

GENDER EQUALITY

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



Prof. Dr. Govinda Prasad Pokhrel, Chief Executive Officer, National Reconstruction Authority launching the study report on Impact of Earthquake: Access of Dalits to Recovery and Reconstruction' conducted by Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) in Kathmandu
Photo Credit: FEDO

Committee for GESI in the NRA

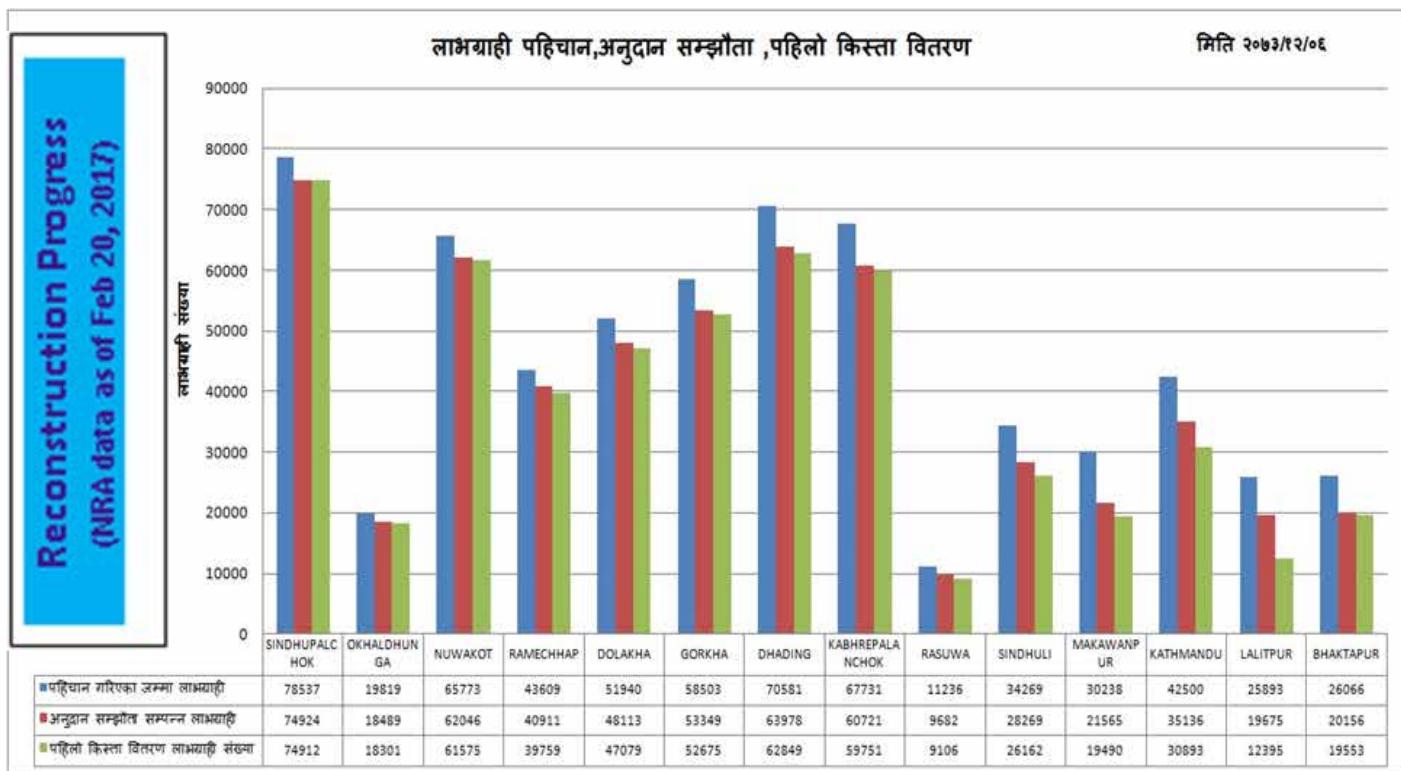
The National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) formed a committee for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) within its Social Mobilization and Management Division in January 2017 to coordinate with relevant government and non-government stakeholders as well as to mainstream GESI components in recovery and reconstruction efforts both at the national and sub-national levels. The main objective of the committee is to lead and coordinate GESI-responsive recovery and reconstruction efforts. It will provide technical inputs to the policy documents of the NRA, including policies, guidelines and programmes, to ensure GESI mainstreaming. It will also provide technical assistance and capacity-development support to the different divisions, technical committees and regional/district-level structures

of the NRA for the effective mainstreaming of gender equality and social inclusion in recovery and reconstruction efforts, as well as regular monitoring of these efforts.

The GESI committee is a new initiative to ensure effective GESI-responsive governance and accountability; the mainstreaming of GESI issues in recovery and reconstruction efforts at the national and sub-national levels; and the promotion of women's leadership and participation in recovery and reconstruction efforts at all stages. It will ensure sound coordinated planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, integrating GESI measures in all recovery and reconstruction-related activities, projects and programmes.

Key Decisions for GESI Mainstreaming in Reconstruction

The executive committee of the NRA committed to achieve greater representation of women and Dalits in its District Coordination Committee (DCC) meetings as a means to ensure their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed in reconstruction processes. The NRA sent a circular to all DCCs in February, 2017 accordingly. This is an initiative to guarantee the representation of women and vulnerable and marginalized groups in the district reconstruction forum, as previously no provision existed to ensure the engagement



of women and vulnerable and marginalized groups in DCC meetings. The DCC oversees the quality programme implementation of all reconstruction works.

The NRA has dispatched a circular to all its central-level project implementation units (CLPIUs) and its subordinate offices to ensure that no child labour is used, in accordance with the Child Labour (End and Regulate) Act 2056 of Nepal. The Act prohibits the involvement of children in any project or programme activities or the engagement of children in any type of reconstruction interventions. This Act also consolidates the rights contained in various laws and particularly targets construction companies and related agencies to ensure that these bodies respect children's rights.

According to the NGO mobilization guideline, an additional housing grant of NRs 50,000.00 is available to vulnerable communities for the reconstruction of their houses. Additionally, the guidelines have encouraged agencies to support the development of community infrastructures and the livelihood recovery of women and vulnerable and marginalized groups. To facilitate implementation of the NGO mobilization guidelines' Article 7 (2) GHA 2 and Article 7 (3), the NRA has further defined

the rules to provide additional support to vulnerable communities. It has recognized six categories of vulnerable and marginalized groups, which will be prioritized for services. These are as follows:

- 1. SINGLE WOMAN** is defined as an economically deprived woman with the following characteristics:
- Divorced women
 - Widows
 - Unmarried women aged 35 years and above
 - Women whose husband have been missing for the last five years
 - Women living separately from their husbands, but who have inherited property and regular payments as per the law

Prioritization of the beneficiaries for services will be as follows: widows aged 60 years and above; single, sick or disabled women; women who have lost all members of their family; disadvantaged women having no care giver or women from poor communities; single widowed women of any age; women whose husbands have been missing for five years; women aged 35 years and above with inherited property; divorced women; and

unmarried women aged 35 years and above.

2. SENIOR CITIZEN refers to any female or male Nepali citizen aged 60 years and above.

Sick persons, persons living with disabilities, injured individuals, single headed households or women whose family members are abroad, single widows or widowers, disadvantaged or poor individuals, and divorced women aged 60 years and above will be prioritized for the purposes of service delivery.

3. CHILDREN refer to persons below 16 years of age.

Children having no parents or no (legal) guardian or children who have lost their guardians, children of differently abled or persons with physical or mental disabilities, children with senior citizen parents or single women parents or children belonging to households headed by persons with disabilities or poor households will be prioritized for service delivery.

4. DISADVANTAGED PERSON refers to individuals who are marginalized due to discrimination based on caste, ethnicity or who are deprived of collective social or economic relations and families earning below one dollar a day.

Beneficiaries of post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction programme activities in this category may include lower castes, ethnic minorities or communities listed as disadvantaged by the Government of Nepal and published in Nepal Gazettes.

5. POOR refers to persons living below the national or sub-national regional poverty line as determined by the Government for certain periods of time based on various measures. This may also include individuals falling below thresholds of



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

the human development index, including health and education sectors, and persons of certain sexes or social groups who are excluded from the national development process. These groups should include all excluded groups.

6. Persons living with disabilities refer to persons having a disability certificate issued by the Government of Nepal. Based on the category of the disability, prioritization will be made for access to and provision of services.

Key Highlights from Assessments/Studies

NEPAL COMMUNITY FEEDBACK PROJECT

In late November – December 2016 the Common Feedback Project (CFP) held a series of 23 focus group discussions with earthquake-affected communities across seven of the 14 priority affected districts: Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Dhading, Gorkha, Ramechhap, Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk. The valuable feedback gathered through the focus group discussions is summarized in CFP's first qualitative-only report. As in every report, the CFP hopes to present the feedback it has gathered from communities in an accessible and actionable way to recovery partners. Specifically, the objective of the focus group discussions was to obtain greater depth, detail and input on aspects of particular Reconstruction and Protection themes, in lieu of the regular monthly survey. The 23 focus groups included 399 participants, with four female-only groups, two male-only groups and one group in a temporary settlement. Locations for focus group discussions included both urban and rural areas of each district including municipalities and Village Development Committees (VDCs). The feedback provided through these focus group discussions is summarized under the following broad themes, which

emerged as priorities for the communities that participated: 1. Reconstruction Needs; 2. Safer Building Practices; 3. Information Needs; 4. Reconstruction Plans; and 5. Protection Issues. Several key issues were persistently raised throughout all focus group discussions, including:

- Women reported being unable to withdraw the first tranche payment to begin reconstruction in the absence of their husbands. This is a particularly acute problem in families where husbands are working abroad and are not in Nepal. Grant agreements have been compulsorily made between male heads of households and the Government, even when that male household member is not in Nepal. This has caused significant issues for many female household members and prevented them from accessing reconstruction funds for their homes.
- Single, divorced and widowed women, as well as those whose husbands practice polygamy, have faced additional barriers in accessing reconstruction support, such as being excluded from beneficiary lists. These women also feel less informed

about vital information regarding the reconstruction process, and how to file grievances.

Similarly, among 2100 respondents surveyed by the CFP project in 14 earthquake affected districts in March 2017, fifty-four percent of respondents reported facing obstacles to livelihood recovery, citing lack of job opportunities, insufficient resources to begin a new livelihood and lack of skills as principle barriers. Forty-six percent of these respondents planned to or have already taken loans in order to support their livelihood recovery. Once again, water emerges as a top concern for respondents. Lack of access to sufficient water resources has been consistently raised as a problem in all community perception surveys, including those around Reconstruction, Protection and Food Security and Livelihoods. It is raised as a major barrier to livelihood recovery. Not only does the lack of water hamper agricultural activities, but female respondents have cited long traveling times to collect water as a burden on their productive capacity that takes away from time that could be spent on incoming generating activities.

INDEPENDENT IMPACTS AND RECOVERY MONITORING NEPAL (IRM) PROJECT

A briefing note containing preliminary findings from the third round of The Asia Foundation's Independent Impacts and Recovery Monitoring Nepal (IRM) project highlights current conditions in the earthquake-affected zone eighteen months after Nepal's disastrous earthquakes of April-May 2015. Further, it discusses the impact of aid delivery and the effectiveness of recovery as well as common coping mechanisms of earthquake victims in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquakes. The IRM report series outline findings from: (i) a quantitative survey of 4,850 respondents randomly selected across 11 districts of varying earthquake impact levels; (ii) qualitative field monitoring in 36 wards of six districts.

These can be downloaded at: <http://asiafoundation.org/tag/independent-impacts-and-recovery-monitoring-nepal/>.

BUILDING BACK BETTER OF RESTORING INEQUALITIES - GENDER AND CONFLICT SENSITIVITY IN THE RESPONSE TO NEPAL'S 2015 EARTHQUAKES

The study 'Building back better of restoring inequalities - gender and conflict sensitivity in the response to Nepal's 2015 earthquakes' 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 operationalizing national and local gender and conflict-sensitive programming. Following a brief background to Nepal and the earthquakes, the report explores the complex layers of geographic, gender and social exclusion that shaped individual and community experiences of the earthquakes. This study aims to strengthen humanitarian programming that supports both gender equality and peace in complex post-conflict, post-disaster settings.

(http://international-alert.org/sites/default/files/Gender_ConflictSensitivityNepalEarthquakes_EN_2016.pdf)

The study highlights four key findings about the humanitarian response in post-disaster, post-conflict Nepal:

- Embrace complexity: Interventions need to recognize and address the multiple and complex layers of vulnerability and exclusion, taking into account gender hierarchies and the socioeconomic exclusion of ethnic minorities, casual labourers, widows and gender minorities. For instance, a young man who migrated to Kathmandu to work as a casual labourer whose place of work and rented accommodation was destroyed faces different challenges and has different support needs to an elderly Tamang widow owning a shop in rural Sindhupalchowk. One way of addressing this is to integrate gender and conflict sensitivity into rapid needs assessments, working with local actors with nuanced contextual knowledge.

- Address the influence of 'invisible' gender norms: Interventions need to understand the specific local gendered norms, how these intersect with conflict dynamics and what this means for relief and recovery. For example, this means recognizing the consequences of relief programming based on male lists of households, which can exclude widows or female headed households, or the results of the social expectations placed on men as protectors and providers to return from employment abroad to look after their family in times of crises.
- Bridge the gap: While gender and social inclusion strategies are central to policy and capital planning, they need to be translated into meaningful impact on the ground, for example, by integrating them into implementing agencies' plans and operations at the district level, and verifying this through monitoring and participatory feedback loops that involve potentially marginalized groups, such as social audits.

- Pay attention to the risks of instability and conflict at the national level: Interventions should address both local and national conflict risks, for example, by building stronger trust and accountability between all citizens (men, women and third genders) and the state. For example, the national-level deterioration in stability prompted by the constitutional and fuel crises in Nepal

between September 2015 and February 2016 severely hampered recovery programming and adversely affected much of the population and the economy.

The report makes concrete recommendations for those working on earthquake response, recovery and reconstruction in Nepal, which will also be highly relevant for disaster response in other conflict-affected contexts.

For detail, please visit http://international-alert.org/sites/default/files/Gender_ConflictSensitivityNepalEarthquakes_EN_2016.pdf.

IMPACT OF THE EARTHQUAKE ON WOMEN'S LIVELIHOOD, HOUSING, LAND, PROPERTY RIGHTS AND CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

Similarly, the National Development Research Institute (NDRI) conducted a study on the Impact of the Earthquake on Women's Livelihood, Housing, Land, Property Rights and Citizenship Rights in six earthquake-affected districts with the support of UN Women and in close coordination with the National Reconstruction Authority in 2016. The study highlights that: (a) borrowing cash from relatives at heavy interest rates in the community was the most commonly used strategy to maintain livelihoods following the earthquake; and (b) the workload of women in the community has increased as male members of the family have migrated for employment.

The study selected a total of 1,145 respondents, the majority (83.3%) women and one-sixth of them (16.7%) men. More than 28% of respondent households were headed by women between the ages of 30 and 39 years. In terms of caste/ethnicity, about one-third of the respondents (35%) were found to be Janajati followed by Brahmin/Chhetri (30%). Newar and Dalit caste/ethnic groups were relatively less represented (17%). Around 73% of total respondents were literate. Below are the key findings of the study:

Status of Shelter and Its Implications

Even though the earthquake happened over a year ago, more than 40% of the

respondents from all types of households in the study districts were still found to be living in temporary shelters. More than 80% of temporary shelters where some respondents currently live were found to be made of Corrugated Galvanized Iron (CGI) sheets. More than 30% of the respondents from all types of households were found to be living in the same dilapidated houses with high risks. According to the qualitative study, the inability to move to proper and safe shelter was due to delays in the reconstruction process by the Government and also because of the poor economic conditions of the respondents.

The majority of the respondents reported that living in temporary shelters was unsafe. About 48% of respondents reported the reason to be risks of natural disaster; 74% reported adverse weather; 32% reported sexual and gender-based violence; and 21% reported trafficking. Children and elderly people living in temporary shelters were particularly prone to weather and seasonal variations.

Occupation

Most of the respondents practiced multiple livelihood options, largely (52%) dominated by subsistence agriculture, a figure that decreased by 1.7% following the earthquake. About 51% of women headed households were involved in subsistence agriculture. Livestock rearing (75% of HHs) is an important source of livelihood; around 79% of respondent households owned small livestock such as goat, sheep and cattle. Although about 17% of households received remittances, less than 1% of households were found to depend entirely on remittances to maintain their livelihood. The total rate of unemployment increased following the earthquake by 47%, exacerbated by a 20% decrease in remittances. The labour force increased by 4% after the earthquake.

Coping strategies to maintain livelihoods after the earthquake

In the study districts, a range of strategies were used to cope with the impact of the earthquake and maintain livelihoods. Borrowing money was the most common strategy to maintain livelihoods, adopted by 71% of men headed households (HHHs) and 70% of women HHHs in the study districts. They borrowed money from either neighbours or local money lenders. The

second most common coping strategy used by men HHHs (34%) and women HHHs (33%) was use of family savings held in saving & credit cooperatives and/or banks. The same strategies were also found to be used by remittance-receiving households (19.7%) to cope with food shortages after the earthquake.

Access to income-generating activities (IGAs)

Both men and women expressed the common opinion that men enjoy better access to IGAs than women. This is due to the traditional responsibilities of women for household chores and the obligation of women to seek permission from their husbands before taking up any work. Persons with disabilities have the lowest levels of access to IGAs. According to the FGDs in different earthquake-affected districts, persons with disabilities were found to have received different kinds of IGA training and some had already been engaged in IGAs such as tailoring and shoe making. Since women and persons living with disabilities do not enjoy equal opportunities in Nepalese society, respondents representing these groups highlighted that they should be prioritized in local level development programs such as empowerment related programs.

Ownership of property - land and houses

The total percentage of households enjoying ownership of land was about 70%; among them a significant percent (79%) of households were women headed. Similarly, about 72% of households in the study districts were found to own houses. Among them, more were men headed households (71%). Although there were changes in ownership of houses (5%) and land (3%) after the earthquake, this did not involve transfer of ownership to women.

Women's control over and access to property - land and houses

About 79% of women headed households enjoyed ownership of land and 29% owned their house. Women's access to both land and houses was found to be higher in women HHHs than in men HHHs. However, the situation differed when comparing remittance-receiving and non-receiving households. One-third of women belonging to remittance-receiving households were

found to have access to land. The average land area under women's ownership was 0.22 hectares. Among women who owned land and a house, only 75% had legal documents in their name, while 12% were found to have joint legal documents. About half of the women who owned land and houses enjoyed control over property. This was slightly higher in the case of remittance-receiving households (60%).

For details see http://www.ndri.org.np/Project_UNWOMEN.html.

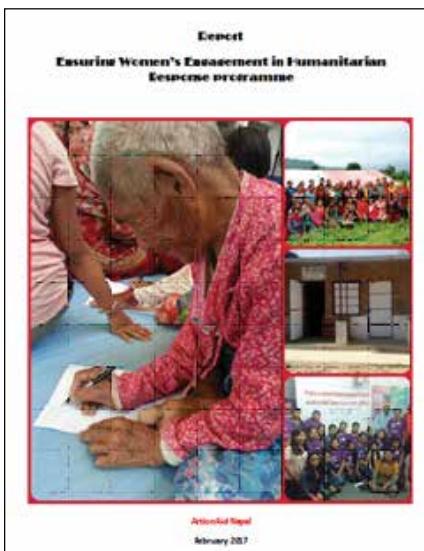
IMPACT OF NATURAL DISASTERS ON GIRLS AND WOMEN

Norlha (a Swiss INGO) has completed a gender study on the impact of natural disasters on girls and women, entitled 'Impact of natural disasters on girls and women: Literature compilation of key facts and recommendations for relief practitioners with regard to the earthquakes in Nepal', published in June 2016.

(http://norlha.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Impact_of_natural_disaster_on_girls_and_women_Norlha_June_2015.pdf)

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN POST-EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION

A situation analysis of gender equality and social inclusion in post-earthquake reconstruction was conducted in three districts - Dolakha, Sindupalchowk and Kathmandu - by Justice for All. The analysis concluded that the Government's commitment to GESI responsiveness is strongly reflected in various policy documents. The sensitivity of such documents has been increased enormously from the central to the local levels. The awareness levels of service providers pertaining to GESI were remarkably high. But GESI-related provisions have not been fully translated into action. Lack of political will towards implementing the GESI-responsive provisions was found to be a challenge. It was also observed that the GESI-related provisions included in the PDNA, PDRF and various other policies and guidelines have not been widely disseminated. The service-seeking rights holders have very limited access to information on GESI provisions.



Furthermore, the service-providing duty bearers were not properly educated on GESI provisions and citizen-friendly behaviours. Even the documents prepared by the NRA have not reached all service providers. On these grounds, the analysis suggested the following recommendations:

- Establish a GESI unit in the district to advise the implementation of policy documents relating to reconstruction and rehabilitation;
- Prepare GESI guidelines for the NRA and other service providers as envisaged in the PDRF and reconstruction policy;
- Provide training to service providers on GESI guidelines to make their activities more GESI responsive;
- Design awareness programmes for rights holders on GESI provisions and their entitlements to improve access to opportunities and benefits;
- Organize local-level advocacy campaigns to change the mind-set of local political leaders and social leaders, as a means to ensure effective implementation of GESI policy throughout all reconstruction and rehabilitation processes;
- Conduct regular monitoring to ensure the proper use of housing grants;
- Strengthen the human resources in relevant government bodies to expedite reconstruction works;

- Ensure immediate responses to complaints filed by earthquake victims, particularly marginalized and disadvantaged groups, to address the problems faced by single women, senior citizens, PLWD and other disadvantaged groups;
- Establish information and counselling centers at VDC level;
- Include more women and disadvantaged groups in male-dominated skill development initiatives such as masonry, carpentry, plumbing and electrical work, to increase their gainful employment and facilitate a paradigm shift in gender roles;
- Ensure gender responsiveness in the allocation of reconstruction budgets and the empowerment of women in the spheres of leadership development, social protection and economic security;
- Develop GESI-disaggregated data management systems to address the special needs of vulnerable groups; and
- Ensure integrated protection services to end GBV.

worse than before the earthquake. Skill development and livelihood improvement interventions have not been effective for these groups. Equitable post-disaster recovery seems unattainable unless specific interventions are undertaken by the NRA and recovery strategies of the PDRF are localized. The recommendations made by this study will be instrumental in mainstreaming GESI in all reconstruction interventions as stated in the PDRF. The study recommended: GESI disaggregation of data, support for livelihood improvement programmes and skills development, provision of psychosocial



Photo Credit: WHR

support, initiatives to ensure the inclusive participation and representation of Dalits, improvement of awareness, information and communication initiatives, sensitization of institutions and officers, ensuring access to loan and financial benefits, provision of special support for the rebuilding of houses and facilities for Dalits and excluded groups, strengthening of partnership and coordination, protection of the rights and dignity of Dalits, and generation and sharing of knowledge on GESI mainstreaming.

(For details, see www.fedonepal.org).

IMPACT OF EARTHQUAKE: ACCESS OF DALITS TO RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION

- The Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) conducted an impact study in six districts - Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Kavre, Dhading, Nuwakot and Ramechhap - to analyze the access of Dalits to recovery and reconstruction processes. The study shows that there is poor knowledge and a lack of awareness about different reconstruction policies, provisions and guidelines related to reconstruction among Dalits, with the representation and participation of Dalit women almost nil. Dalit women's economic conditions were found to be

Key Programme Efforts:

PROMOTING THE PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT OF AFFECTED WOMEN IN POST-EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION

Through the support of Saathi and Women for Human Rights - Single Women's Group (WHR) in partnership with UN Women, three Multi-Purpose Women Centres (MPWCs) continued to promote access to recovery and reconstruction services for women and girls in Gorkha, Nuwakot and Sindhupalchowk. These MPWCs were established as a result of UN Women's ties with local level partners.

In 2016, a total of 11,150 women and girls acquired skills in and accessed services for economic empowerment through trainings and workshops on income-generating activities, psychosocial counselling and trauma assistance, referral services, life-saving information dissemination, and community awareness on disaster preparedness and response including early warning systems. These trainings and workshops were delivered through the MPWCs in three project districts. A total of 182 women and girls enhanced their skills on vegetable farming, goat keeping and poultry farming, reporting an increase in income through the start-up financial support provided to income-generating initiatives in the period of August to December, 2016. A total of 458 women and girls enhanced their knowledge on searching for job opportunities in the second half of 2016. Among the 11,150 women and girls accessing services from the MPWCs, 1,769 were recovering from situations of trauma. The income-generation skills were specifically selected as per the recommendations made by vulnerable women's group needs assessments and market feasibility studies conducted in the three project districts. For the sustainability of the livelihoods component, a tracking record of beneficiaries has been prepared and shared with the Women and Children's Office (WCO), DDCs and respective VDCs.

A factsheet was prepared by the protection working group led by Women and Children Office, entitled 'Giving continuity to access of services through humanitarian action: Girls suffering from symptoms of "Mass Hysteria"' and disseminated during a session

organized for secondary-level students at the Shree Krishna Secondary School in Thakani, Sindhupalchowk. This initiative was part of the joint UN response which included UN Women and WHO providing psychosocial counselling support to the affected girls. Similarly, 60 local women enhanced their skills on disaster recovery, resilience building, disaster preparedness and early warning systems in coordination with the Nepal Red Cross Society. They were subsequently mobilized to orient community women on disaster resilience and preparedness in the project districts, resulting in the improved awareness of 1,988 women and girls in the targeted communities in October to December 2016. A customized resource guide on disaster recovery and community resilience was produced by the MPWCs in coordination with the Nepal Red Cross Society district chapters in the three project districts. The guides were used by the 60 women local trainers during the sensitization

trainings for community women on early warning and disaster preparedness and response. The guides were also used to inform service provision by the MPWCs and the technical support provided by UN Women.

(<http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/executive%20board/2017/first%20regular%20session%202017/unwomen%20humanitarian%20case%20study%20brochure.pdf?v=1&d=20170109T192157>).

In an effort to ensure the safety and security of women and girls, the identification of unsafe public spaces was undertaken as part of the district authority's commitment to implement the recommendations made by the UN Women-supported women's safety audit (WSA). The recommendations of the audit will support advocacy to strengthen gender-responsive service delivery, protection measures and the participation of women in decision-making at various levels in project districts.

A YOUNG MOTHER VOWS TO MOVE FORWARD

The 7.8-magnitude earthquake killed the four-year old daughter of a young mother, Kalpana Shrestha, in Sindhupalchowk district. Severely traumatized after losing her daughter, Kalpana suffered severe depression for nine months until she met a psychosocial counsellor from a UN Women-supported multi-purpose women's centre in Chautara, in Sindhupalchowk district. Thanks to the counselling and support she received at the centre, Kalpana is a totally different person today—she is happy, actively helping her family and healthy. But most importantly, she is open to talking about the trauma she went through with the death of her child. To date, the centre in Sindhupalchowk has provided psychosocial counselling to nearly 500 women and young girls.

(Saathi, Sindhupalchowk)



Photo Credit: WHR

ENSURING WOMEN'S ENGAGEMENT IN RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMMES

The Community Led Reconstruction Programme (CLRP) is being implemented in Kathmandu valley, Sindhupalchowk, Rasuwa, Kavre, Makwanpur and Dolakha districts since November 2015 by ActionAid Nepal. Women's Rights, Building Resilient Communities (previously called Reconstruction), Land Rights, Livelihood and Education are the main thematic areas under the programme.

Action Aid Nepal (AAN) established 30 temporary Women Friendly Spaces (WFS) in six working areas to ensure women's safety and security in coordination with the Protection Cluster at the national and district levels. With the support of DFAT and DEC, 30 temporary WFS have been transformed into permanent structures. The construction of all 30 WFS has been completed and regular meetings in the WFS have been held twice a week. Sometimes, meetings are held more often based on needs and the demand. Women also coordinated with VDCs and Municipalities to obtain government land to construct WFS and in all areas, they were successful in receiving the requested land. The skills of a total of 46 psychosocial support workers were developed through the programme. During a six-month period, 411 women and girls received psychosocial support service from the WFS. A further 298 women benefited from legal counseling. AAN along with its partners jointly cooperated to develop referral

mechanism guidelines. The final document was developed in the last quarter of 2016 and the orientation schedule has been provided to the community and the WFS staff as a means to strengthen referral mechanisms at community and district levels. Various referral mechanism groups were formed and a total of 151 members of referral mechanisms received leadership development training and legal provision training on women's rights in the Kathmandu area. The community women were oriented on various legal provisions and other aspects of women's rights, including obtaining resources from local authorities. The interventions to ensure women's leadership in disaster preparedness and response are ongoing in the project locations. As a result, women have been able to claim their rights to equal participation. More than 210 women now occupy senior positions in Ward Citizen Forums (WCF), Community Forestry Groups (CFG), Water Users Groups (WUG), Disaster Management Committees (DMC), Reconstruction Committees and School Management Committees (SMC), and 1,103 women are members of different community-level committees.

INTEGRATING GESI IN RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY, HELVETAS SWISS INTER-COOPERATION NEPAL

HELVETAS Swiss Inter-cooperation Nepal, under its Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Programme, is implementing three projects, including Rehabilitation of the Facilities of the Earthquake Affected People

(REAP), Recovery of Agricultural Livelihood (ReAL) in Sindhupalchowk district, and Rehabilitation of the Earthquake Affected School (REAS) project in partnership with CARITAS Switzerland. The Economic Recovery of the Earthquake Affected People (EREAP) project ended in December 2016 and focused mainly on the provision of cash grants for livelihood support. Likewise, HELVETAS under its Economic Growth and Decent Employment Programme is implementing an Employment Fund-Skills for Reconstruction component which aims to impart skills in earthquake-resilient construction and support for owner-led reconstruction.

REAP has two components: 1) masonry training followed by reconstruction of resilient houses; and, 2) rehabilitation of the 32 Drinking Water Supply Schemes (DWSS) with a yard connection in individual house yards. The project has used a social vulnerability scorecard adopted from the shelter cluster to ensure a targeted selection of people from vulnerable communities. In the scorecard, extra weight was given to vulnerable groups (single women, women headed households, pregnant and lactating women, infant-caring women, the disabled, the elderly, ethnic minorities, members of the LGBT community, etc.). The scorecard has also been used for the selection of beneficiaries for the EREAP (livelihood support) and REAP (support for the construction of resilient houses) programmes. Therefore, under both REAP and EREAP, gender and social inclusion aspects have been built into the beneficiary selection process. Among the 79 houses constructed by January 2017, two houses have disabled members, one house has an orphan, five houses have a single man, five houses have a single woman, two houses are women headed and one house is woman headed with a person with disabilities.

A total of 397 people have been trained in resilient house reconstruction (66% Janajati Hill (Tamang), 8% Janajati Mountain (Lama), 7% Dalit Hill, 7% Brahmin Hill, 6% Non-discriminated Newars and 6% Chhetri Hill). Among the 397 trainees, 8% were women and 92% were men. The project has encouraged the participation of local women in male-dominated sectors.

To support rehabilitation of the drinking water supply support, 20 User Committees

(UCs) have been formed or reactivated, with a focus on increasing the representation of women. Complying with the national guidelines, the project has made compulsory the participation of women in at least one leading position and at least 33% participation of women in the executive committee. In many cases, however, women's representation has surpassed the minimum requirements. Hence, out of 178 members in the executive committees of the 20 UCs, women represent 39%, while men represent 61%. Representation varies in different leadership positions in the executive committee (male chairpersons: 18, female chairpersons: two (Janajati Hill); 11 men and nine women in vice-president positions; 18 women and two men are treasurers).

User Committees formed during the project have been in a continuous process of capacity building. For example, 23 people (one woman, 22 men) have been trained through the Village Workers Maintenance (VMW) training; 20 people (one woman, 19 men) were trained through the Local Latrine Builder (LLB) training, 175 people (65 women, 110 men) were trained through the User Committee Management training. The trainees are expected to build their leadership and earn their livelihoods through regular maintenance work within the project area and beyond.

The inclusion of women in the construction of the DWSS schemes and the provision of equal wages for equal work of equal value to women and men has ensured the protection of the labour rights of women workers. Women have been involved in the construction of pipelines and infrastructures as unskilled persons.

The provision of smokeless stoves and private yard taps are good examples of the services offered by the project; these initiatives have reduced the workload of

women (i.e., water-fetching time reduced). A total of 52 houses received a private yard tap while seven houses have had cooking stoves installed. In Palchowk Ghyang, before the scheme was introduced, the average water-fetching time per trip was more than 30 minutes and on average five trips per day were made, totaling 150 minutes (2 hours 30 minutes). After private yard taps were installed, the time spent collecting water has been greatly reduced.

(Refer to the case study on reconstruction https://nepal.helvetas.org/en/news/case_studies/climate_change_and_disaster_risk_management/single_woman_reconstruction/)

MEDAIR'S CONTRIBUTION IN REBUILDING NEPAL

Medair is working in Bijulikot VDC of Ramechhap supporting 310 of the most vulnerable families in the reconstruction of their houses, including by providing basic WASH facilities. Medair strengthens the local capacity within the communities through masonry training and the provision of 'participatory approach on safe shelter awareness' (PASSA) sessions, and is providing technical support to the community in the demolition of at-risk houses. In addition

Medair provides grant money to the house owners as per government norms set for reconstruction grants.

Medair targets hard to reach areas when selecting its beneficiaries. The major criteria considered for the selection of target VDCs are: degree of geographical exclusion, level of access to services, and number of disadvantaged members of the population. Single women headed households, women, children and elderly people headed households are prime target beneficiaries of the programme; likewise, Dalits and Janajatis also are the main target groups in Medair's programmes.

In order to select beneficiaries, Medair has used the Disadvantaged Group (DAG) mapping report prepared by DDC Ramechhap. According to this report, the majority of people (80-85%) are disadvantaged in Bijulikot, which is quite high compared to other VDCs. The construction of 1,069 houses was completed through **the on-site masonry training** approach. This approach focuses on 'owner led' house construction and the promotion of local employment opportunities for those men and women who have received the training (source: Employment Fund Project, Helvetas).



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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 is not representative of all ongoing efforts on gender-responsive recovery and reconstruction but only based on inputs received. Its purpose is to enable information exchange, coordinating efforts towards shared priorities, and raising attention to key issues in the field of gender equality during the post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction process in Nepal.