

Policy Brief RGA

NPP- Nepal Earthquake Update

November 7th 2023,

The Nepal Preparedness Partnership (NPP) is an initiative led by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in collaboration with various partners, including the Government of Nepal, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and private sector entities. The partnership aims to enhance Nepal's disaster preparedness and resilience through a multi-stakeholder approach. The NPP focuses on four key areas: strengthening community resilience, enhancing institutional preparedness, promoting private sector engagement, and facilitating knowledge management and learning. The partnership works to achieve these objectives through various activities such as capacity building, risk assessment, knowledge sharing, and advocacy. The partnership operates at national, provincial, and local levels and works closely with stakeholders from various sectors, including disaster management agencies, local governments, civil society organizations, academia, and private sector actors.

The NPP initiatives intend to strengthen Nepal's disaster preparedness and resilience.



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Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) Brief: Jajarkot Earthquake.

Introduction:

This Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) brief provides insights into the gender dynamics and vulnerabilities arising from the earthquake that struck Barekot rural municipality-1 in Jajarkot district on November 3rd, 2023, with a magnitude of 6.4 on the Richter scale. The analysis is compiled from secondary information sources, including reports from DP Net, NDRRMA, NDRNet, and NRCS, collected between November 4th and November 6th, 2023.

The Context:

The earthquake inflicted a profound impact on the affected regions of Jajarkot and Rukum West, leading to the unfortunate loss of at least 157 lives and leaving 375 individuals injured. The death toll has been revised from the initial report, accounting for duplicated names. In response to this calamity, governmental bodies and various organizations, including NGOs, INGOs, and UN agencies, have initiated relief efforts by providing essential supplies such as tents, blankets, and sleeping bags to the affected areas.



A significant aftershock, registering a magnitude of 5.8, added to the devastation, causing further damage, injuries, and heightened distress, particularly among children. Despite these adversities, the market in Khalanga, Jajarkot, has remained operational without significant price inflation. Collaborative efforts through the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Platform and Early Recovery Clusters have been established to coordinate disaster response and recovery strategies. Calls for an improved relief distribution system have been voiced, with suggestions to expedite the process.



Photo source: *The Rising Nepal*

The earthquake has also resulted in substantial damage to infrastructure, including 213 school buildings and the disruption of roads. Both local and international agencies have committed to providing various forms of assistance, encompassing financial support and material donations, to support the recovery endeavors.

Gender disparities have become apparent, with women and children facing unique challenges in accessing facilities and maintaining personal hygiene. The need for secure shelters and sanitary resources has been underscored.

Rescue operations have concluded, and the affected areas are in immediate need of support, encompassing shelter, winterization assistance, water, sanitation, and food. The government and humanitarian organizations are actively collaborating to address these pressing needs and extend aid to the affected population.



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However, it is essential to acknowledge that the government has implemented a centralized relief distribution system, with Surkhet as the primary hub and Nepalgunj as an auxiliary center for disbursing relief materials. While this mechanism operates under a one-door policy, there is currently no clear illustration of its functions to all concerned stakeholders. This lack of clarity may result in delays in the distribution of relief materials, necessitating a transparent and comprehensive explanation of the one-door policy to ensure a common understanding among all relevant actors.



Photo source: <https://ekantipur.com/news/2023/11/07/directional-effect-even-in-the-jajarkot-earthquake-15-11.html>

Key Areas to Address::

1. Data Availability:

- Disaggregated demographic data by gender, age, and disability is invaluable for understanding the specific vulnerabilities that different groups face post-earthquake.
- Segregated data, such as data on pregnant and lactating mothers, people with disabilities (PWD), and sexual orientation, is essential, as the needs of these populations differ.
- Local authorities must prioritize collecting related information for immediate response and recovery to ensure access to state services, both in cash and kind.

2. Shelter and Camp Management:

- With increased house damage and camp management many people have been displaced and are now living in camps and shelters in earthquake-affected areas.
- Camp management must prioritize creating safe spaces for women and ensure their needs, along with those of men with different requirements, are met.



Women and children take shelter in a tent at Khalanga Bazar, Jajarkot on Saturday evening

- Local authorities and relevant stakeholders need orientation on gender equality and gender-based violence to address safety concerns associated with a lack of shelter.



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3. Livelihoods:

- Many of the affected individuals have lost their livelihood options and assets, which are yet to be documented.
- Women, who often bear the primary responsibility for managing livelihoods, may experience increased workloads and face challenges in participating in early recovery plans. Their inclusion must be ensured.

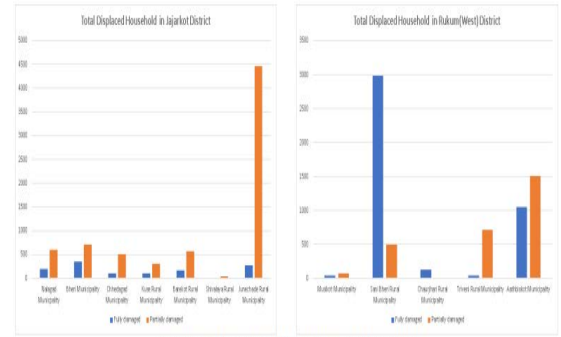


Photo source: DPNET situation report 4

4. Health:

- Despite the humanitarian emergency, primary healthcare, including reproductive health, mental health, trauma care, family planning, and postnatal care, remains equally crucial.
- Special attention should be given to protecting young girls from vulnerability to sexual exploitation, unwanted pregnancies, and related risks.

5. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene:

- Lack of access to water disproportionately affects women and girls, who shoulder a significant burden and have specific needs for menstrual hygiene.
- It is vital to plan for overcoming obstacles related to access to water and sanitary facilities to ensure the well-being of the affected population.

6. Protection and GBV Risk Mitigation:

- Gender-based violence tends to increase in the aftermath of emergencies, necessitating effective mechanisms for reporting and prevention.
- Special attention must be given to protecting children, especially girls, from exploitation and violence.
- It is crucial to mobilize the protection cluster to minimize GBV risks and ensure the functionality of reporting mechanisms.

7. Food and Nutrition:

- Access to food is a pressing concern for all affected individuals, with pregnant women and young children being particularly vulnerable to malnutrition.
- Persons in vulnerable situations, such as children, older people, pregnant women, nursing mothers, persons with chronic diseases, those with disabilities, and certain marginalized groups (LGBTQI), require specific nutritional support but may face socio-cultural barriers.

Summary and Recommendations:

- It is imperative to prioritize a gender-sensitive approach in disaster response and recovery efforts, focusing on the specific vulnerabilities faced by different groups. This will ensure that aid reaches those who need it most and promotes equality and safety in the affected areas.



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Recommendations:

1. Conduct a detailed gender analysis in coordination with the government and other response actors.
2. Ensure inclusive participation in rapid response teams to collect related information and assess needs.
3. Collect data disaggregated by sex and age to understand the impact on women, girls, and gender relations.
4. Implement gender tools for disaster impact assessment at the local level.
5. Incorporate gender markers in all humanitarian response projects.
6. Activate mechanisms for consulting civil society and community engagement to integrate priority needs and provide transparency.
7. Create security conditions in rapid response to prevent risks of violence.
8. Strengthen women's networks and community structures to promote responsible participation and leadership in emergencies.
9. Establish feedback and community responsibility mechanisms for program design and gender-sensitive complaints.
10. Continuously update and deepen gender and inclusion analysis to tailor humanitarian assistance to the diverse needs of affected individuals.
11. Leverage available local support in a coordinated and harmonized manner.

These recommendations are offered for immediate action, and additional medium and long-term recommendations can be generated following a more in-depth gender and inclusion analysis.

NDRC Nepal, represented by Ms. [Sarita Karki](#), the Program Lead for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Resilience, has collaboratively prepared this succinct Gender Analysis Brief Report in partnership with NPP partners. This report provides valuable insights into the earthquake's impact, with a particular focus on the GESI perspective, and offers timely recommendations for the continuous response efforts in Jajarkot and the surrounding areas.

