



# INCREASING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH RESILIENCE BEFORE, DURING & AFTER DISASTERS USING MOBILE TECHNOLOGY IN KAVREPALANCHOK DISTRICT, NEPAL (MANTRA)

(JAN - NOV 2021)

In emergency situations, women of childbearing age do not stop becoming pregnant or giving birth. Humanitarian emergencies often negatively impact health care systems, reproductive health care and maternal health making them more vulnerable. In Nepal, frequent earthquakes and associated landslides pose significant hazards to healthcare infrastructure and remote rural communities. The devastating 2015 Nepal earthquakes killed nearly 9,000, injured 22,500 and left 800,000 in need of shelter. Healthcare infrastructure was severely impacted with over 1000 health facilities damaged or destroyed thus also disrupting the obstetric and neonatal care. In such crises, use of mobile technology which is in increasing trend across Nepal could contribute to reaching groups in particular health care need especially in remote areas where the availability of functioning health services might be minimal.

## CHALLENGE FOR THE RESEARCH

Perinatal women and their newborns are amongst the most vulnerable in disasters when access to healthcare advice and services may be reduced or non-existent. This project investigated hazard and risk perception, and building women's resilience by improving access to information and communications before, during and after disasters arising from geohazards. It aimed to do this by developing mobile technology to support and expand existing public health interventions and social protection mechanisms, especially in rural areas of Nepal.

We also covered day-to-day exposure to hazard - living and working in hazard-prone terrain. This initiative depended upon a transdisciplinary, gender-responsive, participatory and culturally-rooted approach to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and maternal and child health.

## OBJECTIVES

Contribute to increase maternal and newborn health resilience before, during and after disaster using mobile technology

## SERIOUS MOBILE GAME APP

communication before, during and after earthquakes and landslides was a major difficulty, we aimed to provide educational content as learning through gaming. This can be beneficial for engagement and immersion. The app was designed with 3 modules: maternal health, neonatal health and geo-hazards. It was particularly challenging to build a prototype app in just a few months but this was achieved through solid team effort.