

DISPLACED **AND** LANDLESS: AN UNABATED ORDEAL OF DISASTER SURVIVORS



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Photo credit: Sneha Rai

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Executive Summary

Nepal is vulnerable to various geophysical, climatic and biological hazards. It ranks 20th among the most multi-hazards prone countries in the world. Annually, Nepal is exposed to about 500 disaster events. Major hazards include, among others, earthquake, floods, landslides, drought, cold waves, forest fires and GLOFs. Between 2011 and 2015, 11,163 people were reported dead and 2,773 injured due to various disasters in the country. The total economic losses incurred over the same period amounted to the tune of NPR 781 billion.

Disaster is one of the major reasons for displacement and migration worldwide. Annually 25.4 million people get displaced by various disasters. This is almost equal to the total population of Nepal. Weather related disasters account for 87% of the total displacements. In Nepal approximately 3 million people were displaced by disasters in 2015 and 2016. Majority of the displacements were caused by earthquake in 2015.

This report focuses on the situation of the people displaced by two major disasters - flash floods in 2014 and the 2015-earthquake. Displaced families continue to live in indecent and undignified living conditions even several years after of the disasters. Protracted displacements have serious health and social consequences among the displaced population. Women, children, elderly and disabled are suffering disproportionately. Limited amenities and services within the settlements are not adequate to address special needs of these groups. The government programme to resettle the displaced families is lacking in speed and grossly inadequate. It has only prioritized 'land for housing' not the livelihoods of the survivors. There is no uniformity in the resettlement grant for families displaced by various disasters despite the similar nature and scale of losses incurred.

Disasters have predominant impact on land resources as they not only result in loss of physical land area; loss of property and livelihoods base is all the more serious as it has devastating effect on the survivors' lives. The present disaster database is silent about the

impacts of disaster on land resources-no records of disaster-induced land loss or degradation are available. In reality, disasters are one of the major causes of landlessness in Nepal. There is an increasing trend of people losing their land due to disasters and becoming landless.

Recommendations

Short-term:

- The government and the stakeholders concerned must act urgently for resettlement and proper rehabilitation of all displaced families in Rasuwa and Bardiya districts.
- The National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) and other concerned stakeholders must prioritize the livelihoods such as leasing out agriculture lands, providing subsidized loans to run small enterprises, employment, and access to utilities for the displaced families along with the current grant assistance that focuses only on reconstructing houses.
- Development agencies should be engaged in complementing the government programme to build sustainable livelihoods of the displaced families.
- Single women, orphans, elderly, disabled and other vulnerable groups require special assistance during post disaster reconstruction and resettlement. These families need to be identified and affirmative actions should be taken to simplify and ease their access to government's assistance.

Long term:

- The government should establish a system and practice of documenting and keeping record of loss and degradation of land resources due to various disasters including the number of families displaced and rendered landless by disasters.
- The government should adopt both structural and non-structural mitigation measures to reduce impacts of disasters on land resources. There is a likelihood of more land areas getting impacted given the increasing frequency and intensity of weather related disasters due to the rise in global temperature.

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Thuli Maya Ghale stands above the rubble of her house swept away by landslide in Pahirebesi, Rasuwa district.

Introduction

Background

Disaster is one of the major reasons for displacement and migration worldwide. On an average, the world witnessed 25.3 million¹ displacements annually from 2008 to 2016 – a figure close to the total population of Nepalⁱ. Weather related disasters top the list, accounting for 86 % of the total displacements. As the global temperature continues to rise, likelihood of an increase in the frequency and magnitude of weather related disaster events such as floods, landslides, cyclones, and storms cannot be ruled out. More people are likely to get displaced over the years.

Nepal ranks 20th world's most vulnerable country to multiple-hazards². Highly prone to earthquake, Nepal experiences recurring incidences of floods, landslides and fire. In 2015, a massive earthquake displaced more than 2.6 million people in the country³. Due to inability of these people to self-recover and failure of the government to resettle, these families are forced to live in inhuman and undignified conditions for many years. Delay in resettlement will force them to migrate to urban centers in search of livelihoods. Majority of these migrants end up in slums and becoming squatters, exposing themselves to another set of vulnerabilities in urban centers.

Land distribution in Nepal is highly skewed. An average land holding size is 0.96 hectare. 47 per cent of households own only 15 per cent of the total agricultural land with an average size of less than 0.5 hectare. About 29 per cent do not own any land⁴. Deeply discriminatory and hierarchical as the country's social construct is, Dalit, women and indigenous people have been denied their due access and control over land. About 44 per cent of the Dalit population in the Terai and 22 per cent

in hills are landless⁵. About 80 per cent of indigenous population is marginal land owner with less than 1 acre of land holding and only 19 per cent of the country's female population own landⁱⁱ, largely an urban phenomenon. Landless and small-land holding farmers are more vulnerable to disasters due to increased exposure to hazards and low adaptive capacity. Small holder farmers face greater risk of landlessness due to disasters.

This report is an attempt to bring to light the situation of the people displaced by two major disasters in the country. In 2014, flash floods displaced hundreds of families in four districts in the mid-western region of Nepal, while the 2015-earthquake uprooted millions of families in the mid and western regions of Nepal—14 districts were hit hardest. The study also provides anecdotal evidences as to how disasters are impacting on land and causing 'landlessness' forcing affected people to migrate.

Objectives

The objective of the study is to assess underlying causes and consequences of landlessness and displacement following disasters.

Methodology

Largely based on qualitative data, the research is of descriptive nature. The information is collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary information was collected through field survey, focus group discussions, in-depth case studies, and key informant interviews. The secondary information was derived from literature review, review of national and international legal documents mainly on disasters and resettlement and land, and displacement related statistics from the two districts covered by the study.

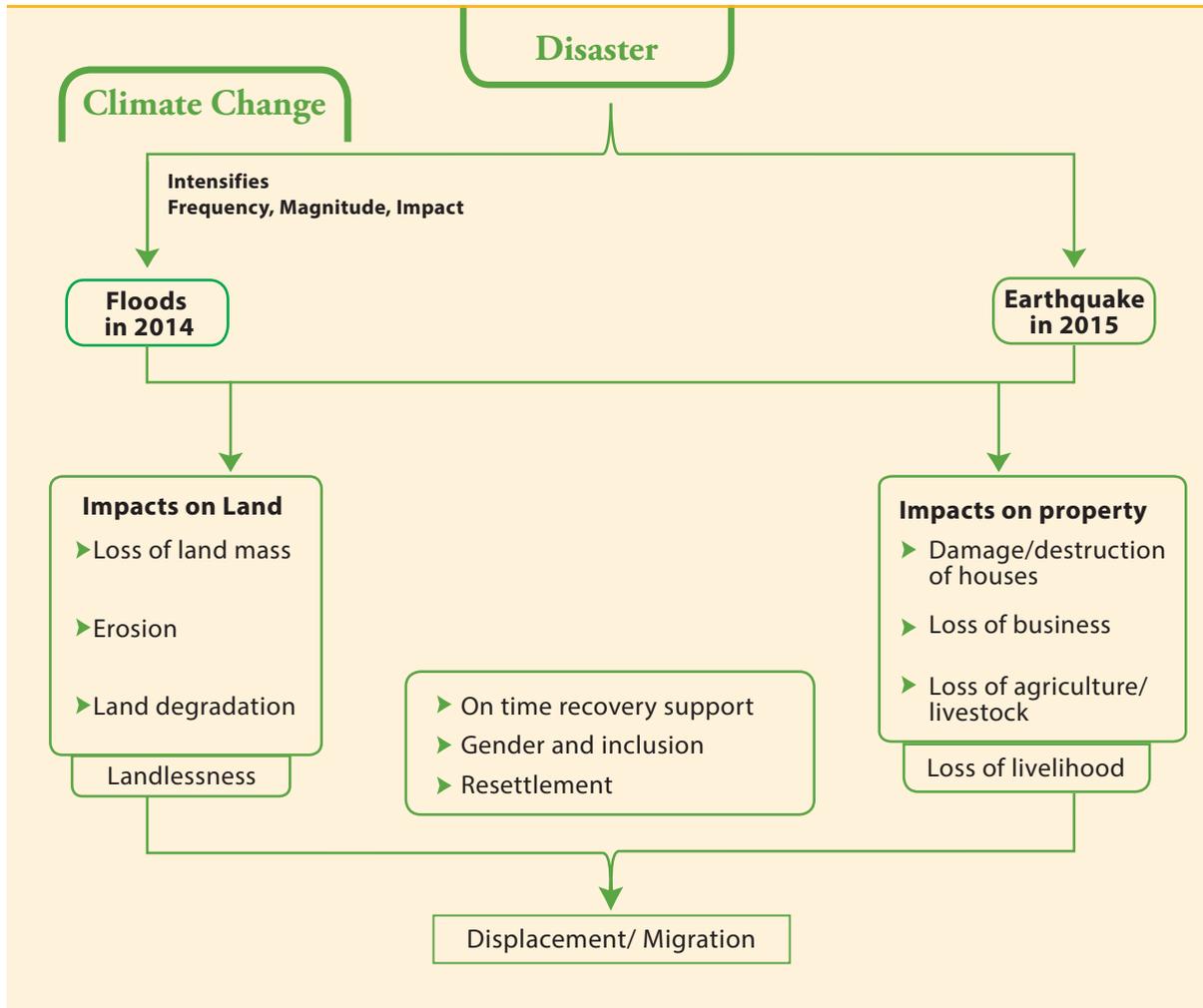
Nepal ranks 20th world's most vulnerable country to multiple-hazards. Highly prone to earthquake, Nepal experiences recurring incidences of floods, landslides and fire.

¹ As per the Population Census 2011 total population of Nepal is 26.49 million.

ⁱⁱ Women's ownership of land has increased mainly because of up to 40 % government subsidy on land registration fee, if land is registered in the name of a woman.

Conceptual Framework

FIGURE 1: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY



The study has covered two major disaster events that hit Nepal in recent years. Floods in mid-west Nepal in 2014 and the 2015-earthquake are taken as cases to understand the impacts of disasters on land, disaster-induced landlessness and subsequent displacement and migration of the survivors from their villages. The study assesses the government policies and procedures

on resettlement. The government policy measures to resettle these people take unprecedented time, requires stringent qualification criteria and the government support is grossly inadequate for decent resettlement. Poverty stricken families are not able to regain their livelihoods and have since continued to live in undignified conditions.

BOX 1: FLOODS IN MID-WESTERN NEPAL, 2014

Torrential rains across the foothills of western Nepal in August 2014 triggered widespread flooding of the Karnali and Babai rivers affecting four districts – Banke, Bardiya, Dang and Surkhet. The eighth meteorological station in the region recorded 200mm to 500mm of rainfall over 24 hours.

The massive flooding claimed 222 lives and left 84 others injured in the four districts. 5,160 houses were destroyed, while an additional 14,913 houses suffered partial damage. In total 117,580 people were affected and 6,859 families were displaced. Bardiya and Surkhet were the most affected districts.

BOX 2: GORKHA EARTHQUAKE, 2015

On 25 April 2015, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck Barpark in Gorkha district, about 76 km northwest of Kathmandu. The catastrophic earthquake was followed by more than 300 aftershocks measuring above 4.0 on the richter scale. Four aftershocks were greater than magnitude 6.0, including one measuring 6.8 which struck 17 days after the earthquake. Nepal had not faced a natural shock of such magnitude for over 80 years.

Over 8,790 deaths and 22,300 injuries were reported. It is estimated that lives of eight million people, almost one-third of the population of Nepal, have been impacted. Thirty one out of the country's 75 districts were affected, of which 14 were declared 'crisis hit'. Almost 498,852 houses were totally destroyed, and another 256,697 houses suffered partial damage.

The total value of loss and damage caused by the earthquake was estimated at NPR 706 billion (equivalent to USD 7 billion). The country requires NPR 669 billion (USD 6.7 billion) as reconstruction and rehabilitation cost.

Source: Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Report, National Planning Commission, 2015.

BOX 3: RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Do people migrate because of disaster? Who migrates and when? Are people migrating permanently or temporarily? What are the reasons?
2. What is the situation of the displaced people after disaster, especially of women and children? Where are they living and for how long? Are they accessing adequate basic services (drinking water, sanitation, education, electricity etc)?
3. How does disaster affect land? What is the current situation of land? How does this affect the livelihoods of those who owned the land

Study Area

The study was conducted in two districts - Rasuwa and Bardiya. These districts were purposively selected as they were affected most by disasters i.e. flash floods and earthquake in recent years. These districts have high number of people displaced by disasters.

Rasuwa district lies in central Nepal with altitude ranging from 617 m to 7227 m within 1512 sq. km. It is one of the districts severely affected by 2015 earthquake and often struck by landslides during the monsoon. More than 11,000 houses were damaged. At present, 639 households are displaced by the earthquake and subsequent landslides. The villages selected for the study were Laharepauwa (Khalte) and Pahirebesi. Earthquake-displaced families of Haku and Dadagau villages are currently living in Laharepauwa (Khalte). In Pahirebesi,

14 families are displaced by a massive monsoon landslide of 2017.

Bardiya district is in the mid-western region of Nepal located with maximum and minimum altitude ranging between 1279m and 138m. The district is prone to recurrent floods. In 2014, the district was hit by a devastating flood that caused enormous loss of human lives and physical property. The villages selected for the study were Tulshipur, Premnagar and Shangharshanagar. 41 families displaced by 2014 floods are currently living in temporary shelters on a football ground of Tulshipur village. Premnagar and Shangharshanagar are affected by the recurrent floods every year. In 2017, the district was again hit by massive flood. More than 74,000 people were directly affected and 4,770 people were displaced⁶.

The study was conducted in two districts - Rasuwa and Bardiya. These districts were purposively selected as they were affected most by disasters i.e. flash floods and earthquake in recent years. These districts have high number of people displaced by disasters.



Massive landslide at Pahirebesi, Rasuwa district triggered by heavy rain in 2017

Disaster Scenario In Nepal

Disasters: Types and Impacts

Nepal is vulnerable to various geophysical, climatic and biological hazards. The country has varied climate and challenging topography which makes it highly susceptible to climate change, and geological and climate related disasters. Major hazards in Nepal include earthquake, floods, landslides, drought, storms, hailstorm, thunderbolt, avalanches, cold waves, forest fires and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). Nepal ranks 20th among the most multi-hazards prone countries in the world². A total of 22,372 disaster events have been recorded during the period 1971-2015. Annually, Nepal is exposed to about 500 disaster events⁷. Between 2011 and 2015, 11,163 people were reported dead and 24,773 injured due to various types of disasters

in the country⁸. These numbers also include the casualties of earthquake in 2015. This single disaster event claimed 8,890 lives leaving 22,302 injured². Besides this, other highest casualties were attributed to floods, landslides, fire and thunderbolts.

Disasters have detrimental impacts on the country's economic growth and are causing huge economic losses. Between 2011 and 2015, Nepal's total economic loss amounted to millions as mentioned in Figure 2 below.

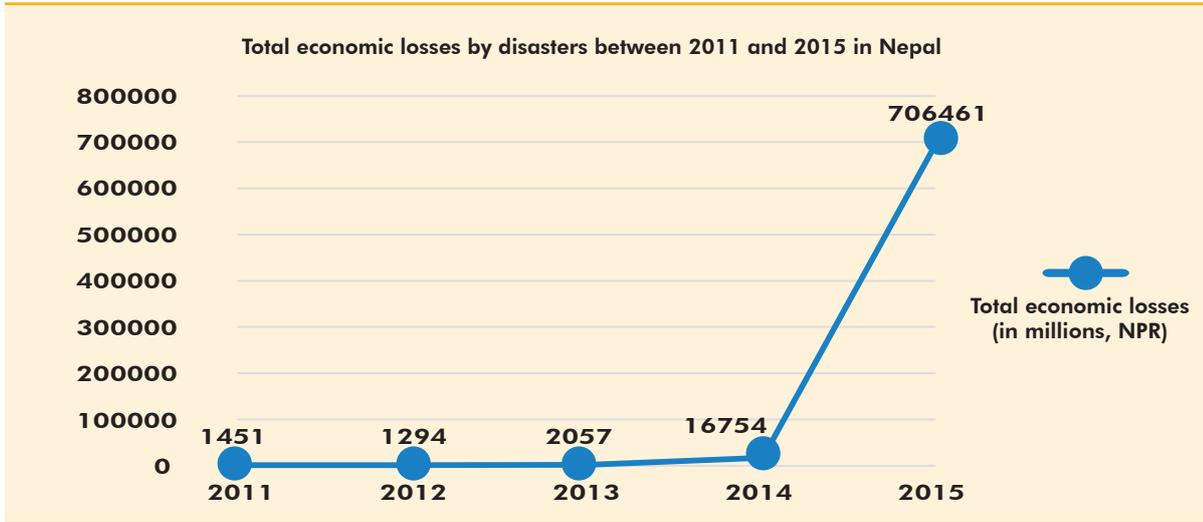
These losses are attributed to direct impacts of disasters mainly in productive and social sectors such as agriculture, health, housing and human settlements, commerce, industry and tourism. If indirect impacts and impacts on other sectors of the economy are considered, the extent of disaster-induced economic losses would be much larger.

Between 2011 and 2015, 11,163 people were reported dead and 24,773 injured due to various types of disasters in the country.

TABLE 1: TYPES OF NATURAL AND HUMAN-INDUCED HAZARDS IN NEPAL

Types of Hazards	Prevalence
Natural hazards	
Earthquake	The entire country lies in volatile seismic zone
Floods	Terai and mid-hills
Landslides and dam outburst	Hills and mountain regions
Debris flow	Hills and mountain, severe in the area of elevation greater than 1700 m that are covered by glacier deposit from previous ice age.
Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)	Origin at the mouth of glaciers in higher Himalayas, higher mountains, flow reach down to middle hill regions
Avalanches	High Himalayas
Fire (forest)	Hills and Terai (Forest belts at the foot of southern-most hills)
Drought	All over the country
Windstorms	All over the country
Hailstorms	Hills
Lightening	All over the country
Human-induced hazards	
Epidemics	Terai and hills, also in lower part of mountain region
Fire (settlements)	Mostly in Terai also in mid- hill region
Accidents	Urban areas, along road network
Industrial/technological hazards	Urban industrial areas
Soil erosion	Hills
Social disruption	Disaster affected and politically sensitive areas

Source: Nepal Country Report, UNISDR Global Assessment Report on Poverty and Disasters Risk, 2009

FIGURE 2: TOTAL ECONOMIC LOSSES BY DISASTERS

Source: Nepal Disaster Report 2015, MoHA & DPNet Nepal

Impacts of disasters go much beyond economic losses. Disasters can have physiological and psychological impacts on individuals and socio-cultural impacts on society at large. Injuries, disabilities, illness, loss of sleep, loss of appetite etc are types of physiological impacts disaster can have on individuals. Similarly, distress, insecurity, grief, helplessness, guilty feeling etc are some of the psychological impacts. Disasters can lead to disruption of social fabric, life style change, breakdown of traditional social status, sexual abuse and domestic violence, migration, family and social disorganization. These impacts go far beyond disaster period, often lasting for life time, if not pass on to generations⁹.

Climate Change Trends and Disaster Vulnerabilities

Nepal has experienced consistent and continuous warming and extreme variability in rainfall. A detailed analysis over a period of 1971-2013 indicated significant increase in the annual maximum temperature trend which is 0.056°C/yr while minimum temperature shows significant positive trend of 0.002°C/yr only in monsoon season. Regarding rainfall, no significant national trend is available¹⁰. Climate change projection of Nepal shows an alarming trend with mean annual temperature increment to 1.4°C by 2030, 2.8°C by 2060 and 4.7°C by 2090¹¹. Similarly, the study by Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s shows mean annual

temperature will increase by an average of 1.3°C by 2030, 1.7°C by 2050 and 3°C by 2100, compared to the 2000 baseline¹². The study also projected an increase in precipitation in the range of 15-20% for the whole country during summer months. Precipitation, according to the study, will increase by 5 – 10% in eastern Nepal, with no change in western Nepal.

Increased temperature and erratic rainfall resulted in increased frequency and intensity of climate-induced hazards, mainly flash floods. Nepal has experienced three massive floodsⁱⁱⁱ, triggered by torrential rainfall in last five years. There is growing scientific agreement that climate change will increase frequency and intensity of some hydro-meteorological disasters¹³. More frequent and intense hazard means increased exposure to climate change. Vulnerabilities will increase due to multiple exposures to hazards. Adaptive capacity erodes as hazards become more frequent and intense. Global climate change is making climate-induced hazards more disastrous causing more loss and damage.

Disaster, Poverty and Human Rights

Disaster is detrimental to poverty reduction ambition of the country. Nepal has made commendable achievement in meeting the MDG target to reduce the extreme poverty (<USD 1) to half¹⁴. Nepal further aims to reduce the population below national poverty line to 17% by 2019¹⁵. Majority of the

There is growing scientific agreement that climate change will increase frequency and intensity of some hydro-meteorological disasters.

ⁱⁱⁱ Floods in Darchula district in 2013, Floods in mid-western region in 2014 and Floods in eastern region in 2017.

population are living just above the poverty threshold hence sensitive to any forms of shocks or hazards¹⁶. With increased incidence of disasters, more and more people are falling back into poverty with loss of wealth, income and livelihoods source. The 2015 earthquake has pushed back 3% of the country's population to below the poverty line¹⁷. Poor people are affected disproportionately, hence most vulnerable to disasters. They are more exposed to hazards and possess least resources for self-recovery. Disaster will further push this population into poverty. Post-disaster response, recovery and reconstruction are very expensive. Very often the money for social development, health, education is diverted to finance damaged infrastructure. This will adversely affect the country's poverty reduction ambition and graduation to middle income country.

Human rights have to be the legal underpinning of all humanitarian work pertaining to natural disasters. All too often the human rights of disaster victims are not sufficiently taken into account. Unequal access to assistance, discrimination in aid provision, enforced relocation, sexual and gender-based violence, loss of documents, recruitment of children into fighting forces, unsafe or involuntary return or resettlement, and issues of property restitution are just some of the problems that are often encountered by those affected by the consequences of natural disasters¹⁸. In disaster, citizens' rights to life, property, physical security and integrity; rights related to basic necessities of life; other economic, social and cultural rights, and civil and political rights are most likely to be violated. Experiences have shown that the longer the displacement lasts; the greater is the risk of human rights violation. In particular, discrimination and violations of economic, social and cultural rights of the survivors become a "new normal" over time. Women, children, elderly and disabled people are most likely to be exploited and discriminated.

Legal and Institutional Landscape of Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal

The new Constitution of Nepal 2015 has assigned disaster management as a business of all three tiers- federal government, state/provincial government and local government^{iv}. Recently, Disaster Risk Reduc-

tion and Management Act 2017 has been promulgated by the Parliament of Nepal. The Act has envisioned establishing disaster management committees at central, provincial and local levels in line with the constitution. It also envisions establishing National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to support the committees with empirical evidences through research, trained human resources, awareness generation and coordination with development partners. The committees and the authority are to be established and functional soon. It has emphasized preparedness as a key to reducing disaster risks. The Act has prioritized land use planning, early warning systems, prepositioning of food and non-food items as preparedness actions to minimize disaster risks.

At present, the Ministry of Home Affairs is the focal government body to manage disasters in the country. Currently, a Disaster Management Division headed by a joint secretary and the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) are functional under the Ministry. District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC), headed by the Chief District Officer (CDO), is functioning in all districts. DDRCs and NEOC focus mainly on search, rescue and response during the times of disaster. Besides these, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), Department of Water Induced Disaster Management, Epidemiology and Disease Control Division are among the government agencies playing active role in disaster management in Nepal.

A variety of legal and policy instruments have been formulated covering several facets of disaster risk management. These include preparedness and response plans, relief and compensation standards, open space management, dead body and casualties' management, forest fire, bird flu management, and disaster recovery and reconstruction. Notwithstanding this comprehensive set of legal documents their translation into real practice has been a major pitfall. Coordination among different agencies and capacities of these agencies to manage disaster risks have been a major challenge. There is no uniformity in resettlement framework in Nepal. Families displaced by different disasters are offered different resettlement packages. This will be further elaborated in the later section of the report.

With increased incidence of disasters, more and more people are falling back into poverty with loss of wealth, income and livelihoods source.

Women, children, elderly and disabled people are most likely to be exploited and discriminated.

^{iv} Schedule 9, List of Concurrent Powers of Federation, State and Local Level, The Constitution of Nepal, 2015



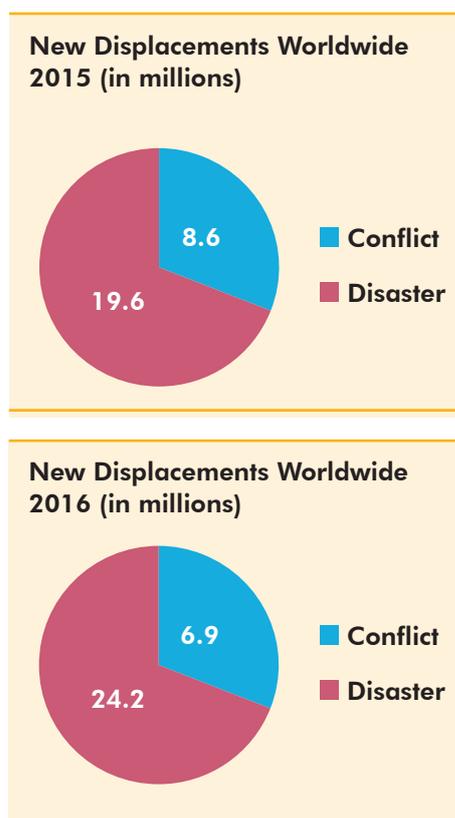
Temporary settlements of families displaced by 2014 flash floods in Bardiya district

Disaster, Displacement and Migration

Global Scenario of Disaster-induced Displacement

Disaster-induced displacements accounted for a total of 227.6 million between 2008 and 2016. In 2016, 24.2 million new displacements were triggered by sudden onset hazards in 118 countries across the world¹ (see Fig. 3). A majority of these events occurred as a result of large-scale weather events in low and lower-middle income countries, predominantly in South and East Asia. There is no realistic estimation of total head-count or global stock of people living as displaced. Also, there is no proper tracking of displaced families and their situations over the years after displacement.

FIGURE 3: NEW DISPLACEMENTS WORLDWIDE IN 2015 AND 2016



Source: Global Report On Internal Displacement Grid 2016 and 2017

Globally, weather related disasters tend to displace far more people than geo-physical hazards. 87% of disaster-induced displacements are triggered by weather related hazards such as flooding, storms and wildfires. The above Figure does not include displacements caused by slow on-set disasters.

In Nepal, 2.6 million people were displaced in 2015, largely because of the April and May 2015 - earthquake followed by hundreds of aftershocks and landslides triggered by them³. In 2016, 31,000 people got displaced by various disaster events, mainly floods and landslides¹. No records are available on the number of displaced people/families of the past years.

It is important to understand displacement patterns and impacts following disasters. Initially, a large number of people flee or evacuate to save their lives immediately after disasters. As disaster risk minimizes many of these families return to their place of origin. However, for significant number of people going back is an unsafe option, and not at all possible. These people continue to get displaced and experience social, economic, cultural and psychological hardships for a long period of time. Prolonged displacement will force people to migrate to safer places, especially urban areas or beyond, in search of better livelihood. Similar patterns and condition of displaced people were observed in two disaster events - Gorkha (2015 earthquake) and mid-west (2014 Floods).

Displacement and Migration

People are forced to migrate as frequency and intensity of hazards increase with the rise in global temperature. More people are exposed and adaptive capacity gradually erodes after multiple exposures to hazard. Unsafe living conditions and weakening livelihoods base force people to migrate in

Globally, weather related disasters tend to displace far more people than geo-physical hazards. 87% of disaster-induced displacements are triggered by weather related hazards such as flooding, storms and wildfires.

Both slow and fast onset disasters are forcing people to leave their places of residence. Slow onset events such as desertification, siltation and sea level rise gradually impact livelihood base, primarily agriculture. Land productivity gradually declines and force people to migrate.

search of alternate livelihood opportunities. Both slow and fast onset disasters are forcing people to leave their places of residence. Slow onset events such as desertification, siltation and sea level rise gradually impact livelihood base, primarily agriculture. Land productivity gradually declines and force people to migrate to new places for better livelihood opportunities. In case of fast onset disasters, safety and security is primary reason for people to migrate. Often people are displaced after the disaster and not able to return to their place of residence due to safety reason. Failure to resettle these families in a justifiable time and manner prolongs their stay in the camps. Such families are likely to migrate to cities in search of better living condition.

In Bardiya district, recurring floods and inundation has deposited sand in arable land causing a decline in productivity of land. Farmers fear that in a decade or so, their land will no longer be good for agriculture. They are already thinking of migrating to new places in search of better livelihood alternatives.

More than 600 families were displaced by the earthquake and subsequent landslides in Rasuwa district¹⁹. Their original village of residence is unsafe for habitation. An entire area is ruptured by multiple landslides following the earthquake. The area is declared 'unsafe' by a geological survey conducted by the government of Nepal. They are scared to go back to their village. Delays in resettle-

ment have further added to their plight. After years of sufferings and despondency due to government inaction, a couple of families have already moved to nearby cities. Many members, particularly males have migrated to cities and abroad in search of employment and income.

Migration is also a coping mechanism and a risk reduction measure. Voluntary migration before any hazard reduces the risk of displacement and is therefore a contribution to individual and societal adaptation²⁰. However, planned migration is less common in poor and marginalized community because these people feel insecure about their livelihood options in a new place. Among the displaced families, migration of male members to urban areas or abroad is common. Majority of these households are relying on petty income earned by migrant members to meet their daily needs.

Situation of the Displaced: Undignified and Indecent

Protracted displacements have serious health and social- consequences to the displaced population. Evidences reveal profound social, physical and mental health impacts on individuals, families and entire communities, and delayed economic recovery of displaced households and local areas in the worst affected districts²¹. Displaced families in the districts covered by this study have shared similar fate and circumstances as these families have already survived several years in indecent and undignified living conditions.

BOX 4: MIGRANT

'Any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is.'

- International Organization for Migration

BOX 5: INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON

'Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.'

- United Nations

CASE STORY 1:

Surviving in Temporary Shelter

“We have spent more than three years in these temporary shelters. Our children suffer from diseases like pneumonia, dysentery, fever, typhoid etc. In rainy season, the area gets inundated and our roofs leak. We are unable to cook food and eat in time. We have made our children sleep with empty stomachs several times. In winter, it is extremely cold. While summer heat is extreme, and we can not sleep inside so we go outside in the field to spend the night.”



Bimala B.K is one of the victims of 2014 flood in Tulshipur, Bardiya district.

Families are living in congested settlements in temporary shelters made of corrugated and tarpaulin sheets. Most of the shelters are broken and dented over the years making it harsh to live during rain, heat and cold. Many family members have health problems and a couple of premature deaths have already been reported. Water and sanitation facility is limited and deteriorating with time. Many families share community taps and toilets. Water supply is irregular and inadequate. Toilets made of bamboo or tarpaulin sheets are tearing out over the years. Women, children, elderly and disabled are suffering disproportionately. Limited amenities and services within the settlement are

not adequate to address special needs of the displaced community.

They no longer practice agriculture for their livelihoods as their land is not safe and fertile. However, they are willing to continue agriculture if they get land. Therefore, many are working as daily wage labour in stone quarry or as house maid. Some are working as agriculture labour in others' farm land. Some male members have migrated to India (in case of Bardiya district) or a nearest city in search of work. In Rasuwa, some humanitarian organizations or charity are still providing food support to the displaced families.

Women, children, elderly and disabled are suffering disproportionately. Limited amenities and services within the settlement are not adequate to address special needs of the displaced people.

BOX 6: FOUR LONG YEARS PASSED... STILL HOPING AGAINST THE HOPE...

In Bardiya district, 41 families displaced by the 2014-flood are yet to be resettled. The government had declared a resettlement package of NPR 350,000 per family. This included first installment of NPR 50,000 to purchase land and remaining NPR 300,000 to build house. All of them received the first installment (NPR. 50,000). In total 41 families received NPR. 2.05 million which they jointly invested in a single piece of land as the amount was not enough to purchase land separately for each of them. They collectively purchased 0.16 hectare (1 bigha) of land. Coincidentally, however, around the same time the government issued a stay order prohibiting land fragmentation. This served a blow to the displaced families as they would not now be able to obtain separate land ownership certificates and build their houses in the collectively purchased land.

Land ownership certificate is a must to get the subsequent installment for rebuilding house. These families are denied further installments as they do not have the certificates. An official request to the District Land Revenue Office to provide separate land ownership certificates was denied citing the government's decisions to put land fragmentation on hold.

In an interaction programme organized to share findings of the research, this issue was brought to the attention of the Ministry of Land Reform and Management. The Ministry confirmed that the government's decision to stop land fragmentation was to regulate land plotting for business purpose and does not prevent the displaced families from securing land certificates. The National Land Rights Forum has been supporting the displaced families to secure their land ownership certificates. Several rounds of consultation at the ministry, department, municipality, survey office and land revenue office in Bardiya district were organized to address the land issue in question. Finally, they agreed to allow land fragmentation and provide separate land ownership certificate to the families. The families have already made a formal request at district survey office for this purpose. They are likely to receive the land ownership certificates soon after land fragmentation is finalized by the survey office.

Equity in Resettlement: Too Little Too Late

Resettlement is still a distant dream for displaced families. The government programme for resettling the displaced families is lagging behind and till date not a single family is resettled in both the districts. Late realization of displacement problem, time taking policy making and bureaucratic process and procedures are all contributing to the delay. All these are costing the families dear as they continue to live in undignified and indecent conditions since many years.

The displaced families reported that the government grant is inadequate. With this money, the family can neither purchase a minimum piece of land nor can build a decent house. The resettlement programme only prioritizes 'land for housing' and not livelihoods support. For majority of displaced families, who are farmers, it will be difficult to regain their livelihoods without any dedicated support for agriculture.



Temporary settlement in Rasuwa district (Laharepauwa)

There is no uniformity in resettlement packages for survivors of different disasters. The package includes cash support to purchase land and build house. However, the total amount of support provided to the displaced families varies despite the similar nature of disasters and scale of loss incurred by the disasters. The resettlement package is not determined on an objective basis. Resettlement packages to survivors of the 2014-floods and 2015-earthquake are compared in Table 2 below.

Gender and Disaster

Disasters have different impacts on women, men and children. Women and children who make up more than 75 per cent of displaced people, are particularly affected by disaster. Gender inequality in social, economic and political sphere increases vulnerabilities of women in disasters. Gender inequality is manifested in the form of lack of women's say in household decisions on the use of relief and recovery assistance, unequal access to food, supplies and relief goods, lack of basic facilities such as health care, sanitation and hygiene, and sexual and gender-based violence.

'Protection' issues mainly trafficking, child marriage, sexual and gender-based violence, lack of civil documents and discrimination based on gender, caste and ethnicity are common in post-disaster context in Nepal²². Lack of documents like citizenship and marriage registration certificate, land ownership certificate etc. have deprived females and women-headed households of government support. In the absence of such documents, many of the women-headed households are not qualified for the government grant for rebuilding houses.

TABLE 2: COMPARISON OF RESETTLEMENT PACKAGES TO SURVIVORS OF THE 2014- FLOOD AND 2015-EARTHQUAKE

Resettlement package	Disaster types	Floods 2014	Earthquake 2015
To purchase land		NPR. 50,000 per family	NPR. 200,00 per family
To build house		NPR. 300,000 per family	NPR. 300,000 per family

CASE STORY 2:

Double Whammy: Earthquake Followed by Landslide

Thuli Maya Ghale, 59, a single woman living on agriculture, lost everything she had, after the 2017 monsoon landslide. She just had her house constructed after the earthquake of 2015. But again, a landslide swept it away. She said, “It was evening time and I was ready to have my dinner. All of a sudden, I heard a massive bang and before I could run out to see what actually was happening the landslide crushed my house. I tried to escape but got trapped. My neighbors heard me shout for help and were able to drag me out. In no time everything was gone. I am left with nothing. Now, I have to start from the scratch, from managing food to eat to building back my house- I have to do everything alone again. It is tiring and troublesome because I am getting older and I have no family members to share my burden.”



Thuli Maya Ghale stands above the rubble of her house swept away by landslide

Displaced families are living in congested settlements and make-shift shelters with inadequate water and sanitation infrastructure, no proper lighting, and insufficient income. Women are most likely to be exploited and discriminated. Such environment has increased vulnerabilities of women to sexual and other gender-based violence.

Despite the vulnerabilities, women have greater role to play in reducing disaster risk. Evidences from various disasters have shown that engaging women and building

their capacity on disaster risk reduction have proven very effective during emergencies. Male members often migrate to cities or abroad leaving behind women to solely protect their family members and property during disasters. This state of affairs calls for more access for women to services and entitlements on property and land. The new post-earthquake provision to make joint land ownership^v mandatory for receiving resettlement grant for displaced families is an encouraging step in this direction.

Lack of documents like citizenship and marriage registration certificate, land ownership certificate etc. have deprived females and women-headed households of government support.

^v Ownership of land in the name of both spouses



Bal Ram Tharu pointing to the location of his house which is now turned into a pond after the flood in Sangharsha Nagar, Bardiya district

Disasters: Impacts on Land and Landlessness

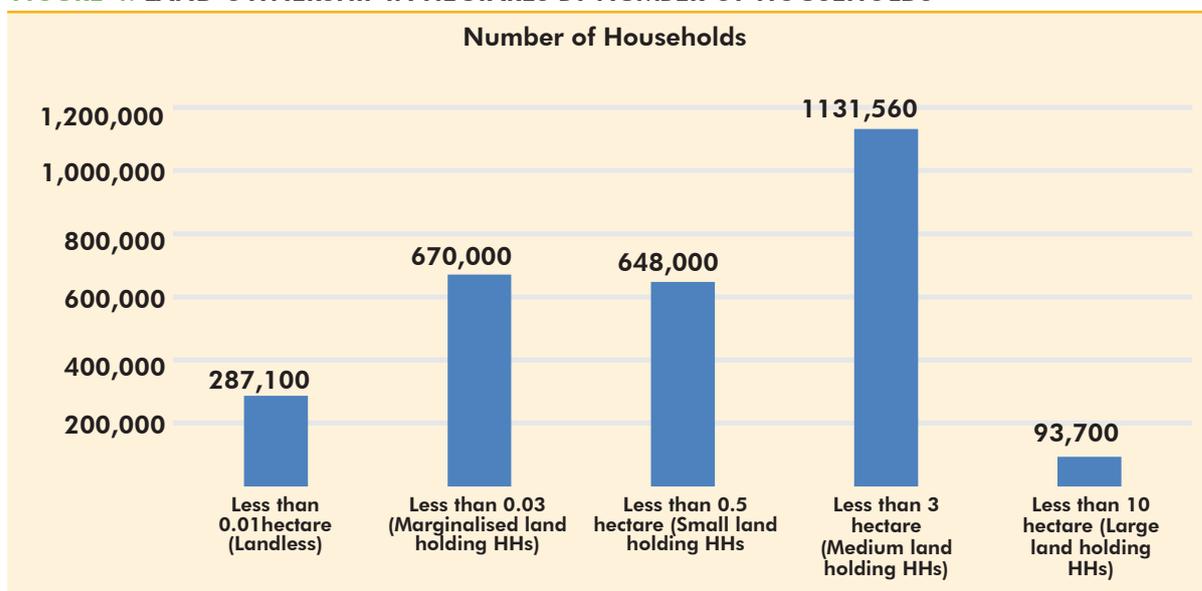
Land Scenario in Nepal

Land traditionally remains the main source of wealth, social status, and economic and political power in the contemporary semi-feudal agrarian society of Nepal but vast majority of the population has insecure land tenure. This is reflected in highly skewed land distribution, with 85 per cent of land owned by only a quarter of the country's population. About 29 per cent do not own any land and 47 per cent own on an average less than 0.5 hectare of land. Dalits are mainly landless and women and indigenous people are small land holders. Around 44 per cent of Dalits in the Terai and 22 per cent in hills, are landless²³. About 80 per cent of indigenous people are marginal land owners with less than 1 acre

of land. Only 19 per cent of the country's female population own land^{vi}, largely an urban phenomenon.

Ironically, approximately 66 per cent of the country's population are dependent on agriculture for their subsistence and livelihoods. Although two-thirds of the population is depending on agriculture, large number of population is still deprived of adequate land for cultivation. According to CSRC, 10 per cent of the country's total households are landless, 47 per cent are marginal and small land holders, 40 per cent have medium land holding. Only 3 per cent are rich and large land holding households and only 3,800 households own more than 10 hectares of land²³.

FIGURE 4: LAND OWNERSHIP IN HECTARES BY NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS



Source: CSRC, 2012, *Land Reform Monitoring Indicators, Nepal*

^{vi} Women's ownership of land has increased mainly because of upto 40% government subsidy on land registration fee, if land is registered in the name of woman.

Land tenureship is another major issue related to land rights in Nepal. Historically, Nepal practiced customary land tenure system such as Raikar, Birta, Jagir, Rakam, Kipat and Guthi. At present only three forms of land tenure are legally recognized - i) Private Land (Raikar), ii) Public and Government Land and iii) Trust Land (Guthi). However, informal land tenureship such as Birta, Kipat and Guthi are still widely practices in Nepal. There is no authentic record of total number of families with different types of informal land tenureship. A survey conducted by CSRC in 14 districts^{vii} most affected by Earthquake in 2015, reported that a minimum of 70,000 households do not own land ownership certificates, mainly because they are living in Birta and Guthi land. Besides these, tenancy and bonded labour are still practiced in the forms of Kamaiya, Haliya, Haruwa and Charuwa in Nepal's agricultural sector. They are agriculture laborers, generally landless and work in landlords' land and get a meager share on the yields in return. The government abolished the bonded labour practices and started a programme for resetting the freed laborers. For tenants the government has guaranteed a fair ownership of land they plough. However, lack of required documents has prohibited many tenants and bonded labour from accessing the entitlements.

Land distribution, tenureship, land use, land holding size and documentation determine people's vulnerability and adaptive capacity to withstand and recover from disaster.

Land distribution, tenureship, land use, land holding size and documentation determine people's vulnerability and adaptive capacity to withstand and recover from disaster. Evidences from the past disasters show that land tenureship and documentation are needed to access relief, recovery and reconstruction assistance provided by the government. Many landless families, tenants and bonded labourers and affected families with informal land tenureship, fail to produce land ownership certificates. Without secured tenancy or land certificates, landless people are denied government services, credit, citizenship certificates, while landlessness impacts on their individual rights as well. Thus, land ownership often becomes the determining factor

between a life with dignity and security and exposure to different vulnerabilities and uncertainties. Landless, marginalized and small farmers are more exposed to hazards as they live in hazards-prone areas such as river banks and steep slopes in the hills. A small piece of land they own is a major source of livelihoods for majority of these families. Often the land is only place of shelter for them. Impacts on land by disaster affect livelihoods base, erodes adaptive capacity and enhance vulnerabilities of these families.

Loss and Damage

Loss and Damage (L&D) is an emerging and contested concept in climate change discourse. There is no common and widely accepted definition of loss and damage. It refers to negative impacts of climate change that cannot be coped with or adapted to. There is increasing evidence of permanent losses and irreparable damages caused by climate induced disasters worldwide as the global temperature continue to rise. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a scientific body, recommended limiting the temperature rise below 2 degree Celsius, if not to 1.5 degree Celsius, to prevent irreversible impacts due to climate change. With present level of commitment by the countries to cut down Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) emissions, it is most likely that the temperature rise will cross 2 degree Celsius threshold soon.

Loss and Damage includes full range of climate change related impacts from slow onset processes to extreme events or combination of both. Vulnerable countries suffer disproportionately from the adverse impacts of climate change due to lack of capacity to cope or adapt. Warner and Geest, 2013 identified four pathways to loss and damage²⁴:

1. Existing coping or adaptation measures are not enough to avoid loss and damage.
2. Measures have costs (social, economic, health, cultural, etc.) that are not regained.
3. Measures have short term benefits but adverse long-term effects (erosive measures).
4. No measures adopted or possible at all

^{vii} 14 most affected districts are – Bhaktapur, Dhading, Dolakha, Gorkha, Kathmandu, Kavre, Lalitpur, Makwanpur, Nuwakot, Okhaldunga, Ramechhap, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchowk and Sindhuli.

In Nepal, there is no accurate figure available on how much land mass has been lost or degraded due to various disasters. However, loss and damage is clearly seen in the forms of loss of land mass, soil and land erosion, and land degradation.

As seen in the case of Rauwa's two villages Haku and Dadagaun, when extreme event like earthquake occurred, loss and damage was followed by the fourth pathway where no measures were possible. The earthquake and its aftershocks triggered massive landslides and put the entire village at risk. Fearing that the entire village might be washed away the displaced families at present are staying in congested temporary settlements in Laharepauwa khalte. They also reported that arable land is no longer cultivable. The slow onset process when aggravated by extreme events makes it next to impossible to avoid the loss and damage. In the case of Pahirebesi, one of the villages in Rasuwa lying at the foothills, this year's massive landslide swept away many houses. Despite the risk of being washed away, people are forced to live in their village as they have nowhere else to go.

In case of Bardiya, loss and damage followed the pathway where measures were not enough to avoid loss and damage. The findings showed that the study sites are susceptible to recurrent flooding. During the monsoon, these villages get flooded and inundated for weeks. The preventive measures included construction of flood shelters and installment of flood meter. Residents move their necessary property and livestock to unaffected areas like flood shelter. Floods deposit silt in the arable land severely impacting cultivation which is the principal source of food and income for majority of the population. They have changed the crop variety to adapt to the silted soil.

In both the cases, majority of the respondents reported drastic decrease in their yield which has affected their household economy. To cope with the loss, majority have tried to survive through alternative source of livelihood like wage based labour. Other coping strat-

egies included consumption of cheaper and less nutritious food and reducing the number and proportion of meals.

Impacts on Land

Disasters have predominant impacts on land resources. Flood, inundation, landslide and earthquake have direct impact on land. The impacts can be in the form of loss of land mass, soil and land erosion, land degradation and so on. Disaster impacts on land result in loss of physical land area and, more importantly, in the loss of property and livelihoods based on land. Impacts on land can cause loss of houses and other property built on the land, loss of agriculture production leading to subsequent food and livelihoods insecurity, loss of other natural resources like forest, water within the landmass.

Annually, hundreds of hectares of land along the river banks get eroded and degraded by flood-induced siltation, landslides wash away large tracts of land in the hills, and droughts gradually degrade productive capacity of land. However, there is no accurate estimation of how much land area is lost or degraded due to disasters. In fact, disaster database does not keep records of impacts on land resources. Disaster assessments^{viii} primarily collect information on casualties, loss of cattle and agriculture yield, impacts on houses, infrastructures and services. As frequency and intensity of these disasters are increasing, it is

Loss and Damage is clearly seen in the forms of loss of land mass, soil and land erosion, and land degradation.



Loss of land masses in Rasuwa district (Haku village) showing evacuated settlements

^{viii} Such as Initial Rapid Assessment, Post Disaster Needs Assessment and others

Lack of legal documents and informal land tenureship have kept many landless families from getting government assistance for relief, recovery and reconstruction.

most likely to increase the loss and degradation of land areas.

A socio-demographic survey in the 14 districts of Nepal most affected by the 2015-earthquake showed that average land holding size of each household surveyed was 0.45 hectare. The size of the damaged land accounted for over one-third of the total arable land implying that land-based economy was affected by the earthquake²⁵.

Disaster-induced Landlessness

There is a lack of common definition of landlessness. However, landlessness is defined as the state of owning no land or owning land that is insufficient for agriculture-based livelihoods. Landless is also defined based on a minimum threshold of land area owned. Jagat Deuja^{ix}, land right activist, used the terms 'landless people' and 'squatters' interchangeably. He defines 'squatters' as landless

and homeless people, who do not have any concrete alternatives for livelihoods and do not have resources for acquiring their own land and houses. In general landlessness occurs in the following three conditions:

- 1) No legal ownership of land and/or documentary proof of entitlement to land, including in the case of informal landholders,
- 2) Land not suitable to live in, either because it was damaged or destroyed in a disaster, or is vulnerable to future disasters; and
- 3) Land that is not large enough for sustainable livelihoods.

In the case of a post-disaster context, all three conditions of landlessness are prevalent. Lack of legal documents and informal land tenureship have kept many landless families from getting government assistance for relief, recovery and reconstruction. In both the cases studied, many families did not have legal

CASE STORY 3:

From Land Rich To Land Poor

Raghya Bhandari, 60, was a well-off farmer cultivating 1 hectare of land at Rampur Tappu village. His family grew paddy, maize, wheat, mustard, lentils, beans and other vegetables. Agriculture yield was sufficient to feed his 12-member family for the entire year. Surplus was sold in local market that earned him more than NPR 25,000 annually.

He recalled that on 14th August 2014, a massive flood washed away his house, land, 14 goats, 5 cows and other property. His family members were rescued by a boat after several hours. Now the entire village is converted to sand dunes and his land is not fertile for cultivation. He said it is sand everywhere and difficult to distinguish even his own land.

Since the last 3.5 years, his family has been living in a shanty house built on public land. He has no land to grow food and feed his family. He, his wife and daughter in laws are cultivating



other people's field as sharecropper. They get half of the yield, which is not sufficient for the family for year-long. His sons have migrated to India for extra income. Now, his family does not own any land.

ix Mr. Jagat Deuja is Executive Director of Community Self-reliance Centre Nepal (CSRC Nepal)

entitlement of the land area they were using. This has deprived these families of government grants.

Security is a primary concern of many families displaced by the earthquake in Rasuwa district. They are scared to go back as the land area has been made 'unsafe' by landslides triggered after the earthquake. These families are 'functionally landless' as the land area they were using is no longer suitable to live in and grow food. In Bardiya, the land area is at the risk of being washed away by floods and displaced families are living in the safe place. Hardly any displaced families owned land that yield enough to feed the whole family.

Given the above definition, majority of the families displaced by disasters can be classi-

fied as 'landless' as many of them either do not have legal ownership of land or even the land areas officially registered in the owners' names are not safe to live in nor are they large enough to sustain their livelihoods.

Evidences have shown that there is increasing trend of people losing their land to disasters and becoming landless. Besides, topographical, demographic, socio-economic, political, disasters and climatic factors are often the causes of landlessness²⁶. In Nepal, disasters such as landslides, erosion are, among others, the major causes of landlessness. Other reasons are low productivity of land, deforestation, internal migration and land grabbing. The case stories mentioned above have illustrated how disasters have eroded land and made the families' homeless and landless.

Besides, topographical, demographic, socio-economic and political, disasters and climatic factors are often the causes of landlessness.

CASE STORY 4:

Disaster Makes Landless

A freed bonded labour (former Kamaiya), Balaram Tharu is living in Sangharshanagar, Rajapur municipality in Bardiya district. His family received 0.13 hectare of land from the government's Kamaiya Rehabilitation and Resettlement programme. He had built a small house for his family on the land, which was, though, not sufficient for agriculture.

Flood in 2014 washed away his land and the house was totally destroyed. The land, which was his family's only property, has now turned into a pond. The community supported him to build a house in a nearby public land. He is uncertain when the government will evict his family from this place.



Balram Tharu, a former kamaiya.



Consultation with families displaced by landslide in Pahire Besi, Rasuwa district

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

Disaster is one of the major reasons for displacement and migration worldwide. Annually 25.4 million people get displaced by various disasters. In Nepal, approximately 3 million people were displaced by disasters in 2015 and 2016. Majority of the displacements were caused by the earthquake in 2015. Annually, Nepal is exposed to about 500 disasters events. Between 2011 and 2015, 11,163 people were reported dead and 2,773 injured due to various disasters in the country. Total economic losses amounted to a whopping NPR 781 billion over the same period.

This report focuses on the conditions of the people displaced by two major disasters – the flash floods in 2014 and the 2015-earthquake - in Nepal. The following section summarizes the key findings of the study.

Resettlement programme: Too little too late

The government programme to resettle the displaced families is inadequate and inefficient. Families interviewed reported that compensation amount is not sufficient to purchase a piece of land to build a moderately decent house. Delay in formulating resettlement policy and plans, and lengthy administrative process to roll them out is likely to make the displaced families wait for many more years to get the government compensation, though inadequate.

In the contrary, the situation of displaced families is deteriorating over the period. Many of these families have survived several monsoons, winters and summers under temporary shelters with ever looming health risks, particularly to children, elderly and pregnant and lactating mothers. Few cases of premature deaths of family members

and relatives of these families have already been reported. Water supply and toilets are shared and too limited and inadequate to meet the needs of all families. Overall, the living conditions of the displaced families are not dignified, hence families require immediate assistance.

Disasters causing land degradation and landlessness

Disasters cause loss of land, land and soil erosion and land degradation. There is no accurate figure available on how much land mass has been lost or degraded because of various disaster types. However, the above cases illustrate that earthquake, landslides and floods have eroded land and, in some case, reduced land fertility due to siltation.

Disaster is often a cause of landlessness in Nepal. The displaced families in the above cases are 'functionally landless' as their land area are no longer habitable and not suitable for cultivation. They are living in public or private land not owned by them with a looming threat of being evicted. Moreover, siltation caused by recurrent flood has gradually reduced land productivity, which is likely to force farming families to move on in the long run. There is no accurate number of how many families have become landless because of disasters, but the above cases apparently indicate that disaster is one of the causes of landlessness.

Land tenureship in post-disaster recovery and reconstruction

In Nepal, many agrarian families have informal land tenure. In the absence of officially secured tenureship or land ownership certificates, the displaced families are deprived of government services, credit and even citizenship certificates. Due to this many families are not eligible to claim the grants provided by the government as part of post-disaster recovery effort.

The government and the stakeholders concerned should act urgently to expedite resettlement and proper rehabilitation of all displaced families both in Rasuwa and Bardiya districts.

Securing the equal rights of both women and men to land is essential for post-disaster recovery, social equity and economic growth. For women, land ownership plays a vital role to guarantee their fundamental right. In addition, the right to own land not only enhances women's dignity in the family but in the post disaster situation, this entitlement plays a major role in reducing vulnerabilities. Without the legal documents, the bereaved women and other women-headed families are unable to access relief and support during reconstruction and recovery. Therefore, land ownership always plays a major role during the post disaster period to reduce vulnerabilities.

Therefore, land rights issues are always important in the context of recovery from the disasters. Addressing land issues through appropriate design mechanisms that improve the quality of land governance will help to facilitate early recovery after a disaster and improve resilience to future disasters.

Recommendations

Short-term:

- The government and the stakeholders concerned should act urgently to expedite resettlement and proper rehabilitation of all displaced families both in Rasuwa and Bardiya districts.
- In case of Bardiya district, the Ministry of Land Reform and Management should consider segregation of land parcel among displaced families as special case and relax the administrative order to stop land fragmentation. This will help the displaced families to obtain land ownership certificates, which will facilitate release of subsequent installments of resettlement grant.
- In case of Rasuwa district, the National Reconstruction Authority should immediately roll out the work procedure on relocation and rehabilitation of the families displaced by the earthquake and allocate 'safe' land areas for the displaced families to reconstruct their houses.
- National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) and other concerned stakeholders should prioritize livelihoods such as leasing out agriculture lands, subsidized loans to run small enterprises, employment, access to utilities and others of the displaced families along with the current

grant assistance that only focuses on reconstructing houses. Development agencies should be engaged in complementing the government programme to build sustainable livelihoods of the displaced families.

- Single women, orphans, elderly, disable and other vulnerable groups require special assistance during post disaster reconstruction and resettlements. These families need to be identified and affirmative actions should be taken to simplify and ease access of government's assistance to them.

Long term:

- The government of Nepal should develop a holistic and standard resettlement package, including livelihood support programme for families displaced by different disasters. The package should address the special needs of women, children, elderly and disabled persons.
- The government should establish a system and practice of keeping record of losses and degradation of land resources caused by various disasters including the number of families displaced and rendered landless by disasters.
- The government should adopt both structural and non-structural mitigation measures to reduce impacts of disasters on land resources. There is a likelihood of more land areas getting impacted given the increasing frequency and intensity of weather related disasters due to the rise in global temperature.
- Land use plans contribute to minimizing disaster vulnerabilities and risks. The government should make it mandatory for all municipalities and rural municipalities to develop land use plans and identify 'safe' and 'unsafe' areas for human settlements.
- The government policy and plans on DRR should not be limited to short term reliefs but need to have long term planning to resolve the issues of loss and damage caused by disasters. Such policies and plans must consider diversity in livelihoods and adaptation strategies in agriculture.
- A comprehensive research on impacts of disasters and climate change on land resources considering global discourse on 'loss and damage' need to be commissioned.

The government should adopt both structural and non-structural mitigation measures to reduce impacts of disasters on land resources.

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Acronyms

CDO	Chief District Officer
CSRC	Community Self-reliance Centre
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DDRC	District Disaster Relief Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
GHGs	Greenhouse Gases
GLOFs	Glacial Lake Outburst Floods
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
L&D	Loss and Damage
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoFALD	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
mm	Millimeter
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NEOC	National Emergency Operation Center
NPR	Nepalese Rupee
NRA	National Reconstruction Authority
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
USD	United States Dollar
yr	year
°C	degree Celsius

Annex

Questionnaires for Focus Group Discussions

1. **Do people migrate because of disaster? Who migrates and when? Are people migrating permanently or temporarily? What are the reasons?**
 - a) How long and why have you been staying in this place (current)? Where is your place of origin? How far is your place of origin from the current place?
 - b) Did you migrate immediately after disaster? Why did you decide to migrate after disaster? If No ... After how long did you migrate? What made you stay in your place of origin after disaster?
 - c) Is your family willing to go back to your place of origin? If Yes....When? Why? If No..... Are you planning to stay in this place or go elsewhere? For how long? Or where are you planning to go and when?
2. **What is the situation of the displaced people after disaster? Where are they living and for how long? Are they accessing adequate basic service (Drinking water, sanitation, education, electricity, housing and others)?**
 - a. Have you migrated directly from the place of origin to this new place? Or have you stayed in other places in between?
 - b. Do you have children? What are their ages? Do they go to school? What is the name of the school and how far is the school?
 - c. Are you living separately or together with other families? If together... How many families are living together? What type of land are you staying in (public, private, government, others)? Who own these lands? Do you have to pay for your stay? If Yes... How much do you pay?
 - d. Do you have toilet facility in your current place of stay? Is it private or community? If community.....is there separate toilet for men and women?? Where do you go to fetch drinking water?
 - e. Are the local government bodies, NGOs and local communities supportive? What kind of support do you get?
 - f. Is there a women headed house among the displaced? How many? What specific challenges do they face compared to other households?
 - g. Are there any orphans and disabled people among the displaced? How many? What is their situation? What challenges are they facing?
3. **How does disaster affect the land? What is the current situation of the land? How does this affect their livelihood?**
 - a. Do you own land? If yes.....how much and where? What is your land used for (farming, housing, livestock, and so on)?
 - b. Do you have land certificate? If yes.....who has the land entitlement?
 - c. Was your land affected by disaster? If yes... How was it affected and how much?
 - d. Is your land still habitable and suitable for use as prior to the disaster? If No... what are the current risks in the land?
 - e. Does the land yield same production as before? If No... how much has been reduced? Is the current production sufficient to feed the family?

Checklist for Key Informant Interviews

1. What is the number of displaced people? Where are they staying? Where are they displaced from?
2. Do you have records of land affected (loss, degradation) due to disaster? How much land has been affected in a district?
3. What is the number of landless families and disaster induced landless people?
4. Are there any plans for the resettlement of the displaced people? What is the plan?
5. Are there any DRR awareness and capacity building plan to displaced families?

Prakriti Resources Centre

Prakriti Resources Centre (PRC) is a non- government organization espousing the cause of sustainable development and environmental integrity focusing mainly on Climate Finance, Low Carbon Development, Adaptation and Mitigation, Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Risk Reduction. It works with diverse stakeholders including government institutions, NGOs, academia and private sector for research and policy engagement.

PRC promotes and advocates for people centered and environmental friendly policies in a participatory and inclusive manner. It utilizes tools like dialogues, discussions, publications to build knowledge base and share information as well as helps raise awareness on environmental issues through information exchange and experience sharing. PRC partners with other like-minded organizations to further its vision and areas of work.

ActionAid Nepal

ActionAid started working in Nepal in 1982, just after ten years of its establishment as a charity organisation in the United Kingdom. Today, ActionAid is a global movement of people working together to further human rights and defeat poverty for all. With an aim to become more 'locally rooted and globally connected', ActionAid Nepal has registered its entity in the concerned Nepal Government authority. ActionAid is a global federation and ActionAid Nepal is one of the members of that federation.

Based on the learning from its engagement in various sectors at various levels from grassroots to international, AAN has evolved through various changes on approaches and working modalities in its 36 years journey of the fight against poverty and injustice. Starting from charity-based work in the 1980s to improve the basic living conditions of the poorest people, AAN has now adopted a human rights-based approach with an aim to enhance the capacity of the poor and excluded people to claim and exercise their rights to live a dignified life. Our approach reaffirms the role of popular struggles, social justice movements, popular actions, community-based organisations and people's organisations for rights conscientisation and transformation of unequal power relations.



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