

Women's groups protect their community from earthquake impacts in Nepal



Photo: NSET

Women in Chandragiri, Kathmandu, have demonstrated their vital role with their implementation of non-structural earthquake mitigation measures. During the *Frontline* survey, residents in Chandragiri identified earthquakes as the top threat in the community and non-structural mitigation as one of the priority actions that has to be implemented. A group of women who had previously been trained by the National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) to protect

their own homes using non-structural approaches, such as screwing cupboards, photo frames and their fridges to the wall, were mobilised by NSET to implement their skills across the community. Now, they are implementing the mitigation measures in their locality as well as outside their community, including in 10 different schools across Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur and a hospital.

Not only has this initiative been a step towards achieving a safer community, but it has boosted women's confidence and empowered them with important new technical skills and new leadership roles in their community. Furthermore, the demonstration of these skills has led to women being engaged in new income-generating activities outside of the standard handicraft work.



Photo: NSET