

# Nepal Earthquake Response

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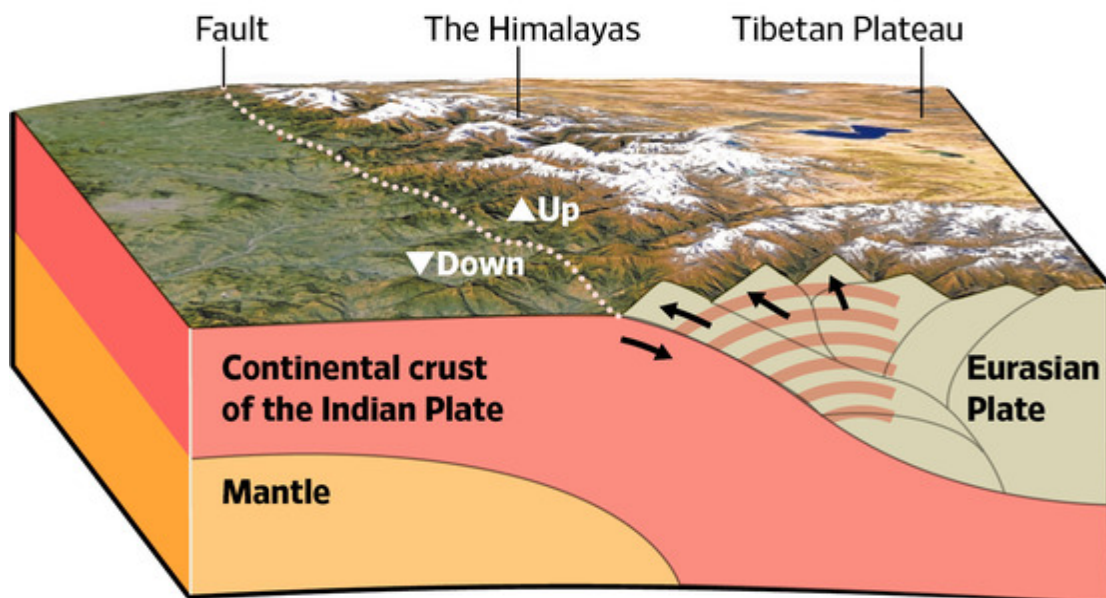
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Nepal is a developing country that is mired in poverty and political instability. It only opened its borders to the international community in the 1950s. It is slightly smaller in size compared to the South Island of NZ, and has a population of about 28 million, 75% of whom are subsistence farmers.

The tectonic up-thrust of the Eurasian plate and the subduction of the Indian plate created the amazing mountainous landscape that defines Nepal. The Himalaya mountain range, which runs along the length of Nepal's northern East-West border with Tibet, is home to 8 of the 10 tallest mountains in the world. Along with the surface beauty and grandeur of the mountains, tension has built up deep inside the major Himalayan fault line spanning 5 countries, Pakistan, India, Nepal, China and Bhutan, a total length of 2300km.

## Continental Collision

As the Indian subcontinent pushes against Eurasia, pressure is released in the form of earthquakes. The constant crashing of the two plates forms the Himalayan mountain range.



Source: USGS; Google Earth

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In April and May 2015, the strain was released, and two large earthquakes struck mid-central Nepal, causing significant devastation in the affected districts.

This presentation will be on my experience during my deployment as part of a US-based disaster response team.