake, on 16th April 2015, UK agreed to provide financial and technical support of GBP 35 million (5.21 billion approx.) to Nepal government for implementing the Acceleration Investment and Infrastructure in Nepal Program (MOFA, 2019).

Immediately after earthquake of 25 April 2015, the United Kingdom provided support, aid and assistance by responding with the deployment of Eight Disaster Response Specialists under Rapid Response Facility. The country also released GBP 5 million for the assistance (MOFA, 2019). For reconstruction and rebuilding, the UK assured to provide GBP 85 million.

On 19 May 2015, Secretary of State for International Development and DFID's Director General visited Nepal to gather primary information on the earthquake damages and identify the effectiveness of UK's assistance and support to earthquake beneficiaries (House of Commons, 2015). Additionally, on August 2015, Minister of State at the Department for International Development, Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Desmond Swayne TD MP, visited Nepal to observe DFID's work in disaster preparedness area (The Kathmandu Post, 2015).

After earthquake, most of the economic diplomacy related programs were introduced by the Embassy of Nepal in London to promote the economic interest of Nepal. On January 2016, interaction program was organized by collaboration and cooperation among Embassy of Nepal and NRN Association of UK as a role of NRM and Diaspora in economic development and prosperity of Nepal (MOFA, 2016).

The major events of bilateral relation also include visit of the Prince Harry of Wales to Nepal in March 2016, as a part of bicentennial celebration of Nepal-UK relations. During the visit, Prince Harry attended the reception of Bicentenary as hosted by the Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal (The Rising Nepal, 2016).

2.3.6. Post Disaster Need Assessment and Post Disaster Recovery Framework

Post Disaster Need Assessment is an internally published methodology showcasing the physical damage, costs of meeting recovery need and economic losses of the naturally occurring disaster (UNFPA, 2015). Nepal Planning Commission (NPC) carried out Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) for assessing and evaluating the losses of various sectors. Post Disaster Recovery Framework (PDRF: 2016-2020) was planned on the basis of PDNA (Nepal Government, 2015). Post-earthquake development requires the analysis and annual reflection on the effectiveness or challenges on the activities.

Along with the UN, World Bank, JICA, ADB and EU as a development partners, NPC published PDNA report in two volumes (vol. A and vol. B) (Jeggle and Marco, 2018). The inputs and data were provided by CBS, NRB and MoF from the government side. As led by NPC, there was an assistance of more than 250 national and international experts who worked effectively to produce the assessment and its strategy (UNFPA, 2015). This is an impactful strategy to rebuild and reconstruct the infrastructure and other developments for a long term. PDNA vol. A and vol. B has assessed various sectors that needed to be developed after an earthquake such as Social, Productive, Infrastructure and Cross-cutting sectors shown in Table 1. Apart from these sectors, PDNA has assessed the impact of 2015 Nepal

Earthquake in Poverty and Human Development, and Macroeconomic Impact. PDNA vol. A includes the Recovery Strategy as well.

PDNA report shows the response and relief efforts with the estimated damages and loss caused due to the earthquake. It further helps to identify needs and strategy required for the implementation after conducting an assessment. PDNA vol. B has a detailed information regarding pre and post impact of an earthquake on macro-economic sectors such as GDP growth, agriculture, industry, monetary sectors, fiscal sector and other external sectors (PDNA Vol B, 2015).

Moreover, particularly for governments, donor and international organizations / institutions, PDNA are highly valued. The implementation and evaluations of PDNA are sustainable and effective when the process is embedded in national governance and wider development partner. Through the various interests among primary partners and participating organizations, there are many possibilities of future opportunities and multiple potential benefits (NPC, 2015).

Similarly, PDRF has a recovery aspect for the establishment of well-planned resilient settlement, recovery, and prosperous society which includes policy and institutional frameworks (Government of Nepal, 2016a). The major elements of PDRF's reconstruction and rehabilitation policy are as the following:

- Land Use and Relocation
- Reconstruction and Retrofit of Housing and Cultural Heritage Sites
- Financial Assistance
- Providing development opportunities, employment and livelihoods
- Engaging community, private sector, diaspora and volunteering in building community resilience
- Disaster risk reduction and Build back better

Furthermore, PDRF outlines the implementation measures, projected financial requirements and plan further steps needed for recovery (Government of Nepal, 2016a).

2.3.7. Nepal Government and UK aid for the 2015 post-earthquake Reconstruction

The 2015 post-disaster had an enormous impact in destruction of residential, government buildings, trekking route, school, heritage sites, health posts, bridges, water supply and roads of various districts in Nepal. Most of the problematic issue for the government of Nepal was to reach to the people living in a place where road is not accessible

(The Asia Foundation, 2016). In a post-disaster, main means of coordinating earthquake response, facilitating decisions and instructions from central to districts was through NDRF (GoN MoHA, 2017). Focusing on the humanitarian support and concerning the risk of vulnerable people living in hazardous place, Nepal Government decided to relocate people to a safe place providing a land grant and housing reconstruction grant through National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) as a focal government organization (The Asia Foundation, 2016).

Before 2015 Nepal earthquake, NRA did not exist. It was established on 25th December 2015 with a mandate for five years to manage and lead the activities of recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation of earthquake affected families from 31 districts and damaged infrastructures (NASC, 2018). The major objective of NRA is to complete the reconstruction works of destroyed / damaged earthquake with the approach of Build Back Better on the basis of post disaster need assessment (NRA, 2017). However, after the completion of NRA's contract on reconstruction process, NDRRMA would promote the procedure of disaster risk reduction and management.

Sufficient budget was allocated and technical support were also provided for private house reconstruction and livelihood rehabilitation process. Such activities were supported by the development organizations working under the donation of UKaid. The establishment of NRA systematized and managed the reconstruction process effectively (NRA, 2017). Additionally, NRA has also facilitated NGOs and INGOs working for the reconstruction of heritage sites, public infrastructure and private houses. However, as planned before the establishment of NRA, it has also been facing various challenges to complete the reconstruction process in the specified time (Government of Nepal, 2016b).

After the devastating earthquake of Nepal, UK AID through DFID planned to support vulnerable people in collaboration and coordination with the Government of Nepal. The UK AID has a goal to ensure that no one is left behind for the reconstruction, empower women and girls, and promote the positive change for the long term through the project named "Building Back Better" (NRA, 2019). Nepal Government and UK AID has a plan to support the beneficiaries through the supervision, needs of reconstruction and delivering the community infrastructure in the earthquake affected districts. In the rural areas, people have too many barriers to the facilities such as private sector development so, the project aims to

ensure that poor people are not left behind and are intact throughout the learning period (NRA, 2017).

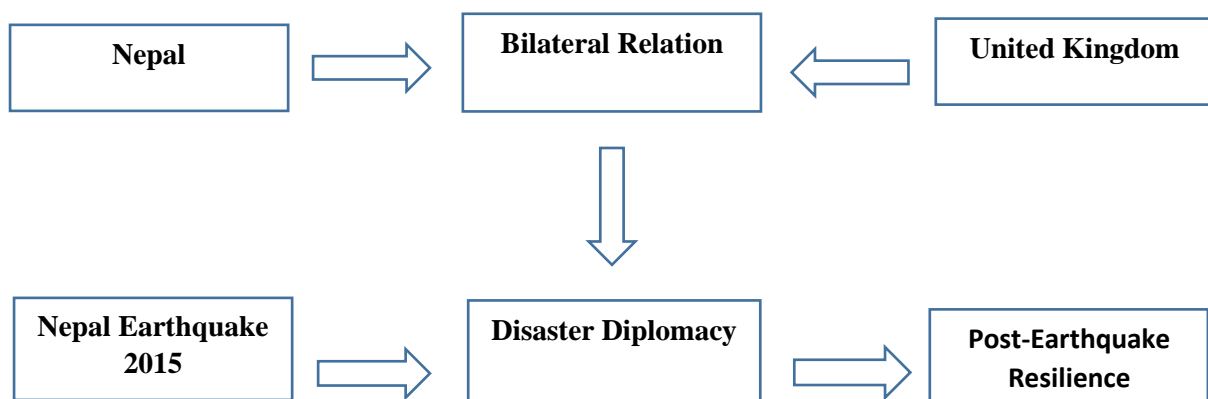
In order to meet the goals of reconstruction needs, UK AID aimed to provide £63 million over 2016-2022 (Michaels et al., 2019). With the knowledge of both Nepal government and UK AID, this study aims to identify the major role and challenges of foreign aid (including UK aid), for the post-earthquake reconstruction. The NGOs and INGOs working under the donation of UK's aid has been supporting NRA to relocate people and reconstruct private housing as well as promote the livelihood process (House of Commons, 2015). The involvement of various NGOs and INGOs have lowered the challenges of NRA regarding budget and technical support to be provided in a community (The Asia Foundation, 2016).

Chapter 3: Conceptual Framework and Methodology

3.1. Conceptual Framework

The following conceptual framework demonstrates the bilateral relation of Nepal and the UK and, how the UK supported in post-earthquake reconstruction through the process of disaster diplomacy. After 2015 Nepal earthquake, many countries including the UK supported Nepal and involved in disaster diplomacy which led to the post-earthquake reconstructions and resilience. This framework show that success of a disaster diplomacy and post-earthquake reconstruction depends on the bilateral relation among two countries. So, disaster diplomacy and post-earthquake reconstruction are dependent variable and bilateral relation between Nepal and the UK is an independent variable. Similarly, Nepal Earthquake 2015 is also an independent variable as disaster diplomacy and post-earthquake reconstruction takes place after an occurrence of disaster.

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework



The bilateral relation among Nepal and the UK is tied with several efforts such as soft power, public diplomacy, economic diplomacy and military diplomacy which will be discussed in this study. Furthermore, this study also discusses on the process of UK's disaster diplomacy as well as the engagement of the UK aid and the Nepal Government for the post-earthquake resilience.

3.2. Research Methodology

The study demonstrates relation of Nepal and the UK during Nepal earthquake of 2015. The core relation between two countries, Nepal and UK is well-studied. For the research, qualitative data collection method was used. The qualitative method includes both

primary and secondary data. For a primary source of information, an interview was taken with one of the Senior Research Fellow at the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo to know the concept of disaster diplomacy. He is a scholar of disaster diplomacy and first-hand interview regarding disaster diplomacy was conducted through Skype, a virtual platform.

Research Design

Research design is an approach for a study and the plan that specifies the methods, procedures for collection, measurement and analysis of data. It assesses to plan for selecting appropriate sources and types of information that answers research questions.

Sources of Data

The priority was mostly to the secondary data sources even though first-hand information was also used. The secondary sources of data were obtained from the national and international publications, authorized documents, books, non- government bodies, annual report, previous researches, articles and websites. Specifically, the major sources of information were the publications of National Reconstruction Authority, online publications from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kelman's publications regarding disaster diplomacy, Post-Disaster Need Assessment Vol. A and Vol. B, NSET's publications, DFID's publication regarding 2015 Nepal Earthquake and reports published by the government, semi-government or non-government agencies are implemented to identify the research answers. Several newspapers and magazines including The Diplomat, The Himalayan Times, The Kathmandu Post, Republica, The Economic Times and The Rising Nepal were very helpful sources. Similarly, online articles and news form Investopedia, Reliefweb, BBC News, The Telegraph and Quora were equally prioritized for the sources.

Data Analysis

For the analysis, reliable and published sources were used. Regarding the post-earthquake reconstruction, the tangible data was analyzed from the reports published through Nepal Government. This includes post-earthquake reconstruction updates and foreign aid/budget support. In order to analyze and manage data in a systematic order, data from

incited sources were used to present the data in the form of the figures such as charts, diagrams and tables. Data analysis method such as thematic and narrative analysis were used. For the further understanding and general explanation, the figures are also explained and elaborated in an understandable way. More importantly, the analytical methods of the study include analysis, concepts and presumptions from relevant theories learned during the course of International relations.

Chapter 4: Disaster Diplomacy

4.1. Disaster Diplomacy and 2015 Nepal Earthquake

In Nepal, during the 2015 Earthquake, the international organizations supported Nepal with relief and aid. The support was provided by most of the countries that has a pre-existing bilateral or multilateral relationship with Nepal. Till 2019, Nepal established diplomatic relations with 164 countries (New Spotlight Online, 2019).

There is a potential of natural hazards to be more devastated in the regions with large population. The effect of disaster depends on the overall vulnerability such as destructive potential occurred in the region. The destruction or devastation could be more wicked because of several factors such as lack of good governance, lack of risk reduction/preparedness and poor planning in disaster prone areas (Kontar, 2018). The aftermath of disaster concerns governance, social cohesion, the capacity of building back better and revitalizing the economy. Such process needs more resources and ability to response to the recovery from the disaster (Maciver, 2012).

During the process of rising again, internal or external conflict can further complicate the preparedness and recovery form the disaster (Jonsson and Aggestam, 2009 pp. 33-51). In the place where the conflict is taking place, disaster is more catastrophic because of the reason that both political and financial resources are more focused on the conflict rather than preparedness for mitigating the damage caused by a disaster.

There are very few cases where humanitarian assistance turned into a friendly relation among the conflicting countries such as the case of Greece and Turkey (Mavrogenis and Kelman, 2013 pp.73-104). But in most of the case humanitarian assistance acts as a peace broker only for a short-time when the countries emphasis more on devotion towards the nation rather towards the humanity. However, in the case of Nepal and the UK, Nepal is a small developing country and seeks support from development countries whenever in need (Nickson, 1992). Since 1816, the countries have a bilateral relation and has been maintaining it till now without any serious conflict (Adhikari, 2018 pp.43-74). During 2015 Nepal Earthquake, through disaster diplomacy and bilateral relations, most of the aids and support were provided from several countries including the United Kingdom. After earthquake, most of the countries have continued the diplomatic relation with Nepal through economic diplomacy (Adhikari, 2015a).

Due to the strong and friendly diplomatic relationship with the countries, tremendous support and solidarity were provided for Nepal to stand up the earthquake devastation. Through the generous support, Nepal has been progress on a five-year plan of Post-Disaster Recovery Framework. During 2015 Nepal Earthquake, the diplomatic machinery of Nepal actively participated and facilitated to mobilize the international support for immediate rescue, search, relief and also for the long-term reconstruction process (MOFA, 2016).

The International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction (ICNR) 2015 was held successfully as the donor countries pledged \$4.4 billion in aid for a long-term reconstruction with the participation of bilateral and multilateral development partners. Those international development partners shared best practices on the execution of reconstruction programs (NRA, 2017). During 2015 Nepal Earthquake, rather than countries, 35 cities sent aids for reaffirming resources in Nepal through the diplomatic means and those funds were received through the Nepal Embassies/Consulates General for Prime Minister's Relief Fund (MOFA, 2016).

4.2. Case study of Nepal and the UK disaster diplomacy with reference to 2015

Earthquake

The UK has been supporting Nepal through the provision of aids and assistance when any kind of catastrophe occurs and in advance, since hundreds of years, brave Gurkhas from Nepal has been serving the UK even during the war and other events. So, the relationship among the countries can also be defined as a giver and taker from the both sides (Adhikari, 2018 pp.43-74). In every inter-state relation, there could be more or less issues. Likewise, Nepal and the UK also had several issues on the case of Col. Lama. However, being a pedestrian country, Nepal could not force the government of the UK to release its citizen (Sigdel, 2014 pp.1-13). Beside such issues, with the fact the UK and Nepal has a good relation with each other since the beginning of diplomatic practice in the world order, disaster diplomacy was quite easy during 2015 Nepal Earthquake.

Even after the several years of 2015 Nepal Earthquake, the UK has been supporting to rebuild the nation and provide safety measures through people-to-people diplomacy or cultural connection. This includes the provision of numerous volunteers from the UK to support the citizen of Nepal (Warmington, 2015). The diplomacy did not only start during the disaster rather; it has a good relation since the beginning such diplomatic practices has a long-term process. In difference, few other countries also contributed during 2015 Nepal

Earthquake but despite the reason that there is no previous diplomatic relation with those countries, disaster diplomacy stayed for a shorter period which lasted till the relief distribution. There are no further diplomatic practices with these countries. As explained by Kelman (2017), diplomatic practices formed during the time of disaster could possibly remain for the short-term and there could be a different disaster diplomatic practice with the conflicting country (if Nepal have had one). Following case of RAF helicopter refused by the Nepal government clarifies the disaster diplomatic practices during the relief of 2015 Nepal Earthquake.

4.2.1. RAF helicopter carrying British relief refused by the Nepal government during Nepal Earthquake 2015

The second shake (7.3 magnitude) of Nepal Earthquake 2015 occurred in 30th April. The Britain sent three RAF helicopters to help Nepal with the earthquake relief but it was refused by the Nepal's authorities thus, waited on the ground in Delhi. As described, the maximum loads of the helicopters were about 10 tons of freight. They could carry maximum 70 people for the short journey loads (BBC News, 2015a).

Boarding from an airfield, the helicopters could can the missions lasting about two and half hours before needing it to be refueled however, it also depends on the load and the travel speed. As said by the Ministry of Defense (UK), holding the helicopters could have been difficult for the cost to the UK taxpayer process (Dearden, 2015).

The UK planned to fly the helicopters to Nepal in transporter aircraft but the Nepal authorities were forced to shut the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) in Kathmandu after cracks took place in the runway and forced to divert the helicopter to Delhi (BBC News, 2015a).

As per the DFID, UN agencies and other NGOs needed the helicopters to deliver aid to remote areas where the access of road lacked, and the UK sent three helicopters filled with the most appropriate kits to support the efforts. The helicopters were chosen to minimize any risk of damage to the surrounding infrastructure and was also used in the similar environment as of Nepal (Dearden, 2015). Following the earthquake of Pakistan in 2005, same helicopters were used (Reliefweb,2005) but, it was disappointing for the UK because the helicopters and crews were in the area but not over to the discussion with the Nepal authorities.

According to the Nepal government, the reason they did not want helicopters to enter the country was because they were too huge and taking off / landing could damage the nearby

buildings (The Hindu, 2015). However, from the diplomatic perception, it is assumed that the helicopters were refused due to the opposition from Chinese and Indian government authorities from allowing the foreign aircraft around the airspace (Haynes and Pagnamenta, 2015).

India and China are the neighboring country of Nepal that are big in size and the economy. By engaging in different forms of diplomacy and tactics, both India and China have established a ground hold on Nepal as the first line of support and assistance in case of any disaster or difficulties (Haynes and Pagnamenta, 2015). Therefore, any kind of foreign assistance that might enter Nepal would be looked at with the suspicious eye by both India and China. This could be one of the reasons that the helicopter was halted in Delhi. The helicopter was not allowed to enter Nepal showing that even during the time of disaster, Nepal's neighbors will take any major to prevent another power from engaging too closely with Nepal even when the time of need (Haynes and Pagnamenta, 2015).

The other countries, including the US deployed helicopters during the first shake of 25th April to help the country with relief efforts. So, it could be claimed that the other reason of the refusal of British helicopters could be that, even after the several request from the Nepalese government, Col. Lama who was accused of torture and arrested in 2013 by the universal jurisdiction was not sent back to his country, Nepal (Freeman, 2015).

According to the Nepal government, if the crime took place in Nepal, it could be dealt in Nepal so, for the further process of accusation British government was requested to send the citizen back to the country although he would not be released (Shrestha, 2018). Yet, the British government continued inspection and conducted several trials in their own country following the universal jurisdiction of the international law. As the request of Nepalese government was unseen by the UK, it was very disappointing for Nepal because of the reason that the country is not powerful and the UK would not easily accept the claim (Freeman, 2015).

In the first-hand interview with Ilan Kelman (2020), he was asked about the interference of powerful donor countries interfering in the policy of small developing countries along with the provision of assistance and support. According to him, *“Donor countries frequently use assistance and support to influence, create, push forward, and inhibit policy and action in recipient countries. The science of humanitarian and development aid has decades of research on this topic”*.

However, the rejection of request of the Nepal Government to extradite could be another reason of British aircraft refused to enter the country and provide the relief during 2015 Nepal Earthquake. Even after the refusal of the helicopters, Col. Lama was neither released from the jail nor sent back to his country rather, he was acquitted after an unexpected delay (Pokharel, 2016).

Despite the refusal of RAF helicopters to land in Nepal, the UK contributed more than 23 million pounds towards the response to the crisis and those three aircraft were supposed to be a cornerstone of the British contribution for search and rescue in Nepal. It shows that the Britain did not want to ruin the relationship and continue to support Nepal through UK aid (Warrington, 2015). The UK did not back off to support Nepal in disaster response and recovery. When the first shake took place, the UK supported WFP to construct a new humanitarian staging at TIA. Immediately after the earthquake, it facilitated the unloading of cargo by air and by truck thus, it led to quick relief distribution around the country (BBC News, 2015a). In case of lack of such facilities, improvising logistic hub could have taken a week or more. Also, in 2011 such measure was undertaken in Nepal by the support of UK aid as a part of Getting Airports Ready for Disasters program.

4.2.2. Disaster diplomacy: COVID-19 Global Pandemic is not an Earthquake

Disaster diplomacy and global health has a big impact among each other (Kelman, 2017). Likewise, the positive transformation of relation between Greece and Turkey with aspect to disaster diplomacy during the earthquake, COVID-19 global pandemic also has an adverse impact on the global disaster diplomacy. However, the difference between an earthquake and coronavirus is that, there might not be enough aid provided for mitigating the disease because of the pandemic over the world (Bhattarai, 2020). So, in 2020, disaster / disease diplomacy could be either more efficient or worsen depending on the unity or the blame game when the crisis is faced by the whole world.

Coronavirus has a direct impact in the world's economy therefore, there is a less expectation of the developing countries on the foreign aid. According to the article published in The Kathmandu Post on April, 2020, as the global economy has been challenging, the foreign aid of Nepal has also been impacted. Nepal received foreign aid worth \$1.79 billion from bilateral and multilateral donors in 2018-2019 fiscal year. Unlike Nepal earthquake 2015, due to the global pandemic, the aids receipts have been slowed down and government face challenges to meet the revenue collection target.

According to Achyut Luitel, the president of AIN Nepal, “*Because of the impact on employment and income of the general public in the West, there might be a significant decline in the resources of international NGOs which depend on funds from individuals who contribute to charities,*” (The Kathmandu Post, 2020). However, on 7th April 2020, the Ministry of Finance - Nepal government and the World Bank signed the agreement of \$29 million for the prevention, detection, preparedness and respond to the COVID-19 (The World Bank, 2020b). Similarly, on May 2020, IMF approved \$214 million disbursement to support coronavirus response and address urgent needs created by COVID-19 as remittances, domestic activity and tourism impacted GDP growth of Nepal (IMF, 2020).

In 2015, when Nepal faced a crisis, many international communities rushed to provide aid and assistance. Foreign aid was one of the reasons for stable economy even after the massive earthquake. But in 2020, the major powers which competed to provide assistance themselves faced the same crisis. Rather providing direct funds, most of the countries prefer to support the developing countries by sending testing kits and other medical-aid. Therefore, as compared to 2015 catastrophe, Nepal could not strengthen disaster diplomacy during COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, due to constraint economy and weak healthcare system, it is challenging for Nepal to fight coronavirus alone.

Nevertheless, coronavirus diplomacy could be an opportunity for aid providing countries to secure position in competing power. During the global pandemic, the USA (itself being in a high risk) continued to provide medical assistance all over. To combat the virus, the USA provided millions of funds and the assistance through international organizations such as WHO and other agencies. Along with the USA, there are few other countries trying to take an opportunity of crisis into disaster diplomacy. Russia and China have tried to position self as global leaders using the global pandemic (Pfaff, 2020). Despite being the first country to face coronavirus positive cases, China supported various countries of Asia, Africa and Europe by providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), test kits, doctors, funds and other aids. Therefore, either natural disaster or disease, major powers and emerging powers seek to gain national interest through soft power.

4.3. Involvement of military in disaster management

Military is an important asset of a country who work effortlessly to secure the country’s citizen. But only in the time of crisis, their work is valued or praised. During the Nepal Earthquake 2015, Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force were the

primary responders (Shrestha & Pathranarakul, 2018). Military aims in securing national interest of the country as it has a role to safeguard sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of a country (Wallin, 2015). According to Gray (2011), depending on the strategy of a state, military is an instrument of policy and a soft power. In diplomatic context, military diplomacy aims to maintain internal security, preserve wildlife, conserve nature and disaster management (Poudel, 2016a). Military diplomacy has an affect towards foreign policy by building a base shared by different states (Shea, 2005 pp.49-52).

Logistically, Nepal Army supported to load/unload relief support, transport aids and provided security during distribution (Wendelbo, 2016). In the aftermath, Nepal Army helped to build disaster resilient community where specific units were deployed to various disaster-prone areas. NA involved in the construction of 28 temporary shelters in 11 districts. Similarly, NA constructed temporary buildings for 468 earthquake survivors in 36 districts and were able to stay under accommodation during the disaster aftermath (The Kathmandu Post, 2016).

Achievement of Nepal Army: There are many achievements of NA during Nepal Earthquake in 2015 as shown in the Table 2.

Table 2: Services Provided by Nepal Army during 2015 Nepal Earthquake

Services provided by Nepal Army	
Live Rescued	1336
Rescued by Air	2928
Dead bodies recovered	1731
Relief material delivered	5707 ton
Shelter, food and water	15000+
Medical services	35282

Source: Nepal Army, 2015

In the context of multinational military assistance, 34 countries were reported to provide support, among which 18 were military and 16 non-military (OCHA, 2015c). The support was provided for various sectors including SAR, medical, epidemic control, Air Tpt/ Rescue, Road Clearance, water Purification, Debris Management and Stabilization (Shrestha

& Pathranarakul, 2018). Nepal seeing its advantage has partaken in worldwide activities, which assisted Nepal Army with connecting global armed force and their assets (Nepal Army, 2019). Additionally, Nepal armed force facilitated appropriately and to anticipate the conflict, Nepal armed force acted by considering the foundation of various nations to prevent hassle while diving work. There was an impressive cooperation among Nepal Army and external military assistances. Such collaboration showed the success in country's disaster diplomacy (OCHA, 2015c).

4.3.1. Involvement of British Army

During an Earthquake, Gurkhas provided direct support to their villages, families and Gurkha veterans. British Army provided an immediate assistance to the Nepalese civilians in their Area of Operations. When other countries sent their own military personnel, the UK sent 300 British Army Gurkhas to serve the homeland during devastation (OCHA, 2015c). According to the UK's defense secretary Michael Fallon, Gurkhas were deployed to provide welfare to the civilians due to their unique set of knowledge, engineering experience and language skills that made an important component of international response. According to him, Gurkhas could be more compassionate while serving the home country (Nepal Foreign Affairs, 2015). The contingent from 36 Engineer regiment, based in Maidstone were deployed to Nepal in two stages. For three months British Army Gurkhas delivered immediate care, constructed permanent shelters and assisted in repairing specific infrastructure (Yokshire Times, 2015). The military contribution provided by the Britain includes 54 tonnes of DFID's humanitarian aid supplies, 1,100 shelter kits and over 1,700 solar lanterns were transported by RAF C-17, Gurkha engineers flew on the C-17 to set up water purification infrastructure in Kathmandu and the supplies and equipment were transported from India to Kathmandu by RAF C130. Likewise, Nepal Army helped approximately 200 UK nationals by providing first aid and logistical support before they were evacuated. With exploration missions, British Gurkha Army assisted in many remote regions including language assistance to international rescue teams as they could speak both Nepali and English (OCHA, 2015b).

Nepal Army helped approximately 200 UK nationals by providing first aid and logistical support before they were evacuated. With exploration missions, British Gurkha Army assisted in many remote regions including language assistance to international rescue teams as they could speak both Nepali and English (OCHA, 2015b).

As per the requirement, the UK pleaded that it would provide military assistance to help Nepal with long term reconstruction effort. Moreover, the UK played as a leading role to respond 2015 Nepal earthquake as a largest donor to the relief operation (BBC News, 2015b). Including the funding for clean water provision and shelter for affected families, deployment of 30 trauma medics and other humanitarian experts, the UK contributed £23 million during relief support (DFID, 2015).

Most significantly, Nepal army has a contribution to UN peacekeeping mission. In the hope of having an opportunity on UN mission, many Nepalese youths join the army. Despite the service provided in Britain, India and the UN missions, in the present context, Gurkhas also serve the Singapore Police as the delegated Gurkhas and has also been serving Brunei as the Gurkha Reserve Unit (Amatya, 2018).

4.4. UK's Foreign Aid: a headway to Disaster Diplomacy

Since 1952, Nepal has been a recipient of foreign assistance (Tripathi, 2011). During this period, many foreign scholarships were provided to the Nepalese students. Numerous assistances were directly provided for several sectors such as transportation, infrastructure, developing agriculture and power generation (Bhattarai, 2005). One-third of grants was provided by India and the United States and introduced various aid projects. During 1950s, Soviet Union and China were the major donors whereas Britain, Australia, Japan, Switzerland and New Zealand were also involved in fewer assistance programs (Adhikari and Mellemvik, 2009 pp.113-133).

In terms of British aid, despite the recruitment of Gurkhas in the British army, one of the major elements in bilateral relationship between Nepal and the UK has been foreign aid since many years (Sharma & Harper, 2018 pp.145–161). Through foreign aid, the UK has followed the legacy to support Nepal in various sectors such as road building, drinking water, community forestry, health and education services, strengthening civil society, human rights, natural disaster, state-society relations, security, peace process, livelihood, political transition and governance.

1960s Foreign Aid:

Following the King Mahendra's takeover, the UK started to become active in providing aid during 1960s. In 1964, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), the UK's organization began to work in Nepal. The UK helped Nepal to associate Panchayat system

for next 30 years. Nepal was provided printing equipment to Ministry of Information and Gorkhapatra (state-contributed newspaper) through the UK's aid. Through such support, the Panchayat regime promoted nationalism (Nickson, 1992). Additionally, the ed Radio Nepal and helped to set up Budhanilkantha school (an elite school in Kathmandu) as a part of nation-building project (Sharma & Harper, 2018 pp.145–161).

Foreign Aid during 1970s:

The road construction was the major interest of the British aid in 1970's. The Official Development Assistant (ODA) provided aid for key researches on the impact of Siddhartha highway which connected Nepal-India border town of Sunauli to Pokhara. The road network promoted economic development however, also made people vulnerable to poverty as expressed by Blaikie and other authors in 2002. The UK provided aid for the establishment of agricultural extension work in Pokhara and Dhankuta. It also supported Koshi hills area development program in the eastern hills and drinking water program in Eastern Nepal. The British focused on middle hills of Nepal due to the origin of former Gurkha soldiers. So, the aid was provided for social protection offered to the former Gurkhas and their families. In 1976, the UK's one of the efficient organizations "Save the Children" began to work in Nepal (Sharma & Harper, 2018 pp.145–161).

Foreign Aid during 1980s:

In 1980's the UK were still supporting Panchayat system. Nepal received several visits from aid responsible British Ministers and in 1986, the Queen Elizabeth visited Nepal. The provided aid focused on connectivity through road building. During those period, most of the British humanitarian agencies such as Action aid, OXFAM and CARE started to work in Nepal and delivered services to humanitarian and development sectors.

Foreign Aid during 1990s:

In 1990's political changes also took over and impacted the foreign aid including the UK's aid. However, various number of British INGOs began to expand work by collaborating with NGOs and civil society. Such agencies and aids were focused on human rights. Till 1993, ODA continuously supported integrating rural development projects of Koshi Hills Development Project in eastern Nepal. In 1993, major Nepal forestry project began in Dhaulagiri region. In 1997, ODA sent a mission to Nepal for identifying the challenges in health sector and started Nepal Safe Motherhood Program (NSMP). In 1999,

the UK planned a program of £16 million per year increasing to £21 million by 2001-2002 (Chapman et.al., 2007). Moreover, in 1999, UK's DFID opened office and expanded its working sectors to support Nepal (Donini and Sharma, 2014 p.120).

Foreign Aid during conflict and post-conflict period:

In 1996, the Maoist insurgency started and ended in 2006. The beginning of insurgency affected districts of mid-western region and later spread over the country. The war had an adverse impact on almost all infrastructural development activities as the resources had to be diverted to defense from development (Kishor, 2014). Nepal received foreign aid of Nrs. 167.8 billion during the war. Such aid exceeded total amount received in three decades (70's, 80's and 90's) (Dhungel, 2015).

During 2007-2011, the trend of post-conflict foreign aid sprinted over to Nrs. 131.1 billion which is nearly the aid received during the period of conflict (Sharma, 2014 pp.163-179). According to Collier (2007 p.106), aid floods for few couple of years then it dies up rapidly but, in the case of Nepal, the country has been receiving aid continuously from bilateral and multilateral sources mostly for the purpose of peacebuilding and development. Moreover, after 2015 Earthquake, Nepal received tons of aids and assistance from various parts of the world and Nepal again increased its bilateral and multilateral aids.

Since then, the transition towards aids and assistance in a country strengthened. For developing countries like Nepal, there is a vital role of foreign aid and support from several means of diplomacy but the intension of a donor country could not be only the purpose of humanitarian aid or development support (Seck, 2015). Rather, it could be strategic and domestic political benefits towards aid receiving country.

As Nye stated, international aid is a state's soft power thus, it has an importance to enhance the opportunity towards International Cooperation during the time of crisis/ disaster (Attina, 2014, p.2). Along with the provision of aid and assistance in aid receiving countries during the time of disaster, the donor countries on the other side has been creating its own opportunity towards enhancing the national interest. Providing aid could incline to the sharing of political ethics, intervention in policies and economies of aid receiving countries (Seck, 2015).

According to the British House of Commons, medias and news hubs have undoubtedly influenced the humanitarian aid and assistance (HoC, 2006, p.15). Therefore, aid

funding gets the quick media's attention when it comes to providing funds for development plans and humanitarian support and such process could be politically benefitted for the donor country in embracing international cooperation (DFID, 2004).

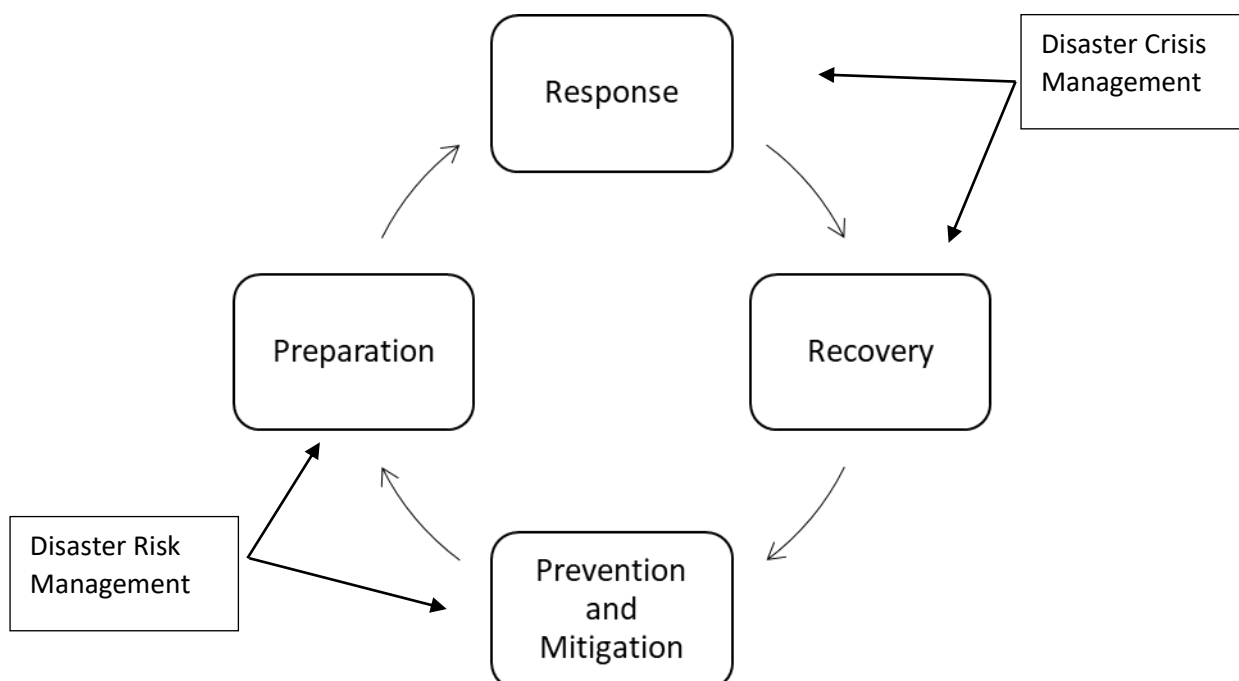
Furthermore, the donor's commitment to give more aid without fundamental reforms in the specific sector would only enable the ruling elite to remain in power without achieving the actual goals/objectives to help vulnerable groups seeking enormous support (Sharma, 2011, pp.95-115). This has also demonstrated that foreign aid records from the history also has an importance in successful disaster diplomacy.

Chapter 5: Nepal-UK Engagement during 2015 Earthquake

5.1. Process of Engagement of Nepal-UK in disaster diplomacy

Disaster Diplomacy can be expressed before disaster, during disaster or after disaster either in an international or local level. In disaster diplomacy, the aid and assistance provided as a response only during the calamity is categorized as a short-term diplomacy. Whereas, when a country provides support or aid during and after the occurrence of disaster throughout the phases of response, recovery, mitigation and preparation, it maintains a long-term diplomacy (Simkhada, 2018 pp.189-193). For the UK and Nepal, it is very advantageous for a disaster diplomacy to take place due to the involvement and friendship since many years (Adhikari, 2018 pp.43-74). Historical relation among the countries provides an opportunity to enhance peace as well as disaster resilience before, during and after disaster (Kontar et.al 2018). The engagement of UK-Nepal in rectifying the nation includes response, recovery, mitigation and preparedness. Disaster Diplomacy can take place during any phase of the disaster as shown in the Figure 1.

Figure 2: Phases of disaster management



Source: Yekaterina Y. Kontar et al. 2018. Disaster-related Science Diplomacy: Advancing Global Resilience through International Scientific Collaborations, Science & Diplomacy. AAAS Center for Science and Diplomacy

Based on the case study of past disaster related activities, it can be examined that a disaster provides an opportunity for enhancing peace among the confrontational states and improve integrity among the countries that already has a good relationship (National Research Council, 2006). For example: Nepal and the UK has a good relationship with each other since the beginning. Nepal acts as a recipient for the humanitarian support provided by the UK and the occurrence of 2015 Earthquake as well as other disaster has immensely influenced the friendship of two countries through humanity and moral support (Subedi, 2017).

Till the date, most of the cases related to disaster diplomacy, disaster related collaboration and coordination are held during the phase of response and recovery. Likewise, in the case of Nepal, the country collaborated with many countries which lasted only for the response and recovery however, few countries have been still supporting the country through the phase of mitigation/ prevention and preparation as well (OCHA, 2015a). Among those countries, as a bilateral donor, the UK has also been supporting Nepal to mitigate and prepare for the risk. However, mitigation and preparation could not be sustainable thus, government of the country look forward it after project ends (House of Commons, 2015). In 2011, the UK joined Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium and reinforced a humanitarian expert by providing Consortium a secretariat support and ensured its engagement from multilaterals and donors (Taylor et al., 2013).

With aspect to disaster diplomacy, since 2015 Nepal Earthquake, Nepal government and the UK has been involved in the following disaster-related activities to strengthen the process towards country's disaster risk reduction (Khanal, 2020 pp.1-34).

5.1.1. UK's engagement during Response and Recovery

Most of the disaster related collaborations takes place during the phase of response and recovery which reinforces further diplomatic efforts inspired from humanitarian assistance. Similarly, after an earthquake hit Nepal, the UK involved in response and recovery process engaging its rescuers, disaster experts and volunteers (Michaels et al., 2019)

The UK demonstrated its friendship and diplomatic relation with Nepal while responding to the earthquake. In the immediate aftermath, British Gurkhas housed the British Nationals and humanitarian teams. Within the first two days, the UK provided SAR support on the ground and humanitarian funds. An additional £3 million was raised by the British

Gurkhas to support temporary shelters, water points and schools for Gurkha retirees and their communities (Warmington, 2015).

The UK's response to the disaster was vital in saving lives. The FCO provided immediate support and played a major role in the response. Other organizations including Public Health England and Cheshire and Scotland fire services involved in SAR (Warmington, 2015). To deploy the assistance of the UK effectively, the UK aid teams gathered a major understanding on the politics and geography of Nepal. Acknowledging the risk faced by poor and vulnerable people (mostly women and children), the team collaborated with Nepal police and Department of Women and Children to manage safe places in an affected site and reduce/ prevent other exposures to violence/ trafficking. Within four months of the disastrous event in 2015, averagely 200,000 people received shelter support as a direct outcome of the UK's assistance (Warmington, 2015). Similarly, along with the support from the UK government, British public provided donations of £83 million (it includes £5 million coordinated funding from UK aid) in which Disaster Emergency Committee played an important role.

The pronged plan "Strategic Framework for DFID's Response" was approved by the government of Nepal in 2015 after an earthquake. The plan included following aid support:

- a. £40 million for humanitarian and early recovery support
- b. £30 million to extend the existing programs to the earthquake affected areas
- c. Addressing build back better and immediate needs through a new Business Case for Post-Earthquake programs
- d. Support the government in long-term programs in growing and delivering immediate benefits to the vulnerable people (most of whom are not in the earthquake districts)

As of January 2016, the UK aid spent £31 million in humanitarian response. It continued to expand pre-existing programs to address needs from the earthquake which include reconstruction activities which held after border blockade. Likewise, the budget was spent to build police post under the Access to Justice program and health facilities through multi donor National Health Support program. It also supported to rebuild Village Development Committee building through the multi donor/ Nepal Government funded Local Governance and Community Development Program (DFID, 2017).

As a generous supporter, the government and citizens of the UK immediately provided numerous funding in the aftermath of the earthquakes. Along with the provision of

immediate relief to the earthquake victims, it also provided psychological support, rehabilitation care and inclusion (OCHA, 2015b). As shown in the Table 3, the UK committed / disbursed for various supports to Nepal.

Table 3: Project-wise Commitment and Disbursement of Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Project Title	Actual Disbursement (US Dollar)
Centre for Inclusive Growth	2,844,337
Accelerating Investment and Infrastructure in Nepal	62,292,186
Nepal Market Development Program	5,714,229
UK Support to increase resilience to natural disaster in Nepal	10,077,441
Rural water and sanitation program (Gurkha welfare scheme) phase V	5,267,299
Multi stakeholder forestry program	10,656,355
Nepal climate change support program (Fund of SDC also included)	83,843
Nepal Peace Trust Fund (Fund of SDC&GDC also included)	542,596
Supporting the Education of marginalized girls in Kailali	260,012
Employment Fund Phase I (Fund of SDC also included)	8,826,370
The Local Governance and Community Development Program Phase II	30,176,985
Rural Access Program Phase III	15,558,050
Nepal Health Sector Program (Fund of GDC, IDA, Australia included)	65,604,704
Nepal Family Planning Project-family planning services for excluded and vulnerable group	1,915,598
ILO-DFID Partnership Program on fair recruitment and decent work for woman migrant workers in South Asia and the Middle East	350,000
Sustainable sanitation and Hygiene for all	338,908
Total	220,508,913

Source: Embassy of Nepal, London

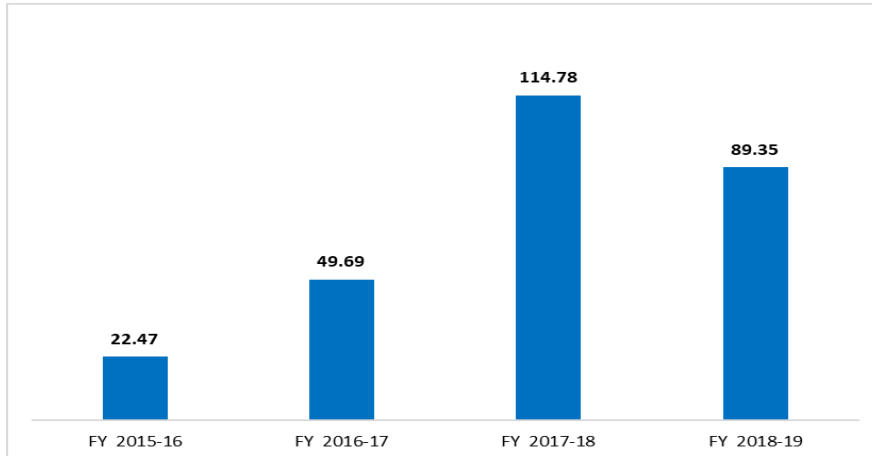
Therefore, the UK's assistance to the country's disaster response and recovery demonstrates that as a soft power, foreign aid has a great influence on bilateral relation among the countries. Similarly, the donations provided by the UK public shows that there is a strong people-to-people diplomacy.

5.1.2. Nepal Government and UK for Prevention and Mitigation

During prevention and mitigation of a disaster, the main practice is to assess and minimize disaster related risk in coordination with DRRM. This includes several interventions such as delivering education and knowledge, monitoring, disaster-resilient infrastructure development and community involvement (Soden and Palen, 2016 pp. 2796-2807). Along with the provision of funds, the government of the UK has been assisting Nepal government to outreach the community. The UK aid established partnership with local and central government, communities and business to support build back better (NRA, 2017).

The cooperation among Nepal government and the UK aid resulted in building earthquake-resilient private houses to the vulnerable people whose house were damaged/destroyed during an earthquake. The projects running under the donation of UK aid has been supporting and facilitating the government to provide grants, social mobilization and provide technical advice to reconstruct or retrofit private houses damaged during an earthquake (The Asia Foundation, 2016). Till 2019, the Nepal government spent overall 276.29 billion budgets for the post-earthquake reconstruction as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 3: NRA's spending on Reconstruction in billion



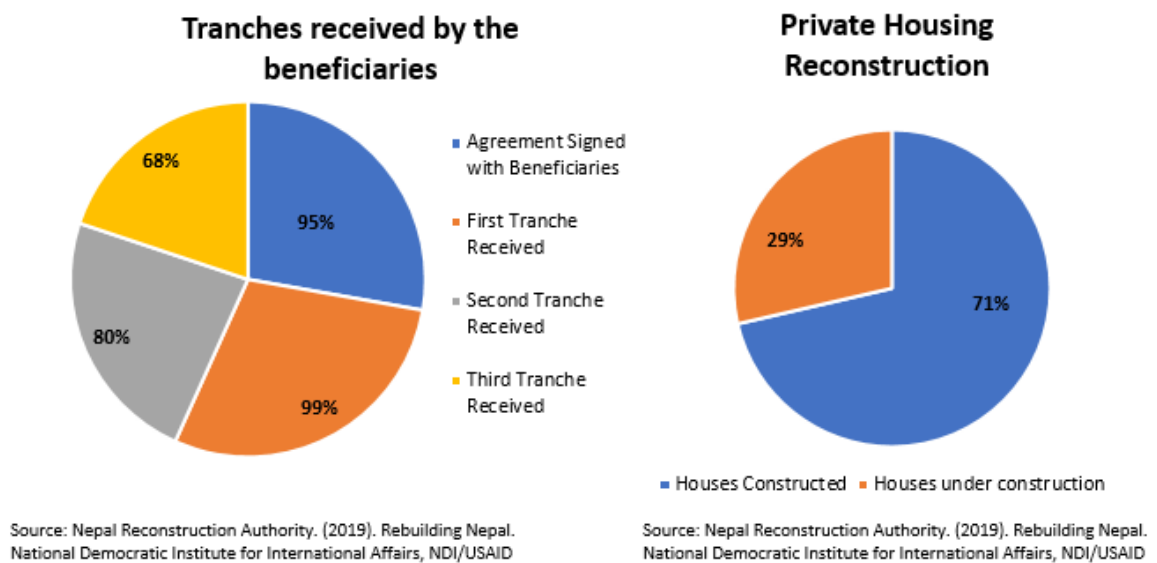
Source: National Reconstruction Authority, 2019

According to the National Reconstruction Authority, till 2019, on average 83% of progress had been achieved in reconstructing private houses, heritage sites, security agencies, health institutions, school and government buildings (NRA, 2019). For private housing reconstruction, the government of Nepal distribute total amount of Rs. 300,000 to each beneficiary. Private housing grant is distributed with three tranches (first tranche-50,000,

second tranche-100,000 and third tranche-150,000) and only after getting the previous tranche, the beneficiary could get another tranche (The Asia Foundation, 2016).

Besides, the government also provided funding for the infrastructure development if the community is integrated settlement. Till 2019, 71 percent private houses were constructed as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 4: Progress of Private Housing Reconstruction and Tranches provided



To mitigate and prevent risk from an earthquake, the UK aid built a national resilience through the support of policy for risk management and response planning. It also trained numbers of Nepal government workers (Michaels et al., 2019). Other focuses included building local resilience through community-based earthquake and disaster preparedness and seismic assessment. After 2015 Nepal earthquake, the UK aid provided support to the government of Nepal through several programs such as “Post-Earthquake Reconstruction in Nepal-Building Back Better”, “Seismic Retrofitting of unsafe housing in Nepal”, “Support to vulnerable households”, “Nepal Health Sector Program III” and “Strengthening disaster resilience in Nepal” (DFID, 2017).

5.1.3. Disaster preparedness

The strengthening institutional capacity and disaster preparedness for the future results in higher needs for recovery and reconstruction. The community-based disaster resilience is limited in Nepal due to inefficient awareness among the community and lack of

preparedness (Khanal, 2020 pp.1-34). Nepal has faced many destruction and casualties due to earthquakes, landslides and floods which could have been mitigated (Khanal, 2020 pp.1-34).

In Nepal, the climate and disaster resilience programs of the UK is focused on consolidating the institutional planning for Disaster Risk Reduction and reinforcing a multi-hazard approach to reduce disaster risk in vulnerable communities (DFID, 2012). The main objective of the program was to increase preparedness and improve disaster management system in Nepal by building resilience of four million people to earthquake and other disasters (DFID, 2012). After an earthquake in 2011, the UK aid facilitated in improving preparedness for emergency response by training 4,000 volunteers in search and rescue/first aid (Taylor et al., 2013).

UK's support for disaster preparedness

For disaster preparedness, UK's DFID contributed £2 million (Npr. 328.8 million) to United Nations World Food Program (WFP), Nepal in 2014. Such contribution was provided for the disaster preparedness and reinforce the national capacity to respond major earthquake in Kathmandu Valley (The expert says, Kathmandu is the most risk city to a major earthquake). The poorly planned construction, limited observance to the building codes and rapid urbanization increased the vulnerability of Kathmandu. According to Nicole Menage, WFP Representative in Nepal, during the emergency response, WFP needs to be ready to provide communication and transportation support to allow both national and foreign aid responds for humanitarian assistance (WFP, 2015a).

With the foresight and investigation on Nepal's situation as a disaster-prone country, the UK provided grants for preparedness measures which could be used for the emergency response. Along with the funding of UK aid, WFP planned to strengthen emergency logistics and communication structures in Kathmandu through the coordination with national and international stakeholders which is consistent with the priorities of the government (WFP, 2015b). The support includes development of staging areas in Kathmandu for receiving the large volume of aid by air and road, assessment and improvement of government warehouses within Kathmandu to enable access to food and other relief materials (Khanal, 2020 pp.1-34).

Moreover, WFP's plan also covered training of key staff from government agencies and stakeholders in supply chain management and emergency processes (WFP, 2015a).

5.2. A case study of Col. Kumar Lama

The case study of Colonel Kumar Lama indicates that under the universal jurisdiction, prosecution for acts of torture committed by a Nepal army officer back in Nepal was brought in the UK courts. This brought a slight turn in a diplomatic relation between Nepal and the UK (The Himalayan Times, 2016).

Since the history, Nepal was never colonized but it is referred as the British semi-colony. It is believed that due to oppressive feudal monarchy, there are lied consequences such as thoughtful inequality, widespread poverty and socio-economic backwardness which caused People's Movement (Shrestha, 2018). Since 1870s, people struggled against the oppression however, on 13th February 1996, People's War was officially declared by the Maoist party. In order to bring a revolution in Nepal and uplift real democracy, violence was endured from the both sides, the Maoist and the Royal Nepal Army (Hovell, 2017).

This led to causing of rampant torture. Col. Kumar Lama was accused of human rights violation during People's war. Col. Lama was arrested in January 2013 at East Sussex and charged with the torture of two detainees under section 134 of Criminal Justice Act with relation to the incidents, that allegedly occurred between April and May 2005 at the Goringhe Barracks (Shrestha, 2018). He was on leave in the UK from his posting as a UN peacekeeper in South Sudan. Following the universal jurisdiction, he was taken to the court and offended of torture and could be prosecuted in the UK no matter where the crime was committed and what the nationality of an offender is (Hovell, 2017).

The arrest of Col. Lama caused a sensible bet on the UK's section which bargained relatively low diplomatic cost for a diplomatic credit to fulfil its duty under the Torture Convention for prosecuting those who were suspected of torture found on its territory (BBC News, 2016a). Opposing the arrest of Col. Lama, Nepal reacted aggressively and uncovered the secular relationship among justice and power. It is also presumed that the Nepal government reacted firmly when UK's offer of RAF chinook helicopters was rejected during the Nepal Earthquake 2015 although, the purpose was to help in the effort of relief and rescue (Freeman, 2015).

The trial of Col. Lama took place in the Old Bailey. There were very few presences of the public and press for the trial. Like many other trials in the Old Baileys, Col. Lama's trial was also proceeded as if it was a private conversation among lawyers and the judge (Vurens van Es, 2015). Limited only with a judge and lawyer is not an enough observation during trial

such as in a case of Kumar Lama, it could be a threat to a justice system during the absence of public observation. As observed, during the trial, even the jury seemed forceful in the role of troublesome onlookers in the trail where they were ultimately expected to be judges of facts that affects a victim, family and a country that had no certain interest and no possible knowledge (Hovell, 2017).

Like any other cases of gangland violence or drug possession, the trial of Col. Lama in Court 13 of the Old Bailey could have passed through the eye of domestic justice while, this trial should have been different (BBC News, 2016a). As the trial is regarded to the Universal Jurisdiction, it is also referred to the inevitable endpoint project of the international criminal law. As predicted by the master narrative of International Criminal Justice (ICJ), its future law is domestic. In 2003, the first prosecutor to the International Criminal Court (ICC), declared that “*the absence of trials before, as an impact of the regular functioning of the national institutions, would be a major success*” (Bastola, 2015 pp.105).

5.2.1. Overview of International Law in the case of Col. Lama

While implementing the universal jurisdiction, Henry Kissinger reflected that “*in less than a decade, an unprecedented concept has occurred to submit international politics to judicial procedures*”. This concept has spread in a great speed and has not been subjected to any systematic debate (Massage and Sharma, 2018 pp.327-345). According to Hovell (2017), when the crime is committed through the ordinary means, universal jurisdiction is advocated. However, through the trial of Col. Lama, it is observed that the ICC can be faded through choice to the ordinary. In some aspects, there could be a difference between justice and truth such as the difference among domestic court and ICC (Massage and Sharma, 2018 pp.327-345).

In domestic criminal trials, the philosophical fault-line between original truth and justice is built whereas, in ICJ, the judicial process focuses on the guilt establishment of the accused person. So, if Col. Lama was arrested in Nepal by the domestic court, the domestic criminal lawyer should work to strengthen the legal process of the accused being (Hovell, 2017). Therefore, there is a difference among ICJ and domestic criminal justice. Although, both follow the criminal law, criminal justice differs every day in the aspects from international criminal trials (Whytock, 2009).

In the normal basis, the focus of international criminal law in accused individual is less than the authority, government, institution and the society which is represented by the

individual. Rather focusing just on the individual, the international criminal trials focuses on making more difficult for the overall societies for taking a refuge in denial (Whytock, 2009).

From the trial of Col. Lama, the imperfect coherence among ICJ and domestic law could be observed through a day after day legal process. In the history of the UK, the trial was only the third universal jurisdiction (Shrestha, 2018). In march 2015, the first trial collapsed/abandoned due to the difficult task of court translation when the interpreter proved their ineffectiveness to find the Nepalese interpreters. It was a necessary aspect of a trial scheduled to include testimony from 20 Nepalese witnesses (Bastola, 2015 p. 105).

The people involved in the trial of Col. Lama were apparently under-prepared. In addition, due to the fear of constant interruptions and adjournments leading to the jury become disconnected, the prosecutor in the Col. Lama's first trial called for the panel to be discharged (BBC News, 2016a). As per the experimental research, when determining the results, jurors do not generally estimate probabilities of discrete elements rather, they conclude the observation based on the narrative information (Shrestha, 2018).

Due to the lack of evidence of the key events, the crime of torture seemed to poses challenges. When the domestic juries are involved, the case becomes more complicated. When discussed about the Maoist opposition forces, the word 'terrorist' was often used and the defense counsel were conscious if the Maoists were like Al Qaeda (Shrestha, 2018). However, through the gap observation and a link drawn by the expert, it became clear that the Royal Nepal Army and Ranas were allied in the 'war against terror' where Maoists became a threat to them (Shah, 2004 pp. 192-224).

In the Col. Lama's trial, it is observed that the context was not distorted or intentionally reduced. It was a ninth day of the trial and a doctor who examined the key prosecution witness allowed the observation that he saw over 400 cases that has similar injuries in the medical practice. On the 18th day of trial, former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Manfred Nowak clearly repeated the conclusions in his 2006 UN report that, at the relevant time in Nepal, many tortures were practiced by the Royal Nepalese Army and the armed office (Trial International, 2016). Such details were reflected as the conduct of complain through the eye of the chief prosecution witness. Relying on the good character testimonies from two individuals who knew the accused, the defense called no witnesses (Hovell, 2017).

In the closing statement of Col. Lama, defense counsel stated that he could have been unknown about the prisoners tortured by the commanded soldiers. Quickly, he also added that there is no such thing in the court as command responsibility (Massage and Sharma, 2018 pp.327-345). However, under the International Criminal Law, the failure of Col. Lama to prevent or punish torture by his soldiers would be the foundation for belief. In a domestic arena, his position as a leader was to be the basement for his redemption (The Himalayan Times, 2016).

Many times, Nepal urged the government of the UK to release Col. Lama but the request was never approved. However, after the Earthquake in Nepal and the meeting of the foreign affair ministers from the two countries during bicentenary of bilateral relations, Nepalese foreign minister abided to release Col. Lama (The Himalayan Times, 2019).

Finally, on September 2016, Col. Lama was cleared of all charges who was not found guilty on one count and failed to reach a judgement on the other. Likewise, as announced by the judge to jury that col. Lama's case was relatively rare for so many witnesses to require interpreters and indeed the rise of many problems in just one case (The Himalayan Times, 2016). As examined, the defendant solicitor was pleased because col. Lama was able to return back in Nepal and resume the military career after several years (Massage and Sharma, 2018 pp.327-345).

Immediately after the arrest of Col. Lama, the draft Anti-Torture bill, registered in Parliament Secretariat in Nepal was left dusted. The delay of the case was supposed to be unacceptable to bring the conclusion (BBC,2016). The release of Col. Lama proved innocence through the legal prospection whereas for the legal authority in the UK, it was a lesson to be learned for the future (Hovell, 2017).

5.3. 2016: Prince Harry's visit to Nepal outraced reconstruction process

While the knot of the UK and Nepal had been loosening due to the case of Col. Lama, on the other side, the UK and Nepal's relation was bonded by the visit of Prince Harry to Nepal. To celebrate peaceful and friendly cooperation among the countries, the UK's Prince Harry visited Gorkha, Nepal and helped with the post-earthquake reconstruction (BBC News, 2016b). Prince helped to rebuild a remote school that was destroyed in the earthquake by joining the group of volunteers reconstructing school. He joined a disaster relief charity for six days where he assisted a community to construct classroom so that children would no

longer attend classes under the tin or tarpaulin (temporary classrooms) (Radianti et.al., 2016 p.136).

Prince Harry worked with a charity named “Team Rubicon UK”. The team was formed during 2015 in response to Nepal Earthquake. It also initiated UK experts to volunteer their skills and time to aid in an immediate aftermath of an earthquake (The Royal Household, 2016). Likewise, a team uses skills and experience of first responders including military, to provide emergency response. Also, through UK aid, many people and organizations in the UK supported the people and government for the recovery progression (BBC News, 2016b).

Celebrating 200 years of cooperation, prince appreciated bravery and service of Gurkha soldiers in the UK (Gurkha Welfare Trust, 2018). Nepalese Gurkhas began joining East India Company and later joined British army. Since then, their courage has served in major conflict that involves British forces for two centuries and won 13 Victoria Crosses (which is the highest British military embellishment for valor). In two world wars, more than 200,000 Gurkhas fought and currently, there are about 2,600 Gurkhas in the British armed forces (BBC News, 2016c). Such achievements of Gurkhas strengthened military diplomacy of Nepal.

The Prince visited earthquake survivors and praised Nepali Armies, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force as they were the first responder to the rescue efforts. He also visited the UNESCO heritage sites that was destroyed during an earthquake. For reconstruction of private shelters, the UK has been one of the largest bilateral donors to Nepal (DFID, 2016). The volunteering trip also included visit to Bardia National Park and trek in the Himalayas. The visit of Prince Harry encouraged youth from abroad to engage in volunteer tourism which would further promote people-to-people contact and strengthen economic growth, peace, friendship and cooperation as a form of soft power (Lama and Pradhan, 2018).

Moreover, as a part of boarder Nepal-UK relationship, Prince Harry accompanied Pacific Asia Travel Association’s (PATA) volunteer tourism recovery strategy (Beirman et.al., 2018).

5.4. Study of Nepal-UK Engagement

5.4.1. Neo-liberalism

In neo-liberalism, it is believed that cooperation among the nations could end an anarchy (Sterling-Folker, 2010 pp.115-130). Despite fear and uncertainty, the international institutions should facilitate international cooperation although it could be difficult to achieve in an anarchic condition (McCarthy & Prudham, 2004 pp.275-283). However, the institutions allow states to overcome various barriers by cooperating states and other actors in an international arena (Sterling-Folker, 2010 pp.115-130). According to neo-liberalism, such institutions could be either bilateral or multilateral unless the states has a mutual interest. Nepal-UK relation could be an example to bilateral relation that follows neo-liberalism in a way that Nepal and the UK agrees and shares its interest. The UK's interest is to support as many developing countries as it could through DFID as a nation's interest towards peaceful cooperation and development (MOFA, 2019). On the other hand, Nepal is a developing country and has been the recipient of developed states including Britain. Additionally, Gurkhas are the interest of Britain and Nepal aspire to serve Britain with its citizen as a nation's interest and friendly relationship since 1816 (Adhikari, 2018 pp.43-74). This shows interdependence among the states as it involves a relationship of mutual dependence where actions and interests are intertwined (Collier, 2014 pp.273-290).

Similarly, multilateral institutions such as UN, WTO and IMF are formed to obtain particular collective interests. The decision of states is based on the self-interest priorities (Clarke, 2005 pp.59). Under these international organizations, nations form a mutual interest and cooperation. These formal institutions are the bodies with budgets, locations, building and other resources as required. In liberal theory of international relations, neo-liberalism focuses on the role of international institutions to obtain the international mutual outcomes (Saryal, 2015 pp.1-21).

Therefore, such organizations are also referred as neo-liberal institutions. Based on the priorities of self-interest and with accordance to a strategic-cost benefit analysis of possible choices, responses and consequences, states make decisions (Collier, 2014 pp.273-290). According to neo-liberalism, the human beings has an ability to acquire better collective outcomes gradually which further promotes reconciliation, prosperity, freedom and justice in a global platform (Saryal, 2015 pp.1-21). Therefore, such neo-liberal institutes have an important role to understand the individual nation's goal and collective goals (Sterling-Folker, 2015 pp.40-49).

Neo-liberal institutions active during 2015 Nepal Earthquake

United Nation: In an emergency and development support for a needed country, United Nation plays an important role (Eichenaure et al., 2019). During 2015 Nepal Earthquake, UN and its partner allocated \$415 million in emergency funds for disaster response through Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for enabling humanitarian aid organizations to scale up operations rapidly and provide immediate assistance for people in need (UNOCHA, 2015). Similarly, WHO responded rapidly to address the health needs of affected people. As guided by Emergency Response Framework, its main role was to provide leadership and coordinated deployment of foreign medical teams. It collected and analyzed information with extent to damage in health system, needs, risk and response (Saryal, 2015 pp.1-21). WHO provided technical assistance to the Government of Nepal and partners to assist in trauma care, mental health and psychosocial services. Furthermore, procured medical supplies and equipment, established offices and recruitment were set up by the organization (Chorev, 2013 pp.627-666).

World Trade Organization: Disaster affect trade and other sectors of economy. In such situation, global partnership, share responsibility and shared vision plays a vital role (Chorev, 2005 pp.317-355). To enhance development and resilience after post-earthquake, need-based Transparent and result oriented support is necessary.

In the process of strengthening institutional capacity of NRA, National Disaster Relief Fund, WTO played a good role. The organization also encouraged flexible multilateral trading systems to support reconstruction and recovery from disaster. Technical assistance was provided from development partners including UK aid, World Bank and IMF (Almekinders et.al., 2015). They followed successful international donor conference held in Kathmandu on June 25, 2015. Nepal's authorities presented an outcome of PDNA carried out under the leadership of NPC. The country received pledges of external support for reconstruction effort in the forms of grants and loans of around \$4 billion (International Monetary Fund, 2015).

International Monetary Fund: After two weeks of the earthquake, IMF mission arrived in Kathmandu to assess disaster macro-economic impact. It provided \$50 million loan to help Nepal overcome devastation (Almekinders et.al., 2015). Nepal faced huge reconstruction challenge where IMF provided policy advices, technical assistance and financial support. The funds were sent directly to the central bank account of Ministry of Finance.

As a neo-liberal institute, IMF helped to strengthen public financial management. It strongly promoted coordination among NRA and annual budget process to use earthquake relief funds (Almekinders et.al., 2015). Providing technical assistance in financial management, IMF approached donor coordination. Moreover, it bolstered the resilience of financial sector, supervision and transparency to financial services (International Monetary Fund, 2015).

5.4.2. Tourism volunteers as a soft power for Earthquake recovery

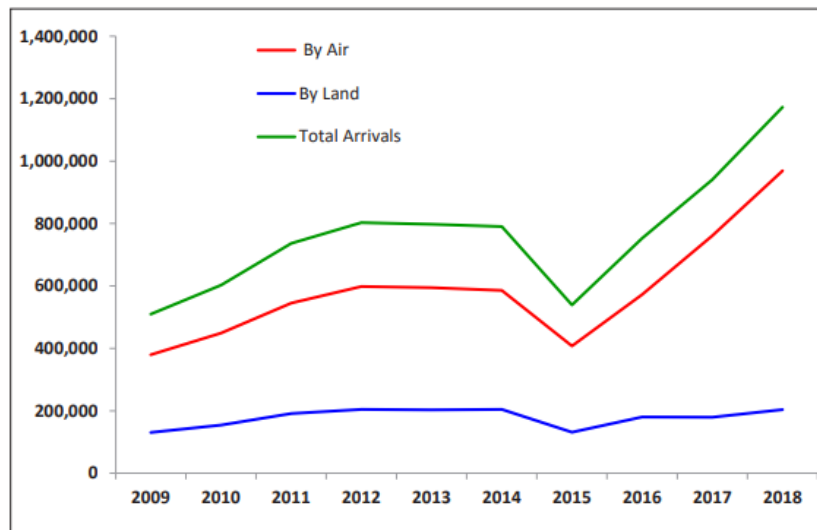
An individual travelling abroad for the purpose of reaching a destination and providing service to the certain community is referred as a tourism volunteer (Wearing, 2004 pp.209-224). A destination could be either undeveloped or a developing country (Beirman et.al., 2018). Likewise, after the occurrence of disaster, “disaster tourism” includes the group of tourism who involves in the post-disaster response and recovery stage. According to Miller (2008), “*the disaster tourist travels to a disaster scene not to help but to look with interest at the devastation*”. In 2015 Nepal earthquake, there were several planning regarding disaster response among which post-disaster tourism recovery was also one of the small focused sectors uplifting the Nepal tourism (Lama and Pradhan, 2018).

Historically, Nepal has faced major disasters such as earthquake, landslide, flood and avalanche. Since the earthquake of 2015, through people diplomacy, aggregating the young idealistic travelers from abroad, Nepal has developed disaster affected areas as a destination to promote tourism diplomacy (Government of Nepal, 2016). Also, because of the reason that western people are more attracted to the terrain and spectacular scenery of Nepal, the country has been encouraging the participation of global citizen in the post-disaster and peacekeeping programs (Beirman et.al., 2018).

As compared to the figures of tourist arrival in 2014, the number of international tourists were decreased by 31.78 percent due to the devastation. However, with the result of post-disaster recovery, tourism industry of Nepal increased the arrival of tourists (Government of Nepal, 2018). In 2017 and 2018, tourism arrival in Nepal continued to escalate the tourists with the purpose of volunteering. The involvement of volunteer tourist comprises short-term volunteering in health camps based on the destination (Beirman et.al., 2018). There are various NGOs that set up the platform for the volunteers who prefers to engage in community advocacy and travelling (Government of Nepal, 2018). The top five

countries that inclined the numbers of tourism in Nepal are India, China, USA, Srilanka and UK respectively (Code for Nepal, 2018).

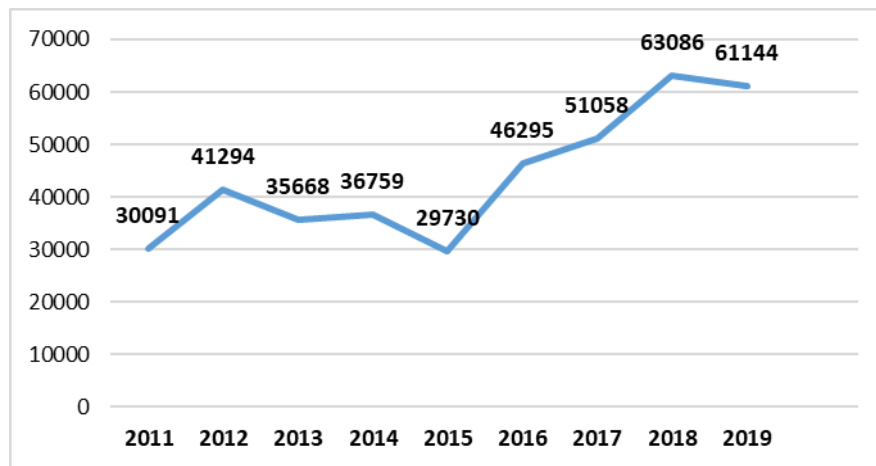
Figure 5: Tourism in Nepal before and after 2015 Earthquake



Source: Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, <https://tourism.gov.np/files/statistics/19.pdf>

For the post-earthquake strategy, PATA's volunteer tourism has been an important component mostly in the trekking market (Beirman et.al., 2018). The visit of Hollywood celebrities during the recovery, influenced the citizens from abroad to engage in tourism volunteering (The Telegraph, 2015). Similarly, Prince Harry's two weeks visit to Nepal and his engagement for the recovery process showed the gratitude towards Nepal (Beirman et.al., 2018). Such visit had an outcome in the involvement of British volunteer and philanthropist to Nepal through tourism based on community. As shown in Figure 5, post-earthquake and Prince Harry's visit promoted tourism in Nepal and increased people-to-people connections (MOFA, 2019).

Figure 6: No. of British tourists visit before and after 2015 Earthquake



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2020

The interest of the UK on tourist security, trekkers tracking and maintenance of damaged trekking trails have supported Nepal to increase the tourist flow (MOFA, 2019). Moreover, tourism has an adverse impact on the economy of Nepal. Despite the fact that tourism of Nepal was highly effected due to 2015 Nepal earthquake in a negative way, Nepal maintained its economy through international funding although, there were many damages to be rebuilt (Shrestha and Tamang, 2016).

Due to historical connections and increasing people-to-people linkage, there was an increasing number of tourists from the UK. With such prospects, Nepal had been promoting Nepal as an attractive tourist destination for travel and volunteer for the British nationals. In Nepal some NGOs are prioritizing on promoting inter-cultural learning through people-to-people volunteering. For example: VSO International providing an opportunity for youths aged 18-25 from the UK to volunteer in Nepal which could promotes people-to-people diplomacy (Voluntary Service Overseas, 2020). With aspect to the recovery, few years later, it promoted tourism like before with several tourism strategies including volunteer tourism (Government of Nepal, 2018). However, the effort of Visit Nepal 2020 did not succeed due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and instead, the country faced stoppage on tourist arrivals.

5.4.3. UK-Nepal Public Diplomacy during 2015 Nepal Earthquake

Public diplomacy plays an important role in the country's disaster response but does not play an exclusive role. The government and politician of the donor countries are visibly active to provide an assistance to the recipient country where disaster occurred. Provided support are in the form of tangible aid items and moral support (Kelman, 2014). In this way,

post-disaster public diplomacy has a great influence among most of the supporting diplomatic gains.

Although disaster diplomacy and public diplomacy are considered as a conflict resolution strategy, expecting post-disaster diplomacy for influencing the conflict resolution more than other forms of disaster diplomacy does not feature in the various failed case of disaster diplomacy (Kelman et.al., 2018 pp. 1132-1140).

In a disaster diplomatic practice, public diplomacy can be recognized as an activity of grabbing the opportunity to support or provide aid to other country and showcase the strength of own government (Pamment, 2016 pp.211-213). Through public diplomacy, the government involves in enhancing the relation among each other rather controlling it. The countries maintain the relationship creating a cross-border network (K.C. & Pandey, 2018).

Post-disaster public diplomacy has resulted in the efficiency of the disaster diplomacy among the countries such as the links between organizations and people shows the diplomatic initiatives (Kontar et.al., 2018). The UK and Nepal follows a great public diplomacy with the exchange of culture, idea, knowledge and other support (MOFA, 2016).

Through the UK aid, most of the volunteers visit Nepal in terms of exchanging ideas, culture, diplomacy and knowledge. It widens the perspective of British students as well as Nepali citizen who receive the knowledge from them. Similarly, Gurkhas from Nepal are sent to the UK to serve the country through public diplomacy (MOFA, 2019). This study shows the shows the significance of public diplomacy during 2015 Nepal earthquake.

In terms of the UK and Nepal, collection of data about the Nepalese citizen through UK aid is practiced and further they provide an overview or their own opinion to the government. During the emergency, the countries form a positive connection through the public diplomacy humanitarian support. Public diplomacy requires two-way communication as it is considered as an important tool for achieving the country's national interest (Melissen, 2005).

According to the survey by K.C and Pandey (2018 pp.83-104), it is agreed to the fact that changed regime after 1990 has a great influence towards Nepal's new diplomacy including public diplomacy which is effective till now. Most of the NGOs, INGOs and other non-state actors resembles public diplomacy that emphasizes on the society or a community for the advocacy and wellbeing (La Porte, 2012 pp.1-13).

In case of 2015 Nepal earthquake, along with other countries, the government of the UK provided several aids and assistance through its public diplomacy. State as well as non-state actors and institutions have provided recovery and reconstruction support through its diplomacy (UNDP, 2016). With support from the World Bank, USAID, SDC, the Government of Canada, DFID, JICA and other development partners, a Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) was created (Michaels et al., 2019) to reinforce the institutional capacity of National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA).

Table 4: Contributions of Multi-Donor Trust Fund

Donors	Contributions to MDTF
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	9.6
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	7.24
Canada - Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development	11.59
United Kingdom - DFID	6.05
Total	34.48

Source: The World Bank

The Britain sent humanitarian experts, volunteers and rescuers to protect people during 2015 Nepal Earthquake. Even during the post-earthquake, public diplomacy proceeded among the countries building a good relationship (Katz, 2015). Under UK aid, most of the humanitarian organizations strengthened its funding and introduced several projects through the coordination with the government of Nepal. Such projects focused in providing several assistances such as building resilience, safety in the community with the support of humanitarian organization working with the fund of the UK aid (House of Commons, 2015).

The coordination among the Nepal government and UK aid perpetuated on the collection of data of the damaged areas and started working on it as per the priority. The two-way communication among the countries and involvement of the British agencies as well as its employees illustrates the platform for public diplomacy before, during and after 2015 Nepal Earthquake (Michaels et al., 2019).

After an earthquake, the geological experts from the UK visited Nepal to study the geography of Nepal. Along with that volunteers and workers were also sent from the UK to

work on the Nepal's developmental procedure. Similarly, Gurkha Armies in the UK are sent from Nepal and have been serving the country. Either receiver or giver, both countries have its national interest on the first place while involving in a public diplomacy (Baniya, 2016).

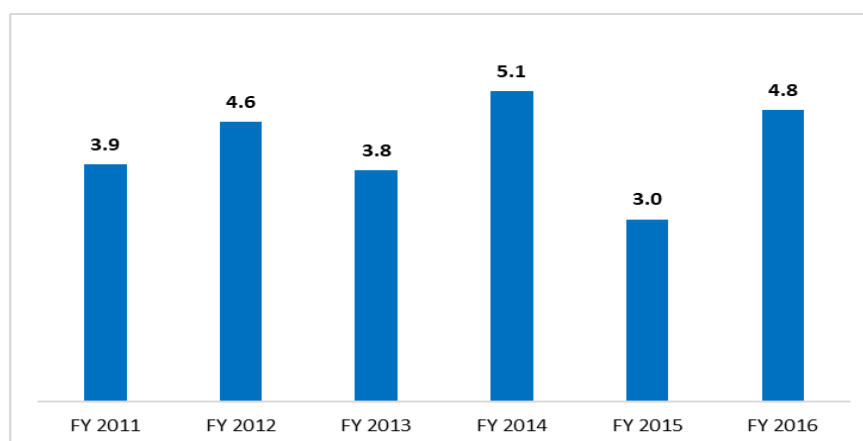
Nevertheless, humanitarian aid and diplomacy show a connection among disaster relief and public diplomacy. Such issues develop the conceptual framework of disaster diplomacy by setting a guiding principle for the developing field. Multidisciplinary organizations which cooperates public diplomacy, international relations and disaster response is very important to develop the concept to its end (Kelman, 2011). As a non-state actor, humanitarian agencies would be better fortified to effectually direct complex political issues and appear as effective agents to improve or re-develop the disaster diplomacy (Yim et al., 2009 pp.291-293).

In a global era, non-state actors can provide strategies of functioning to facilitate the public involvement (Nye, 2004). Such non-state agencies focus on the current priority of factual support with the belief of democratic legitimacy (Raimzhanova, 2015). Further, in public diplomacy, there is a close relationship among effectiveness and authority where non-state actors are ahead of state in reliability due to the better understanding of the citizens and its effectiveness in a community (La Porte, 2012).

5.4.5. Post Disaster and Economic Diplomacy

According to Central Bureau of Statistics, the pre-earthquake estimation of GDP growth in 2015 was 4.6 percent but earthquake lowered the GDP growth over 1.5 percent (JBR, 2016). Although the country's GDP lowered, the impact on GDP grew through funds and other service sectors. Respectively, in FY 2016, the GDP increased to 4.8 percent as shown in Figure 7. PDNA assessed the impact of disaster and define a recovery strategy including fund implications, livelihood, economy and services, rehabilitations, housing reconstruction and infrastructure. PDNA estimated damage and losses at \$7 billion or about 1/3 of GDP (NPC, 2015).

Figure 7: Impact of Earthquake on GDP growth



Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017

As estimated by PDNA, compared to the flow of economic activities in 2015 fiscal year, the total economic cost of losses and for recovery were higher. The external sectors included damage of export-oriented industries. Domestic items that are basically exported increased as per the reduction of an estimated exports by about 6 percent as compared to 2014 (Asian Development Bank, 2019). Disaster caused an increasing demand of machinery parts, medicines, food and construction materials. However, after few months of devastation, Nepal managed to grow and normalize its GDP percentage efficiently (JBR, 2016).

Table 5: Damage, Losses and Needs in US \$billion

Sectors	Internal sectors	Damage	Loss	Total needs
Social	Cultural Heritage, Education, Health and Population, Housing and Human Settlements	3.5	0.5	4
Productive	Agriculture, Financial Sector, Industry and Commerce, Irrigation, Tourism	0.6	1.2	1.2
Infrastructure	Communications, Community Infrastructure, Electricity, Transport, Water and Sanitation	0.5	0.1	0.7
Cross-Cutting	Gender, Social Protection, Nutrition, Employment & Livelihoods, Disaster Risk Reduction, Environment and Forestry, Governance	0.5	0.3	0.8
Total		5.1	2.1	6.7

Source: PDNA Secretariat, National Planning Commission

5.5. Tangible data of the UK's assistance

Since the bilateral relationship among the UK and Nepal, the UK has pledged to support Nepal build a lasting peace and develop the economy. In 2015, Nepal managed aid through several actors such as the government, civil society and other development partners. At the national level, NPC and MoF's International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division plays an important role to manifest the aid (NPC, 2015).

The government and development partners involve in processes of sector coordination but importantly, bilateral exchange among donors and government agencies, as well as among donors also takes place. Accordingly, the annual Development Cooperation Report is created as an information tool of aid and assistance. Other sources of information such as national fiscal and sectoral data management systems, stakeholder websites and reports, and issue-specific data platforms (such as earthquake related assistance) also takes place. The agencies / organizations such as NGO / INGO are managed distinctly through SWC as a regulatory body, AIN and NFN as key forums for coordination (Asian Development Bank, 2017).

In Nepal, the main contribution of the UK since the decade is towards the process of peace building and delivering the development outcomes. As a largest bilateral donor of around £100 million per year and with a longest diplomatic relationship, the UK has an influential and vital role in Nepal (The Rising Nepal, 2020).

5.5.1. UK's aid support during 2015 post-earthquake

The earthquake in Nepal was an opportunity for most of the countries with great powers to show their assistance including the UK. Engaging in the program of an earthquake reconstruction, the UK is able to strengthen its capabilities to enhance better policies and systems of Nepal. The immediate response of the UK within first 72 hours of the 2015 Nepal Earthquake was £40 million to support relief efforts as shown in a table 6 (DFID, 2017). Consistent with the UN flash appeal, the support provided by the UK was 15% of the overall contribution. In an emergency the UK spent £30 million to airlift essential supplies, rescue people, provide medical relief and urgent shelter, give small amount of money as an immediate need for families, and supply WASH related facilities (DFID, 2017). The aid also strengthened assurance of the well management with prior to the protection measures for children, women and other vulnerable people. Similarly, £10 million was provided for the essential health services and to ensure the appropriate facilities for women to give birth. As a direct relief, the UK provided logistic support of helicopters and airlift. With the technical expertise, the needs were assessed and coordinated with the international response. More than 900 metric tonnes of cargo was delivered to the worst affected districts over 2,000 flights (Reliefweb, 2015).

Table 6: Emergency Relief Fund provided by the UK

Purpose of UK Funding	Budget
For UN agencies in Nepal to coordinate the international relief effort and provide clean water and shelter for affected families	£5.3 million
Rapid Response Facility (RRF) to six charities and for NGOs already working on the ground such as Save the Children, Mercy Corps Scotland, Care International UK, ActionAid, Oxfam and Handicap International	£3 million
Funding for the British Red Cross	£3 million
To the Disasters Emergency Committee's appeal which supported NGOs on the ground	£5 million
Provided a further team of 30 trauma medics, logistical support and equipment to ease congestion at Kathmandu Airport, plus humanitarian experts in water, health and sanitation. DFID has also deployed a team of more than 60 UK International Search and Rescue responders and specialist rescue dogs	£5 million
For the UK military assets (helicopters and planes) to meet urgent UN and other requests for airlift capacity	£6.3 million
For the UN Humanitarian Air Service to enable organizations already on the ground to deliver aid to isolated areas	£2.5 million
For the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) to provide two Airbus 350 helicopters to get help to more remote regions	£0.3 million
To keep health services running in the worst affected districts, including support for rehabilitation, physiotherapy, psychological trauma, child immunization and childbirth	£10 million
Total Budget	£40.4 million

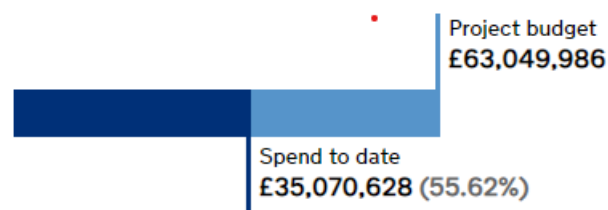
Source: DFID's Business Case Summary (2017), Nepal Earthquake Response

The aid budget of UK in Nepal increased from 55.9 million pounds in 2012/13 to 86 million pounds in 2014/15 for disaster risk reduction, building roads and reforestation (Guilbert, 2015). The UK aid allocated budget for the post-earthquake reconstruction in Nepal through the partnerships with local and central government, business and communities (Michaels et al., 2019).

To meet the long-term reconstruction needs, transformative impact for women and girls, and make sure the most vulnerable people are not left behind, the UK provided total budget of £63,049,993 for six years’ plan (2016-2021) for post-earthquake reconstruction (build back better) (Development Tracker, 2020). This was implemented to support districts affected by the Earthquake through the lead towards resilient institution and infrastructure. It supports the Government of Nepal to plan, implement and manage the earthquake response.

Among £63 million of grant finance of £25 million CDEL (investment in new equipment and infrastructure spending) was allocated for infrastructure investment and £38 million for RDEL (e.g: allowances, pay and running costs) (DFID, 2017). As shown in Figure 7, 55.62% of the total budget is spent as of May 2020.

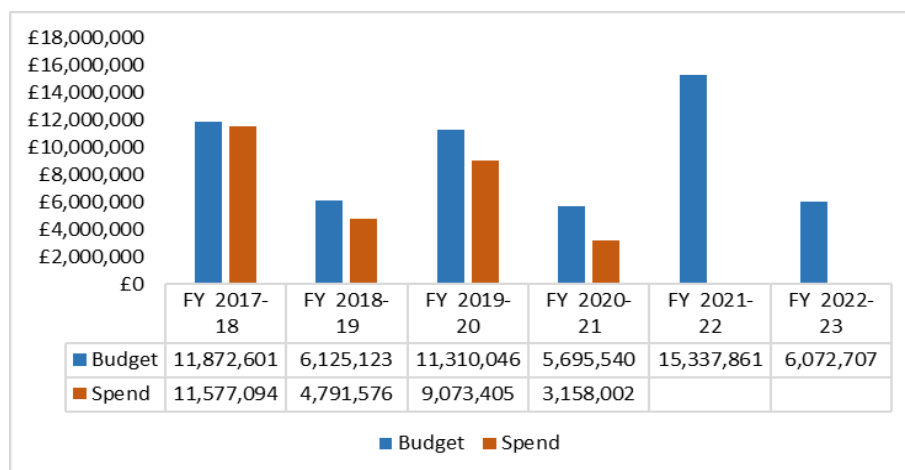
Figure 8: UK DFID’s budget and spending on “Building Back Better”



Source: Development Tracker. (12th May 2020). Post-Earthquake Reconstruction in Nepal- Building back better. DFID.

<https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-205138>

Figure 9: UK DFID’s yearly budget comparison

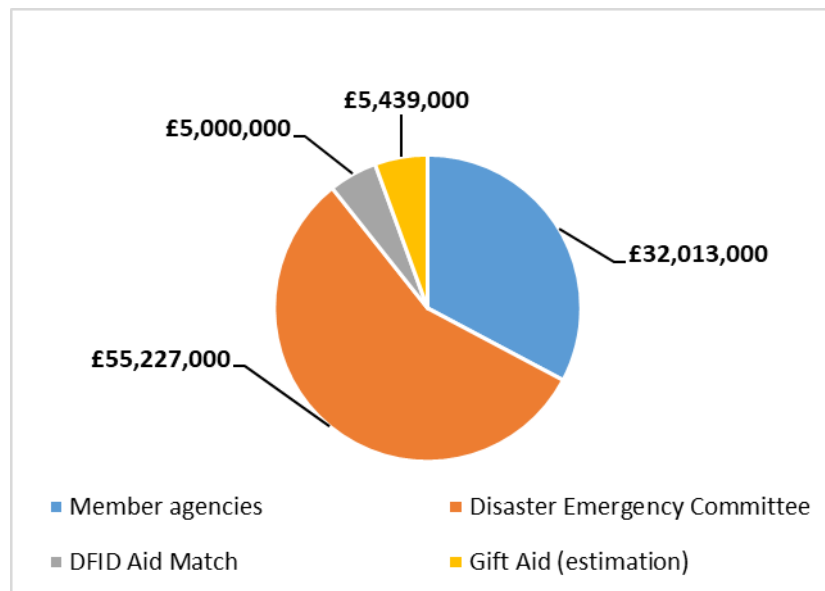


Source: Development Tracker (12th May 2020), <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-205138>

The Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) brought 13 leading humanitarian aid charities of the UK and formed a strong network of organizations raise an amount of money to support Nepal during an earthquake (Disaster Emergency Committee, 2018). Several TV

shows and other broadcasts to the appeal were also helpful to raise £87 million as shown in the Figure 8.

Figure 10: British institutions providing aid support to Nepal



Source: Disaster Emergency Committee, 2018. <https://www.dec.org.uk/article/the-nepal-earthquake-how-your-money-helped>

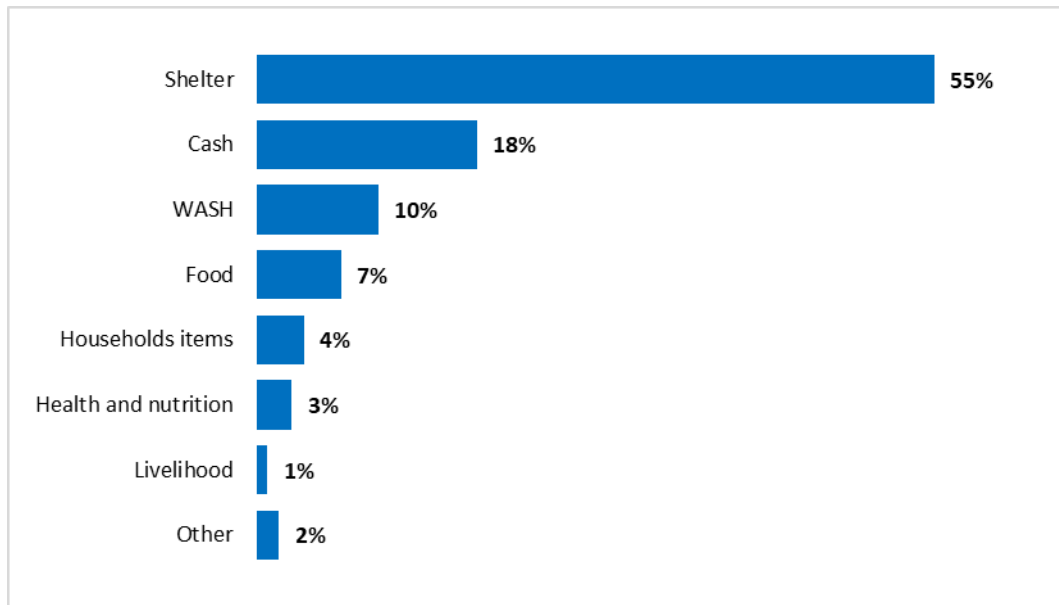
In every devastating event, response is a first phase as an emergency relief and when the crisis comes under control, recovery and reconstruction phase takes place. DEC provided charities for the control of an immediate crisis through an emergency relief phase (Disaster Emergency Committee, 2018). It provided life-saving assistance including medical care, food and WASH related materials as shown in Figure 9.

The provided aid included food, medical supplies, tents, blankets, medical treatments and other household items. The funds were also spent on international experts such as doctors, emergency managers and logisticians participated to deliver logistic support by coordinating with local staff and people working for the partner organizations. To ensure the work efficiency and check auditing and accountability of the fund released, some appeal funds were spent on monitoring and evaluation (DFID, 2019).

More than half of DEC's aid spent on shelter, nearly 20% went on cash projects, including cash-for-work schemes, and 10% on WASH in the first six months of the response as shown in Figure 10. Through this fund, 233,000 people had access to safe drinking water,

121,700 people received medical treatment, 135,000 people received food support and 67,000 shelter kits and 38,000 corrugated galvanized iron bundles were distributed (Disaster Emergency Committee, 2018).

Figure 11: Sectors where the budget is spent in the first 6 months of response



Source: Disaster Emergency Committee, <https://www.dec.org.uk/article/the-nepal-earthquake-how-your-money-helped>

The UK aid has also been helping the vulnerable people to improve the livelihood and assets. The total budget of £45,999,997 had been provided to strengthen disaster resilience in Nepal particular to the earthquakes (Development Tracker, 2019). This is being implemented through the cooperation with urban sectors for planning and building safer public infrastructure to earthquakes.

Through such project, UK is able to ensure the preparedness of international community by enhancing the national capacity and humanitarian response to the crisis in Nepal. After the earthquake, the UK aid scaled up other programs as shown in Table 7.

There are vulnerable people who were left behind during the implementation of post-earthquake. The UK aid has been categorizing and supporting such group of households by providing up to 5 million pounds as total budget. They are the group of people who were displaced after earthquake and are not able to return to the place of origin due to geo-hazard risk of landslides (Michaels et al., 2019).

Through the support from the UK aid, people in risk are accessed to the housing cash grant support to rebuild the houses in safer relocation site. Along with cash grants, the support also includes technical support and social mobilization (Pradhan and Zellmann, 2018). In the following table, the budget and contract period of the building back better and other programs of UK’s DFID relevance to reconstruction has been demonstrated.

Table 7: Support of the UK in Nepal’s Post-Earthquake Reconstruction

S.No	Name of UK’s DFID Program	Budget	Dates	Relevance to Reconstruction
1	Post- Earthquake Reconstruction in Nepal – Building Back Better	£63,049,990	8 June 2016 – 31 December 2022	Establish partnerships with local & central government, communities and businesses to support the (i) districts effected by the Earthquake to “build back better” including leading to more resilient (including climate resilient) infrastructure and institutions; (ii) the most vulnerable recover their livelihoods and assets; and (iii) the Government of Nepal to plan for and manage the response to the earthquake.
2	Seismic Retrofitting of unsafe housing in Nepal	£4,999,998	27 June 2017 – 18 December 2019	This program benefitted up to 50,000 families through seismic retrofitting of damaged houses across earthquake affected districts in Nepal. This will improve resilience to future earthquakes as well as generating significant savings in costs and carbon emissions compared to full housing reconstruction. The program will build the capacity of the Government of Nepal, skilled masons and engineers to retrofit homes, an approach that can be replicated in other, highly vulnerable regions of Nepal, such as the West.

3	Support to vulnerable households (Durable solutions and housing)	£4,999,999	September 2017 – 31 October 2021	<p>The UK will provide up to £5 million (October 2017- October 2019) to identify and support groups of households who are particularly vulnerable and at risk of being left behind in the implementation of post-earthquake housing reconstruction efforts in Nepal. These groups could include: those displaced by the earthquakes in April and May 2015 and are unable to return to their areas of origin owing to geo-hazard risks such as landslides; households currently residing in highly vulnerable sites; and those that are at risk of not being able to fully access the Government of Nepal’s housing cash grant support to enable them to rebuild their houses.</p> <p>Addressing the housing needs of these families will require a multi-pronged approach including a package of support in the form of social mobilization, technical advice, and cash grants.</p>
4	Nepal Health Sector Programme III	£84,999,999	11 July 2016 – 31 December 2020	To improve the health of women, children, the poor and socially excluded in Nepal, including by restoring health services in areas affected by the 2015 earthquake, and improving the quality and governance of health services nationwide
5	Strengthening disaster resilience in Nepal	£45,999,998	6 September 2016 – 31 March 2023	This project will strengthen disaster resilience in Nepal, particularly to earthquakes, by working with urban centers to build and plan more safely;

				supporting the strengthening of critical public infrastructure to earthquakes; working to strengthen national capacity to respond to crises and ensure that the international community is prepared; and ensuring that the UK is able to support a humanitarian response should a crisis hit.
6	Nepal earthquake response 2015	£40,000,000	27 April 2015 – 30 June 2016	To provide immediate humanitarian support to people affected by the Nepal earthquake.

Source: Michael et.al., 2019. Strengthening Resilience and Response to Crises. Reconstruction Research in Nepal, DFID.

Under the UK aid, several NGOs/INGOs have supported local bodies to develop their planning processes which includes reconstruction plan and technical assistance (DFID, 2019). The coordination among local bodies and NGOs have effectively set out the vision for reconstruction. The UK aid has a strong connection (DFID provided funding) with Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform (HRRP) which has provided coordination support to NGOs/ INGOs involved in the post-earthquake reconstruction efforts, and has developed an impactful relationship with the NRA. Similarly, the advisors of the UK’s DFID engage regularly with the NRA and central government to provided technical assistance and other support to NRA (NRA, 2017).

The expected outcomes of the post-earthquake programs are timely recovery by community, sector according to the work plans, proper information management system for enabling the representation of needs, priorities and gaps across the working sectors and communities along with the analysis of completed or committed and existing reconstruction works by all working agencies and the government. Moreover, the UK aid expects the allocation of resources for recovery and reconstruction to be used efficiently and effectively (DFID, 2019).

Chapter 6: Implications of UK-Nepal Engagement with aspect to Disaster Diplomacy

The UK provided a humanitarian aid, reconstruction aid and other assistance on the ground during Nepal Earthquake 2015 (Poudel, 2016b).

6.1. UK aid for prosperous Nepal

Nepal is the world's least developed nations. But, the government of a country has incorporated a socio-economic development model to achieve long-term goal and strengthen country's national interest (Ministry of Finance, 2018). So, it is presumed that the overall development is depended on either higher economic growth or foreign aid (Ministry of Finance, 2018). To assure the function and effectiveness of aid in a country, the outcome can be compared with domestic projects that developed countries carry out in their own countries such as public facilities construction projects and social welfare programs (Gulrajani & Swiss, 2017). There are few development fundamentalists who think, aid should not be spent directly in the national interest whereas, some institutes (including the UK Treasury) consider that all cooperation related to development should be win-win. From the aid provided, it can be implicated that there are every ways of development cooperation to be win-win (such as the UK and Nepal) (Barder, 2018).

- Development cooperation is an indirect long-term national interest for poor countries like Nepal to become more sustainable, well-governed and prosperous. In terms of Nepal and the UK, the benefits to the donor country includes expanded trade and investment and reductions in possible negative enforcement of underdevelopments such as natural disaster, environmental degradation, infectious disease, human trafficking and violence (GC, 2019).
- Aid contribute to global public goods and institutions to both countries, Nepal and the UK. For example: resilience support after 2015 Nepal earthquake, reinforcing nation to build back better and promote livelihood (Sugg, 2019). Such program is an opportunity for the UK to showcase its capability and responsibility towards an old bilateral friend.
- The country's action on development aid to enhance economy, directly benefits Britain. Example: opening the markets in a developing country reinforces the process of development and like wisely, benefits British consumers (Barder, 2018).

If the development aid is provided and received with same vision, it creates win-win approaches and guides long-term national interest (Barder, 2018). For Nepal, this could be the reason of boosting foreign aid budget.

6.1.1. UK's Engagement in Post-Earthquake School reconstruction

The UK aid has been scaling up its efforts to build resilience to natural disaster, climate change and preparedness to disease. Natural disasters including earthquake, landslide, floods and droughts cost the government about 6% of its annual development expenditure per year (Aidstream, 2018). Due to climate change such hazards are expected to rise. In order to assess such challenges, the UK aid has been taking two key programs that are “Strengthening Disaster Resilience in Nepal” and “Climate Smart Development for Nepal” (Aidstream, 2018). There is a participation of Nepal Safer School Project (NSSP) in the program “Strengthening Disaster Resilience” and the allocated budget is 10 million to 12 million pounds (Michaels et al., 2019). The program has been supporting the government of Nepal to improve building and planning in disaster prone areas to strengthen urban resilience. Through safer learning spaces, strong disaster preparedness and proper education, the UK's program has been supporting schools (NSET, 2012). It has been helping Nepal for the preparedness to respond humanitarian emergencies. Furthermore, it has been aiding and providing capacity building support to the Nepal government to reinforce national policy and institutions (Aidstream, 2018).

6.1.2. UK's Engagement in Private house reconstruction and public infrastructure of Nepal

According to the World Bank (2020a), Nepal received \$700 million aid for 2015 Earthquake Housing Reconstruction Project (EHRP) from International Development Association (IDA). The NRA has been leading to help more than 330,000 households in 32 affected districts to reconstruct their house by following the government's guideline on disaster resilient construction techniques and materials (The World Bank, 2020a). Along with providing shelter support, such reconstruction project has further enhanced the institutional capacity and strengthened the community's capacity on mason training and other technical skills. To ensure the efficiency of technical reconstruction guidelines, EHRP have provided technical assistance (NRA, 2020).

Through the support from IDA, 211,985 resilient houses have been reconstructed till September 2020 (which is 65% of the targeted household). Likewise, 3,766 houses were

reconstructed with the support from the grant of MDTF (which also includes the contribution from the UK) (The World Bank, 2020a).

As shown in Table 7, the UK has also been supporting Nepal for the post-earthquake reconstruction process through several programs such as “Building Back Better”, “Seismic Retrofitting of unsafe housing in Nepal”, “Support to vulnerable households: Durable Solutions” and “Strengthening disaster resilience in Nepal” (Michaels et al., 2019). These programs have been helping Nepal government to plan and manage the response to earthquake, improving resilience to future earthquakes and build capacity of skilled masons and engineers to retrofit houses (NRA, 2017).

Additionally, these programs have been helping the government of Nepal to include vulnerable people at high risk (including those residing in geo-hazard risk sites) so that no one would be left behind. The people who were not being accessed to Nepal government’s housing grant have been supported to receive government’s grant through such programs. Moreover, the UK’s program has been strengthening Nepal’s disaster resilience by working with urban centers to build, and plan more safe public infrastructure and reinforce the nation’s capacity, to ensure the preparedness of local and international community during the emergency (Michaels et al., 2019).

The UK’s programs on Nepal reconstruction have been helpful however, due to inefficient capacity of the government and now the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a slower process in post-earthquake housing reconstruction progress.

6.2. Humanitarian Diplomacy and International Law

As recognized in the Geneva Conventions, international humanitarian law includes the practice of humanitarian diplomacy. Under IHL, an unbiased humanitarian organization has the right to offer its services to the community in need (Schweizer, 2007 pp.163-165). However, such humanitarian offers should not be interfering in the internal affairs. Moreover, there is a scope of humanitarian diplomacy in international human rights law as both promotes IHL. Human rights law ensures the minimum level of economic civil and cultural rights of people (Davis et al., 2013 p.199). Consequently, human rights law and humanitarian diplomacy demonstrated the connection as both considers that such rights include basic access to shelter, food, health care and emergencies (Rousseau and Pende, 2020 pp. 253-266).

As observed in the recovery phase of earthquake in Nepal, the international humanitarian agency invests most of the time to negotiate the mobilization, good management, deployment and coordination of needed resources for responding the emergencies. During the emergency, both national and international community work together for the same goal (Regnier, 2011). Disaster leads to the continuous negotiation of the international bodies with the authorities, local communities and non-state actors involved in humanitarian efforts (Rousseau and Pende, 2020 pp. 253-266). To ensure the transparency of humanitarian assistance / foreign aid, resource- management techniques are employed. The humanitarian agencies could have an adverse impact when the accusation of poor governance and corruption takes place. Such consequences seek the role of humanitarian diplomacy and IHL to handle the means of information, evaluation and coordination for maintaining the reliability of humanitarian actors and international donors (Regnier, 2011).

6.3. Nepal-UK relation during COVID-19 Pandemic

While the post-earthquake support to Nepal is not over yet, the UK's DFID provided £802,000 grant to help Nepal's preparedness and response to coronavirus within 4 months of the global pandemic (The Rising Nepal, June 2020). Such support helped a country to increase technical expertise, laboratory management, disease surveillance / contact tracing, prevent infection and strengthen information and clinical management with the mobilization of WHO (Republica, April 2020).

According to the head of office for the UK's DFID Nepal, the UK has committed to tackle unusual challenges during pandemic, to strengthen and retain strong relationship among the countries. The UK is focused on protecting vulnerable people so, it committed to support long-term and immediate needs of Nepal (Republica, June 2020).

Bhanubhakta Dhakal, Minister of Health and Population praised the effort of the UK for providing timely support to strengthen the country's response and prevention on the impact of coronavirus (Nepal Time, April 12, 2020). On June 2020, the British government provided additional funds of 2 million pounds to the Nepal government through the UK aid. As expressed by the Nepal Embassy in London, the UK has been supporting and providing financial assistance to Nepal annually (The Rising Nepal, 2020). Such as the way UK provided additional support during 2015 earthquake, it's the same during other disastrous event such as coronavirus.

In a meantime, the Gorkha Welfare Trust and other organizations also provided necessary support to former Gorkha army workforce (The Rising Nepal, June 2020). Similarly, as published in Republica on June 11 2020, Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, minister of Foreign Affairs has a conversation with Lord Ahmed, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK. The conversation included various issues related to Nepal-UK bilateral relations and development cooperation mainly, about the COVID-19. Both governments ensured to protect and support the nationals of each other's country. Moreover, two leaders communicated to work closely for reinforcing and expand the priorities of friendly relations and achieve common interests (Republica, June 11, 2020).

On August 2020, the UN and the UK's DFID strengthened partnership to enhance the UN's approach to emergency preparedness and scale-up response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Nepal and other developing countries (Reliefweb, August 2020). According to Valerie Julliard (UN Resident Coordinator), as the UK joined the UN system, it can collaborate together on the response to crisis and able to address inequalities and vulnerabilities in social, political and economic systems in Nepal (Reliefweb, August 2020).

Moreover, Nepal was actively engaged in reconstruction process and nearly completed construction of the heritage sites and public infrastructures but coronavirus took over globally. Nepal being a disaster-prone country, has suffered a great deal due to natural hazards which now also includes coronavirus. Notwithstanding the circumstances, as said by Lisa Honan, the programs funded by the UK government would continue to work with the Nepal government to reinforce its response and recovery from the earthquake and now, a pandemic (Reliefweb, August, 2020).

In addition, UN and DFID collaboration would strengthen the response to the pandemic in Nepal and improve future preparedness to any calamities (Reliefweb, August 25, 2020).

6.4. UK-Nepal Disaster Diplomacy: Failure or Successful?

When the diplomacy during disaster is too politicized, there is a very low probability of a disaster diplomacy to be successful. Nepal is an aid dependent country therefore; it has a good relation with most of the countries in the world. Due to the competitiveness, great powers ought to have many enemies comparatively (Natsios, 2020 p.110).

The success of disaster diplomacy depends on the disaster related activities and the country's ability on cohesion. As observed in the case study of India and Pakistan, it can be assumed that disaster diplomacy is not always successful rather, it may create more hatred and transitional conflict. The potential diplomacy could also be observed during the time of catastrophic (Simkhada, 2018 pp.189-193). However, disaster diplomacy is quite impactful and effective if the countries are already involved in bilateral cooperation or belongs to the same international organization such as UN, WTO, BIMSTEC, SAARC and others as its member. There is also a huge contribution of military diplomacy for the disaster diplomacy to be successful (Kelman, 2014).

In Nepal, despite the blockade by the Indian government, disaster diplomacy became successful with its neighboring countries. According to Madhu Raman Acharya, due to the ability of holding ICNR conference to receive foreign aid and other support (economic, social, political and moral) for the disaster recovery, most of the countries participated and such collaboration became successful procedure of disaster diplomacy. Through ICNR, overall, \$4.4. billion was pledged by the donor country which was more than that of UN's flash appeal (Adhikari 2015, pp. 35-56). This indicated Nepal government's efforts to mobilize international aid and support.

As explained by Sambhu Ram Simkhada (2018 pp.189-193), the success and failure of disaster diplomacy depends on political leadership and bureaucracy and their efficiency in decision making. Therefore, successful diplomacy requires effective work plan, immediate response / rescue, short-term relief and a longer-term recovery, reconstruction and resilience. Diplomacy has played a major role in maintaining peace and cooperation. Along with the lack of Nepal's disaster preparedness, the state's fragility became vulnerable to the neighbor's and big power's competition. This showed weakness in country's disaster diplomacy said Madhu Raman Acharya. Due to such incapability, Nepal became an interest of outside parties to influence the policies (Adhikari 2015, pp. 35-56).

Even though the recovery/ reconstruction process should be done with the country's own leadership, policies and initiatives, it required pragmatic diplomacy and commitment from the donors. Fundamentally, disaster diplomacy is categorized as persuading cooperation among rival nations (Kelman, 2016). There are many examples of international disasters which generated new diplomatic activities and strengthened initiatives. However, in the case of Nepal, the country mostly has a good bilateral relation so, the mobilization and handling of international support and interest in response to post-earthquake recovery through diplomatic

connection and foreign aid can be considered as disaster diplomacy. The country seeks to promote “soft power” during disaster and humanitarian emergencies.

With aspect to the disaster diplomacy during 2015 Nepal Earthquake, Nepal successfully received aid and assistance from most of the countries. However, the relief materials sent by the UK could not be delivered adequately due to the halt of helicopter in Delhi (Rafferty, 2015). There were also few weaknesses of Nepal’s disaster diplomacy in the initial phase of relief as very limited donors deposited pledged foreign aid in Prime Minister’s relief Fund due to lack of trust in government’s capability (Biswas and Hartley, 2015). The Nepal government was not able to demonstrate accountability and transparency of received aid. Later, for strengthening disaster diplomacy during post-earthquake, there was a major role of Nepal embassies in foreign country.

Additionally, the success of Nepal’s disaster diplomacy also depended on actually provided aid rather just pledged, this reinforced reliance in aid providing countries. After receiving aid form donor agencies, Nepal government showed transparency and accountability to its donors for maintaining trust. Donors were also involved while working the local and national level to ensure disaster recovery and resilience reaching to the community.

6.4.1. Success of Nepal-UK disaster diplomacy

The success of disaster diplomacy depends on disaster-responding party if it is able to continue a long-term diplomatic relation with a country. Many countries response in disaster with relief and other support but very few stands by as a long-standing bilateral donor. Most often, those donors are the one who already have a good relation with the recipient country, before the occurrence of disaster. Very few diplomatic relations start from the phase of disaster without the confirmation if it would succeed or not (Kelman, 2011). The countries with a good bilateral relation are ought to support disaster occurring country due to its commitment towards the humanitarian and development support to the country in need.

As part of a long-term program in post-earthquake, along with other donor, the UK, has been working with the Government of Nepal to improve the country’s ability to manage the aftermath of disaster and promote resilience (Michaels et al., 2019). Such response to the disaster also contributes the UK’s competence of delivering efficient humanitarian assistance and reduce suffering in emergency situation of the recipient country. The UK is a long-lasting

friend to Nepal and the UK is committed to provide humanitarian and development aid from a longer time (House of Commons, 2015).

But, during the initial phase of relief, Nepal government failed to handle few offers diplomatically. While other countries were providing relief during the catastrophic, the British Chinook helicopters that carried relief material to be delivered were refused although, repeated requests were reported even at the Prime Minister's level (Sharma & Harper, 2018 pp.145–161). It is unlivable that the British military including British Gurkha did not know about the landscape and geography of Nepal and its fragile building so, according to the British government, it is assumed as an excuse of the Nepal government (Sharma & Harper, 2018 pp.145–161).

In an aftermath of the earthquake, like other governments, the UK government also wanted to be seen as doing something but faced few challenges during relief process. Such rejection of RAF helicopters is unusual for Nepal's longstanding friend and a largest bilateral donor. However, the UK chose to contribute for relief and recovery process and in 2016, Col. Lama was also acquitted from the prison (The Himalayan Times, 2016). It is anticipated that there is a connection between prosecution of Col. Lama and refusal of British Chinook helicopters. Regarding the refusal of helicopters, the government of Nepal could have been more diplomatic at least during a disaster acknowledging the consequences during predicaments.

For the relief, recovery, prevention, mitigation and preparedness of disaster, the UK has committed to support Nepal whenever in need. As in 2015 earthquake, the UK has also proven its capability to protect Nepal during emergencies such as coronavirus and other disasters (HRRP, 2020). From 2015 Nepal earthquake, it is also indicated that Nepal and the UK has strong military and people-to people diplomacy. Noting that every friendly relation has more or less conflict, longstanding friends are those who forget, forgive and see the further possibilities in development. Therefore, the UK have been successfully supporting Nepal to recover through disaster diplomacy.

6.5. Competition among the big Power: Disaster is an opportunity for countries to show their effectiveness

Either great power or small power, many countries provided aid in Nepal as a responder. But, in the aftermath of an earthquake, mostly, powerful countries in the world continued to provide aid and support the country to rise again. The UN and western

developed countries with major power have very important humanitarian and development management sections in the foreign countries.

It is assumed that providing humanitarian / development aid is the self-interest of both recipient and donor. It is identified that regional influence could increase when a country becomes a high-profile donor (Gulrajani & Swiss, 2017). There is no limitation on the act of generosity worth in international relations until the donor country is getting benefit from it. Foreign aid has helped to spread power and influence for affluent countries. It is indicated that foreign aid donor provide aid as it will also benefit them. Carol Lancaster, a political scientist, investigated that domestic politics and international pressurizes `associate in shaping the process and reason on donor government providing aid (Banik and Hegertun). Moreover, it is demonstrated that aid is originally based on determined, practical and realistic diplomacy. Following are the example of diplomatic realism:

- Proposal of Trump administration to slash foreign aid by more than one-third aid represents a major shift of goal to use aid to get “smart power”. This is a strategy that increases an ability to win minds in third-world countries through the influence of money (Banik and Hegertun, 2017).
- Norway, a small but wealthy country has constantly tried to enhance its soft power since 1990’s. However, China on the other hand has been using foreign aid to acquire greater soft power and have more efficient role in international affairs (Banik and Hegertun, 2017).

When aid is observed as a “soft power”, it might actually be a “smart power” and similarly, liberalism as a realistic diplomacy. Therefore, grants can sometimes be defined as an indirect loan because donor country expects recipient to offer access to their natural resources such as oil, minerals and agricultural products for its own development. When a great power provides foreign aid, the recipient government believe that getting aid would develop country’s prosperity and economy without the interference from outsiders (Gulrajani & Swiss, 2017). But, there is quite more interference from the donor countries in the policy development of the recipient country. For example: in 2015 earthquake, Nepal’s neighbors and major powers were seeking to gain the operational superiority in the rescue, relief and recovery phase. Also, being a small nation, Nepal has been influenced by India and China (Adhikari, 2018 pp.43-74).

According to Kelman (2020), disaster is an opportunity to showcase the country's power and competitiveness for example: China-Taiwan, Cuba-USA, India-Pakistan, Iran-USA and North Korea. Similarly, the country spreading its power can also be demonstrated through coronavirus diplomacy. Moreover, in an interview, when Kelman was asked about how obligated the recipient government is to follow the guidelines of a donor country, he responded, *"It depends on the donor. Aid can be any combination of unconditional, earmarked, ring-fenced, tied to other initiatives, dependent on implementing specific policies, or linked to some sort of specific political return. A literature searches reveal decades of analysis on this topic, ranging from food aid forcing Genetically Modified Organism on recipient countries to aid models demanding infrastructure development or specific economic policies which might be neoliberal or nationalization. Long-standing debates and policies cover whether or not foreign aid should be linked to human rights, democratization, mandating religious practices, or reducing trade barriers"*.

In order to identify the effectiveness of aid and other intervention, the western donor have initiated monitoring and evaluating the aid impact (Banik and Hegertun, 2017). Through this, they can track and measure if the aid has been used appropriately in achieving the national goal. In an international foreign aid policy, providing an actual humanitarian support, major powers gain more influence. For example: in the international arena, there is a competition among the US and China (Coughlan, 2014). Both countries have the highest economy and has been providing right kind of humanitarian aid with long-term commitment to achieve successful results.

Moreover, in the present context, disaster diplomacy and coronavirus diplomacy have a strong effect on how great power's leadership has been perceived by the recipient countries. During this pandemic, it is transparent that China and the USA have been competing to become a global leader. This also shows the competition in the economy such as ability to produce protective masks and booting other health related or non-related market. Regarding the UK's humanitarian support and trade benefits, aid allows Britain to enhance and maintain positive relation with many developing nations including Nepal and push its agendas oversea with regards to human rights and security concerns (Schumann, 2016).

6.6. Lack of decision-making capacity during emergency

Following the quick notice, many international aids and assistance were provided to the country (Asokan and Asokan, 2017 pp.91-96) however, due to the lack of preliminary

assessment and institutional capacities, few things seemed complicated when delivering the emergency management (Hall et.al., 2017 pp.39-44). During crisis, the government was astounded because of the huge number of military and non-military humanitarian teams and relief materials. This created burden and exhaustion to coordinate the support and distribution (Shrestha & Pathranarakul, 2018). There was a traffic in TIA with relief materials that includes both necessary and unnecessary items which created more enervation in logistic management (Shrestha & Pathranarakul, 2018).

However, as a great importance of the immediate response, the Nepal Army were the most reliable national institution that showed the essential skills, logistic management and disciplined human resources (Thapa, 2016 pp.1–12). The institutions of Nepal including Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC), Disaster Relief Committee (DRC), five major public hub-hospitals and the Ministry of Home Affairs are the effective wings during disastrous event. These institutions were addressed to have limited resources however, after an earthquake of 2015, it strengthened its capacity to prepare from further disasters (Shrestha & Pathranarakul, 2018).

Effective coordination and genuine cooperation are the key while dealing with stakeholders which includes network of the administration from central to local level government, public hospitals, security agencies, international institutions such as UN, international humanitarian agencies such as local NGOs and INGOs and bilateral aid/donors. The large-scale disaster also requires active participation from communities, civil society, media (both national and international) and other private sectors. The active participation of these institutions requires huge role of authoritative coordination among national and international humanitarian sectors with a proper planning by a state (Bisri and Beniya, 2016). To coordinate and communicate the emergency response, the government requires reliable state institutions and system to lessen the challenges among national and international responders (Alexandar, 2015 pp.1-31).

For an effective disaster management, enough budget should be allocated to implement disaster management and risk reduction policies (Jones et.al., 2014 p.78) that includes systematic training of government officials. Guidelines could be provided to key stakeholders and explain their implementation appropriately to practice the relevant institutions and non-government partners (Bisri and Beniya, 2016 pp.19-26). The activities related to the disaster risk prevention and mitigation from various non-government

organizations should be efficient with the national plan of the government. To operate the potential of volunteers, a volunteer management plan should be developed in advance (Whittaker et.al., 2015 pp.258-368). To ensure the government's capacity and knowledge on disaster management, non-state actors like media could be engaged in every disaster risk reduction effort. Additionally, Nepal Army could form a strong civil-military relations development (Thapa, 2016 pp.1–12). Well-equipped search and rescue materials, ambulance, public health services as well as capacity building programs should be regulated to every security force personnel (Thapa, 2016 pp.1–12).

Overall, Nepal government could authorize central, district and local level government by allocating sufficient budget and provide necessary trainings to the officials. (Bisri and Beniya, 2016 pp.19-26) Transparent information-sharing medium could be improvised within government ministries and all level departments. The official who has skills related to disaster can be designated to the departments of National Emergency Operation center, District Administration Office, Ministry of Home Affairs, Municipality/Rural Municipality and Ward level (Shrestha & Pathranarakul, 2018).

Challenges of International coordination of emergency aid

The international humanitarian system face problem to coordinate with governments (mostly, when the relief providing country is not connected bilaterally through any means in the past), humanitarian agencies, development aid and private sectors. The limited or lack of coordination leads to delays, duplication and loss of adequate information (Regnier, 2011). When coordination is weak, there is a slow process of government in issuing official statement requesting humanitarian aid / assistance which leads to the delay in aid process. However, in case of Nepal, even though coordination process was challenging for the government, there were no delays in relief services provided by the international bodies. But, there were many geographical challenges while delivering relief materials (Baharmand et al., 2017 pp.549-559). Despite the quick emergency relief, Nepal however, faced lack of preparedness and post-crisis reconstruction expertise. In Nepal, most of the NGOs are well funded but do not necessarily address to any international humanitarian agendas. Rather, it seeks to secure own interest of community to be religious or else.

Thus, to cope up with such humanitarian challenges, humanitarian diplomacy facilitates closer collaboration among the organizations sharing same values and negotiate with selective stakeholders.

Chapter 7: Summary and Conclusion

The activities of disaster diplomacy do not create new diplomacy and do not affect longer-term activities. From the UK and Nepal disaster diplomacy, it is indicated that ongoing diplomatic practices or existing conditions support the evolution of diplomacy during disaster as well. The bilateral cooperation could include ongoing negotiations, trade links, cultural connections and other factors/conditions that provide connection among the involved parties to provide the base for further diplomatic activities. The catalysis occurring in a disaster diplomacy is only observed for a short time either for a week or a month. A long-term disaster diplomacy consisting several months or years more often replace a disaster response or disaster risk reduction. The long-term factors include change in leadership/policy, preference to retain historical grievances other than overcoming it and promote disaster related activities as observed in post-earthquake.

The concept of disaster diplomacy promotes disaster resilience by establishing and enhancing the communication among the states trying to promote peace. But it is better for the government not to wait for the disaster for a peaceful cooperation. If the state is involved in bilateral relation beforehand, it would improve and form a long-term relation among the countries even after the occurrence of disaster. For example: the UK and Nepal have the oldest bilateral ties and has a good cooperation with each other since two centuries through military, public diplomacy and humanitarian support. No matter which aid does a country donate and receive, the insistence of a recipient country can have an impact in the national interest of donor country. The foreign aid during catastrophe is considered as a major headway to disaster diplomacy.

During 1934 Nepal earthquake, Nepal was self-reliant and not dependent on foreign aid and assistance. In 1934, the government was the only body which planned from response to recovery and economic development. In contrast, during 2015, many national and international organizations were involved in decision making. Therefore, with the growth of bilateral and multilateral relations, Nepal also became aid-dependent country and strengthened several diplomacies including disaster diplomacy.

It can be exemplified that humanitarian / foreign aid creates dependence among the recipient countries while, major countries compete to promote its soft power and national interest. The PDNA played a major role for donors to evaluate the damage and provide aids accordingly. Greater the country, more humanitarian and development aid / assistance are

provided. For Nepal, there is a huge role of foreign aid for the development and its prosperity. As demonstrated in the case of the UK and Nepal, it is justified that disaster diplomacy gets along with other various studies such as neo-liberalism, public diplomacy, economic diplomacy and dependency theory. In practice, disaster diplomacy promotes the country's effort through several phases of relief, recovery, prevention, mitigation and preparedness. It is clearly demonstrated that there is a good participation of the UK in Nepal's four stages of disaster and has been associating with the Nepal government for disaster risk identification and resilience.

Nepal is a disaster-prone country but it lacks disaster preparedness and management thus, it seeks support from external bodies. For the response to a disaster, humanitarian diplomacy follows IHL to protect civilian political or social emergency. Depending on the need of disaster, the humanitarian agencies embraces humanitarian diplomacy for the response to the emergency. However, the first responders during 2015 Nepal Earthquake were Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force who had SAR training. Later on, international responders rushed to the country for more support during the earthquake response. Despite getting many funds through bilateral and multilateral relation, the slow process to the earthquake recovery could be observed. Yet, international donors have been supporting Nepal government to overcome reconstruction challenges and build post-disaster resilience through foreign aid and other technical support. For a developing country, foreign aid is the major root for recovery of the development. Regardless of the economic challenges faced by Nepal during 2015, the country was capable of strengthening its economy within a year through several economic diplomacies and foreign aids.

Concerning the engagement of the UK in Nepal's post-earthquake recovery, it is examined that Nepal received adequate support from the UK despite few diplomatic issues such as the case of Col. Lama and refusal of RAF helicopters. In the context of International Humanitarian Law, the case of Col. Lama slightly changed the diplomatic relation among the countries. However, the bicentenary of the bilateral relation acted as a fresh continuation to boost the friendship. Along with the British Gurkha, the connection of Nepal and UK is formed through various means such as people-to-people diplomacy, cultural exchanges, tourism and its historical alliance. Nepal already have a friendly relation with the UK since two centuries therefore, provided necessary support to Nepal for overcoming the development challenges to earthquake led a successful disaster diplomacy. It is also prompted

that good cooperation among Nepal Army and external military assistance has a great contribution to the success of disaster diplomacy.

The visit of Prince Harry after an earthquake strengthened the bilateral relations of Nepal and the UK which developed more into cooperative and multi-dimensional partnership such as military, political, developmental, economic and educational sectors. Such development also increased goodwill of Nepalese people among the British public. It is recognized that the UK is one of the top development partners of Nepal and it is analyzed that the annual trend of British aid is increasing comparatively. The major scopes of bilateral relations include British Gurkha, education, tourism and trend. Through tourism sector, Nepal also received most of the volunteer tourists (most of whom were British) after the visit of Prince Harry and his effort on reconstruction process.

Despite the immediate response to the earthquake, the lack of decision-making capacity, coordination and cooperation while dealing with stakeholders, resulted in the slow process of disaster recovery. Additionally, COVID-19 led to the delay of reconstruction process. Disaster and global pandemic differ from each other in terms of support and assistance. During a disaster, many countries rushed for the immediate response but during the global pandemic very few countries with major power supported Nepal through aid. However, both of these situations are the opportunities for reinforcing disaster diplomacy mostly for the countries that has been competing as a great power. Regarding the support provided by the UK, it showed the commitment towards Nepal and has been supporting the country for both disaster resilience and COVID-19 mitigation when the whole world is in commotion. Moreover, the UK's response to any kind of disastrous extremity shows its capability of supporting Nepal.

Furthermore, there is an assumption that aid providing countries seek their own national interest while providing aid to a developing country. In the case of the UK, it is implicated that the reason for providing sufficient aid to Nepal is due to the service provided in the history and also because the country does not prefer to seem less powerful or incapable than any other aid providing countries. During every disastrous event, the competition in providing aid among major powers take place. However, it is demonstrated that no matter how powerful or great a state is, it often wants cooperation but the problem is it might not be an equilibrium. Therefore, positive development in global arena comes with the faith and balance among the states.

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ANNEXES

Annex 1: Primary Interview

Interviewer Name: Ilan Kelman

Profession: Senior Research Fellow at the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research - Oslo (CICERO)

Research Interest: Disaster Diplomacy

Published Books:

- Disaster Diplomacy: How Disasters Affect Peace and Conflict, 2011
- Municipalities Addressing Climate Change: A Case Study of Norway, 2011
- Catastrophe and Conflict: Disaster Diplomacy and Its Foreign Policy, 2016
- Disaster by Choice: How Our Actions Turn Natural Hazards into Catastrophes, 2020

Interview Date: 6th July 2020

Interview Location: Virtual interview via Skype

Interview Questions:

1. How is disaster diplomacy implemented among the least developed and developed nations?
2. In disaster diplomacy, foreign aid is vital. How could a supporting country benefit by disaster diplomacy while the recipient country benefits aid and other supports?
3. How successful is disaster diplomacy in maintaining or improving a developing country's post-disaster process?
4. Can disaster be an opportunity to showcase other country's power and competitiveness?
5. What is the relation of the military in disaster diplomacy?
6. When a country receives foreign aid from a donor country, how obligated is the recipient to follow their guidelines?
7. As per your scholarly experience on disaster diplomacy, do you think that with the provision of assistance and support, developed nations interfere in the policy of small developing countries and show its superiority in either way?