



# GENDER EQUALITY

## UPDATE No. 5

By **Gender Working Group**  
**RESPONSE TO THE NEPAL EARTHQUAKE** (as of 16/9/2015)

Summary of key facts and figures, case studies, initiatives, progress, challenges, needs and opportunities related to gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of the Nepal earthquake emergency response

## Guidance on Gender Mainstreaming in Transition Process<sup>1</sup>



Women seeking relief and services outside Multi-purpose Women's Centre, Sindhupalchowk. Photo Credit: Samir Thapa/UN Women Nepal

The Inter-Cluster Gender Working Group is supporting the integration of Gender Equality to the ongoing transition process with the view to identifying priorities going into the recovery and reconstruction phase of the response. The Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) guidance committed to by the Government of Nepal, Inter-Agency Standing Committee commitments to mainstream gender in humanitarian action and recommendations on gender equality and social inclusion made in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (2015) offer the framework for implementing an inclusive approach.

The following are some key considerations suggested by the Inter-Cluster Gender Working Group to ensure gender equality and women empowerment going forward:

**1** Develop sex and age disaggregated monitoring indicators to ensure the differential outcomes are tracked and

can inform programming,

**2** Develop gender analysis tools and guidance across clusters/sectors at the district levels to inform recovery and reconstruction programming,

**3** Ensure meaningful participation of both women and men through equal representation in decision making structures, formal and informal, at district levels.

**4** Establish a harmonised targeting criteria to support prioritisation based on specific vulnerabilities and risks,

**5** Develop cluster specific gender guidance/checklist and capacity strengthening.

The Humanitarian Coordinator reemphasised the above at the Humanitarian Country Team meeting on 14th September 2015.

## Update on Response Monitoring Gender Indicators

In the past month of the humanitarian response, 9 out of 11 clusters and sub-clusters have been represented in the Inter-Cluster Gender Working Group and 10 out of 11 clusters and sub-clusters have had gender equality feature in their monthly meetings. In terms of reporting and use of sex and age disaggregated data, 8 out of 9 clusters included mention of gender issues in their monthly Information Management products (Cluster Briefs, Humanitarian Bulletin etc.) in July-August, while so far only 3 clusters have reported SADD against their specific response monitoring framework indicators:

Early Recovery (15th July – 15th August)

- 36,475 men and 151,494 women, including 12,743 female headed households, benefitted from debris removal.
- 94,778 men and 109,695 women, including 10,749 female headed households, benefitted from the rehabilitated community infrastructure.
- 3,486 men and 2,450 women were employed on a temporary basis to support debris management.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (15th June – 15th July)

- 30,390 women, 29,043, 10,998 girls and 10,816 boys of displaced population living in a displacement site were captured by the Displacement Tracking Matrix

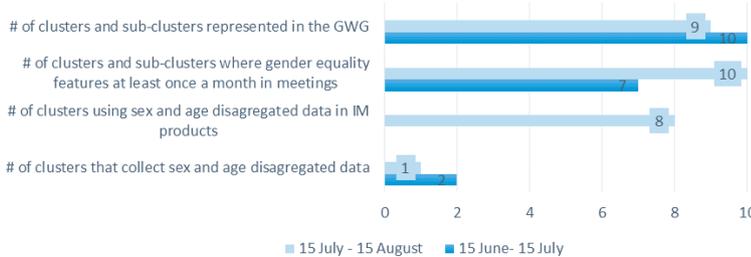
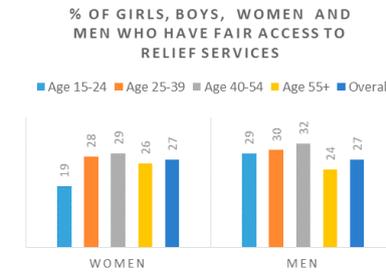
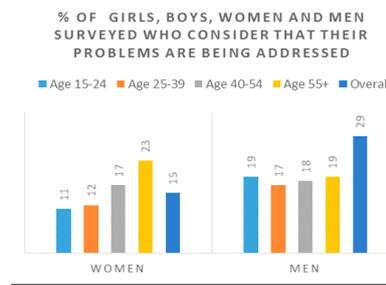
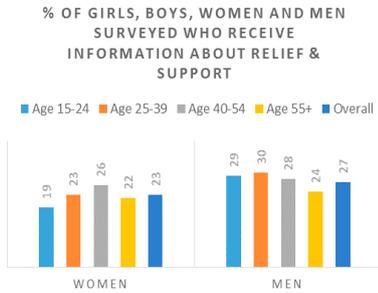
Protection (15th June – 15th July)

- 9,944 women and 50 girls accessed female-friendly spaces
- 21,200 women received dignity kits

Based on findings from the Community Feedback Project

<sup>1</sup> Guidance Note on Gender Mainstreaming in Transition (on behalf of Inter-Cluster Gender Working Group): Nepal Earthquake Response 2015 (27th August 2015): <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/document/guidance-note-gender-mainstreaming-transition-nepal-earthquake-response>

Survey Round 12, the majority of men and women of all ages reported not receiving information about relief and services, unequal access to relief services and that their problems were not being addressed. In terms of access to information and services, and having their main problems addressed, more women than men of all ages replied negatively.



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM ASSESSMENTS

**A**CTED multi-sectoral needs assessments<sup>3</sup> (as of 19th August) of Dhading, Dolakha, Sindhupalchok and Solukhumbu districts: Key findings suggest that while access to durable shelter may prevail over other priorities, non-food items needs are also significant, especially for women, particularly for winterisation items in anticipation of cold season.

**W**omen for Human Rights (WHR) has completed the 'Need Identification' and 'Need Assessment' of 16,000 women at risk due to earthquake from 6 districts (8 VDCs). The first draft for Gorkha has been received and the key needs identified for Gorkha are shelter, clothing and livelihood options.

**6**th Issue of Open Mic Nepal Bulletin<sup>4</sup> (as of 10th August), capturing anecdotes and perceptions on the ground to eliminate information gaps between the media, humanitarian agencies and local people, included information on the rumours on alleged discrimination in relief distribution and

on husbands living with second wives depriving their first wives of relief.

**M**onthly Assessment Unit Situation Analysis<sup>5</sup> (as of 14th August): Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is of particular concern in spontaneous settlement sites, with incidents reported in Nuwakot, Rasuwa, and Dolakha.

**T**he Tata Institute of Social Sciences are conducting a pilot vulnerability assessment survey in Ward 3&4, Bhotsipa VDC, Sindhupalchowk with the local partner Women Development Advocacy Centre.

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## RESPONSE AND GOOD PRACTICES

### Coordination

- Taking further the partnership between the Gender Working Group and the Inter-Agency Communicating with Communities Group, in order to ensure the specific needs and capacities of women are fully captured when feedback from affected people is collected, the round 3 survey questionnaire has been revised to include a question on gender equality and women's empowerment. Targeted feedback surveys are ongoing with UN Women and UNFPA supported communities in order to further capture aspects of changes in the lives of women and girls after the earthquake.
- The Gender Working Group is supporting the integration of gender equality considerations into the joint assessment on food security, livelihoods and early recovery and promoting the reporting of sex and age disaggregated data by clusters.
- Oxfam and its partners are conducting legal awareness in Thimi, Bhaktapur, with 25 affected women on how to get legal documents, government services and the importance of legal documents.

### Education<sup>6</sup>

A key strategy to ensure inclusive and gender-responsive emergency education in the earthquake affected areas has been to scale-up a mechanism used prior to the earthquake in several districts in Nepal: the formation of Girls Education and Gender Equity Networks and appointment of Gender Focal Points at the district level. The Girl's Education Network is a forum of partners that promotes girls' education and raises awareness about gender equity. At the district level the GE Network is chaired by the District Education Officer. The Gender Focal Point (GFP) is a staff member of the District Education Office who is identified and trained to work with local networks, teacher unions, government actors and minority groups to monitor and address gender and equity issues in the education system in their district. The GE Network of Bhaktapur districts initiated awareness program on safety and trafficking prevention in association with district police office (women and children cell). The GE Network has also included representatives from the women and children cell of the district

2 <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/document/community-feedback-report>

3 <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/assessment/150819acteddolakha-detailed-needs-assessment-final>

4 <http://quakehelpdesk.org/openmic/issue6/English.pdf>

police office. Recently, a big awareness program was organised at Megha Higher Secondary School in which the Chief District Officer, Superintendent of the Police, the District Education Officer participated to convey the messages on safety and trafficking to the students. Likewise, the GE Network has distributed sanitary pads to girls in the schools and orientation to the heads of agencies on these issues. The Bhaktapur network is in the process of placing suggestion boxes in all schools aimed at addressing gender equity related issues. The District Education Office of Okhaldhunga, has identified girls who were disabled due to earthquake and is supporting them to continue their education through residential school (Feeder Hostels). So far 40 girls, including girls with disabilities, have benefitted from this initiative continuing their education. This work highlights the importance of education in addressing protection concerns and tackling gender inequalities in the short and long term as part of the emergency response. All 14 earthquake-affected districts now have Gender Focal Points, who have recently received training from Cluster partners on key issues to look out for and strategies to address issues relating to inequity in education.

## The formation of Girls Education and Gender Equity Networks and appointment of Gender Focal Points at the district level.

**Food Security**  
In Bigu village in Dolakha district around 50 percent of the porters delivering WFP food are women who work under the Remote Access Operations programme - an innovative approach to get food to communities in highly remote and mountainous areas of Nepal. The earthquakes and subsequent landslides, compounded by the rainy season, has heightened the risk that the terrain of earthquake-prone Nepal is always in danger of moving. Workers and porters work to clear any debris, and ensure that trekking and community trails are opened up, ensuring access to market and speeding up the reinvigoration of the tourist industry. After a hard day's work, two women porters, Sachi Maya Thamir and Sushila Kami, reflect on how they became porters. "Our houses



collapsed in the earthquake and for two days afterwards we had no food". Due to the fear of moving around in such fragile conditions, and the lack of safe access along trails they were cut off from accessing the remittance agent, and so could not receive any funds from their husbands. When the opportunity came to work on the RAO project Sachi Maya and Sushila registered with the Nepal Mountaineering Association, one of WFP's expert partners in this project. This opportunity has enabled them to gain some financial independence and to continue supporting their children. When asked how she will spend her wages Sushila said, 'now that I have food, I can spend the money on exam fees and notebooks for school'.

## In Bigu village in Dolakha district around 50 percent of the porters delivering WFP food are women who work under the Remote Access Operations programme.

FAO is targeting the most vulnerable farmers, including female heads of households and single male heads of households in all of the six worst-affected districts of its work. In addition to providing immediate assistance to address farmers' urgent needs, FAO is also supporting income-generating activities to help farmers begin the recovery and rebuild resilient livelihoods. For example, FAO is providing material to rural women's groups to build plastic vegetable tunnels for year-round vegetable production. The vegetables can be eaten to improve family nutrition and/or

Sachi Maya Thamir and Sushila Kami, Women Porters achieving some financial independence through employment on the Remote Access Operation. Photo Credit: Tina Stacey, WFP

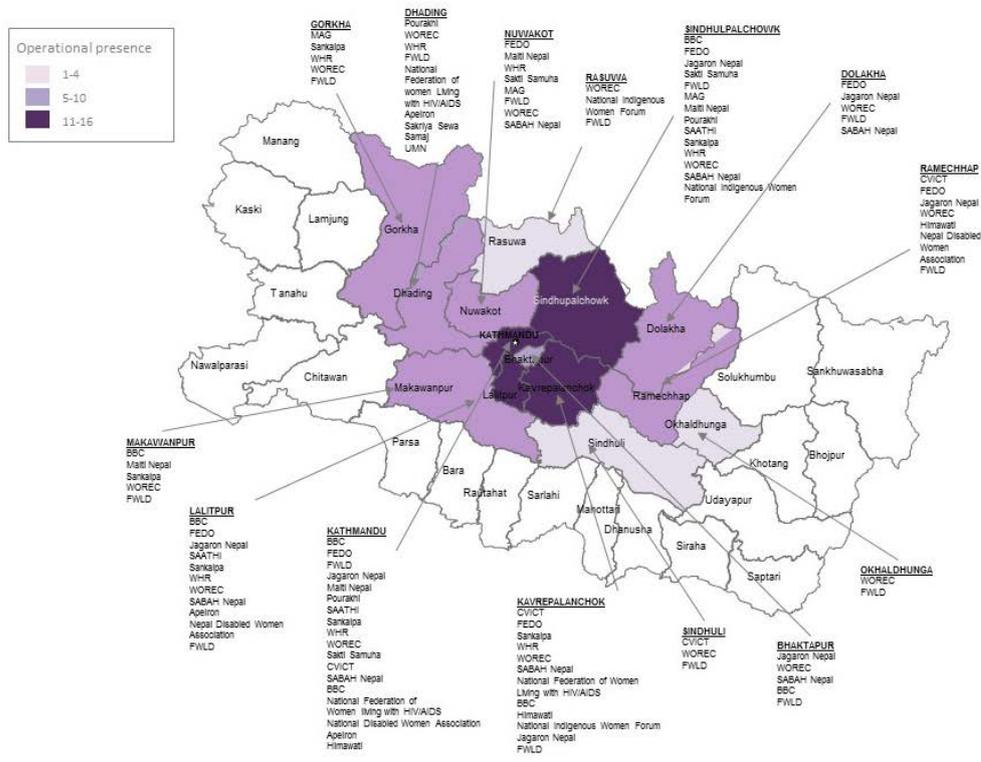
sold in local markets to generate income.



Bhavani Tapalia, 31 years old, Kumpur VDC, Dhading district. Received vegetable seeds from FAO as part of its urgent support for farmers to help improve nutrition and income generation by selling surplus produce in local markets. Photo Credit: Tina Stacey, WFP

**W**ash  
In Sindhupalchowk, Oxfam is working with the WASH cluster to improve the emergency bathing spaces including CGI sheets and locks for privacy. Menstrual Hygiene Management has been introduced in schools through social mobilisers and Radio Sindhu to raise awareness on gender based violence, trafficking and hygiene practices. Likewise, Oxfam and its partners have supported communities to make separate bathing and latrine units in earthquake affected areas to ensure women and girls' privacy and security needs. In Kathmandu Valley, 43 bathing units have been established. In co-ordination with UEMS (Urban environment management society) awareness program for 27 women survivors from Lalitpur have been implemented on clean drinking water, hygiene and sanitation.

## Women's Organisations in the 14 priority districts – 4th September<sup>7</sup>



**Early Recovery**  
 UNDP is providing financial and technical support to rebuild the collapsed Deep Jyoti Women Saving and Credit Cooperative building in Manedanda, Irkhu-1, Sindhupalchowk through the local NGO partner Community Development and Environment Conservation Forum. The Co-operative was established in 2007 and currently holds 262 active women members (161 Janajatis, 13 dalits and 88 others) from all 9 wards of Irkhu VDC. The cooperative conducts various livelihoods, skill development and saving credit activities, including by targeting young girls below age 18.



Foundation laying ceremony for the Deep Jyoti Women Saving and Credit Cooperative Building, Sindhupalchowk. The Chief Women Development Officer, Ms. Sandhya Rajeshwori Singh Thakuri, laid the first stone of the foundation. Photo Credit: UNDP

Woman and Man engaged in debris management as cash for work by IOM in Thulo Sirubari VDC. Photo Credit: IOM

**In IOM Cash for Work Program 21 out of all 50 participants are women.**

The IOM ensures gender equality in debris management cash for work (CFW) program according to the clause included in the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Cash for Work within the Early Recovery Programme. The SOP prioritises women in the selection of CFW participants to promote gender balance. Since 26 August IOM is running a Cfw Program in Thulo Sirubari VDC in which 21 out of all 50 participants working in debris removal and demolition of buildings are women.





91 year old Astamay Shrestha and her son, who is living with a disability, in front of the shelter they were provided by Oxfam. Oxfam provided them the shelter recognising her safety risks as a single woman. She also received CGI sheets, hygiene kits, tarpaulin, blankets, utensils for cooking, bedding and rope. From the VDC office her and her son received old age and disability allowance. Photo Credit: Oxfam

## MEDIA MONITORING<sup>8</sup>

**E**arthquake victims face difficulties in collecting food published in Nagarik News on 23rd August 2015: <http://www.nagariknews.com/society/nation/story/43938.html>

**I**ncrease in incidences of suicide and rape due to earthquake published in Nagarik News on 26th August 2015: <http://www.nagariknews.com/society/nation/story/44153.html>

**F**ears grow for Nepal's pregnant women after quake published in Himalayan Times on 28th August 2015: <http://epaper.thehimalayantimes.com/Details.aspx?id=4810&boxid=1612370&dat=8/29/2015>

**W**omen count on own efforts save cash Published in Kathmandu Post on 1st September 2015: <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-01/women-count-on-own-efforts-save-cash.html>

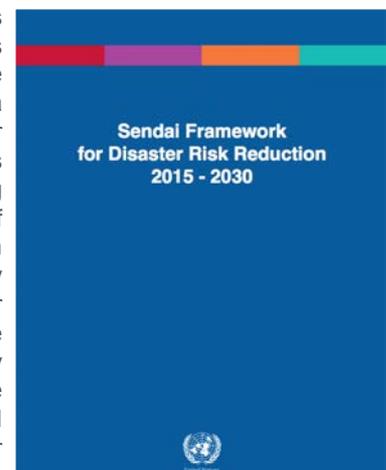
**S**ingle women left without access to relief published in Kathmandu Post on 2nd September 2015: <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-02/single-women-left-without-access-to-relief.html>



For Mamaya Gajurel, a single older woman, the real relief would be helping her build her a permanent house. Photo Credit: Helvetas

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS ON GENDER EQUALITY IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) has officially released the complete "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030"<sup>9</sup>. The Sendai Framework was endorsed by the UN General Assembly on 3 June 2015. It is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda. The Framework was adopted by the UN Member States on 18 March 2015 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and is made up of seven targets and four priorities for action. The framework includes a key focus on gender equality and women's empowerment stating the criticality of women's participation in effectively managing disaster risk that include building their capacity to secure alternate means of livelihood in post-disaster situations.



The Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nepal, Baburam Bhandari participated at the Regional Consultation for the World Humanitarian Summit in Tajikistan 28-30 July 2015, to present on "Gender in the Humanitarian Response to the Nepal Earthquake 2015".

Contact: [gwgnepal@gmail.com](mailto:gwgnepal@gmail.com)

Link: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal>

This update was prepared based on inputs from members of the multi-stakeholder forum of the Inter-Cluster Gender Working Group (GWG). The forum enables information exchange, coordinating efforts towards shared priorities, and raising attention to key issues in the field of gender equality during the Nepal earthquake humanitarian response. The Gender Working Group is co-chaired by UN OCHA and UN Women Nepal.