

APPENDIX

Cleaning Disaster Data

The original reports sent by the district administrative office are in Nepali and someone at the Ministry of Home affairs entered data in EXCEL in English without any standard list of names which have caused the misspelling. Many names did not match with the official names. The reason could be the use of different names by locals for a certain VDCs. Or the disaster could have occurred in one of the ward of the VDC (out of 9 wards) and the name of the ward might have been used.

The lumping of records (for VDCs) into one might have either happened at the district level (possible reasons: due to Maoist insurgency proper assessment was not done and/or administration was not serious about the data) or could have happened at the Ministry (person who entered might have grouped multiple records into one, this however seems to be unlikely as data for some of the districts are available at the VDC level for the same year). This problem persists in later years of the study period as the data for earlier years are finer. The implication of lumping of multiple records in one and mismatched VDC names is significant. For example, regarding deaths due to flood and landslides, in total, 33% of total deaths could not be allocated to individual VDCs during the 9 years period. For example, in a one year period 2007-2008 (year 2064 Bikram Sambat in Hindu Calendar) 186 (86%) deaths were clustered in 58 (73%) such data points; followed by the year 2008-2009 with 107 (80%) deaths recorded in 41 (41%) data points; in 2001-2002 with 61% deaths in 15% of points, in 2006-2007 32% deaths in 21% data points, and for the rest of the periods, 2 to 11% deaths in 8-12% data points.