

# Nepal Earthquakes 2015

## Operational Response of UN Women



UN Women  
Executive Board Meeting  
September 2015

# Impact of the earthquakes

## KEY FIGURES



52%

2,818,396

864,227

Based on damage to houses and livelihoods

Based on damage to buildings, main district or impossible to assess, and people living in severely damaged livelihoods

Figure 1: Severity of needs across the fourteen priority districts

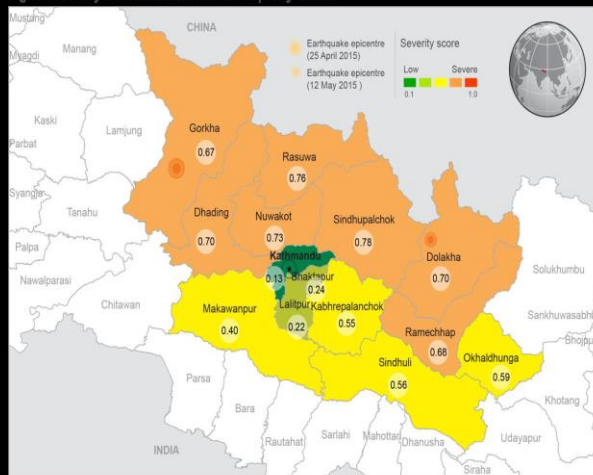


Figure 2: People in need in the 14 priority districts



Note: Figures based on government estimates of damage, together with other information on access and 2011 estimates of poverty. Refer to Annex B for the methodology.

- 7.8 magnitude on 25 April followed by 7.3 magnitude on 12 May; hundreds of aftershocks
- 8,856 deaths (55% women)
- 602,257 houses destroyed, 285,099 houses damaged
- 5.4 million people severely affected. Damages and losses - approximately USD 7 billion
- 1.5 million people continue to require food assistance
- 60,000 people remain in 104 displacement sites
- 14 most affected districts include
  - About 327,000 female headed households
  - About 40,000 women and girls with disabilities
  - About 163,000 women over the age of 65 years
- 51 percent of the USD 422 million in the Flash Appeal has been funded. USD 4.4 billion pledged at the donor conference

# Gender dimension - Impact on women

- Women the **single largest disadvantaged group** adversely affected by the disaster and its aftermath across all sectors (social, productive, infrastructure)
- Poverty, exclusion, discrimination shape women's **vulnerability** to disaster, their **ability to respond** as well as their **resilience** to future disasters
- Particularly **vulnerable groups of women** in the 14 most affected districts:
  - 327,000 **female-headed households** (26.5% of all households)
  - 40,000 **women and girls with disabilities**
  - 163,000 **women over the age of 65 years**
- High need especially for **shelter, protection and livelihoods**
- Crucial to **avoid exclusive focus on victimization** and recognize **the importance women's voice, agency and leadership** across in humanitarian action – *Women have essential knowledge, skills and experience to contribute to recovery and reconstruction, but require the correct support.*

# Multiple vulnerabilities

Shelter, food, protection and livelihoods among key priorities



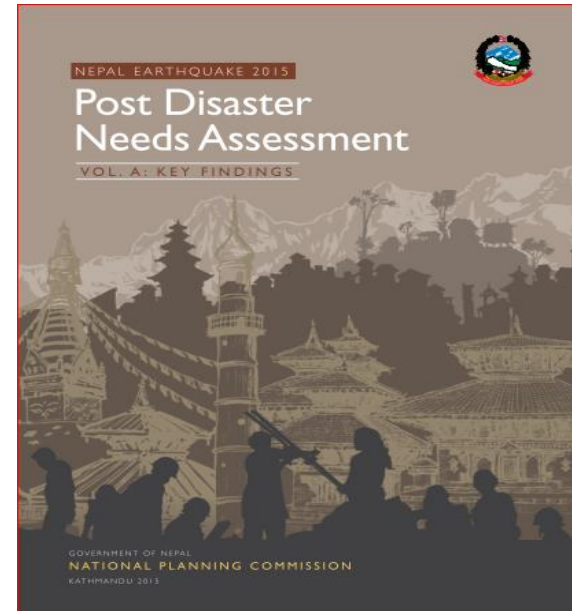
# Staff safety, security and well being

---

- Phased approach to bringing staff back to work
- Psycho-social counselling
- Assessments of homes
- Earthquake alarms
- Paid leave (10 days)
- Ex-gratia payments for damages etc.
- Salary advance

# Evidence base

- Humanitarian strategy 2015-17
- Key role in engendering the Post Disaster Needs assessment (PDNA process), as the lead development partner for the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Chapter of the PDNA
- Advocated for the inclusion of the commitment to apply the Government's gender-responsive budgeting principles and practices to all recovery and reconstruction programmes



<http://unwomen-asiapacific.org/docs/2015/Nepal/PDNA-Volume-A-Final.pdf#page=87>

# Immediate targeted interventions

- **Non-food items:** 6,513 dignity kits; 8,094 solar lanterns; 2,500 radio sets; 19,182 sanitary napkins – distributed through Government’s Women and Children Offices and women’s groups
- **5 Multipurpose women centres** established in Gorka, Sindhupalchowk, Nuwakot, Kavre and Kathmandu – 15,873 women accessed the services
- **3 Information desks** – 1,075 people have accessed the service
- **Psychosocial counselling/first aid**– partnership with psychosocial counselling specialist agency – 3 master trainers trained 30 community volunteers as psychosocial first aid counsellors – Total number of beneficiaries 7,731







# Capacity development support to women's groups and the Government



- Technical inputs to engender the draft bill on Disaster Management, and recommendations for mainstreaming gender in the National Disaster Management Authority
- Technical support to women's groups to develop a Common Charter of Demands and its implementation plan
- Mapping of women's groups across the districts – links to the clusters

# Ongoing Work and Way Forward

- **Coordination through GWG (with OCHA and clusters)**
  - **Transition and exit strategies** to be discussed in consultation with HCT in mid-September 2015
  - **GWG Guidance on Gender Mainstreaming in Transition** – 5 key recommendations
  - **GWG the primary mechanism** of support until 30 September 2015
  - **Relevant mechanisms and/or focal points** will be identified to support gender mainstreaming in reconstruction (further guidance in Oct 2015)
  - **Gender Advocacy Brief** to be developed in September/October 2015
- **Operational work**
  - **Multipurpose women centres:** proposed MoU with Government, partners and women's groups to utilize centres for development activities for women (e.g. livelihoods) and for future disasters
  - **Information centres:** concluded
  - **Non-food items:** handed over to partners with distribution plans; closely monitored
  - **OCHA Common Feedback Project** links to UN Women project sites/beneficiaries
- **UN Women Nepal Country Office plans**
  - **Necessary minimum capacity** to respond to and contribute to addressing future disasters
  - Programmatic priorities to focus on **addressing the humanitarian-development continuum** (e.g. evidence base, ongoing capacity development for central and district level stakeholders, livelihoods support, nexus between migration and trafficking)

# Some early observations

- **Staff safety and well-being** - Keep a focus on the office's long-term objectives and the roles the team members play in these (try and ensure a thread of "normalcy" during the various phases of response)
- **National ownership** - Maintain an emphasis on national ownership and leadership at all levels (especially during the height of the surge)
- **Mandates** - Recognize and be sensitive to issues of mandates( IASC membership)
- **Perceptions about GE/WE** – still not perceived as 'life-saving' or 'urgent' (e.g. sex and age disaggregated data) – GE/WE as 'too complex' and results 'less quantifiable' – impact on donor interest
- **Step by step guide** - for all stages of the humanitarian response with checklists, sample indicators, guidance notes
- **UN partnerships** -Develop partnership with OCHA early on (under the umbrella of joint Letter of Intent); UNDP for early recovery, UNFPA & UNICEF (protection)
- **Women's groups** – Mobilise key women's groups early to function as a collective with a common voice and demands

# Some early observations

- **Programming** - Dignity kits, solar lanterns, radios for women give an added dimension of relevance to UN Women beyond our coordination and analytical roles
- **Gender analysis and PDNA** - Meet with the World Bank, EU, UNDP early to understand the plans for the PDNA. Well-established and good relations with the National Planning Commission and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare have helped to ensure that gender equality has been at the centre of the PDNA process from the orientation to drafting
- **Communications** - Develop messaging and a communications narrative early on and create space for it. Timely communication is important for creating visibility and attracting donor interest
- **Delegation of authority and fast track modality**
- **Surge capacity** — roster of capacities



# Lessons from women, peace and security programming relevant for humanitarian programming

- Drafting of NAP 1325 & 1820 – Gold standard (consultative process)
- Vision of the NAP on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 pillars – did this translate simultaneously into moving the discourse forward on gender equality?; limited CSO engagement in implementation
- Nepal Peace Trust Fund project approach – full and coordinated ownership of the line ministries?
- Approach to coordination – impacted localization
- Monitoring and reporting – comparative strength of the development partners + UN on these areas not leveraged to put a robust system in place



**Thank you**