Save the Children

ONE YEAR ON
NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

PROGRESS REVIEW



PHOTOS: SAVE THE CHILDREN

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MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS



It has been a long and difficult year. We realize that as we look back one year after the mega earthquake. But throughout the year, Save the Children has committed itself to provide relief, response and recovery support to affected children and their families quickly and efficiently.

Children are undoubtedly the most vulnerable during an emergency. It was no different when multiple quakes struck Nepal last year. Children's lives were shaken beyond their comprehension, education came to a standstill and their overall wellbeing was under threat.

Save the Children plunged into action less than 24 hours after the earthquake, by providing lifesaving relief materials, distributing food and nonfood items along with shelter and hygiene kits and operating health clinics. Save the Children's presence and strong relationships in 13 of the 14 affected districts prior to the earthquake helped us respond swiftly to community needs. We were also disaster-ready, with prepositioned stocks of relief materials. After the first phase of our emergency response, we provided warm clothes, blankets and cash support to thousands of families to meet challenges posed by monsoons and the harsh winter.

To keep children safe from possible abuse and trauma, Save the Children set up Child Friendly Spaces within a week of the first earthquake. This was followed by Temporary Learning Centers complete with clean drinking water and toilet facilities. These centers ensured so many children did not lose out on education. We also provided training to teachers so they were better equipped to help children overcome loss and psychological scars.

Nepal has now transitioned into the reconstruction phase, and we will be there to support the government and affected communities with safe housing, education and better livelihood options. As always, we remain committed to helping children grow to their potential, learn and be protected.

While all this is being executed in the field, my admiration, appreciation and applause goes to staff in the Nepal Country Program who were the first ones out to respond, often leaving behind their own families. The international surge team during the initial response and international technical support teams that worked over the one year period were also instrumental in Save the Children being able to provide assistance to close to 600,000 affected children and adults.

As we look ahead to continue creating a difference in people's lives, I would like to thank Save the Children's donors, partners, well-wishers and members who provided the team in Nepal the resources and encouragement to fulfill our humanitarian mandate. It would be impossible without you.

Delailah Borja

Country Director

ONE YEAR AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

The worst natural disaster in over 80 years

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake in April 2015 was the worst natural disaster to strike Nepal in over 80 years. The last one was in 1934. This time, the destruction centered around the rural mid-hills of Nepal, destroyed homes and affected the lives of people who live in geographically challenging terrain. The death count reached almost 9,000 and more than 22,000 people, including children, were injured.

The country reported an economic setback of over seven billion USD (NRs 706 billion). In the fourteen worst affected districts of Gorkha, Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Dhading, Kavre, Lamjung, Makawanpur, Sindhuli and Ramechhap, over half a million homes were destroyed. Schools were also hit hard. Over 28,000 classrooms were destroyed; meaning over 7,000 schools now need to be rebuilt. The quake brought down 1,227 health facilities; most of them government posts, which compromised people's access to basic and life-saving support. There were two million people in urgent need of water, sanitation and hygiene support with significant damage and destruction of the water supply and sanitation systems.

Immediate and Initial Response (April 25, 2015 - June 30, 2015)

Preparedness and planning helped Save the Children launch an immediate response within the first 24 hours after the earthquake. National staff already trained in humanitarian response were deployed and prepositioned stocks in four locations in Nepal, including Kathmandu, proved to be life-saving for many in the aftermath of the disaster. The response was fortified by the deployment of Save the Children's experienced surge capacity teams, which provided specialized expertise to the response. Support from Save the Children India, China and the Philippines further enhanced the response, by providing personnel, supplies and coordination.

During the initial response period, Save the Children focused on the most urgent humanitarian needs, with programming focusing on providing temporary shelter support and essential relief materials. There were safety and information messages across several media platforms, particularly aimed at the needs of people with the monsoon season approaching.

Relief and Early Recovery (July 1, 2015 - 31 October, 2015)

Access became a huge challenge, with dry landslides and monsoon rain cutting off road access to several of the affected communities in high mountainous areas. Save the Children reached out to the affected communities during this period with multi-purpose cash distributions, allowing the most-affected communities to buy the things they needed to meet their own immediate needs. Key relief and response activities and community mobilization were implemented with and through local NGO partners and in coordination with local government.





Recovery Phase and Transition to Development (November 1, 2015 – April 2018)

Save the Children's focused priority during this phase has been on the relief and recovery needs of those communities living in high altitudes and remote locations. Our teams carried out a large and complicated winterization project in the remote mountains of Gorkha and Sindhupalchowk districts, ensuring that these communities had essential amenities to survive the winter and stay warm.

Save the Children's reconstruction effort will now focus on *building back better,* with programming focused on supporting the government and local organizations prepare for and reduce risk for children and their communities. Save the Children will concentrate on lessons learned and incorporating risk reduction elements to all its programs. Focus will be on children and their families to make sure they have safer homes. There will also be programs to help affected families recover their livelihoods so they can confidently support their children's health, education and nutritional needs. Above all, we will work with affected communities and the government to make sure children have safer schools, building safer classrooms with adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Impact of Border Blockade on Supplies Entering Nepal

Another major highlight in Nepal this past year was the promulgation of a new constitution in October 2015, which was six years overdue. Differences of opinion on the new constitution led to political strains, which severely slowed the free movement of goods into the country from India (the country's main source of supplies), including petroleum products and medicines. People in the earthquake affected districts faced what could be termed a double disaster, as essential supplies either stopped or were very limited between September 2015 and January 2016. The difficulty to maneuver political and diplomatic circumstances had its impact on children across the country and more so in the quake affected districts. An assessment of the impact of the crisis on children was carried out in nine districts including quake affected Sindhupalchowk and Kavre districts. The assessment showed that medicine was in serious short supply, limiting children and their families' access to basic medicines.

"I used to carry lots of medicine in my bag and provide it as required to the needy. But now I don't even carry a bag, as there is no medicine." (Female Community Health Volunteer, Sindhupalchowk district)

Likewise, children were compelled to eat less by parents due to very limited supplies and soaring prices. "My family depends on daily wages and because there has not been work for so long due to the current [border blockade] situation, my family cannot afford nutritious food such as beans, grains, eggs and meat due to inflation….[this] even [affects] my 8-day old niece who is breastfeeding." (A parent in Kavre district)

SAFER HOMES FOR SECURE FAMILIES

According to government estimates, the two earthquakes destroyed over 600,000 homes completely and over 280,000 partially, as well as hundreds of historical and cultural monuments. A year after the earthquake, thousands of affected families are still living in temporary shelters, and thousands more are at risk by still living in their own damaged homes. Many affected families have started reconstruction, but are adopting poor practices due to the lack of technical orientation on safe construction.

An initial survey by the National Planning Commission stated that over 500,000 temporary shelters were needed in Nepal. However, in November 2015, a second assessment by the shelter cluster found 43 percent of the affected households were living in temporary shelters, whilst the remaining population were still living in their damaged houses. The Government of Nepal is conducting a damage survey in all affected districts, which will provide lists of affected households that will be supported with the reconstruction of permanent houses.

Without proper shelter, a majority of the affected population, particularly children, are increasingly vulnerable to ill health and disease, exposure and insecurity. Families living in poverty have increased and this increases the demand for illegal child labor. The number of families living in poverty has increased due to the earthquake. This in turn has increased the incidence of illegal child labour practices.

RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

Save the Children provided unconditional cash grant support to 4,772 families to purchase essential life-saving assistance in the monsoon season. Similarly, 9,944 families living in high altitude and hard to reach Village Development Committees (VDCs) benefited with the distribution of Shelter Kits, including corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets and related items (ridge sheets, nails, rope, tie wire, etc.) as well as shelter tool kits (shear, hammer, hand saw, hoe, shovel, etc.), which helped them transition into better temporary shelters. This was followed by winterization support to 15,480 families in remote, high altitude and hard to reach communities through the provisions of cash grants or vouchers to buy winter supplies.

TECHNICAL TRAINING

Around 65,000 masons need to be trained on safer construction techniques in 14 of the most affected districts. Save the Children has targeted to train 6,000 existing masons. This training is already underway. Additionally, 2,000 young people will receive vocational training on construction related skills.

RECONSTRUCTION

Save the Children aims to assist 6,000 earthquake affected families with financial and technical support to rebuild safer homes – *to build back better*. This will also work to revitalize the local economic environment by increasing the demand of safer construction through a pool of trained masons, carpenters and artisans along with mass awareness to enhance resilience and preparedness.

CHALLENGES AND LOOKING FORWARD

The first challenge is the constraint of time, as reconstruction should be in full swing before the monsoons in July-August 2016. However, international organizations like Save the Children have had to navigate a changing and complex bureaucratic system in Nepal in order to gain the required approvals to begin the shelter support. This has slowed down the start of this vital work by many months. The second challenge is a communication gap between the government and the communities, which has resulted in a lack of interest and response of communities to enroll in the government funded reconstruction program. Finally, there is an issue of sufficient budget. Even though an average house in rural Nepal costs at least NPR 5-600,000 (approx. USD 5-6000) the maximum support people may expect to receive from the government to rebuild their damaged houses is only NPR 200,000. International organizations, such as Save the Children, are currently required to follow the same package amount as the government, so as to not cause inequalities between communities receiving support.

4,772

families received cash support to purchase essential life-saving assistance in the 2015 monsoon season

15,480

families in remote, high altitudes provided with winterization kits or cash vouchers for winter supplies

9,944

families living in high altitude and hard to reach Village Development Committees (VDCs) benefited with the distribution of Shelter Kits.

Pregnant at the time of the earthquake, the destroyed house, fear of another earthquake, the rainy season and approaching winter troubled Dhanmai. In August last year she gave birth to a baby boy, Ningma, in a goat shed.

Gumba VDC sits at 8,562 feet above sea level. With temperatures dipping below 0 degrees, Dhanmai was concerned about keeping her family warm as she only had few blankets to face a snowy winter.

As part of Save the Children's winterization program, Dhanmai received a winterization kit. Each kit contained blankets, trousers, mufflers, woolen caps and mats amongst other essential winter supplies, which she needed for the winter. Eighteen rounds of helicopter drops were carried out to supply winter kits to families like Dhanmai's who live in high altitude areas.



GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

EDUCATION IN THE POST-EARTHQUAKE ENVIRONMENT

The Nepal earthquake destroyed or significantly damaged nearly 7,000 schools. This left one million children without permanent classrooms, and an additional half a million required support to return to a structured learning environment. Schools in earthquake-affected districts officially reopened on the 31st of May 2015. In a multi-agency consultation with 1,800 children from 14 earthquake-affected districts in June 2015, nearly 100 percent of the children interviewed emphasized their desire to return to school and resume their education, but also emphasized that they wanted to return to safe, secure schools. The Ministry of Education has also highlighted the need to ensure a strong commitment for recovery and reconstruction within the next three years, as children are still in a very vulnerable condition.

BACK TO SCHOOL IN TLCs



To encourage students to return to school, Save the Children provided direct support to over 193,000 children with the construction of new Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs). Similarly, schools were supported with education materials, teaching-learning kits, and back to school bags were provided to children who lost their school supplies in the earthquake. Many of these TLCs have now been handed over to the community.

Save the Children and its partners worked together to build 586 TLCs in nine of the most severely earthquake affected districts. Of those TLCs, 451 were winterized to protect children from harsh winter temperatures and wind. The winterization was done through a cash transfer system to the school. Additionally, as part of our winterization efforts, more than 3,000 children in the remote district of Rasuwa received warm clothing.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR TEACHERS

To help teachers manage classrooms in a post-emergency situation, we trained 3,395 teachers in nine districts in providing psychosocial support to students to minimize trauma, to effectively use post-emergency teaching and learning materials, and to create engaging classroom sessions. We also trained 40 teachers in Healing and Education through the Arts (HEART) to help children express their feelings through the arts and in a joyful environment.

CO-LEADING THE EDUCATION CLUSTER[1]

As an experienced global organization, Save the Children has been contributing as the education cluster co-lead agency, along with the Department of Education and UNICEF. This is replicated at the district level, where the organisation's education interventions are in collaboration with the District Education Office as co-lead.

[1] The Education Cluster is responsible for all forms of education (recreational, non-formal, and formal) at all levels/age groups. At the country level, the cluster approach aims to ensure a more coherent and effective response by mobilizing groups of agencies, organizations and NGOs to respond in a strategic manner across all key sectors or areas of activity.

LOOKING FORWARD

The education sector stands at a unique juncture now. A large number of schools not only have to be rebuilt, but they have to be built back better and safer than previous models. Save the Children will now focus on assisting schools in meeting the Government of Nepal's *Prioritized Minimum Enabling Conditions* (PMEC), using the organisation's tested and participatory Quality Learning Environment tool. The tool will help schools and teachers on improving: 1) students' emotional and psychological protection; 2) physical safety/protection; 3) an active learning process and improved learning outcomes; and 4) bring about close collaboration between schools, parents and communities. Save the children will also work with schools and their communities to expand their capacity to respond to future disasters.

Additionally, Save the Children will develop a model approach for *Comprehensive School Safety* (CSS) in the education sector, in partnership with other stakeholders. The model will be rolled out in districts targeted by the response as well as regular development program interventions by the organization.

586
Temporary Learning Centers constructed

451
Temporary Learning Centers winterized[2]

505
latrines constructed in schools

193,536
Children back in school

3,395
educators trained in PSS and TLC

Eleven year old Bimala studies in Shree Mahakali Primary School in Bhumisthan VDC in Dhading district. Out of 50 constructed Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs), Save the Children has constructed two TLCs in Shree Mahakali Primary School, which has been hailed as a model TLC from the District Education Office, a government body. It has been called ideal because of its safe structure and use of durable materials like wood and CGI sheets that has increased the life of the TLC for up to five years. Due to active participation from the community, it was the last TLC to be commenced but the first one to be completed within three weeks.

In order to build TLCs in the earthquake affected districts, Save the Children worked together with District Education Office (DEO), partner NGOs (PNGOs) and School Management Committees (SMCs). Save the Children supported SMCs with cash transfers to build the TLCs and to increase stakeholder ownership. All of the established TLCs were also upgraded for winterization i.e. mud plastering of the walls for insulation, CGI roof installation, covering the floors with plastic foam mattress, plastic mats and mounting bed floors for ECD classes.


TLC at Mahakali Primary School, Bhumisthan

[2] Out of remaining TLCs, some were winterized by communities, while others did not require winterization because they were in warmer regions

SECURING FOOD AND DIVERSIFYING LIVELIHOODS

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE TO EARTHQUAKE AFFECTED PEOPLE

Save the Children supported 2,552 households in two of the worst affected districts with food baskets (rice, lentils, oil, wheat flour, salt, tea, spices) for a month immediately after the earthquake. Paying special attention to the nutritional needs of children, we also provided micro nutrients to 18,432 children from six to 23 months of age, for 72 days. Save the Children supported the registration process for distributing essential food items to more than 100,000 households.

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT

To help families continue with their agricultural livelihoods and help them overcome their loss after the earthquakes, Save the Children distributed sacks of rice seeds to 34,900 households in eight districts. This supported families in restoring their crop cycle. Similarly, metal bins were distributed to 1,625 earthquake affected households in Gorkha district to help them store seeds safely.

MULTI-PURPOSE CASH GRANTS

During the early recovery phase, 10,385 earthquake affected households in three districts were supported with multipurpose cash grants to fulfill their immediate food and non-food needs. Altogether 4,749 extremely poor households with limited or no labor capacity in Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk districts received USD 150, whereas an additional 5,635 households with relatively higher recovery capacities in Dolakha and Gorkha received USD 75 to fulfil urgent requirements.

RESTRICTED CASH SUPPORT TO TRADERS

Save the Children provided conditional cash grants (CCGs) to a total of 384 small food and non-food traders in three target districts to help them gain back their footing and revive their income stream. Traders in remote wards who were interested in re-establishing their retail businesses received grants of USD 300 to re-stock food and non-food items or to repair or rebuild their shops.



CHALLENGES AND LOOKING FORWARD

A big challenge Save the Children faced was during the monsoons, which reduced road access and made it difficult to reach remote regions. Further, the political unrest leading to border closure affected the supply of essential goods including fuel. This led to an increase in prices of essential goods and services.

We encountered other challenges while selecting beneficiaries. There was political pressure in some districts for blanket coverage of households as beneficiaries. However, Save the Children, partners and local leadership managed to develop a community managed beneficiary selection criteria so as to target the most vulnerable households. Similarly, some households lacked national identification cards used for verification, which was rectified through a community managed approach.

Looking ahead, Save the Children aims to support 4,000 of the most vulnerable households to protect and diversity their livelihoods. This will be through conditional cash transfers through the cash for work approach, restricted cash transfers for recovery, improvement and diversification of household livelihoods as well as support to markets and financial services.

Long-term plans include supporting farmer organizations and village savings and loan associations as well as building market access capacity to ease financial and marketing difficulties for affected communities.

10,385

households received unconditional cash transfers amounting over NRs. 155 million

384

traders provided conditional cash transfers

A year after the earthquake, Devi Rimal is nurturing hope; She is about to give birth in a month's time and starting a new business. She received a conditional cash grant of NRs. 15,000, with which she plans to start rearing goats. She also learnt about creating a business plan and skills to run a successful business.

Devi says," I used to think that goats were only good for making curries during festivals." She is investing some money of her own to buy goats. She is hopeful that her first business venture will yield profit so that she can help her husband by contributing in the household expense and save some money for the future.



ATTENTION ON WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

It is estimated that 46 percent of all water supply systems (11,288 in total) in severely affected districts were damaged during the earthquake. This created a huge demand for water supply in these districts. Also, due to damaged latrines, around 220,000 households (estimated 1.1 million people) required assistance on household latrine construction.

Following the earthquakes, much of the affected population shifted to temporary shelters in areas outside their normal location of residence. Because of the availability of small spring sources in affected districts, it was relatively easy to provide basic drinking water supply (and chlorination tables to sanitize the water prior to consumption) to these groups in 2015. Other organizations provided basic latrine and sanitation facilities.

Currently, most affected populations have shifted back to their original locations. They face acute challenges in WASH facilities, as many water supply systems were damaged and spring sources have dried up, straining the limited resources available. Furthermore, the access to sanitation is limited, as people are just starting to re-build their houses.

INITIAL IMMEDIATE RELIEF

Save the Children distributed vital supplies and provided technical support to communities and institutions to ensure immediate relief for children and their families in eight affected districts. The support included hygiene kits, water kits, and water tanks, pipes and fittings, with technical support for quick fixes of water supply systems, water purification solutions, and temporary latrines. At the same time, we also implemented hygiene promotion activities to raise awareness on maintaining basic personal hygiene. These key messages helped prevent health problems and were disseminated through information, education and communication materials, door to door orientation, community campaigns, and other local participatory activities.



CHALLENGES AND LOOKING FORWARD

As water sources of the affected districts have depleted or dried up considerably, this has increased the unit cost of water supply systems – because water supply has to be either through lift system or brought in from a longer distance. Save the Children will be working to decrease this unit cost to ensure water is affordable and accessible to every child and the affected families. Likewise, it will also work with schools and health facilities that already had significant gaps in water supply, sanitation and waste disposal facilities. A challenge will be to ensure WASH facilities are an integral part during the reconstruction of schools and health centers. The way ahead will be to carry out an assessment of schools and health facilities to meet required needs and to get all service providing stakeholders on the same page.

The affected villages are under high risk of isolation during the monsoon season (June-August) due to access being cut off, and there is possibility of another disaster (landslide and flood) which could break the supply chain. Save the Children will work closely with government and local communities to link WASH services and its infrastructure with Shelter, Education, Child Protection and Health services to ensure integration of proper facilities, activities, and awareness. Save the Children will focus on reconstructing water facilities and latrines in schools and health facilities and supplemental support promoting good hygiene.

27, 002

hygiene kits distributed to 135,010 individuals

238

community water supply systems repaired reaching 39, 829 individuals

4,929

latrines constructed offering better sanitation to 26,905 members

One of the biggest struggle for many communities after the earthquake was the disruption of water supplies and lack of safe drinking water. Renu, a resident of quake hit Nuwakot says, "Due to the earthquake, source of water supply dried up and we had no option but to drink water from the pond. Women had to wake up as early as we could to fetch water."

Her five-year-old daughter Jina was struggling to maintain hygiene as she was unable to walk to the pond as it was twenty minutes away. As part of Save the Children's WASH in the communities intervention, many water taps in the village were restored or set up. Jina's village now has many water tap stand, one of which is around the corner from her temporary shelter.



PROTECTING CHILDREN

The earthquakes posed a serious threat to the safety of children, because such disasters tend to increase child protection risks like abuse, exploitation and violence due to the breakdown in the law and order and community systems. Save the Children's response programming coordinated across sectors and services to ensure vulnerable children and their families knew about and had access to security, health, psychosocial support and law enforcement services. In post-earthquake contexts, with the potential loss of livelihoods, disruption to education, family separation and displacement, children may become particularly vulnerable to child labor, trafficking and other forms of exploitation. The Central Child Welfare Board identified 40, 036 'at risk' children after the quake, out of which 17, 347 were found to be vulnerable, 17,873 were unaccompanied, and 35,220 were separated from their families.

CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES

Save the Children established 61 Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) immediately after the earthquake to ensure safety, security and psychosocial support for children. More than 6,126 children attended, accessed, and utilized these CFSs, which provided them with structured psychosocial support along with safe water and sanitation facilities. The CFSs also included specific schedules for children based on gender and age groups, where children were encouraged to express themselves through playing, learning and socializing with their peers. A total of 246 facilitators were specially trained to provide and facilitate children's engagement in these child-friendly spaces.

To maximize our impact, Save the Children became an active member in developing a national-level child protection strategy spearheaded by the Protection Cluster led by Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. Similarly, a draft of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Child Friendly Space was developed by the Protection Cluster, with the support of Save the Children. Once finalized by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the child-friendly space SOP will be part of a national protection strategy.

LISTENING POSTS

Save the Children trained and oriented more than 20,000 community members including members of Village Child Protection Committee (VCPC), teachers, children and parents on Psychological First Aid (PFA). The trained members are not only vigilant to such cases in their community but also provide awareness and counselling where needed.

Save the Children has set up 24 playgrounds for children where outdoor games and play materials like swing set, slides, see-saw, sand-boxes and rest chair were installed. The main objective was to provide a recreational environment as well as a space for physical and social development of children.

PSYCHOSOCIAL FIRST AID (PFA)

Save the Children trained and oriented more than 20,000 community members, including members of Village Child Protection Committee (VCPC), teachers, children and parents on PFA. Psychological First Aid (PFA) is a practical method for providing initial support to reduce stress for people in crisis situations. The trained members are not only vigilant about such cases in their community but also provide awareness and counseling where needed.

Save the Children has set up 24 playgrounds for children where outdoor games and play materials like swing sets, slides, see-saws, sand-boxes and chairs were installed. The main objective was to provide a recreational environment as well as a space for protected physical and social development of children.

LOOKING FORWARD

Local level child protection mechanisms are vital to track cases of child protection in emergencies and responses. Save the Children will continue to prioritize working with local child protection committees so that child protection cases are identified and vulnerable children are supported at in villages and communities. Community based case management is effective for protection and support of unaccompanied, separated and vulnerable children. This is a protection work that Save the Children will be focusing in the reconstruction phase of the response.

61 Child Friendly Spaces established

6,126 children enjoy safer and more secure environment

20,204 community members including members of Village Child Protection Committee (VCPC), teachers, children and parents on PFA

25 Listening posts set up **3,747** children and **490** adults received timely and appropriate child protection information.

Sisters Rina and Rima lost their home to the earthquake in April last year. Neighbors offered them a space in their makeshift shelter and gave them food for almost a month. Their father, who had not been in contact with them, came back and converted their cow shed into a temporary shelter.

The girls have come a long way since that fateful Saturday. They attend school regularly, do their homework and play with friends. But for their grandmother, the quake brought more challenges. She was already struggling to make ends meet and now they do not have a home to live in. She worries about her grandchildren's safety and wellbeing.


Playing with their toys

Save the Children initiated a case management system for children at risk in emergencies, like for sisters Rina and Rima. Village Child Protection Committees (VCPCs) have been trained to identify cases that need immediate attention and assistance. A circle of friends (peers) and a protection circle is formed around the children to support children at risk. With community support, Save the Children is supporting 518 such cases in earthquake affected districts.


Sharing a conversation

WORKING TO HELP FAMILIES STAY HEALTHY

The April 2015 earthquake destroyed health facilities in large numbers. 1,227 health posts were damaged, over 90 percent of them were government hospitals, clinics and primary health care centers according to the government's *Post Disaster Needs Assessment* (PDNA) report.

Responding to the immediate and urgent health services after the earthquake, Save the Children set up mobile camps in 24 VDCs in two of the most affected districts of Sindhupalchowk and Rasuwa, helping more than 2,000 children and their families. Mobile clinics were expanded to remote Village Development Committees (VDCs) of Dolakha district, reaching 1,700 households. To get health services up and running to meet the needs of people including pregnant women, Save the Children provided large tents to 20 health facilities in four districts to ensure that health services were not disrupted in the early days after the disaster.

OUTPATIENT THERAPEUTIC CENTERS (OTPs)/MOTHER BABY AREAS (MBAS) AND CASE MANAGEMENT

Save the Children established 49 Outpatient Therapeutic Centers (OTPs) and 26 Mother-Baby Areas (MBAs). The OTPs provided quality nutrition evaluation services and provided treatment for severely malnourished children from six months to five year old children. Promoting exclusive breastfeeding until six months and continued breastfeeding until two years of age, MBAs were set up to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment to lactating mothers to breastfeed their babies, and to learn about good feeding habits and cooking techniques.

Save the Children also carried out screening of children below five years to identify severely acute malnourished children (SAM) and moderately acute malnourished children (MAM) in earthquake affected districts.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED TO HEALTH FACILITIES

Save the Children also distributed infection prevention kits, outreach center kits and basic equipment to 31 health facilities in five affected districts. The organisation also provided Female Community Health Volunteer (FCHV) kits and baby kits to health facilities to provide best possible care, especially to infants and children.

SEMI-PERMANENT HEALTH FACILITIES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The large number of damaged health facilities has added an extra burden of community residents and pregnant mothers seeking health services. This is also a financial strain of families. As supporting health service recovery is a priority for Save the Children, the construction of 18 Semi-permanent health facilities in 18 Village Development Committees (VDCs) of five affected districts of Gorkha, Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Nuwakot and Rasuwa is underway.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Save the Children worked with community mobilizers who were constantly involved in providing emotional support through counselling to local communities affected by the quakes. These service providers reached more than 40,000 people in five affected districts. They were also involved in counselling pregnant women and mothers on feeding practices for young children. Save the Children also worked with FCHVs and mothers' group to promote health and nutrition promotional activities in quake affected communities.

CHALLENGES AND LOOKING FORWARD

The major challenge now is to deliver the support committed to affected communities as the monsoon approaches and with the risk of waterborne diseases posed during that period. With health services interventions always coordinated through the government, there are delays expected in receiving necessary approval, as well as hitches in transportation and distribution due to the challenging topography. Save the Children has prioritized support for five districts (Gorkha, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchok and Dolakha) based on their health and nutrition district recovery plans.

18 semi-permanent health facilities under construction

40,683 community personnel reached through MHPSS

26 Mother Baby Areas set up

49 Outpatient Therapeutic Centers OTPs established

92, 599 children screened for Global Acute Malnutrition

3,453 sessions held on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)

A year after the earthquake, Bimala, 27, visits the local health post in Panchkhuwa Deurali VDC, which has been running from the (Alpha) medical tent set up by Save the Children almost a month after the first earthquake on 25 April 2015. When Save the Children first met Bimala last September, she was getting her newborn son, Bijay, checked up in the medical tent provided by Save the Children. She had previously given birth to her third son, Bibek, in the health centre originally built by Save the Children in 1988.

The health post building has been partially damaged by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake and is currently being used as a storage space. The medical tent has been divided into two parts - a consultation area and a birthing center, which provides much needed privacy to expecting mothers. When the 7.9 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal on 25 April 2015, Bimala remembers running out of the house with her three children – she was four months pregnant at the time. She remembers having a difficult pregnancy in the days after the earthquake.



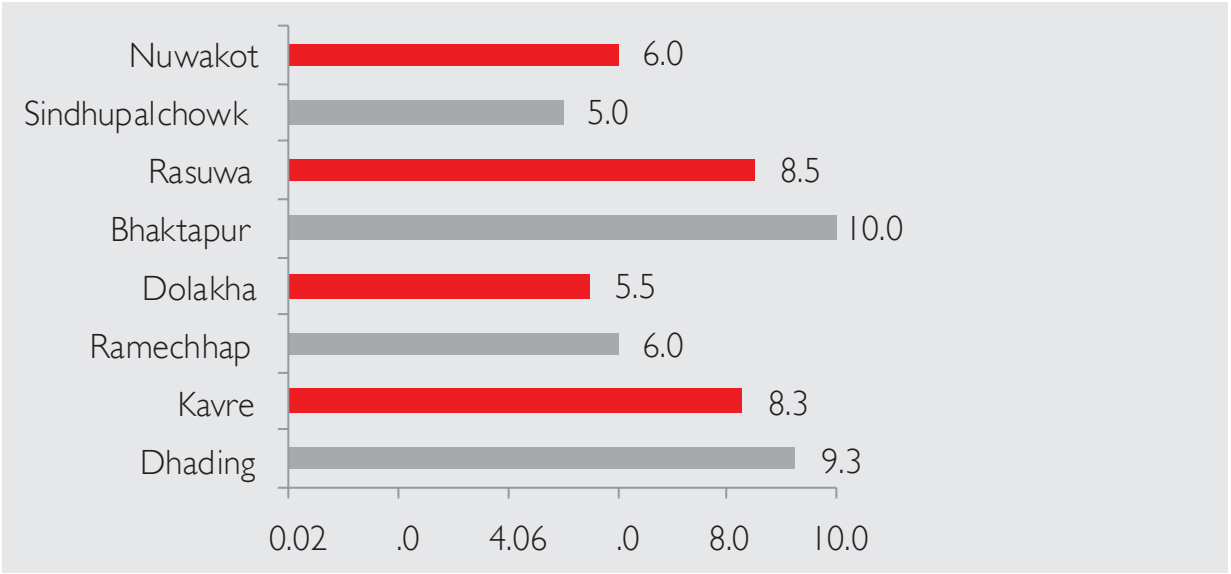
Bimala Pariyar with son Bijay

MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING

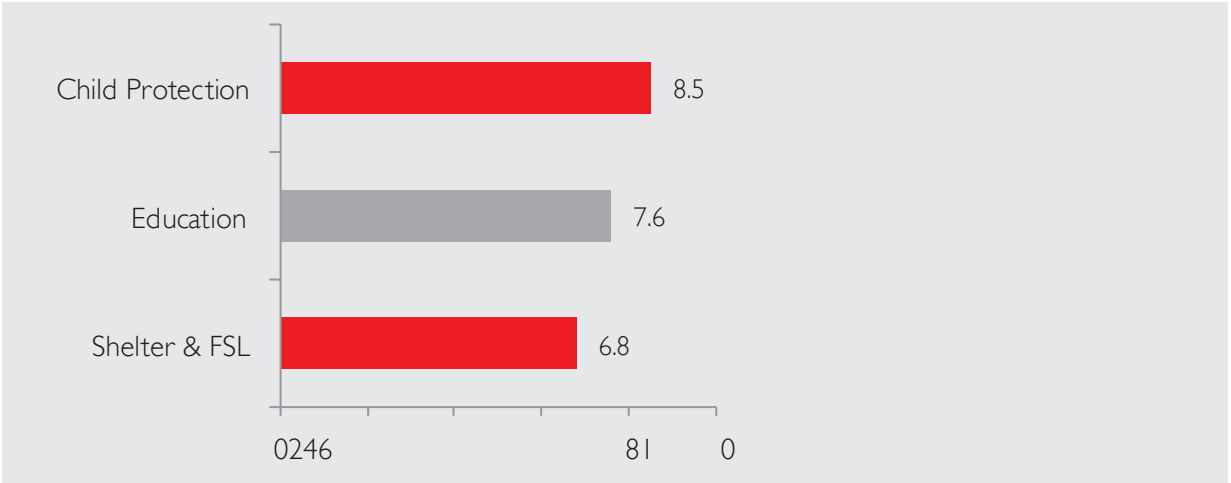
CHILDREN'S SATISFACTION

Children's voices and level of satisfaction are important to Save the Children during any emergency response program. To understand children's expectations and needs after the earthquake, Save the Children, in partnership with Plan International, UNICEF and World Vision and in collaboration with the government, carried out a child consultation survey in the 14 most affected districts. Based on how they responded to the survey questions, interventions and the delivery of programs were reviewed to keep children at the center of the response. Close to two-thirds of children aged between seven and 17 years expressed satisfaction with the way Save the Children responded to their education, protection, shelter and foods security needs. While satisfaction was highest for protection (85 percent), children opined that Save the Children could do more to address the need for shelter and food. Children in Bhaktapur and Dhading were most satisfied while reservations were evident in Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha districts.

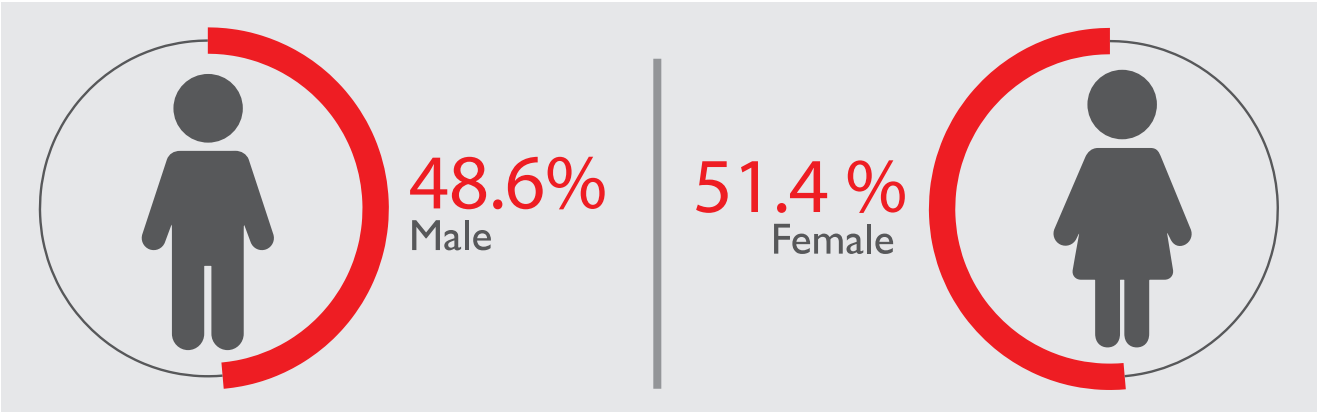
CHILDREN'S SATISFACTION SCORE BY DISTRICT



CHILDREN'S SATISFACTION SCORE BY INTERVENTION



COMPOSITION OF CHILDREN BY SEX



REACHING THE AFFECTED

The earthquake response intervention set out to reach 600,000 affected people, of which half would specifically be children, over a three year period. With reference to this target, 98 percent of the target has been reached within the first year while the number of children reached has already surpassed the target for the response in education and protection in emergencies, health and nutrition, temporary shelters and livelihood options. Support will now focus on meeting the long terms and changing needs of children and their families which include safe and permanent schools for children and permanent houses for families affected districts.

TOTAL REACH BY BENEFICIARIES

Reach by Beneficiaries	Total
Total Children Reached	352,951
Girls Reached	174,916
Boys Reached	178,035
Total Adults Reached	232,107
Women Reached	116,053
Men Reached	116,053
Total Beneficiaries Reached	585,058

REACH BY INTERVENTION AREAS

Reach by intervention areas	Total
Child Protection	12,353
Education	75,414
Shelter and Non Food Items	131,818
Health Services	18,148
Nutrition Intervention	35,607
Food Security/livelihood	251,496
Water and Sanitation	60,224
Total	585,058

QUALITY MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Save the Children established monitoring and accountability standards at the outset of the response to ensure quality in the delivery of services and programs. Standards were shared and made public in all intervention areas in the affected districts to which the organization and its staff are held accountable. Save the Children takes accountability for the standards it set and regularly reports on the successes and findings against these thresholds and targets. Any challenges or issues that arise in the field with our teams, local government or implementing partners are quickly checked and addressed to correct any issues.

Status of Action	Status
Not met (Phase out of program)	7
Completed on time	459
Completed after deadline	265
Under progress	113
Lapses in standards identified	844

INFORMATION AND FEEDBACK MECHANISMS FOR THE COMMUNITIES

There are many ways affected people are able to reach Save the Children with questions, feedback, suggestions and even complaints. The organization values and relies on the input of the communities we serve and we always want to know of any thoughts on the way we respond to the needs of the disaster affected communities. As such, we set up an information/feedback mechanism early on for the target communities to contact us. People used toll free numbers, physical complaint mediums and face-to-face interactions with staff and partners to share information. This helped better deliver services as well as address people's expectations and the organisation's limitations. Of the total complaints and feedback of Save the Children's response under various categories of seriousness, seven percent specifically came from children and just over 50 percent were collectively from indigenous and disadvantaged groups. The largest number of complaints and feedback came from Sindhupalchowk and Gorkha districts, two of the seriously affected districts.

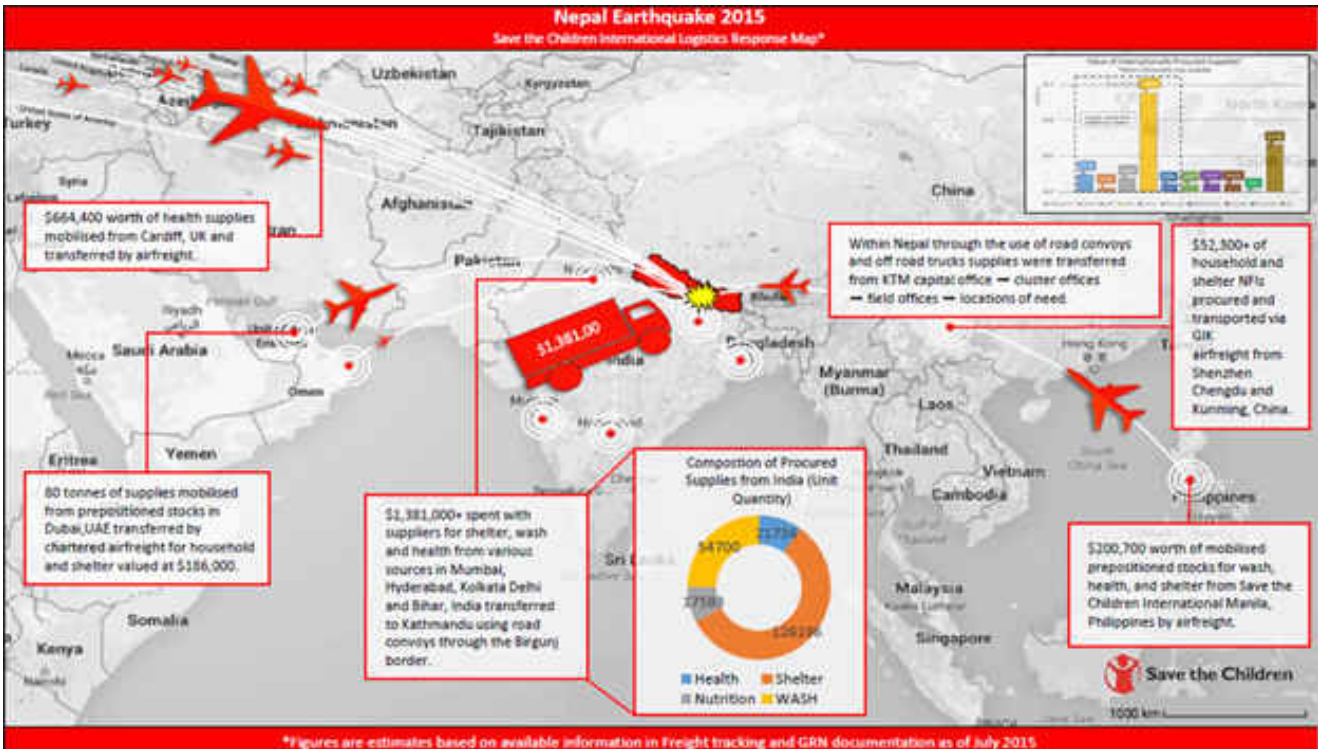
Status of Action	Number	%
Addressed on time	903	77.4
Addressed after deadline	194	16.6
Not Completed	64	5.5
In Process	6	0.5
All complaints and suggestions	1167	100.0

RESPONSE AND CHANGING NEEDS

Needs of the affected people and their communities with time, the needs of the affected people changed. While the need for lifesaving supplies like food, water and shelter was pronounced during the first three months; it changed to demand for permanent shelter with latrines, restored livelihoods/support and training, and building back classrooms. The change was summarized through the post distribution monitoring mechanism in the early stage of the response and information and feedback mechanism.



LOGISTICS



Save the Children's logistics unit was able to respond rapidly to the earthquake.The organization was able to place an International Senior Emergency Logistics Manager on the ground within 24 hours and a full team of International Logistics Surge managers in place in Kathmandu and emergency field sites within the first ten days.

Within the first month of the response, Save the Children acquired and moved more than 3,000 metric tons of emergency relief supplies to the earthquake affected areas of operation. The supplies were sourced locally and also arrived by air freight from the organisation's prepositioning hubs around the globe. Key support and shipments came from our India, China and Philippines offices.

The Nepal country program's logistics and procurement teams were able to channel in supplies and services of over 20 million USD in the first eight months of the response. The team supported three cluster hubs to service affected districts by smart transport logistics and 13 warehouses. Logistic support to the affected communities also included critical air transport, storage and labor support.

To meet the needs of affected communities during the winter, the logistics team facilitated the largest internal helicopter movement in Save the Children's history in Nepal. More than 20 MI-17 heavy lift helicopter rotations were used in the operation. The winter program support benefitted 15,480 families affected in the most remote and difficult to access areas.

Save the Children's logistics support initiative is continuing to work in providing operational backing to all response activities and the prepositioning program in which emergency response materials will be strategically stored in various areas within Nepal. These prepositioned supplies will help to quickly respond to the needs of disaster affected children and their families in the event of any future emergency. Even as the country faced serious fuel shortages due to the political and diplomatic strains in the country, the government facilitated in helping Save the Children receive fuel supplies to ensure our humanitarian work was not affected.

RAISING OUR VOICES FOR CHILDREN

OUR ADVOCACY INITIATIVES POST-EARTHQUAKE

In the past year, Save the Children has undertaken in-depth research on priority thematic issues which included gender and social inclusion, education, child protection and disaster risk reduction. This has enabled us to engage in policy work and advocacy, lobbying key targets both in Nepal and internationally.

This approach has been grounded in consultations with affected children and communities. In July 2015 we launched a report, "After the Earthquake: Nepal's Children speak out" which was based on consultation with 1,838 boys and girls from 14 most-affected districts. The consultation was carried out in partnership with Plan International, UNICEF and World Vision, in collaboration with the government. The findings of the consultation were reflected and quoted in our joint advocacy work as well as Government of Nepal's Post Disaster Needs Assessment. Other research analyzed marginalization and exclusion from the perspectives of caste, ethnicity, gender and other factors, the findings of which were launched in April 2016. Another key concern raised by children related to the right to education has been central to our advocacy work. In support of the regional Education Safe from Disasters initiative, our education advocacy work has focused on influencing government plans and policies from a DRR perspective.

We worked in partnership to advocate the inclusion of all aspects of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework (CSSF) into the national 7-year School Sector Development Plan (SSDP). Save the Children's push now will be to continue to ensure that comprehensive school safety is linked with community approaches and remains in the final school sector development plan (SSDP) and implementation guidelines.

In addition, the organization will be working to influence the School Improvement Planning process and learning and teaching materials, as well as teacher training, to strengthen them from a DRR and school safety perspective.



CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

Save the Children will be launching a follow up report to the previous children's consultation, to understand children's major challenges, especially in relation to child protection and participation.

In addition to the organisation's focus on gender and social inclusion, the findings of the most recent children's consultation will shape the advocacy approach over the next year. Save the Children will continue to identify and highlight concerns on politicization or exclusion in humanitarian relief delivery and in relation to longer-term recovery and reconstruction support. It will continue to advocate for integration of child protection and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into the recovery and reconstruction phases, at the policy level, and for long-term investment for the disaster affected districts.

Most importantly, Save the Children will increase its focus in awareness raising and other advocacy activities at the district and local levels and will identify opportunities to strengthen child and youth engagement in advocacy work, as well as linkages with Save the Children's next global campaign.



FINANCE

Funding Overview	(USD million)
Fundraising Target	80.0
Fund raised so far	56,184,006.93
Expenditure till March 2016	28.01

Funding overview (US$)	
Appeal/Income Target	80.00 m
Active	41,175,609.84
Pipeline- Likely	2,079,837.36
Pipeline- Other	3,478,940.03
Pre-Close out	14,671,342.49
Closed	337,054.6
Total Likely (pipeline likely +pipeline – others)	5,558,777.39



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