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# RISEPAK - Relief Information System for Earthquakes Pakistan

| Information | |
|---|---|
| **Project ID:** | 1031 |
| **Category:** | Public Administration |
| **Country:** | Pakistan |
| **City:** | Lahore Cantt. |
| **Areas:** | Rural & urban |
| **Target groups:** | children, youth, adults, seniors, women, men |

| Web: |
|---|
| **url** |

| Access to communication networks: | |
|---|---|
| **Network:** | Internet, Public switched telephone network (PSTN), Wireless telephone networks (GSM,CDMA) |
| **Accress type:** | Internetaccess via dial up, LAN, DSL/Cable |
| **User terminals:** | Phones, Desktops, Laptops |
| **Communication services used:** | Internet: e-mail, web,chat,voice over IP, IPTV, Video on demand Telephone: Voice, SMS,GPRS |

| Sponsors and funding bodies: |
|---|
| International development organisations Lahore University of Managment Sciences |

**List projects from this category**

**List projects from Pakistan**

**Describe the project in one sentence:**

RISEPAK is an earthquake relief coordination and accountability tool designed to collect, collate and display information about damage, access and relief for rural Pakistani citizens affected by the Oct. 2005 Earthquake on a public portal, setup within 12 days of the earthquake.

**Summary:**

RISEPAK is an information tool for relief coordination in Pakistani villages affected by the October 2005 Earthquake. The portal is based on an interactive `give-and-take' principle. RISEPAK gives all relief providers, government agencies and affectees the following information about the 4000 affected villages: a. Demographics and Access: Population, distance from epicenter and distance from a main road b. Location: The physical location of village clusters c. Access and Disaster levels: Status of access to affected villages, levels of post-Earthquake damage d. Relief: Access to relief provided by different organizations e. Reporting: Summary reports on relief indicators at the village level f. Verified Small Sample Information: Verified information about a small random sample of villages about access, damage, relief and receipt of government compensation is provided by the RISEPAK team. Part of this information was available before the earthquake and the portal systematize all pre-earthquake information within a searchable database. Information on the post-earthquake scenario is based on data and posts from villages and relief-agencies. The information received is parsed and collated into the existing database; more `free-flow' information is made available on the notice-board. RISEPAK thus records information from individuals, governments, non government relief providers about damage, access and relief in villages via phone, SMS, fax, email and online web submission. RISEPAK records every voice through its Notice Board that provides accounts, comments, opinions, and requests from the field. The Notice Board is searchable by category (needs, damage, relief, road access and more...). It is also searchable by physical location and village name.

**Vision – objectives – goals:**

In the aftermath of a disaster, there is an urgent need to ensure that relief-aid reaches all affected areas in a timely and equitable manner. This is particularly hard to do in cases like the Pakistani earthquake, where the affected population is very large, and there are a large number of relief-agencies, big and small, acting in a largely uncoordinated fashion. The main goals of RISEPAK is to ensure that no affected village is left behind and no affected voice is left unheard in the relief and rehabilitation effort. The project sought to accomplish this in 3 steps: 1. Provide a list and all available pre-earthquake information for ALL the villages affected by the earthquake, so that relief agencies could quickly pinpoint the areas that needed help. 2. Work actively with relief-agencies to systmatize their data, allow for easy provision of information to RISEPAK and update the existing database in real-time. 3. Provide an unbiased outlet for all opinions through the notice-board so that praise, complaints and suggestions for relief-actors could be recorded in a non-partisan basis from all affected individuals. There were several milestones: 1. Launch on October 20th, 10 days after the earthquake. 2. Complete overhaul of the front-end of the website based on initial comments and usage details by November 1st. 3. Update information received on more than 900 villages within 2 months. 4. 1800 notice-board posts within 2 months of setting up.

**Type of project organisation:**

The project is organised as a network. The core hub of the network contains: academics from the Lahore University of Managment Sciences; the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard; Pomona College and it also includes economists from the World Bank. The core hub is the prime owner of the project. Physically the data verification, entry and coordination cell are located at the Lahore University of Management Sciences. The wider network includes leading Pakistani IT companies such as Techlogix and WOL and the Punjab IT Board. It includes the District Government offices of Mansehra, Muzzaffarabad and Bagh; the three army divisional commands providing relief in the area; and large and small non government relief providers working in affected areas such as: Sungi; Islamic Relief; Omar Asghar Khan Development Foundation; Rural Support Programme network. It is also supported by Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and the main rehabilitation agency, NESPAK. Internationally it has support from Human Rights Watch, the World Bank and a team from the Mid-America Earthquake Centre.

**Target organisations:**

All rural Pakistani Citizens residing in villages that have been affected by the October 2005 Earthquake in Pakistan Government agencies and army divisions involved in relief and compensation provision Non-government relief providers

**Transferability:**

Absolutely! 2005 was a particularly bad year for disasters--starting with the Tsunami, going through Katrina and ending with the earthquake in Pakistan. In each of these disasters the 3 principles of RISEPAK: (a) quickly available pre-disaster information on all affected areas; (b) a network of relief-actors providing information for real-time updates and; (c) a public notice-board for all opinions, complaints and suggestions can play a huge role in ensuring that relief is adequately and equitably provided. In the longer run, the analysis of data on the site can provide valuable lessons for the management of future disasters. At the same time, we have also learnt that doing this 'on-the-fly' is not the most efficient way to proceed. RISE systems can easily be setup before disaster strikes; the main INGOs involved in providing relief can be trained and led through the site features well before it is actually needed.

**Future – expected development:**

With the relief-effort in Pakistan moving from immediate relief to longer term recovery and reconstruction, the RISEPAK team is modifying its strategy to support these efforts. During the month of January, the team will hold discussions with relief-agencies to understand the information needs over the next year and modiy the site accordingly. While this is in the context of the earthquake, the site has also generated tremendous interest in the relief-community and a second development is to start designing RISE systems for other areas (potentially, the so-called disaster 'hot-spots') before the disaster strikes.

Sponsors: