



NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE: TWO-YEAR REPORT

(APRIL 2015 – APRIL 2017)

Overview

On Saturday April 25, 2015, a powerful earthquake of 7.8 magnitude on the Richter scale hit Nepal. It was the largest earthquake in Nepal in 80 years. Less than three weeks later, on Tuesday May 12, another earthquake measuring 7.3 in magnitude struck. Together, the two earthquakes caused the death of nearly 9,000 people and injured nearly 22,000.

According to government estimates, the earthquakes destroyed over 600,000 homes completely and over 280,000 partially, displacing an estimated 3.2 million children. More than 1,200 health facilities were destroyed and 2 million people were left in urgent need of water, sanitation and hygiene support.

Save the Children launched an immediate response to support earthquake-affected children and families. Under our immediate relief efforts, we distributed 15,836 household kits, 25,025 kitchen sets, 26,827 baby blankets, 15,615 family shelter kits and 59,251 tarpaulins in 10 affected districts. To assist in longer-term recovery, 61,295 beneficiaries received assistance in the form of corrugated galvanized iron sheets or cash grants to help them rebuild homes. We also reached 77,250 beneficiaries who needed winter support.

With total funds raised at more than US\$60 million thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have now reached 585,058 individuals of whom 352,951 are children.



Save the Children is continuing our work for families like Subita's. Many families are still living in temporary shelters two years after Nepal's devastating earthquakes destroyed their homes and shattered their lives.



Our Progress to Date

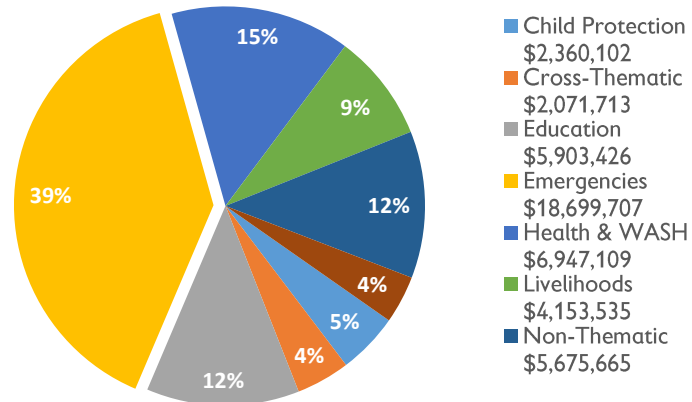
We are currently supporting the recovery and reconstruction process in six affected districts of Gorkha, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Kavrepalanchok, and Rasuwa. (Our work in Dhading ended earlier this year.) Specifically, we are working with the government on the construction of 1,603 houses in four districts of Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Gorkha, and Nuwakot.

Conditional cash support is provided in three installments to each household. To date, 1,597 households have received the first installment; 1,038 households have received the second installment; and 215 households have received the third installment. Save the Children and partner staff are also providing technical support and supervision on the progress of the construction.

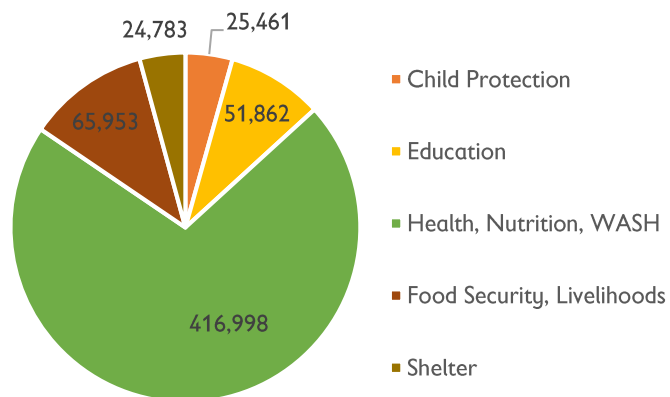
Similarly, to build community capacity on safer reconstruction, Save the Children provided “7-Day Mason Training” on safer shelter construction to 1,541 local masons as per the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction training curricula. Two hundred participants have received 40 days vocational training in masonry in accordance with the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training curricula. The trainings were conducted to enhance the skills of community masons on earthquake-resistant building techniques.

Although much progress has been made, two years after the earthquake, many families are still living in temporary shelters.

Expenditures by Sector through March 2017



Reach by Sector through March 2017



Focus of the Second Year: Build Back Better

Under the tripartite agreement with the National Reconstruction Authority and the Central Project Implementation Units of various ministries, Save the Children initiated recovery and reconstruction work in select areas of seven affected districts: Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Kavrepalanchok, Gorkha, Nuwakot, and Rasuwa.

Since early this year, our focus has been on rebuilding schools, health posts/health facilities and shelters in Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Kavrepalanchok, Gorkha, Nuwakot and Rasuwa districts. We are also continuing to work in children's education, health and nutrition, child protection, food security and livelihood initiatives, and in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Current efforts span the key program areas below.

Construction of safe houses



Construction is taking place in Dansing of Nuwakot district where 350 homes that were severely affected by the earthquake are being rebuilt.

We have started building more than 1,600 earthquake-resistant houses. Almost all of the families involved have received the first installment of conditional cash support for the construction. Some 1,000 households received the second installment and another 200 received the third and final installment to complete construction.

Save the Children and its partners are providing technical support and supervision on the construction. In addition, as noted, we have helped build the capacity of more than 1,500 local masons on building safe shelters using the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction training curricula.

Safe School Construction

We are building 23 safe schools (176 classrooms), which are all to be completed by December 2017. On handover of the schools, close to 3,500 children will be able to attend classes in these earthquake-resistant buildings.

Food Security and Livelihood Recovery

Restoring food security and livelihoods is key to enabling families to regain their independence and rebuild their lives. In Dolakha, Sindhupalchok, Gorkha and Nuwakot districts, 2,850 households were supported through cash-for-work and 3,665 households were supported through restricted cash support with a focus on livelihoods.

In addition, 468 community-based entrepreneurs were provided with cash support to start group enterprises in Dolakha, Sindhupalchok and Gorkha districts, for example producing compressed, stabilized earth block as an alternative to bricks.

At the same time, 56 village saving and loan associations were initiated to help communities sustain and grow their businesses, and more than 9,500 individuals received trainings in micro-enterprise development and livelihood skills such as goat raising and beekeeping.

Construction of Health Facilities

With more than 1,200 health facilities destroyed by the earthquakes, restoring places where people could seek care was a priority. Save the Children has built and handed over 18 semi-permanent health posts to district governments. Likewise, 17 Health Facility Outreach Centers were built using a prefabrication model, and have been handed over to the communities.

These health facilities will provide services to more than 70,000 people.



Grey Lower Secondary School (seen here under construction) has now been completed. This school in Rasuwa will welcome over 200 children.



The new pre-fab Taruka health facility in Tarakeshwor rural municipality in Nuwakot district includes a birthing center and receives approximately 20 patients every day.



Across the earthquake-affected districts of Nepal, people like Rupa (shown at left with her daughter) are rebuilding their lives – for themselves, their children and their communities.

Save the Children is committed to continuing to provide support to the government and people of Nepal as their reconstruction process continues. We recognize the ongoing, pressing need for homes, shelters and schools, as well as complementary activities related to the protection of children and their education, and the livelihood needs of individuals and communities.

Thank you to all of the partners who have supported our response. With your help, we are committed to helping Nepal “build back better.”

Annex: Success Stories – Your Donations at Work

Sumana's Story

Two years after the earthquakes, Sumana, her husband Ratna and their two children still live in a temporary shelter made up of mud, wood and corrugated galvanized iron sheets. When the earthquakes destroyed their three-story house, Sumana's husband was working in Malaysia and was not able to return home. For the next 10 months, Sumana was forced to look after the two children and undertake rebuilding their lives on her own.

More than anything, the family wanted to have a safe roof over their heads. They have now received two installments of conditional cash support for building an earthquake-resistant shelter. Ratna received masonry training on safer shelter construction and is implementing his knowledge as lead mason in rebuilding his family's house. The construction will soon be complete.

Sumana received vocational training and has started commercial vegetable farming with a group of women in her village. But what she is happiest about is that she will now be able to raise her daughter and son in a better – and safer – house.



Rita's Story



Rita is an auxiliary nurse midwife in the newly constructed Taruka health facility of Tarakeshwor rural municipality of Nuwakot district. Since the construction of the semi-permanent health post, she has helped deliver more than two dozen babies and is thrilled to be saving lives of mothers and newborns.

The old Taruka Health Facility was severely damaged by the massive earthquakes, leaving health workers working in precarious conditions providing health services from a tent. They had many challenges to confront, such as insufficient delivery spaces and no separate space for an outpatient department, dressing room or family-planning counseling room. The worst-affected area was the childbirth services area, which made Rita feel particularly helpless.

The new facility opened on October 3, 2016 and immediately garnered community support. Now, health workers like Rita are able to offer services in a safe and proper environment with a meeting hall and separate rooms for different types of health services such as registration, out-patient care, prenatal care and sterilization.

The health post and birthing center have been an immense help in providing better services for women and children, Rita says. Best of all, pregnant women no longer have to make expensive trips to Kathmandu to get appropriate care.

Juni's Story



Juni is a single mother who raised six children by herself after her husband's death a few years ago. Like many others, she lost her home to the earthquakes. After living in a tent for months, she and her three younger children moved in with her brother-in-law.

Despite the challenges of being a single mom, Juni is determined to create a safe future for her children and has received two installments of conditional cash support to enable her to build a safer house. She has been overseeing the construction of her new home and plans to complete it before the monsoon season starts in June. Juni received extra support from Save the Children's technicians and engineers in important decisions such as the layout and design of the house, access to roving masons and close monitoring to ensure safe building standards are met.

Although she makes a living from farming and livestock, she wants to have a place of her own that her children can call home. "I cannot live in someone else's house forever," she says. "I need to have my own house. If you have the willpower to fight, anything is possible.

"Building this house means so much to me," she continues. "I feel happy that my children will grow up in a safe house. I could not have dreamed of living in a concrete house with my children if I had not received support from Save the Children."

Kavita's Story

Kavita, 16, and her brother Binay,* 12, are the only living members of their immediate family. Their mother abandoned them when Kavita was 7 years old, leaving her and her younger brother in their father's care. The three of them used to live in a small house and their father worked various low-paying jobs, but he took good care of his children.

When the earthquake hit, Kavita was not at home and Binay was playing outside, but their father was resting inside the house and barely made it out alive. The three of them lived under a makeshift tarpaulin shelter for about 12 days before Save the Children helped them with essential materials like CGI sheets, bamboo and wood planks to set up a temporary shelter.

Two weeks after the earthquake, Kavita's father passed away leaving her brother to her care. They had only had NRs. 1,200 (about \$12) in savings.

Living alone was extremely challenging for Kavita. The teenager had to take charge of the household and her brother all at once. A year after the earthquake, Kavita was alone in the temporary shelter as Binay was able to secure a scholarship to study at a residential, community-based school. Living alone can be frightening for the 16 year old, as the doors are not robust enough to withhold an intrusion and she often hears strange voices outside during the night. Moreover, rain and cold drafts came through the cracks, often leaving her shivering on a wet bed.

Kavita's school has agreed to educate her free of cost until grade 10. Both children were provided with Back to School kits (which contained an umbrella, water bottle, school bag, exercise books, stationery, one set of school uniform, and basic hygiene items like comb, and nail cutter). Happily, the winter clothes Kavita and Binay bought last year from NRs. 13,000 winterization support are still in good condition. Best of all, Save the Children constructed an earthquake-resistant model house for them to live in.

"I never imagined that I would live in a concrete house and feel safe," Kavita says. Although she misses her father dearly, she knows he would be extremely happy about the new house.

"The villagers tell me to get married," she smiles, "but I do not pay much attention to these remarks. I am determined to complete my studies and look after my brother. I want him to have a home."



*Names have been changed to protect children's identity.