
ACTIONAID NEPAL IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE



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ActionAid Nepal

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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Namaste and Greetings to all!

Nepal witnessed a major turnaround in 2015 with the 7.8 Richter scale earthquake of 25th April which left devastating effects in the country, its people and much on its cultural heritage. The earthquake took lives of nearly 9000 people and injured more than 22,000 people. 602,257 houses were fully damaged by the earthquake whereas 285,099 houses had to bear partial damages. People also had to lose livelihood opportunities mostly which were dependent on agriculture. The earthquake took away a lot; what it failed to take was the unified spirit and a common purpose of rising above adversity.

On account of AAN's post-earthquake interventions, within 24 hours of earthquake, we were on the ground discussing about the possibilities of reaching out to the earthquake survivors. AAN was successful to support 118,885 people with emergency relief materials and the recovery services. Our team put dedicated efforts together with the affected people following our Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in the emergency too. Our relief programmes ensured maximum

participation of the communities and leadership of women and the relief activities were conducted leading to create a base for reconstruction. Transparency and Accountability were central to all our activities.

Further, keeping in mind, the social, economic and psycho-social reconstruction apart from the physical one, Community Led Reconstruction Programme (CLRP) was thus derived as a long term post disaster reconstruction with an ownership of the community. In addition to the physical reconstruction, CLRP also focuses on social, economic and cultural reconstruction - aiming to strengthen women's rights and leadership at all levels, strengthen public education system and ensure land rights and livelihoods for the poor and marginalised social groups in the earthquake affected districts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bimal Kumar Phnuyal'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Bimal Kumar Phnuyal
Country Director
ActionAid Nepal



BACKGROUND

Disaster struck at 11:56 am, Saturday, April 25, 2015 when Nepal was shaken by an earthquake of 7.6M. It took lives of almost 9,000 people and injured more than 22,000 people. The earthquake also caused full destruction of 602,257 houses and partial destruction of 285,099 houses.

The earthquake badly destroyed the physical infrastructure and also affected many other components associated with the normal functioning of life. People had to face a lot of problems in the aftermath. The disaster affected 8308 schools directly fully damaging 19708 classrooms and 11046 classrooms had to bear major damages.

Most of the people living in the earthquake affected areas are highly dependent on agriculture and livestock. Livelihoods as such were badly affected by the earthquake. In addition to that, heavy rain and storm following the earthquake created more terror in the people. Similarly the vulnerability of people, especially women and children also increased after the disaster.



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⬅ Earthquake affected permanent shelters



⬅ Krishala Maharjan, Panga
She was buried under the rubbles in the earthquake and was later rescued



⬅ Livestocks buried under the rubbles

ACTIONAID NEPAL

ActionAid Nepal (AAN) is a member of the global ActionAid International federation. With an aim to become 'locally rooted and globally connected', AAN has legally registered its entity in the concerned Nepal Government's authority; and for stronger international affiliation, it has transformed from 'Country Programme' to 'Associate' member and will soon become an affiliate of ActionAid International.

After ten years of its establishment as a charity organization in the United Kingdom, ActionAid started working in Nepal in 1982. Based on the learning from its engagement in various sectors at various levels, from grassroots to international, AAN has evolved through diverse changes on approaches and working modalities in its 35-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 organizations and people's organizations for rights conscientization and transformation of unequal power relations.

VISION

“A Nepal without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys their right to a life of dignity.”

MISSION

“To work with people living in poverty and excluded people to eradicate poverty and injustice in Nepal.”



INTRODUCTION TO **EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMME**

ActionAid Nepal immediately responded to the national crisis by conducting rapid assessments and planning relief operations. The Emergency Response Programme (ERP) was immediately established and national and international staff members formed the ERP team. AAN prioritized responding to communities it had been working with in Sindupalchowk, Rasuwa, Kavre, Dolakha, Kathmandu

Valley and Makwanpur who had been affected by the disaster. ERP was focused on providing relief to the people immediately after the disaster to help them get back to normal life and also prevent possible vulnerabilities. Approximately 120,000 people received support from ActionAid working with local partners in these targeted locations.





AAN staff and volunteers entertain the child participants in the Children Friendly Space established during the emergency



Considering the vulnerability of the children in the aftermath, AAN also established three Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) after the earthquake to ensure safe environment for children.

Immediate relief support
provided to the communities
after the earthquake



Interviews with the lactating
mothers about their situations
and difficulties in the
aftermath



ActionAid staffs receive the
materials to set up a Child
Friendly Space to ensure the
safety of vulnerable children



ACTIONAID NEPAL - EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMME (NEPAL EARTHQUAKE)

OUR REACH

| Districts | VDCs Holds | House | Population (Households) | Food (Households) | Shelters Emergency (Households) |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| RASUWA | Laharepauwa | 1,346 | 6,730 | 1,346 | - |
| | Dhaibung | 1,363 | 6,815 | 1,363 | - |
| | Gatlang | 550 | 2,750 | 550 | 550 |
| | Goljung | 350 | 1,750 | 350 | 350 |
| | Total | 3,609 | 18,045 | 3,609 | 900 |
| KAVRE | Jaisithok | 602 | 3,010 | 602 | 39 |
| | Mahadevsthan | 1,685 | 8,425 | 1,685 | 276 |
| | Gairibisauna | 1,203 | 6,015 | 1,203 | 69 |
| | Chandeni | 703 | 3,515 | 703 | 105 |
| | Nayagau | 1,120 | 5,600 | 1,120 | 177 |
| | Jyamdi | 908 | 4,540 | 908 | 204 |
| | Baluwapati | 1,385 | 6,925 | 1,385 | 122 |
| Total | 7,606 | 38,030 | 7,606 | 992 | |
| SINDHUPALCHOWK | Helambu | 852 | 4,260 | 450 | 500 |
| | Kiul | 993 | 4,965 | 500 | - |
| | Talamarang | 930 | 4,650 | 450 | 500 |
| | Mahankal | 1331 | 6,655 | 625 | - |
| | Ichowk | 1639 | 8,195 | 800 | - |
| | Total | 5,745 | 28,725 | 2,825 | 1,000 |
| DOLAKHA | Kalinchowk | 627 | 3,135 | - | - |
| | Gairimudi | 1,586 | 7,930 | - | - |
| | Babare | 1,077 | 5,385 | - | - |
| | Hawa | 548 | 2,740 | - | - |
| | Lamidada | 1,384 | 6,920 | 1,384 | 1,384 |
| | Jhayku | 1,357 | 6,785 | 1,357 | 1,357 |
| | Total | 6,579 | 32,895 | 2,741 | 2,741 |
| KATHMANDU VALLEY | Badikhel | 308 | 1,540 | 308 | - |
| | Chapagaun | 120 | 600 | 120 | 150 |
| | Khokana | 650 | 3,250 | 650 | - |
| | Panga | 500 | 2,500 | 500 | - |
| | Kotdanda | 96 | 480 | 96 | 40 |
| | Manedovan | 85 | 425 | 85 | - |
| | Thecho | 150 | 750 | - | 150 |
| | Sheshnarayan | 45 | 225 | 45 | - |
| | Slums areas | 101 | 505 | - | 599 |
| | Total | 2,055 | 10,275 | 1,804 | 939 |
| MAKWANPUR | Total | 1,103 | 5,515 | - | 420 |
| TOTAL HHS/UNITS | | 26,697 | 133,485 | 18,585 | 6,992 |

TILL DECEMBER 2015

| Shelters Temporary Kits | NFI | | PROTECTION (Women Friendly Space) | | Education (Households) | Early Recovery |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | Dignity support (No.) | Winterisation (Number) | Temporary (Number) | Permanent kits | | |
| 540 | 1,346 | - | - | 1 | 594 | 540 |
| 445 | 1,363 | - | - | 1 | 1,620 | 445 |
| | 550 | - | - | - | - | |
| | 350 | - | - | - | - | |
| 985 | 3,609 | - | - | 2 | 2,214 | 985 |
| 65 | 84 | - | - | - | 280 | 2,500 |
| 55 | 127 | - | - | - | 258 | |
| 65 | 40 | - | - | - | 614 | |
| 73 | 150 | - | - | - | 405 | |
| 82 | 119 | - | - | - | 1,059 | |
| 85 | 100 | - | - | - | 415 | |
| 75 | 200 | - | - | - | 475 | |
| 500 | 820 | - | - | - | 3,506 | 2,500 |
| 555 | 100 | 1,704 | - | 1 | 324 | 75 |
| 801 | 100 | 1,986 | - | 1 | 72 | 187 |
| 672 | 100 | 1,860 | - | 1 | 206 | 201 |
| 1,127 | 100 | 2,662 | - | 1 | 180 | 191 |
| 1,190 | 100 | 3,278 | - | 1 | 427 | 346 |
| 4,345 | 500 | 11,490 | - | 5 | 1,209 | 1,000 |
| 235 | 400 | - | - | 1 | 537 | 4,100 |
| 265 | | - | - | 1 | 664 | |
| - | | - | - | 1 | 616 | |
| 500 | | - | - | 1 | 469 | |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 1,000 | 400 | - | - | 4 | 2,286 | |
| 50 | 433 | 2,280 | 1 | - | 433 | 50 |
| 50 | 267 | | 3 | - | 272 | 50 |
| 93 | - | | 1 | - | - | 50 |
| 79 | - | | 1 | - | - | 50 |
| - | - | | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | | - | - | - | - |
| 50 | - | | 1 | - | - | 50 |
| - | 45 | | - | - | - | - |
| - | 310 | | - | - | - | - |
| 322 | 1,055 | | 2,280 | 7 | - | 705 |
| | 820 | - | | 5 | - | - |
| 7,152 | 7,204 | 13,770 | 7 | 16 | 9,920 | 8,835 |

NEED IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Immediate response to the crisis was backed up by rapid need assessments. Immediately after the earthquake, AAN staffs were deployed to the field to conduct rapid assessments. There, the AAN staffs worked closely with the community representatives and local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) for the situation update and also to identify the needs of the affected community members. The Local CBOs added more value to the need assessment because they had been working with the community for a long time. AAN also participated in all the cluster meetings regularly which updated more about the situations of different disaster affected areas.

In the later phase of the ERP, participatory methods were practiced for need assessment with an active participation of community representatives including both men and women. The information collected from the assessments was verified with the local administrative bodies for further authentication in order to avoid duplication and exclusion. Continuous coordination with the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) facilitated the additional need assessment and situation update.

As a whole the need assessment during the relief was a joint work of AAN, local CBOs, local Administrative bodies and the affected community members themselves. Real Time Evaluation(RTE) done after three months of the emergency, joint evaluations in partnership with government and other development partners also facilitated in improving the whole process as time passed by.





OUR APPROACH

ActionAid Nepal (AAN) has been practicing participatory approaches and processes since the last two decades. People's participation is a key principle of sustainable development and social transformation. Empowering poor people through their own analysis and actions is a key aspect of Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA). Therefore, to ensure that the post-earthquake reconstruction is based on affected people's perspectives, central to CLRP.

The HRBA is central to ActionAid's fight against poverty and injustice, and the empowerment of people to claim and exercise their rights. For the people to enjoy their rights, they need to understand and be empowered to claim them, with the solidarity and support of others. Policies and practices need to change along with attitudes and behavior.







FOOD AND NON-FOOD ITEMS SUPPORT

After the devastating earthquake, AAN conducted a detail need assessment programme to identify the most vulnerable households. Food items and NFI were provided to those identified households in coordination with the local stakeholders (DDRC/ VDC/WCF/CAC). The procurement of the food items were done in reference to the Sphere standards/Nepali standards agreed by cluster. The distributed package of food items was estimated to last for 15 days. Volunteers were mobilized in the field for the distribution of those items.

In total, 18,585 vulnerable households got access to immediate and adequate food support to cover a period of 15 days, in Rasuwa, Kavre , Kathmandu, Dolakha and Sindalpalchowk.

Most of the houses in the earthquake affected districts turned into rubbles. People were forced to stay under the open sky. Therefore, as an immediate support, Emergency Shelters (Tarpaulins) were distributed to the affected households. 6443 households were provided with Tarpaulins for using them as Emergency Shelters.

| DISTRICTS | FOOD (HHs) | EMERGENCY SHELTER (HHs) |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Kavrepalanchowk | 7606 | 992 |
| Rasuwa | 3609 | 900 |
| Sindhupalchowk | 2825 | 1000 |
| Dolakha | 2741 | 2741 |
| Kathmandu Valley | 1804 | 939 |
| Makwanpur | 0 | 420 |
| Total | 18585 | 6992 |



⌚ Distribution of necessary food items in Rasuwa



⌚ Food items ready for distribution in Panga, Kathmandu





Smiles in the faces of the women after having received the food items and the dignity kits (special kits for women).

Community representative volunteering to manage and distribute the food items



A combination of food items (rice, salt, sugar, lentils, cooking oil) that could last for at least 15 days for an average family size was distributed to the affected communities





TEMPORARY SHELTERS

After the earthquake, people were residing under the open sky. Most of the people were living in emergency shelters made of tarpaulins, plastics and very few people were living in tents too. This situation adversely affected their daily lives. People from different age groups, different communities experienced this situation as more than 90% of the communities from these affected vicinities lost their houses and belongings in this mega tremor. The Rapid Need Assessment done by AAN after the quake immediately brought these facts into notice.

Temporary shelters were identified as the instantaneous demand of communities to stay protected from the approaching monsoon and the probable hazards of the harsh weather. Considering this fact, 'Community Reconstruction Committee (CRC)' was formed in each wards of working VDCs of AAN ensuring community leadership and participation. Women were highly encouraged to lead the committees. In figure, AAN worked in 22 VDCs of mentioned districts. CRC had the clear mandates of beneficiaries' selection, engagement in local procurement, monitoring of distribution, and the tackling of local level conflict. A short glimpse of our support in temporary shelter activities is presented in table below:

| DISTRICTS | TEMPORARY SHELTERS |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Kavrepalanchowk | 500 |
| Rasuwa | 985 |
| Sindhupalchowk | 4345 |
| Dolakha | 1000 |
| Kathmandu Valley | 322 |
| Total | 7152 |



⬆️ Getting the woods ready to construct temporary shelter for his family in Kiul, Sindhupalchowk

Children pose outside the temporary shelter in Kathmandu supported by AAN ⬇️



//

We believe that disaster-affected people have the right to assistance – when a disaster strikes, our aim is to save lives and protect people’s rights.



⬆ Temporary Shelters under construction in Sindhupalchowk



➔ Community youths engaged in the construction of temporary shelters in Helambu, Sindhupalchowk





WOMEN PROTECTION

Issues of safety and violence were evidenced in Nepal in the aftermath of the massive earthquake. Some were even lured and exploited in the name of emotional support which resulted in trafficking and issues of social abuse. Considering all these facts the Government of Nepal came up with the idea of Women Friendly Spaces(WFS) focusing on the safety, security and dignity of women.

Hence, ActionAid also established Women Friendly Space (WFS) in various locations for the same purpose. WFS is a dedicated space for women, where women and girls can visit any time to feel empowered and get access to information, education, recreation, support and other services. AAN in support with the partner organisation established 16 WFS in 6 worst hit districts that served around 1200 women and girls providing psychosocial support service, legal aid, case counseling and referral service. Besides these, various activities like individual or group counseling, awareness-raising, skills-building, NFI distribution, recreational activities have taken place in the WFS.

Similarly, in order to address the special needs of women (needs of personal hygiene – particularly menstrual hygiene and to access mobility of women and girls in comfortable way), AAN distributed 7204 dignity kits to most vulnerable women (breastfeeding women, pregnant women,

disabled women) to ensure women's dignity .Women's protection and empowerment has been promoted in WFS to mitigate risk of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and any kind of violence during disaster and in normal scenario.

While the emergency came to an end, the issues of GBV were still found evident in the communities which showed the need for the existence of WFS. Hence, to continue services through WFS, AAN has been supporting to strengthen the WFS with permanent structure to run the WFS in long run and has been advocating and negotiating with government for the sustainability ensuring women's safety, security and dignity. With additional 7 WFS being constructed, a total of 23 WFS shall be operating in the long run in the 6 affected districts.

| DISTRICTS | DIGNITY KITS | WFS |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Kavrepalanchowk | 820 | 0 |
| Rasuwa | 3609 | 2 |
| Sindhupalchowk | 500 | 5 |
| Dolakha | 400 | 4 |
| Kathmandu Valley | 1055 | 7 |
| Makwanpur | 820 | 5 |
| Total | 7204 | 23 |



← Women participants of the women friendly space in Sindhupalchowk

//

There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of Women.



संरक्षण समूहको तर्फबाट एक्सनएड नेपालको सहयोगमा संचालित

महिलाको लागि सुरक्षित स्थान

महिला तथा किशोरीमाथी हुने सबै प्रकारका दुर्व्यवहार
 न्यूनतम गर्न म प्रयास गर्छु । कौनै आई नी ?



⤴ Women Participating in the temporary Women Friendly Space constructed after the earthquake in Kathmandu

➡ Women and Girls participating in the discussions in the Women Friendly space in Padampokhari, Makwanpur



⤵ Women minuting on an issue discussed in the Women Friendly Space



Women Participating in the temporary Women Friendly Space in Churiyamai, Makwanpur



NO EXCUSES: "Protecting a woman's life is a priority in any circumstance and at all times."



Women have dedicated two days a week to participate in the discussions in the women Friendly Space in Sindhupalchowk



Permanent structure of Women Friendly Space constructed in Talamarang, Sindhupalchowk







EDUCATION

An assessment of damage of the education facilities in 11 of the 14 worst affected districts found that over 40% of assessed classrooms had collapsed and 67% of classrooms were classified as unsafe. Therefore, special needs of boys and girls in education were rightly identified and responded through the construction of Temporary Learning Centers (TLC). 50 TLCs were built in in Rasuwa, Kavrepalanchok, Kathmandu valley, Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk districts and 5831 children (5 to 12 years old) have been getting access to psychosocial support and continuing education in those TLCs.

Many school going children also lost their educational materials under the rubbles of their destroyed houses. Some were able to extract some of their educational materials but many were unable to. Therefore, education kits have been distributed to 9920 children in Rasuwa, Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Dolakha and Kathmandu valley. It has supported children to continue with their education. The distributed Educational kits contain stationeries like note books, dictionaries, pens,

tiffin box, water bottle etc. which have been packed in a school bag. Also school uniforms and sweaters were distributed to the same children. All the children studying in early childhood development (ECD) to secondary level in the schools supported by AAN have received this support.

This support hugely contributed government to ensure the children's right to quality education, in emergency situations. That provided physical, psychosocial and cognitive protection of children. The support also contributed children affected by earthquake to reintegrate back into schools, and overcome the negative effects that emergencies can have on children.

| DISTRICTS | TLC | EDUCATION KITS |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Kavrepalanchowk | 20 | 3506 |
| Rasuwa | 10 | 2214 |
| Sindhupalchowk | 10 | 1209 |
| Dolakha | 8 | 2286 |
| Kathmandu Valley | 2 | 705 |
| Total | 50 | 9920 |



Education empowers children by giving them a voice, and a safe space to communicate their feelings and concerns. Safe school can save lives by providing physical protection from the dangers and exploitation that may arise from a disaster.



Two students in Rasuwa after the educational material distribution



Temporary Learning Center supported by AAN in Kavre





⬇️ A girl checks the materials inside her bag distributed by AAN



⬅️ Children look at the things inside the bag after the distribution



⬆️ Students in the Temporary Learning Center Supported by ActionAid Nepal

➡️ Chief District Officer visiting a TLC supported by AAN in Rasuwa







LIVELIHOOD

Livelihoods in most of the earthquake affected districts before or after the disaster are heavily dependent on natural resources, predominantly in agriculture. The massive losses and damages in agriculture sector created a serious impact on agriculture-based livelihoods in the districts. The earthquake damaged agricultural assets including crop, lands resulting in the loss of production for both agriculture and livestock. It also made people more vulnerable as they were left with limited livelihood options.

Farmers lost stored seeds under the rubbles and had no storage facilities for standing spring rice and maize crops at that time. Villages lacked labor; families had no food and cash and the shocks and stress of the earthquake from recurring aftershocks significantly affected the production systems. Furthermore, the damaged land, houses and livestock shelter disrupted the overall market systems in general and local economy in particular. According to PDNA report, the estimated total value of damages and losses in agriculture sector is about NPR 28.3 billion.

Early recovery activities were designed on the basis of findings from the rapid need assessment that was carried out in consultation with affected communities.

Recovery in agriculture sector was specially focused on urgent and immediate supports to restore the crop and livestock production levels such as replacement of tools and machineries, restocking of livestock and rehabilitation of agriculture infrastructure. As part of agriculture early recovery initiatives, some of the identified households received material and technical support to construct crop storage structure including seed bins and storage bags while some of the households were supported financially for their choice of livelihood alternatives. Cash for Work programme was run along with temporary shelter construction aiming to swift recovery of livelihoods and to resume local economy. Most of the cash vouchers were issued in the name of the women members of the family with an aim to shift power towards women for a transformative reconstruction.

| DISTRICTS | EARLY RECOVERY OF LIVELIHOOD |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Kavrepalanchowk | 2500 |
| Rasuwa | 985 |
| Sindhupalchowk | 1000 |
| Dolakha | 4100 |
| Kathmandu Valley | 250 |
| Total | 8835 |



A group of 10 women started mushroom farming for livelihood support in Sindhupalchowk. women pose for a picture with the mushroom produced in their farm



A woman in Kavre invested the support provided for early recovery of livelihood to expand her shop



⬆️ **Distribution of Seed Bins and jute sacks as a support for the early recovery of livelihood in Kavre**

⬇️ **A man in Kavre heading home with the seed bin**

⬇️ **Woman adopting basket-making as a livelihood option**



Seed is life. Saving seeds at the time of crisis is key to securing livelihoods.



WINTERIZATION SUPPORT

The post-earthquake scenario had been changing with the change in various contexts including weather. Winter was one of the most challenging difficulties that affected the earthquake victims living in the temporary shelters. The cold weather caused dew dropping inside the temporary houses and set extreme cold temperatures. This extreme weather issue had its adverse effects especially on elderly people, women (mostly pregnant and breastfeeding mothers) and children.

Identifying this vulnerability of the earthquake affected people in the working areas, AAN initiated a winter protection support programme and distributed various winterisation packages in Sindhupalchowk and five other locations (Badikhel, Chapagaun, Thecho, Panga and Khokana) of the Kathmandu valley. The identification of the beneficiaries was done in a participatory way; with consultation and participation from disaster management committee (DMC), ward citizen forum (WCF), women led committees, WFS participants, ward office and social mobilisers. The distribution process was escorted by women led committees.

TOTAL DATA

Sindhupalchowk

- 5,745 HHs with 2 cotton blankets each
- 852 HHs with 2 compact mattress each Kathmandu Valley
- 1,140 households with 2 tarpaulins, 1 roll rope, 2 adult fiber jackets, 1 child fiber jacket, two fiber blankets and 1 PU foam each

Kathmandu Valley

- 1,140 households with 2 tarpaulins, 1 roll rope, 2 adult fiber jackets, 1 child fiber jacket, two fiber blankets and 1 Polyurethane (PU) foam each

Note: Depending on the size of the family, excess materials were collected and the distribution of the excess materials was done. No additions were made to any HH on the standard package even if the family size is larger and is not covered by the package.



A women with the poly-urethane forms distributed as a support for winterization



Women registering for the winterization support



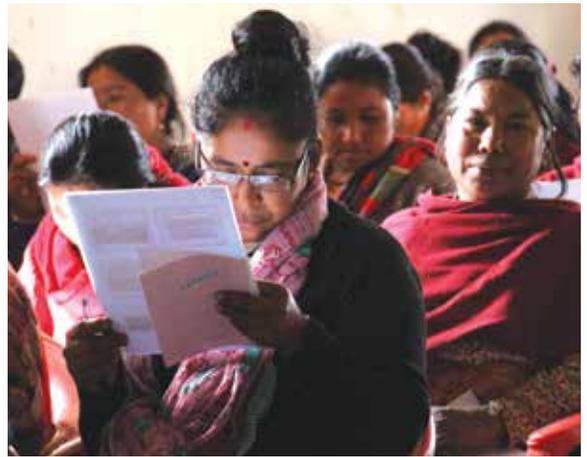
⤴ Blankets distribution in Sindhupalchowk

⤵ Happy women after receiving the blankets for the winter



TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY PRACTICES

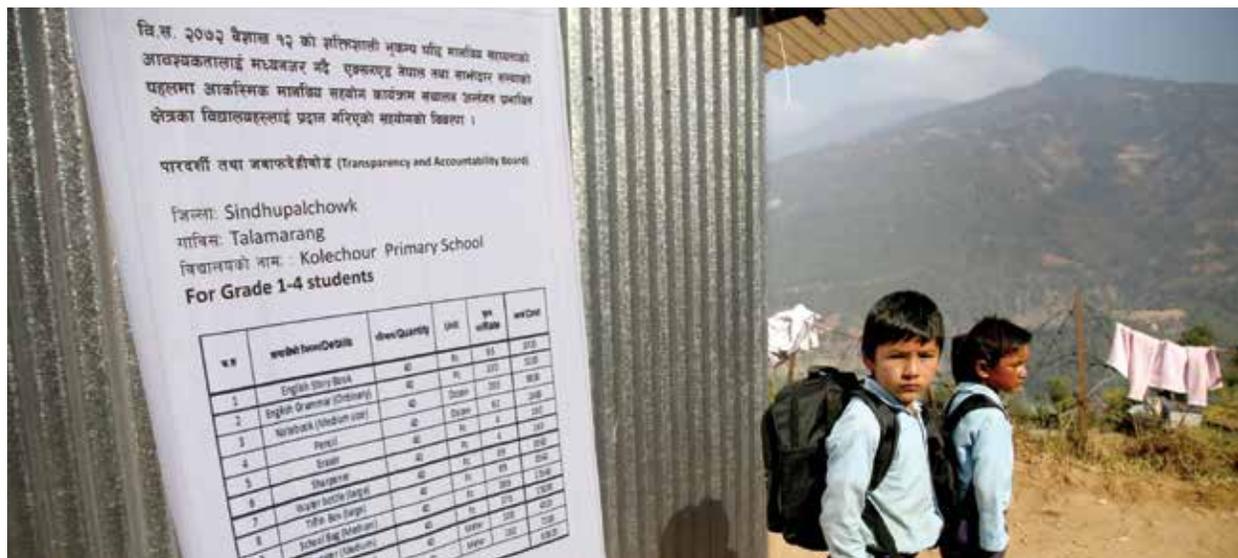
As always, AAN has been continuously concerned about Transparency and Accountability in its Emergency Response. Despite of the difficulties and complexity of the situations, AAN has practiced transparency and accountability in different forms and has been passing the same knowledge to the partner organizations and the communities.



TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY BOARDS

Transparency and accountability is closely linked; transparency generates accountability and AAN promotes transparency and commits to be accountable for all its acts in the communities.

AAN had provided various supports to the earthquake victims during and after emergency. The support ranged from various material supports to construct TLC, WFS, Temporary Shelters, etc. and various other supports like psychosocial, livelihood recovery support, etc. to the earthquake victims. And AAN as always, came forward to be accountable to its programmes by being transparent on its fair working mechanism and activities and thus installed Transparency Boards at various strategic locations of the working areas. These boards have proved to be an effective tool in clarifying the support provided in the area gaining valuable trusts of the locals, local groups, government agencies and development partners.



SOCIAL AUDIT

Social Audit is an important tool to measure the effectiveness and quality of the programmes and support provided at the communities. It provides a platform to receive critical feedbacks from the right holders and the community people that ultimately improve the understanding, reporting and social & ethical performance of the organisation. Thus, AAN organised Social Audits at various VDC and district levels in its working areas after the completion of the Emergency Response Programme, gathering critical feedbacks to be incorporated in its long term Community Led Reconstruction Programme.

SOCIAL AUDITS CONDUCTED AT:

- Sindhupalchowk - 5 VDC level and 1 district level
- Rasuwa - 2VDC level and 1 district level
- Kavre – 7 at VDC level
(1 district level remaining)
- Kathmandu Valley – 3
(not planned at the district level)



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Empowerment of the communities has always been central to any of the AAN programmes. The same continued in the ERP as well. Beginning from the distribution of relief items, AAN ensured that community led each of the programmes. Most of the crucial aspects of the programme such as need assessment, identification of the beneficiaries, planning, distribution and monitoring has been conducted with the direct involvement of the communities along with remarkable participation of women.

As a part of the programme, women were encouraged to lead which resulted in evidences of various women leaderships. Communities have taken the lead to form Reconstruction Committees, Procurement committees, Distribution

Committees and Monitoring Committees to ensure effective implementation of the programme. Also communities have stepped forward to express their dissatisfaction, concerns and suggestions in different platforms on various subjects. The participation in the social audit and mostly the number of women is an example.

While AAN has introduced the Community Led Reconstruction Programme (CLRP) , it has been interesting to evidence the empowerment, leadership and ownership in the communities. AAN has been defining reconstruction in a broader perspective not just limiting it to the physical reconstruction and the changes seen in the community has given a positive indication for the same.



INTRODUCTION TO CLRP

'Community Led Reconstruction Programme (CLRP)' envisions a people led and owned reconstruction process prioritizing contextual community needs voiced by the people. CLRP is AAN's long term engagement with communities affected by the disaster to ensure their lives are transformed positively and that their situation becomes even better than before the earthquake. ActionAid Nepal's strategic response to poverty requires placing the people living in poverty – the rights holders – in the center of all its interventions. Therefore, CLRP is committed to support and empower local community leaders and groups, especially women, representing vulnerable groups to lead the post disaster reconstruction phase.



NON-NEGOTIABLE PRINCIPLES FOR THE COMMUNITY LED RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

- Community led process
- Women leadership and their meaningful participation
- Transparency and accountability
- Critical engagement and coordination with government and non-government stakeholders
- Communications with affected people

THEMATIC ENGAGEMENTS OF CLRP

Reconstruction

Vulnerable and excluded communities are empowered to claim and enjoy shelter rights for just and equitable recovery, secure housing and micro- infrastructure

Education

Gender and child friendly disaster resilient schools established

Livelihoods

To support women led environmentally friendly resilient livelihood recovery and growth of the most vulnerable affected households

Land Rights

Landless people's agency lead advocacy on right to land for building safe house and access to productive resources

Women Rights

By the end of the plan, women and girls will enjoy greater levels of safety, security and dignity than before the earthquake



STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY

GOPAL THAPA

“I had spent about 4.5 lakh Nepali rupees to build the house that turned into wreckage and was of no use. The leftover remained in the wreckage was used to build this temporary shelter. ActionAid gave us shelter kits and as I had the materials from old house, I took the shelter kit tools only. The technical personnel deployed by ActionAid guided us to construct an earthquake resistant house (temporary shelter) and since I have learned and developed those skills, I am using it to build my house as well as support the community that I am living in.”



Gopal Thapa, 42 years old, Shermangthan, Sindhupalchowk

JITMAYA SUNAR

“In the aftermath, I wondered how was I ever going to build a house again, how would I raise my daughters and many other things kept pinching my heart. The monsoon was approaching which led to much fear at that time. But after some time, HURADEC Nepal and ECARDS Dolakha with the support of ActionAid Nepal distributed CGI sheets to help us construct temporary shelters and food storage. They also provided us with the toolkits to construct the houses and jute sacks to store foods and seeds. It was a great relief, not just for me but many others like me.”



Jitmaya Sunar

KAMAN DHOJ PANDEY

“HURADEC Nepal and ECARDS Dolakha with the support of ActionAid stepped in our village with the Emergency Response Programme. We received CGI sheets, hammer and nails to construct shelters, seed bin to store seeds and also extra CGI sheets to construct food storage. Our daughters and daughter in-laws also received special kits with necessary items required for them while staying out of the houses.”

Kaman



MAKHMALI

“We needed a place which could also save us from the monsoon season which was approaching soon. Then we heard that ActionAid Nepal was helping people build temporary shelters. We heard that CGI sheets were being distributed. It was some good news after all the chaotic situations. We then collected the CGI sheets provided by ActionAid Nepal and also got shelter construction tool kits with it. We could not build the house in the previous place as a lot of bad memories were there within the rubbles. All our dreams too were buried under the rubbles. It was great that along with the materials, we had technical person deployed by ActionAid to support us construct the shelters. Having this shelter has provided me an opportunity to help other needy people. We stay together with a neighbor and one relative here.”

Makhmali, Kiul, Sindhupalchowk



MANDIRA BASNET

“Namaste! My name is Mandira Basnet. I live in Gairimudi-4, Dolakha. I want to be a nurse in the future and help needy people.

I was unable to extract any of my educational material out of that rubble. I have always felt motivated to study and I was worried how it would be possible to continue my education without a school. Our classes resumed in June and we started studying in Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs). One of the TLC was constructed with the support of ActionAid Nepal. Although a TLC, I was very happy that it was still possible to continue with the studies.



We have got this educational materials support from ActionAid Nepal. I personally feel this is going to ease our education. It is a great motivation for us to move ahead. I have a dream and I believe with supports like these I can be a successful person in the future. Not only me but many students like me are happy today to have got these materials that is going to ease our education.”

Mandira Basnet, Gairimudi, Dolakha

NIRMALA THAMI

“I along with my friends were very terrified with the earthquake and the destruction we had seen. Soon after the Temporary Learning centers (TLCs) started being constructed and we started feeling better. We feel a lot better now and today’s distribution of educational materials has made us feel better. Not only the materials but the distribution of school dress and sweaters in winter is a relief for many students. After the earthquake, it had been very difficult for many families to buy warm clothes for schools.”



Nirmala Thami, Babare, Dolakha

MANU KUWAR

“In the aftermath, the economic problems grew more and I started wandering through the options to uplift our economy. We had to build a house again as well. But with the support of Center for Rural Education Development (CRED) and ActionAid Nepal, we constructed a temporary shelter. They also came up with the livelihood programme; I decided to start a business of making baskets. I had been doing that earlier too. So with Rs. 15,000 provided as support for early recovery of livelihood, I procured the raw materials (bamboo) to make the baskets. My husband has been very supportive and he helps with the procurement of bamboos to make the baskets. I have been able to save around Rs.9000 per month as profit.”



Manu Kuwar, Kavre

TILKUMARI SUNAR

“This Women Friendly Space is really wonderful. We got opportunity to learn and discuss on various topics. There is a participatory approach for learning here. We discuss on our family issues, women rights, violence and trafficking. We help each other and we have also been provided with counseling at times. There is a different energy in this place. Pictures, pamphlets, games and fun discussions for the learning purpose keep the sessions alive and make it interesting. These all helped us forget the trauma of the earthquake. Not only me but everybody has found this place very interesting and productive. Even the elderly women have been confident to speak and share things. I hope this space continues in the future much effectively with discussions more targeted on livelihood and enhancing skills. This way we could improve our economic status as well.”



Tilkumari Sunar, Makwanpur



Happy mother and daughter inside the temporary shelter in Rasuwa







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In emergencies, it is people living in poverty and exclusion, particularly women, who are worst affected. We see disasters as part of a cycle of poverty, and we seek to use every opportunity brought about by disasters to shift power relationships in favour of the poorest and most excluded – especially women

ActionAid started working in Nepal from 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 (AAN), has registered its entity in the concerned Nepal Government authority. ActionAid is a global federation and ActionAid Nepal is the member 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 34 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 organizations and people's organizations for rights conscientisation and transformation of unequal power relations.

act:onaid NEPAL

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