



Consolidated by UN Women in collaboration with the National Reconstruction Authority (as of 12/9/2016)

Summary of key updates, facts and figures, initiatives, progress, challenges, needs and opportunities related to gender equality and women's empowerment in the post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction process in Nepal.

THE NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY AND THE POST-DISASTER RECOVERY FRAMEWORK



NRA Executive Member, Dr. Bishnu Bhandari, Home Minister, Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet and then Acting Chairperson of the National Women Commission, Ms. Manu Humagain at National Conference on Gender-Responsive Disaster Management organised by Women's Groups. Photo Credit: UN Women/ Monica Upadhyay

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW), UN Women as sector lead development partner supported the drafting of the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) chapter for the Post-Disaster Recovery Framework (PDRF)¹ as well as its sector plans and financial projections and provided GESI inputs to key sectoral chapters to inform the government's recovery and reconstruction work led by the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA). The GESI sector team experts included UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, ADB, IOM, WB and Handicap International. On behalf of the Government of Nepal, the NRA led the development of the PDRF with technical support from the UN Agencies, the World Bank, ADB, EU, JICA, USAID and other development partners. On behalf of the UN system, UNDP provided overall technical and secretariat support.

The strategic vision of the cross-cutting GESI sector is to support closing the development gaps related to gender, social group and geographical location through effective mainstreaming of GESI strategies throughout the recovery and reconstruction process. This strategic vision builds on the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)² and has a strong orientation towards the most excluded, marginalized and vulnerable groups. It is

grounded in the Constitution of Nepal and aligned with the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030)³. The principal GESI strategies are:

- Ensure significant participation of women, vulnerable and marginalised groups;
- End all forms of violence against women, girls and boys;
- Provide protective service-oriented programming for women, vulnerable and marginalised groups; and
- Enhance awareness-raising and capacity development and addressing the specific needs of women, vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Based on the PDNA key recommendations, lessons derived from the Inter-Cluster Gender Working Group (October 2015), and PDRF consultation with GoN and CSO stakeholders on 25 March 2016, key recommendation on GESI were included in the PDRF in the areas of coordination, participation, representation and economic empowerment.

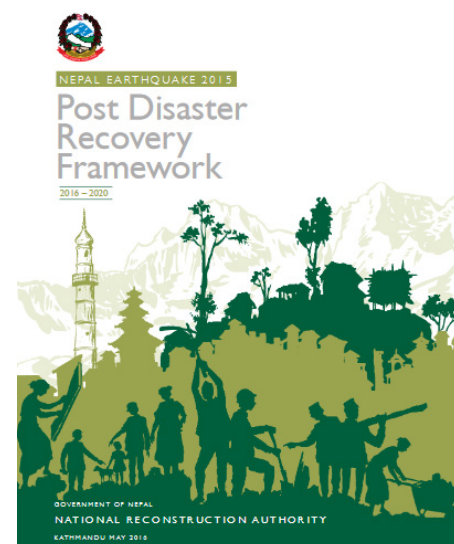
The priority recovery programming as stated in the GESI section of the PDRF is as follows:

1 Governance and accountability: Establishment of a GESI Unit in the NRA to ensure integration of GESI measures for all recovery and reconstruction processes and ensure women's leadership and participation during planning, implementation and monitoring of recovery and reconstruction efforts at national, regional and district levels;

2 Integrated protection and support for women and girls, children, PLWD, people living with HIV, and senior citizens and issues around human trafficking and support to preventing sexual and gender-based violence: special conditional cash support for individual household reconstruction to be used for hiring labour; community-based psychosocial counselling, and anti-trafficking for women's leadership, participation and awareness programmes, and for skill development and livelihood enhancement support;

3 Support to PLWDs: establishment of rehabilitation centres, provision of accessory devices and support for skill development and livelihood enhancement and the provision of PLWD identity documents;

4 Construction and rehabilitation; and child protection: construction of Women and Children Office (WCO) buildings, children's homes, safe



1 http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/PDRF%20Report_FINAL10May.pdf and <http://nra.gov.np/uploads/docs/AsiGGdnejZ160823113341.pdf>

2 <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/SAR/nepal/PDNA%20Volume%20A%20Final.pdf>

3 http://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordren.pdf

houses for GBV survivors, rehabilitation centres for trafficking survivors, women's cooperative centres, and adolescent information and counselling centres;

5 Support to senior citizens:

Establishment of old age houses, day care centres, and provision of training with start-up support resources.

The GESI section of the PDRF has an estimated budget of 4,525 million NPR for its five year work plan with 9 planned priority programmes. As of June 2016, a GESI Technical Expert has been seconded to the NRA by UN Women to support the implementation of the PDRF GESI recommendations. The Gender Responsive Budgeting expert seconded to the Ministry of Finance by UN Women is providing technical expertise to the Government including the NRA on the integration of GRB in their planning and budgeting processes.

A draft ToR for the NRA GESI Unit and concept note for the roll-out of the GESI component of the PDRF have been developed and are being implemented in coordination with sectoral ministries.

An orientation programme was conducted with NRA officials to sensitise them on GESI concerns and recommendations contained in the PDRF, including the need for targeted programme interventions for women, vulnerable and marginalised groups.

A consultation was conducted between NRA officials, including Executive Members, and representatives from organisations working with persons with physical disabilities. The discussion highlighted the need for disability-friendly infrastructure and income generating activities for their livelihood improvement.

The NRA's guidelines related to the Reconstruction Community Committee 2016 has a provision requiring at least 42% representation of women at the settlement level and at least 37% at the VDC/Municipality level. The NRA enforced the guidelines on Recovery and Reconstruction Training Conduction and Management, 2016 which prioritises youth, single women, persons living with disabilities, and representation of excluded and disadvantaged groups as training participants. The NRA's NGO mobilisation guidelines of 2016 include provisions for the role of NGOs in conducting capacity development programmes for the mainstreaming of disadvantaged groups.



"Learning by Doing", female participants are learning the Build Back Safer 10 Key Messages. Gati, Sindhupalchok Photo Credit: IOM

KEY ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Key women's groups in Nepal (Jagaran Nepal, Home Net South Aisa, Beyond Beijing Committee, Feminist Dalit Organisation, Media Advocacy Group, Women for Human Rights - Single Women's Group, Forum for Women, Law and Development and SAATHI) are collectively advocating for the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment in disaster recovery, reconstruction and preparedness efforts in Nepal. The Women's Groups organized a National Conference on Gender Responsive Disaster Management in Nepal⁴ on 1-2 March 2016. The main objective of the conference was to bring together the voices of women from 14 earthquake affected districts to enable them to advocate collectively for their needs before key stakeholders working on disaster recovery, reconstruction and DRR. The National Conference was partially supported by IM Swedish Development Partner and UN Women. The conference concluded with a 15-point Kathmandu Declaration that was endorsed by government authorities, media, and development partners. The Declaration was published in the media on 12 May 2016 and presented during a Discussion Program on the Disaster Management Bill organized by the Forum for Women, Law and Development with key parliamentarians on 20 May 2016. The 15-point Kathmandu declaration was submitted to the Home Minister and the CEO of the NRA and include the following key points:

1 The "National Reconstruction Authority" to draft and implement necessary policies and plans to ensure gender equality, as well as proportional and inclusive participation (50:50) in gender responsive disaster management.

2 Gender responsive programmes should be finalised on the basis of the needs as well as the circumstances of the local women and address the special practical and strategic needs of women, and by guaranteeing the rights of people of all ages, gender, class, ethnicity, indigenous nationality, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental disabilities, and marital status.

3 We appeal to relevant actors involved in human resource development and all other concerned programmes for reconstruction and rehabilitation to address the needs and special conditions of women (menstruation, pregnancy and maternity) and different types of needs of women with special health conditions (with physical or mental disabilities, those who are HIV positive, and single and older women), to follow the guiding principles of "leaving no one behind" for sustainable development 2016-2030, and to run these programmes in way that guarantees substantial gender equality by ensuring women's human rights, dignity and self-respect.

4 We strongly demand that the earthquake recovery and reconstruction efforts be managed as per the principle of "build back better and safer" to make gender-, age- and disability- friendly physical and social structures, address gender inequalities and take this as an opportunity to build relations with people of various sexual orientations and gender identities.

5 Special measures should be adopted to guarantee 50% women's participation at all levels and phases of disaster management in order to utilise their knowledge and skills in disaster

management and challenge the notion that women are not only helpless and victims only, instead promoting women as change agents and decision makers.

6 We demand equal collaboration with women NGOs for disaster management and their 50% participation and share in all levels, sectors, processes, opportunities and results.

7 Ensure gender equality, social security and gender responsiveness in the contents of media while disseminating disaster-related information in the media and ensure women's access to information.

8 We appeal for relevant actors to carry out gender sensitivity orientations in order to prevent and respond to violence that could take place in times of disaster and disaster management such as trafficking, rape and sexual exploitation, and adopt legal, administrative and other measures to stop and eliminate discriminatory conduct based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

9 We demand that reconstruction efforts are carried out in a way that fulfills the basic needs and special needs of women of all ages, physical and mental abilities and of all situations (lactating, pregnancy, menstruation), as well as their social and cultural needs, and that protects and promotes their traditional skills and knowledge.

10 Women with mental and physical disabilities, Dalits, the poor, the vulnerable and the oppressed should be given special opportunities to work in reconstruction, and priority should be given to their education, health, employment and self-employment. Special provisions should be made for earthquake survivor girl children with disabilities.

11 As it has been found that the materials and support provided to women in the course of relief, reconstruction and recovery efforts benefit all the members of the family, The distribution of relief should occur through women. Provision of support should be made for families who have difficulties in managing two square meals a day and those who are compelled to leave the country for work, and equal opportunity for work

should be provided for those who return from work abroad.

12 As many men are abroad, women face particular challenges accessing services. Women lack citizenship certificates, do not have access to information or legal assistance, and do not have ownership over land or house. Many women also lack the earthquake victim ID card provided by the Government, and as a result have been deprived of the services and support provided by the Government. To address this issue immediately provision should be made to provide women with all necessary documents to access essential services.

13 In accordance with the "Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030" to adopt gender, age, disability and cultural sensitivity in all policies and practices and promote women's and youth leadership, necessary provisions should be made to strengthen the role of women and girls in community disaster resilience.

14 The principle of gender responsive budgeting should be followed in all processes of disaster management and a separate fund should be established in order to address the specific situation of oppressed and/or neglected women.

15 Teachers in every school in every district should be provided with knowledge on psychosocial support, and every school should have at least one female and one male psychosocial counsellor. In addition, gender-responsive disaster management should be included in the school and university curriculum.

In April 2016, the GESI Working Group of the International Development Partners' Group (IDPG), co-chaired by USAID and UN Women including GESI focal points from IDPG members, prepared a GESI code of conduct for reconstruction that was submitted to the NRA. The key policy messages include:

1 Address the specific needs of women, men, boys and girls equally, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable and excluded groups, by ensuring their meaningful representation and leadership in all aspects of the recovery and reconstruction process;

2 Establish a well-resourced GESI Unit (in terms of finance and human resources) within the National Reconstruction Authority to ensure a coordinated and sound Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and

Evaluation framework that integrates GESI measures for all recovery and reconstruction related activities, projects and programmes; and

3 Ensure proper GESI-friendly communication towards citizens about service entitlement in the framework of recovery and reconstruction, including about the functioning of an independent Grievance Redress Mechanism. These recommendations echo consolidated recommendations by the UN and Development Partners submitted to the NRA in December 2015.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) together with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare organized a seminar on "Thinking Together: Way forward to integrate GESI perspectives in DRR - Experience from Nepal and Japan" on 26th May 2016 in Kathmandu. The seminar resulted in the following key conclusions:

1 It is important to have GESI responsive policies and secure certain percentages of participation of women and people of various social diversities in decision making bodies to ensure that their voices are heard in the formulation of reconstruction plans. There is also a need for investment in capacity building.

2 Interventions to empower women and build their leadership should also engage men and other family members to create an enabling environment. Engagement of youth, especially boys, is important to create an enabling environment.

3 Creation of women only spaces in communities can be entry points for building women's leadership. Ward citizen forums can be used to empower women and influence plans.

4 Establishment of information centres, dissemination of information and talk programmes on gender equality can all contribute positively to empower women.

The District GESI Working Groups in Gorkha and Sindhupalchok led by the Women and Children Office continue to regularly convene key stakeholders for information sharing, coordination and joint advocacy on GESI aspects of post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM ASSESSMENTS/STUDIES

Nepal Community Feedback Project Report on Reconstruction⁹ based on survey conducted in June 2016 with feedback collected from communities (2,100 respondents) across 14 earthquake affected districts on reconstruction related issues. Results indicate that while there have been small improvements in reconstruction knowledge and information, a large proportion of respondents are still unaware of when and how they will get support (51%), and also how to rebuild safely (44%). Among different groups, there has been a consistent correlation observed between age and perception of being informed. As age increases, feelings of being informed, either about support or safe construction decrease. Similarly, an equivalent correlation is observed between gender and information. Women consistently feel less informed than men on all issues. A key recommendation is to improve targeted communications on reconstruction support and safe building practices to women, senior citizens and persons with disabilities to ensure they are equally able to access support.

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Housing, land and property issues in Nepal and their consequences for the post-earthquake reconstruction process (February 2016)¹⁰ report by Care Nepal. This report warns that reconstruction in Nepal following the 2015 earthquakes might leave some earthquake-affected people behind, including very vulnerable ones such as squatters, undocumented citizens or owners without a formal land title. The report highlights land use planning as a necessary step in reconstruction, and recommends specific actions to allow progressive rights to become effective in practice.

Building back better or restoring inequalities? Gender and conflict sensitivity in the response to Nepal's 2015 earthquakes" (April 2016)¹¹ by International Alert. This report is based on research into the gender dimensions of humanitarian interventions in post-conflict settings from a peacebuilding perspective,

using the 2015 earthquakes in Nepal as a case study from which lessons can be drawn for other contexts. It identifies the risks posed by gender-blind humanitarian programming, the need to understand the multiple intersecting dimensions of vulnerability, as well as the key challenges in operationalising national and local gender and conflict-sensitive programming.

Building Back Right: Ensuring equality in land rights and reconstruction in Nepal" (April 2016)¹² by Oxfam produced in partnership with the Humanitarian Accountability Monitoring Initiative, the Himalayan Conservation Group, the National Network of Community Disaster Management Committees Nepal, and the Community Self-Reliance Centre Nepal. As post-earthquake reconstruction continues, this paper looks at land rights and resettlement, and considers Nepal's opportunity to 'build back better' and ensure greater land equality, especially for marginalized people, such as Dalits, indigenous groups (Janajatis), many of whom are also landless, and women.

Building Back Better and Safer for Gender Equality⁵ report published jointly by the Embassy of Australia, UN Women and Sancharika Samuha based on a series of consultations with key stakeholders from the Government (including the NRA), Development Partners, the UN, NGOs, INGOs and CSOs. The report was submitted to the NRA with key recommendations derived from stakeholder consultations. Recommendations from the report include:

- 1 Ensure women are members of the NRA's executive committees and of local level structures within the broader NRA framework with input into the decision making process;
- 2 Establish a formal mechanism where well-established common women's groups at the community level can have their voice heard within the local level NRA structures, and actively train women in non-traditional roles such as masonry and carpentry;
- 3 Focus on establishing gender friendly safe spaces/centres and potential linkages for delivering livelihood trainings in the enrollment centres;
- 4 Conduct gender orientation trainings for existing NRA members and for engineers at both national and district levels;

5 Link government grants and loans with policies to register the house/land in the name of both husband and wife to ensure joint ownership;

6 Ensure women's access to cash transfers and other benefits provided by the State to earthquake survivors, by helping them with the necessary documentation process;

7 Local women's groups and women's networks must be mobilized effectively to help identify those particularly affected by disaster and to ensure that nobody is left behind;

8 It is critical to develop/collect gender disaggregated data at every stage of preparedness relief and response, and communicate in relevant local languages to promote shared vision.

Disaster, Disability and Difference: A Study of the Challenges Faced by Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in Post-Earthquake Nepal⁶. The report was prepared by Social Science Baha and published with the assistance of UNDP in Nepal and the National Federation of the Disabled Nepal. This research-based report seeks to empirically assess the contemporary landscape of disability in Nepal, with a focus on the unique challenges faced by PwDs in the wake of the earthquakes that devastated Nepal in April and May of 2015. The study highlighted several issues related to gender and disability. For example, there are stark gendered differences in marital status between men and women with disabilities, as 75.6% of the men with disabilities surveyed were married compared to only 43.2% of women with disabilities; further 32% of WwDs in the survey were widowed, divorced, or separated. As a woman with disabilities from Sindhupalchok states: "Even if men have disabilities they have an inheritance. But we women don't. That is why a man with a disability can marry an abled woman".

The Nepal Gender Profile and District Gender Profiles for Gorkha and Sindhupalchok⁷ were updated in close coordination with the Inter-Cluster Gender Working Group, co-chaired by UN OCHA and UN Women and the District Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Working Groups led by the Women and Children Office.

Nepal Community Feedback Report on protection related issues Phase 2 Round 2 (August 2016)⁸ with 2,100 residents from the 14 most earthquake affected districts. When asked questions

5 <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2016/03/building-back-better-and-safer-for-gender-equality>

6 http://www.np.undp.org/content/nepal/en/home/library/crisis_prevention_and_recovery/disaster-disability-difference-PWDs-post-quake2016.html

7 <http://un.org.np/thematicareas/disasterpreparedness/erp>

8 <http://cfp.org.np/uploads/documents/protection-phase-2-round-2.pdf> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3qTNF5ajz0>



Livelihood training (Improvement of women household vegetation) in Irkhu in Sindhupalchok. Photo Credit: JICA

specifically related to protection themes (such as violence, tensions, discrimination and mistreatment etc), higher than average responses are observed by Dalit respondents. In Dolakha, 19% of respondents said there is a problem with violence in their community; which is nearly 4 times the national average. Respondents in Sindhupalchok and Gorkha also indicated higher than average levels of violence within their communities, at 11% and 9 % respectively. Only 19% of respondents overall reported having provided feedback to the Government on the recovery and reconstruction process, and 15 % to I/NGOs. It was found that women are much less likely than men to provide feedback. The main reasons cited by respondents include not feeling anyone will listen, not feeling like it will change anything and not knowing where or how to provide feedback. Key recommendations are: 1) protection partners should look into higher levels of perceived violence in communities in Dolakha, Sindhupalchok and Gorkha, and 2) all recovery and reconstruction partners should scale up their efforts to make feedback channels accessible to communities and to demonstrate to those communities that their voice is being heard and explain how their feedback impacts decisions.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) assessments¹³ continue to be conducted on a regular basis capturing

information on gender, protection and GBV related issues within the population displaced due to the earthquake. As per the latest DTM Round 7 report of May 2016, the current 78 camp sites are hosting an estimated 4,628 households (21,315 people): 10,749 female, 10,566 male and 2,349 children under the age of 5.

I am alone (July 2016) policy paper by Oxfam and Women for Human Rights - Single Women Group.¹⁴ The paper reports that existing gender inequalities in Nepal meant that single women were particularly affected in the aftermath of the earthquake, received inadequate assistance and that their concerns and needs were not heard. It provides recommendations on how to ensure recovery efforts can promote improved conditions for single women in Nepal and ensure their increased resilience and engagement in disaster preparedness.

KEY PROGRAMME EFFORTS

SAFE DEMOLITION AND RECONSTRUCTION

As of 31 July 2016, IOM safely demolished and/or cleared debris from 702 damaged structures in Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Dhading and Gorka districts. Through the Cash for Work (CFW)

scheme, IOM has engaged 5,755 local labourers, including 2,492 (44%) women participants. In total, IOM has distributed NPR 66,974,095 (NPR 29,468,602 to women), contributing to increase household income and supporting families to meet their basic needs. The IOM field team worked closely with the protection cluster, the Gender Working Group, local authorities and communities to ensure the equal participation of women. Similarly, participants were provided general training on safe demolition techniques and reuse of debris. A team leader was assigned to a group of 10-15 people to ensure safety protocols were followed and to avoid any cases of abuse and or exploitation; regular monitoring that was conducted by IOM field staff to this end. In coordination with the Government of Nepal and the Housing Reconstruction and Recovery Platform (HRRP), IOM is providing support to facilitate safer owner driven reconstruction to enhance communities' resilience to disaster. IOM roving teams are delivering at VDC level Build Back Safer (BBS) Awareness Trainings and providing toolkits, which will help families rebuild their homes in a safer manner. The training focuses on the BBS 10 Key Messages, which address the integration of construction techniques that will mitigate the impact of natural hazards, namely strong winds, earthquakes and floods. During the trainings, men and women participants learned safer construction key messages by practicing with demonstration models and materials. As of July 2016, the IOM BBS Awareness Training programme reached 14,168 affected families and participants in 24 VDCs and 10 IDP sites in three districts; including 5,611 female (40%), and 8,556 male participants.

Ms. Bishnu Kumari Khatri, a widowed single mother from Petku VDC, Sindhupalchok district, who participated in IOM's Build Back Safer Awareness training in April 2016, stated: "The April 25th earthquake destroyed one side of my house and the aftershock on the 26th destroyed the entire house. I still need to rebuild my small house. In today's training, we learned how to make a solid foundation for a house by tying stones together at the corner of the wall and between the walls. We had heard about this concept before, but now we know how to do it."

9 <http://www.cfp.org.np/uploads/documents/Reconstruction-%20Round%202.pdf> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNaupKKc97g>

10 <http://insights.careinternational.org.uk/publications/housing-land-and-property-issues-in-nepal-and-their-consequences-for-the-post-earthquake-reconstruction-process>

11 <http://www.international-alert.org/resources/publications/building-back-better-or-restoring-inequalities#sthash.W2rv9GVn.aUE1TKsb.dpuf>



Mithe Kaami, a 51 year old widow (4th from the left) from Sindhupalchok district was one of the participants of the first training group that participated in the 50 day mason training through the Helvetas REAP project and reconstructed her own house together with her fellow trainees with financial support from the project in May-June 2016. Photo Credit: Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Nepal

The HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal has been implementing the “Rehabilitation of facilities of Earthquake Affected People (REAP) project from August 2015 to January 2018 in Sindhupalchok district. The project has used a social vulnerability scorecard to ensure a targeted selection of people from vulnerable communities including single women with children under five years of age as project beneficiaries. The project has two components: 1) mason training followed by reconstruction of 1000 houses and 2) rehabilitation of the 32 Drinking Water Supply Schemes (DWSS). Under component 1, the project has focused on rebuilding the houses of the vulnerable including single women who are unable to reconstruct their house by themselves. Up to July 2016, the REAP project has trained 10 women mason trainees among 139 men. For example: Mithe Kaami, a 51 year old widow from Sindhupalchok district was one of the participants of the first training group that participated in the 50 days mason training through the REAP project and reconstructed her own house together with her fellow trainees with financial support from the project in May-June 2016. As the participation of women in mason training was difficult, HELVETAS requested Mithe to share her experience with other single women and demonstrate that it is doable.

Mithe explained “Initially I found it difficult to rebuild my house but now I have done it, I can share my experience with other single women.” Mithe has now agreed to be the project ground ambassador to share her experience with single

women who think they cannot manage to rebuild their house by themselves.¹⁴

Under component 2, in the process of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the DWSS, the project has focused on connecting private taps into 3,000 households, to lessen the workload of women. Women represent 40 % of participants in the executive committee of the 22 DWSS Users Committees. HELVETAS has incorporated basic sessions on women’s unpaid care work, gender equality and social inclusion within the technical training sessions for the

DWSS Users Committees.

JICA partnered with the Chautara Women and Children Office (WCO) to distribute construction safety kits to more than 4,000 households, mainly female headed households, who were recognized as eligible for housing reconstruction support in Chautara, Sindhupalchok in April and May 2016. The project aimed to ensure the safety of house owners (mainly women) while reconstructing their houses and to engage them in reconstruction work for income generation. JICA’s support for the reconstruction of Ampipal Hospital in Palungtar municipality in Gorkha was initiated on 27 July 2016. The hospital plays an important role in providing health care including maternity, delivery and birth care in the western part of Gorkha district. At the ground breaking ceremony on July 27, many participants including Dr. Kshitiz Chandra Paudel, the Medical Director of Ampipal Hospital expressed their gratitude for JICA’s support which will ensure a brighter future of the hospital and further developments in the field of health and hygiene in Nepal. The reconstruction project budget of NRs 70 million was donated by JICA, and the reconstruction will take 13 months to complete. JICA has pledged to reconstruct the main building of the Paropakar Maternity and Women’s Hospital in Kathmandu. Based on the current plan, the reconstruction is expected to start at the beginning of 2017 and be completed around June 2018.¹⁶

Micro-entrepreneur cart from Rasuwa. Photo Credit: Mr. Sanjay Pariyar, Field Monitoring Officer, Field Office Chautara, UNDP



12 <http://reliefweb.int/report/nepal/building-back-right-ensuring-equality-land-rights-and-reconstruction-nepal>

13 All DTM reports and products are available at <http://www.cccmnepal.org/DTM>

14 https://nepal.helvetas.org/en/news/case_studies/climate_change_and_disaster_risk_management/encouragement_for_the_project/



Awareness raising session on human trafficking, unsafe migration and GBV, at Gupsipakha campsite, Laprak. Photo Credit: IOM

UNDP is promoting cash for work as temporary employment through debris management, so far 4,350 people have received temporary employment through cash-for-work (40% of which are women). UNDP is providing training to engineers, masons, house-owners and Emergency Operation Centres (EOC) staff on damage assessment, safer construction practices and disaster risk management. So far 577 engineers (including 99 women) have been trained on damage assessment of earthquake affected households, 253 engineers (47 women), 673 masons (106 women) and 466 house-owners have been trained on safer construction practices. Through UNDP support, 314 members (92 women) of Community Based Disaster Risk Management Committees were trained on search and rescue, livelihood, early warning systems, disaster risk management mainstreaming and institutional development.

The Non-Resident Nepali Association has taken the initiative to build 600 houses as a part of a 'model village' in Laprak in Gorkha district and Araniko Designer and Planers PVT has been selected to develop the master plan of the model village. As a member of the Steering Committee, UN Women is providing technical support to ensure the gender-responsiveness of the master plan.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

UNDP's Rapid Enterprise and Livelihoods Recovery Project (RELRP) has provided quick enterprise recovery support to over 12,000 earthquake affected micro-entrepreneurs in seven severely affected districts: Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchok, Kavre, Dolakha, Ramechhap and Sindhuli. RELRP's primary beneficiaries are socially excluded and economically poor communities, especially women, Dalits, indigenous

nationalities, unemployed youth and Madheshi. Although the RELRP was closed in June 2016, its work has been continued through the Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP). UNDP is providing livelihood recovery support, psychosocial counselling, technical skill training, entrepreneurship development training and technology support to existing and new micro-entrepreneurs. As of December 2015 9,907 existing Micro Entrepreneurs (MEs) recovered (61.4% women, 53.3% hill Janjati and 14% hill Dalit), and 465 new MEs were created (55% women, 45.8% Janjati and 22% Dalit). A total of 1,109 existing Micro Entrepreneurs (57.3% women, 48.8% Janjati and 12% Dalit) and 20 new Micro Entrepreneurs (30% women and 100% Janjati) were trained on technical skills. A total of 68 potential entrepreneurs enhanced their knowledge and skills on entrepreneurship development (73.5% women, 56% Janjati and 15% Dalit). A total of 4,011 Micro Entrepreneurs were supported with technology (58.5 % women, 52% Janjati and 16% Dalit).

IOM supported 500 women with small scale livelihoods projects including skill building and micro grants targeting women, survivors of gender-based violence, potential and returnee women migrants, as well as socially and economic vulnerable women. The project was carried out in Dolakha, Gorkha, Kathmandu, and Sindhupalchok to decrease the socio-economic vulnerability of earthquake-affected communities. IOM continues to focus on livelihoods projects targeting approximately 50 of the most vulnerable female members of the population affected by the earthquake.

JICA is supporting a one year livelihood program from April 2016 to May 2017

mainly focused on vulnerable female-headed households in Gorkha and Sindhupalchok. The program has two components: 1) improvement of maize and potato cultivation (target VDCs in Gorkha: Bagdanda, Nareshwar, Muchok, Simjung, Kharibot, Barpak and target VDCs in Sindhupalchok: Talamarang, Irkhu, Bansbari, Mankha, Maneshwara, Thokarpa) and 2) improvement of vegetable cultivation at house garden (target VDCs in Gorkha: Bagdanda, Nareshwar, Simjung and target VDCs in Sindhupalchok: Talamarang, Irkhu, Bansbari, Maneshwara, Thokarpa). JICA is planning to initiate an integrated women's community support program in Barpak VDC in Gorkha. The program is composed of four sub-projects: 1) construct a women's community centre, 2) establish a women's cooperative in Barpak, 3) improve vegetable cultivation among female-headed households and 4) provide mother goats and improve goat farming and breeding.

PROTECTION & GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

IOM distributed a total of 63,110 Information and Education Communication (IEC) brochures and 704 flex banners focused on counter-trafficking measures and safe migration to community members including 25,100 brochures and 539 banners in Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur) 11,120 brochures and 47 banners in Gorkha, 13,825 brochures and 35 banners in Dolakha and 13,065 brochures and 83 banners in Sindhupalchok. A total of 11,839 earthquake affected individuals and concerned stakeholders received information on GBV, safe migration, human trafficking and human smuggling through 172 awareness raising sessions. These sessions were held in five earthquake affected districts: Dhading (8), Dolakha (30), Gorkha (32), Kavre (7), Kathmandu Valley (22), Makwanpur (4), Nuwakot (1), Rasuwa (1), and Sindhupalchok (67). IOM is currently bringing the awareness raising and capacity-building protection sessions to earthquake affected schools, communities and government authorities that focus on gender related issues such as GBV, human trafficking and safe migration (the latter primarily targeting the male population). This work will be continued through the end of September and will target approximately 1500 additional beneficiaries.

In early June 2016, IOM and Shakti Samuha, a local counter-trafficking NGO, jointly identified 100 socio-economically vulnerable displaced women and girls in

Kathmandu Valley. With support from the World Bank, IOM delivered 24 tents to those identified with the most urgent shelter protection needs, benefitting a total of 74 individuals, including their families. The provision of tents addressed an urgent protection concern that was raised by the beneficiaries themselves. **Maternity kits were distributed to 850 pregnant or lactating women up to one year in displacement camps in Gorkha, Sindhupalchok and Dolakha.** A key lesson has been to ensure that site management committees within the displacement camps have adequate female representation. Furthermore, IOM highlight that site improvement activities need to be prioritised and focus on the needs of women at risk of GBV, such as lighting within the displacement camps, locks on toilets, etc.

Oxfam has deployed one gender officer in each Oxfam district office and in each partner organisation to ensure mainstreaming of gender and protection in all its recovery and reconstruction activities. Oxfam is also conducting awareness raising workshops and disseminating IEC material on women's rights, child marriage, and GBV counselling and referral in Kathmandu, Gorkha, Nuwakot, and Dhading. Oxfam is supporting the local government on gender-responsive recovery and reconstruction including spending of the 10% VDC budget allocated to women, women's access to legal documentation, joint land ownership, vital registration, and women's participation in decision making processes. Oxfam is also engaging women in mason training in its project districts. A key gap identified by Oxfam is that the earthquake affected population is still lacking access to official information regarding the government compensation they are entitled to. According to Oxfam's baseline study, women especially are unaware of how and where to claim their citizenship rights for vital registration - 34% didn't have any knowledge, 30% had superficial knowledge, and 19% only some knowledge on claiming their rights.

Women for Human Rights (WHR), the Single Women's Group, and SAATHI in partnership with UN Women and with support received from the Government of Denmark, have



Bimala Amagi Psychosocial Counsellor providing session to earthquake survivor women in the multipurpose womens centre in Gorkha supported by SAATHI, Government of Denmark and UN Women. Photo Credit UN Women/ Monica Upadhyay

continued to run three of its established five Multi-Purpose Women Centres in Gorkha, Nuwakot and Sindhupalchok in close coordination with the Government of Nepal. The centres now focus on enhancing the capacity of local women's groups to ensure the integration of gender equality in longer-term disaster recovery, reconstruction and preparedness initiatives. The centres conducted **Women's Safety Audits (WSAs) with the involvement of women seeking support from the centres, which explores the types of spaces in the community that contribute towards creating a safe environment.** The WSAs concluded with recommendations to enhance the capacities of service providers on gender-responsive service delivery, to keep public spaces safe through increased police patrolling and proper lighting (including in sanitary facilities), to increase women's participation and leadership in various development interventions, and to engage men in promoting women's safety and security. The recommendations of the WSA will inform future discussions on local disaster-preparedness plans and the centres are also following up on these with relevant local government agencies. In its current second phase, the MPWCs are continuing to provide psycho-social counselling, referral services, information dissemination services, and professional orientations on accessing employment opportunities. **In addition they are providing community awareness trainings on disaster recovery and resilience building and prevention from violence, as well as supporting women's engagement**

in and developing networks of women grassroots trainers on disaster recovery and resilience building. During this phase, the MPWCs have reached a total of 4,648 women beneficiaries. A total of 3,285 women received information on violence and potential measures of disaster preparedness and 136 women and girls were referred to different services (e.g. legal support, cash-for-work initiatives, and capacity development trainings). Based on findings from needs assessments, feasibility studies and rapid market feasibility assessments on potential jobs for earthquake-affected women, the MPWCs prepared a five-day training module and handbook on goat farming, poultry farming and seasonal vegetable farming, and 152 women attended skills-development training and received matching support in kind from the MPWC. A handbook and module on disaster recovery and resilience building has been prepared and a five-day training of trainers for 61 local women leaders has been completed. Similarly 30 community youths and women enhanced their skills to support community disaster resilience. The MPWCs partnered with the Nepal Red Cross Society on the disaster-related interventions. A total of 479 women have received psycho-social counseling and trauma assistance from psycho-social counselors at the MPWCs. A total of 386 women have been organized into social groups, including single women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens and excluded women, and are building linkages with different stakeholders in order to advance their agendas.

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This update was prepared based on inputs from the National Reconstruction Authority, members of the multi-stakeholder forum of the Inter-Cluster Gender Working Group (GWG), the UNCT Gender Theme Group, the IDPG GESI Working Group and other DPs, NGOs/INGOs, CSOs in Nepal. This update is not representative of all ongoing efforts on gender-responsive recovery and reconstruction as it is only includes inputs received. Its purpose is to enable information exchange, coordinate efforts towards shared priorities, and increase attention to key issues in the field of gender equality during the post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction process in Nepal.