

REACHING THE UNREACHED

Nepal Earthquake: Six Months Review

unicef 

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Cover Photo: Porters carrying UNICEF vaccination supplies to Barpak of Gorkha District, the epicenter of 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 25 April. © UNICEF Nepal/2015/KPanday



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“ A lot has happened in Nepal since the devastating earthquake of April 25. Six months later, the monsoon rains have petered out, and the countryside is busy with harvest activities. This is also the season of festivals – a time for families and friends to gather together. This year, however, the season is going to be bittersweet one for the survivors of the earthquake who lost their loved ones to the quakes six months ago, and who are still struggling to rebuild their lives.

Three months ago, we had feared the worst. We had feared that a normal monsoon would trigger a lot devastation with landslides and floods on the already fragile hills. A man I met in the village of Bhirkot of Dolakha District surmised it best when he said that they were fortunate that the monsoon was a weak one, even though it would result in a weak harvest for most.

In these past months, we worked hard with our counterparts and partners, overcoming obstacles in providing humanitarian interventions for children and their families including in remotest villages. We have been inspired by the remarkable resilience and the indomitable spirit of the Nepali people who have been overcoming enormous challenges.

As our work in UNICEF transitions from relief to recovery, our focus will be to help protect children and women before winter sets in these earthquake ravaged hillsides, and to help Nepal become more resilient and prepared for future disasters.”

-Tomoo Hozumi, Representative, UNICEF Nepal

SIX MONTHS IN REVIEW

The earthquakes of magnitude 7.8 and 7.3 that struck Nepal on 25 April and 12 May left a devastating effect on the Himalayan nation. Out of the 75 districts in Nepal, 31 districts were considered “most affected” and within that, a subgroup of 14 districts were classified severely affected and prioritized for humanitarian assistance. These districts have an estimated total affected population of 2.8 million, out of which 1.1 million (40 per cent) are children. Nearly 9,000 people lost their lives while 22,400 people were injured according to the Ministry of Home Affairs. A total of 530,000 people in 11 districts are facing acute food insecurity due to severe impact of the earthquakes on crop production and due to loss of livestock¹. The total financial losses from the earthquakes is estimated as \$7.06 billion according to the Government-led Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). This is an equivalent of 36 per cent of Nepal’s GDP as of 2014.

Six months after the earthquakes, the frequency of aftershocks has decreased, and the country has slowly begun to move towards recovery and reconstruction. However, given the enormity of the impact and damages inflicted, the road towards recovery and reconstruction for Nepal is going



to be a very tough and long one. The upcoming winter will add more challenges to the affected people, many of whom continue to live in makeshift shelters and in the current situation of general shortages.

The earthquake brought down more than 600,000 houses and damaged nearly 300,000. Close to 60,000 people still remain in 120 displacement sites. Approximately 85 per cent of the

shelter units in displacement sites are not suitable to withstand the cold season. An estimated 81,000 households (400,000 people) living in high altitude areas require shelter that can protect them from the winter, giving rise to urgent need of durable shelter materials, warm clothes, blankets as well as cooking and heating sources².

^{1, 2} Humanitarian Bulletin: Nepal Earthquake, Issue 04, Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

UNICEF RESPONSE

In the last six months, UNICEF has worked very closely with the Government of Nepal and other humanitarian partners to help rebuild the lives of children and women across the earthquake-affected districts. This includes working in the six programmatic areas which are of particular importance for the survival, development and protection of children, i.e. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); Health; Nutrition; Education; Child Protection and Social Protection. Together with the concerned counterparts and partners, UNICEF has helped provide clean water; hygiene kits; tents and tarpaulins; medical kits; vaccines; bed nets; vitamins and therapeutic foods; school, recreational and early childhood development kits; information, education and communication materials; and emergency cash transfer to particularly vulnerable groups. In addition, UNICEF provided necessary technical and financial assistance to the concerned counterparts and partners to make all these supplies, services and resources well delivered to and utilized by children and their families including those who are most disadvantaged.

In July, UNICEF started to support an emergency top-up cash transfer

programme to vulnerable people who had been receiving assistance under the government's existing Social Protection schemes in 19 earthquake-affected districts. While helping deliver critical financial resources to them to recover from the impact and damages of the earthquakes, this initiative also helps strengthen the concerned Social Protection schemes, enhancing their outreach and accountability to the affected population through intensive information dissemination, monitoring and follow-up. As of the end of September 2015, 238,431 out of 400,000 target beneficiaries belonging to five categories of vulnerable population received emergency cash assistance of NRs. 3,000 (approximately US\$ 30) per person from UNICEF and in addition to the regular amounts that they have been receiving from the Government. These five vulnerable groups are *Dalit* (formerly considered untouchable) children under five years of age; widows and single women over 60 years of age; people with disabilities; senior citizens over 70 years of age or over 60 years of age if *Dalit*; and highly marginalized *Janajati* ethnic groups.

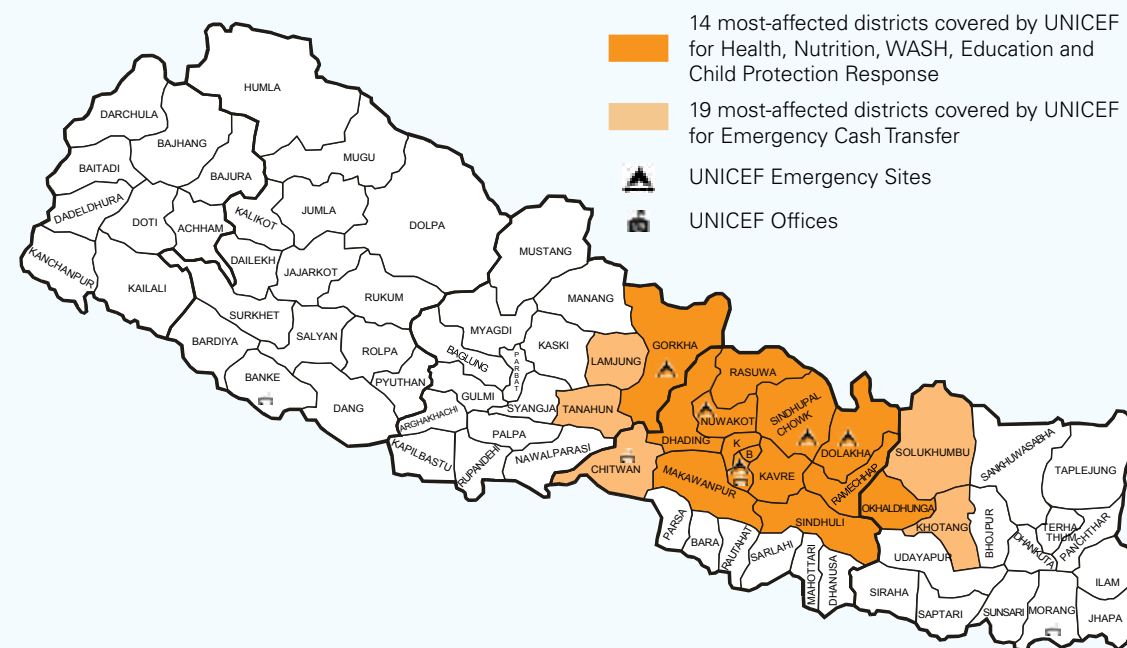
In order to protect children from

vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, rubella and polio, UNICEF supported immunization campaigns that reached out to more than 500,000 children aged 6 to 59 months. Twenty-two Shelter Homes established with UNICEF assistance in the 11 affected districts have provided a safe haven for nearly 10,000 pregnant women, new and lactating mothers and their babies. Nearly one out of six of these women belonged to traditionally marginalized *Dalit* communities. UNICEF-supported Child Nutrition Week that was conducted in late June reached over 500,000 children and women with a comprehensive package of nutrition surveillance, services and key messages thanks to the efforts by 10,000 Female Community Health Volunteers and 4,000 health workers. In response to the reports of Cholera cases in Kathmandu Valley in July, UNICEF and other concerned partners quickly started to support the Government's efforts to prevent a possible large-scale Cholera epidemic. This included intensive water, sanitation and hygiene awareness campaign, drinking water quality testing, diarrhoeal kits, Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) solution and awareness-

raising initiatives in the three districts in Kathmandu Valley, i.e. Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur. In addition, mass media campaign on safe water, sanitation and hygiene was carried out covering these three and the remaining 11 earthquake-affected districts. As a result of these timely actions, no major outbreak of waterborne diseases occurred in these earthquake-affected districts.

A total of 110 teams of engineers supported by UNICEF completed the structural assessments of 55,000 classrooms in over 6,300 schools in the 14 earthquake-affected districts. The assessment found 34,500 classrooms (62 per cent) as unsafe for use. A total of 1,416 Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs) have been set up with UNICEF support by 30 September to ensure that children continue to learn during the aftermath of the earthquakes. A Back-to-School campaign through newspapers, radio and television reached over 1 million children, teachers and family members, reassuring them that going back to school will help children regain their daily routine and sense of normalcy, recover from psychosocial impact and learn key lifesaving messages.

Altogether 956 people (281 girls, 427 women, 224 boys, 44 men) have been



intercepted from actual or potential trafficking and placement under inappropriate alternative care. They were provided with temporary shelter to stay, psychosocial support, clothing as well as awareness on their safety. An estimated 16,094 children have benefitted from 226 UNICEF-supported Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) while nearly 1,000 community psychosocial workers, social workers, teachers and health professionals have been trained on basic psychosocial support and psychological first aid to children.

In order to continue its strong support in the recovery and reconstruction phase, UNICEF will maintain its presence in the hardest-hit districts of Nepal. It has its Emergency Sites in Gorkha, Nuwakot, Kathmandu, Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha Districts which also cover adjacent affected districts. This will allow UNICEF to reach the most vulnerable children by partnering with local government authorities as well as other humanitarian/development organizations at the district level and below and ensure sustainability of the results of its assistance.

LOOKING AHEAD: RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION WITH RESILIENCE

While challenges faced are enormous, Nepali people have displayed remarkable resilience in the last six months. With their desire to restore livelihood as quickly as possible, they have engaged in spontaneous recovery activities on their own initiatives as soon as the conditions permitted. They include clearing of rubbles, erecting temporary shelters using available material and labour, reopening small shops, and resuming schools.

UNICEF will continue to support the recovery and reconstruction of the affected areas and will do so in such a way to help the concerned local bodies, institutions (eg. schools and health facilities) and people become more resilient to future shocks and disasters. Concrete actions have been and will continue to be pursued to translate the word “resilience” into reality. The experiences and lessons gained from it will also provide important lessons to UNICEF’s programme support in other parts of the country which are equally vulnerable to disasters including earthquakes.

Some of the guiding principles that UNICEF will adopt in recovery and reconstruction phase include the following:

- give top-most priority to the most vulnerable and socially disadvantaged groups to help realize recovery and reconstruction with equity;



- include disaster risk reduction, preparedness and enhancement of resilience as an integral part of its support for the recovery of the concerned institutions and systems;
- ensure accountability to the beneficiaries and transparency through conscious information dissemination efforts, systematic monitoring and evaluation and feedback/consultation; and
- strategically coordinate with other actors to enhance the impact of the concerned programme actions in

view of the scale of recovery and reconstruction efforts that need to be undertaken.

Winter is coming soon, and the country has much to prepare especially for those who are the most marginalized and impoverished in the earthquake-affected areas. With enhanced programme delivery capacity obtained over the last six months, UNICEF will further strengthen its efforts to help make “Building Back Better” a reality for everyone including children and women.

FUNDING UPDATE (as of September 2015)

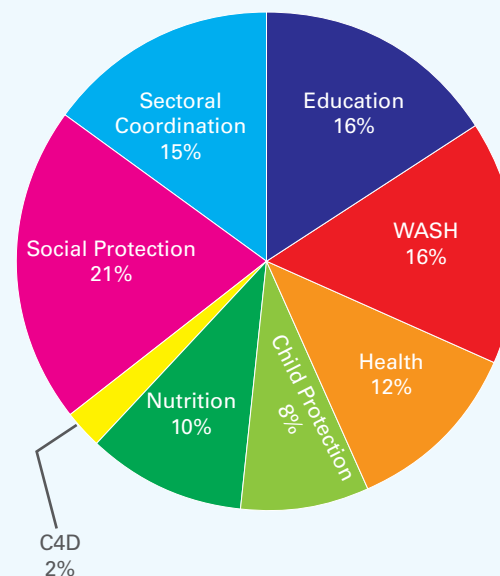
An inter-agency Flash Appeal totalling \$423 million was launched on 8 May 2015 for a three-month emergency response to the earthquake to start with. The UNICEF component of this appeal was \$51.1 million. The appeal was subsequently revised on 2 June, extending the period to be covered up to 30 September 2015. Out of the \$422 million requested in the revised appeal, UNICEF requested \$62.5 million to cover immediate needs until the end of September. At the same time, in view of the enormity of the impact and

damages, UNICEF also developed a longer-term response plan in the form of Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC). HAC includes activities not only during the initial relief phase but also those which address essential recovery and reconstruction needs. For this response, UNICEF requires a total amount of \$120 million of which \$104.5 million has been received as of 29 September thanks to very generous contributions from a number of public and private donors. An additional \$15.5 million is still required to cover the funding gap.

Report against Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Appeal

Appeal Sector	HAC Requirement (in \$)	Funds Allocated/ To be Allocated (in \$)
	A	B
Education	25,000,000.00	11,897,015.74
WASH	25,000,000.00	11,584,160.05
Health	24,000,000.00	8,716,750.51
Child Protection	11,000,000.00	6,281,037.65
Nutrition	11,000,000.00	7,588,612.74
C4D	1,000,000.00	1,759,099.37
Social Protection	17,000,000.00	15,289,927.28
Sector Coordination and Field Support	6,000,000.00	10,980,252.87
Balance to be allocated	-	30,375,418.74
Total	120,000,000.00	104,472,274.95
Funding gap	(A-B)	15,527,725.05

Sectoral Allocation
(as of 29 September 2015)



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HEALTH

TOP PRIORITIES: PREVENT
OUTBREAKS OF VACCINE-
PREVENTABLE DISEASES SUCH
AS MEASLES, PREVENT AND
TREAT DIARRHOEA, AND PROVIDE
EMERGENCY AND ESSENTIAL
CARE FOR MOTHERS AND
NEWBORNS



Following the earthquakes, UNICEF launched its immediate response to meet the increased need for acute trauma care and essential maternal and child health care through the provision of medical tents and medicines, establishment of Shelter Homes where pregnant women can stay immediately before and after delivery; support for immunization campaigns; support to medical staff and intensive public health information campaign. With the assistance of UNICEF, more than 500,000 children aged 6 to 59 months have been vaccinated against Measles, Rubella and Polio in the affected districts. Cold chain and vaccine management systems were also re-established. UNICEF also supported the development and implementation of preparedness and response plan for diarrhoea and Cholera outbreaks. Medical Camp Kits (MCKs) – jointly developed by UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, WFP and some international NGOs were provided to establish medical camps in 50 sites for the provision of basic health services. The medical camps are solar-

powered and have provisions for male and female wards, staff and consultation rooms, water and sanitation facilities and outpatient services.

Looking forward, UNICEF will assist in the provision and installation of 74 prefabricated structures to replace medical tents that currently house temporary health facilities. These prefabricated buildings are designed to be resilient to earthquakes, severe cold during winter, strong wind and fire. In addition, the cold chain system will be upgraded with the installation of more disaster-resilient refrigerators that can keep the vaccines potent for 10 days without electricity. UNICEF will also support the capacity building of health workers in the earthquake-affected districts in skilled birth attendance and integrated management of newborn and child health care. In addition to supporting regular immunization programme, UNICEF will also support the Government to conduct the second round of Measles and Rubella vaccination campaign in January 2016.

Indicators	Respondent	Target	Progress
Children aged 6-59 months in the severely affected districts vaccinated against Measles	Cluster	504,000	537,081
	UNICEF	504,000	537,081
Children under 5 in the severely affected districts have access to life saving services for diarrhoea	Cluster	560,000	406,181
	UNICEF	280,000	406,181
Mothers and newborns in the severely affected districts reached with essential and emergency care	Cluster	83,700	N/A
	UNICEF	41,850	46,522

As of 30 September 2015

INNOVATION



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UNICEF will help upgrade vaccine cold chain systems in earthquake-affected districts by procuring and installing more disaster-resilient cold chain equipment. The refrigerators to be installed use a new technology of cooling system which is far more effective than the previous one. They can keep the vaccines potent 10 days without electricity. They enhance disaster resilience of the Nepal's cold chain system and ensure continuous protection of children in Nepal against vaccine-preventable diseases.



Immunizing in the epicentre

A UNICEF-supported immunization campaign was recently conducted in Barpak Village Development Committee (VDC) in Gorkha District – the epicentre of the 7.8 magnitude earthquake – and turned out to be a joyous occasion.

In addition to protecting the children aged 6 to 59 months against diseases like Measles, Rubella and Polio in this remote village, the immunization campaign also signaled a happy ending to an arduous journey that included the transportation of lifesaving vaccines through difficult terrain and storage of the vaccines amid limited power supply.

The journey started with a bumpy drive on a rocky trail from Gorkha Bazar – the district headquarters – to Baluwa VDC and then another five hours of trek up on a steep hill.

When the vaccines safely reached Barpak, it was already dark. The earthquake had destroyed the local power supply, and now the villagers depended on diesel-powered electricity, which barely last four hours a day.

For Anil Shah, the health post in-charge, organizing the immunization campaign was an easy feat compared with transporting the vaccines to Barpak.

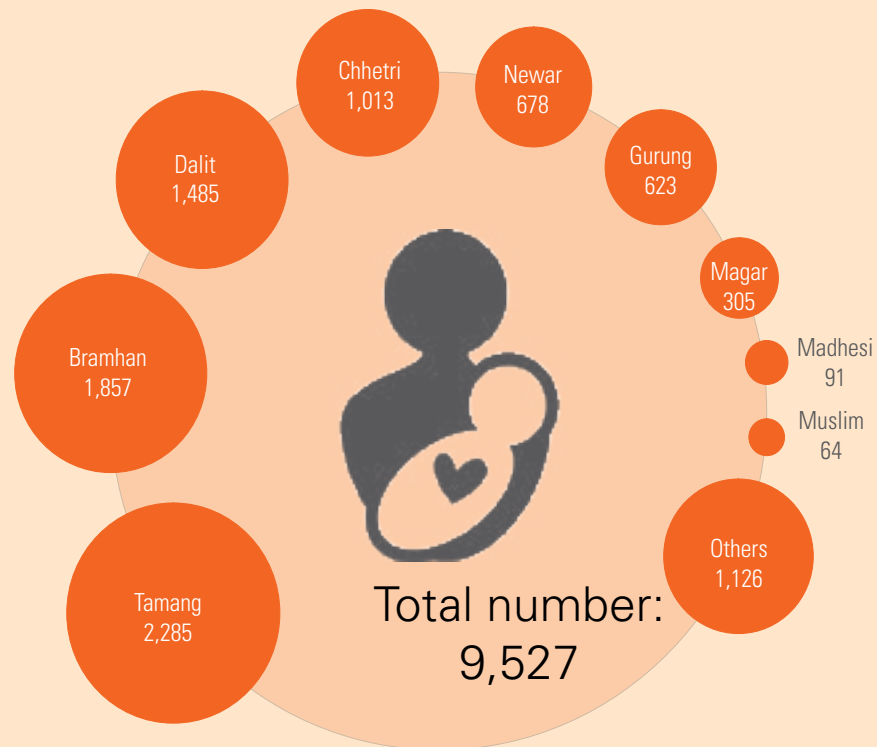
“Everyone is already very excited and happy to help us because now we have the vaccines,” said Mr. Shah “We are thankful to UNICEF for sending us the vaccines to such a remote place.”

Story by: Naresh Newar

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 537,081 children aged 6-59 months vaccinated for Measles, Rubella and Polio.
- 406,181 children have access to immediate treatment and care for diarrhoea in case of disease outbreaks.
- 46,522 mothers and newborns have been reached with essential and emergency care.
- 334,000 people were reached by 330 trained social mobilizers with critical information on health, nutrition, water and sanitation.
- 432 private medical service providers, 70 public sector medical service providers and 153 Female Community Health Volunteers have been trained on the revised Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illness (IMNCI) protocol.
- Maternal and newborn care services at 56 birthing centres were revitalized through additional human resources and onsite coaching and capacity development of health workers.
- UNICEF provided diarrhoeal kits, Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) solution and massive campaigns on water, sanitation and hygiene, thereby limiting the number of Cholera cases in the Kathmandu Valley to 80 without deaths.

UNICEF SHELTER HOME BENEFICIARIES (BY ETHNICITY)



In the post-earthquake situation, UNICEF-supported Shelter Homes have been providing a safe environment for pregnant women, new and lactating mothers and their babies. The Shelter Homes are equipped with electricity, water, kitchen and a toilet in the premises. In addition to care and medical attention, the mothers staying at the Shelter Homes get free meals for themselves and their attendants four times a day and receive a family hygiene and dignity kit each to meet their basic hygiene and sanitary needs. Nearly 10,000 women have benefitted from 22 Shelter Homes established in 11 earthquake-affected districts. One out of six of these women belonged to traditionally marginalized Dalit communities. Comparing the figures of those who have taken advantage of the Shelter Home facilities and the ethnic make-up of the country, it can be seen that it is more of the deprived and marginalized communities that have benefitted. For example, Tamang population in the country is 5.8 per cent, where as percentage of Tamang beneficiaries is 24 per cent.

NUTRITION

TOP PRIORITIES: PROTECT AND SUPPORT BREASTFEEDING, PROMOTE GOOD FEEDING PRACTICES, PROVIDE MICRONUTRIENT SUPPLEMENTS, AND PREVENT AND TREAT SEVERE MALNUTRITION IN CHILDREN



Immediately after the earthquake, UNICEF and the Emergency Nutrition Cluster partners supported the Child Health Division of Ministry of Health and Population to provide essential nutrition-related services issues in 14 most affected districts. This was done by scaling up the coverage of five proven interventions, i.e. (1) promotion, protection and support for breastfeeding; (2) promotion of complementary feeding; (3) management of moderate acute malnutrition through supplementary feeding; (4) management of severe acute malnutrition through therapeutic feeding; and (5) micronutrient supplementation for children and women. To further combat the risk of malnutrition among hard-to-reach children, UNICEF supported the Government of Nepal and partners to conduct a "Child Nutrition Week" in late June. Over 500,000 children

and women were reached with comprehensive package of nutrition-related information and services through 10,000 Female Community Health Volunteers and 4,000 Health Workers.

In the coming months, UNICEF will continue its support for the delivery of essential nutrition services to children under five years of age as well as pregnant and lactating women in the 14 most affected districts. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) will also be integrated into nutrition services in those districts through (i) capacity building and system strengthening for appropriate counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding, caring, Early Childhood Development and WASH practices in emergencies; (ii) early identification of acute malnutrition and micro-nutrient deficiency disorders and their timely management; and (iii) training of health workers and FCHVs on nutrition in emergencies.

Indicators	Respondent	Target	Progress
Children age 6-59 months with severe acute malnutrition in severely affected districts who are admitted to therapeutic care	Cluster	2,500	1,328
	UNICEF	2,500	1,328
Children age 6-59 months in severely affected districts who receive multiple micronutrient powder to improve their diets and prevent nutritional deficiencies	Cluster	323,775	326,091
	UNICEF	323,775	326,091
Mother of children 0-23 months old living in the severely affected districts who receive information and counselling on breastfeeding and complementary feeding	Cluster	168,000	157,660
	UNICEF	126,000	142,731

As of 30 September 2015

BREASTFEEDING WEEK WITH A DIFFERENCE



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The Global Breastfeeding Week celebrated in the first week of August this year was a significant event in the 14 districts worst affected by the earthquakes in April and May. During the week-long campaign, social mobilizers supported by UNICEF went door-to-door promoting breastfeeding among mothers so that their children aged 0 to 24 months grow healthy and would not fall sick with diarrhoea and pneumonia. "Everywhere, we met young mothers who were traumatized and stressed by the earthquake. This impacted their breastfeeding too," said Mina KC, a social mobilizer in Gorkha District. Though affected by the earthquake herself, Mina was able to counsel nearly 130 lactating women on the proper way of breastfeeding as well as help them overcome their fears and reduce their stress.

Running with Joy

It is an absolute joy for Samjhana Lamichhane to see her four-year-old niece Akriti Banskota run today.

Akriti, who was born with low birth weight, had been sick her entire life until recently. She lives with her aunt's family in Chapagaun village of Lalitpur, one of the 14 most affected districts in Nepal.

"I tried everything to help her," Samjhana said. "I was very worried that one day I would have to hand over a lifeless child to her parents."

Samjhana's worries were finally relieved when a UNICEF-supported emergency nutrition program was started in her community. Akriti was identified as severely malnourished by Social Development Promotion Centre (SDPC) – one of the NGO partners of UNICEF. Akriti looked very pale with a sunken face and extremely thin body structure. She could barely walk and did not even have the energy to talk. Her mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) hovered in the red region.

She was immediately provided with Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) – a peanut-based paste mixed with dried skimmed milk, vitamins and minerals. RUTF can be consumed directly by the child and provides sufficient nutrients for complete recovery of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Akriti has quickly recovered from her SAM condition thanks to timely intervention. Today, she is not just able to talk and walk but also run with full energy.

Story by: Naresh Newar



ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 157,660 mothers of children aged 0–23 months have been benefitting on breastfeeding counselling.
- 137,719 mothers of children aged 6-23 months have been benefitting from complementary feeding counselling.
- 373,546 children aged 6-59 months have been screened for identification of their nutrition status.
- 1,572 children aged 6-59 months with severe acute malnutrition have been identified through community-based screening and referred to therapeutic feeding programme.
- 1,328 children aged 6-59 months with severe acute malnutrition have been admitted in the Outpatient Therapeutic Programme Centers and receiving therapeutic treatment and care.
- 32,022 children aged 6-23 months benefitted from supplementary feeding programme.
- 326,091 children aged 6-59 months received multiple micronutrient powder to improve their diets and prevent nutritional deficiencies.
- 354,562 Children aged 6-59 months received Vitamin A capsules.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND MOBILISATION IN SIX MONTHS



25

emergency nutrition cluster partners

+



4,000

health workers

+



10,000

female community health volunteers

+



1,000

civil society organizations

contributed to reaching



500,000+

children and women with essential nutrition-related information and services



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WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

TOP PRIORITIES: ENSURE ACCESS TO
SAFE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND
SANITATION AND PROMOTE GOOD
HYGIENE BEHAVIOURS

UNICEF has been supporting the provision of safe water supply, sanitation, hygiene materials and hygiene education to prevent communicable and waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea and Cholera especially among children and vulnerable groups in the earthquake-affected communities. Through emergency cluster coordination mechanism, UNICEF also mapped out hard-to-reach villages and communities in remote areas of the affected districts that were under-served or not served by any WASH interventions. UNICEF addressed those unmet needs under 19 programme cooperation agreements with national and international humanitarian and community-based organizations. UNICEF has also been supporting the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS) to build capacities of service providers on WASH

recovery and disaster risk reduction related to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and services. Joint monitoring visits to all the 14 most affected districts were conducted by the DWSS and UNICEF to review the status of WASH response and coordination as well as to understand the issues at the district and village levels.

Moving ahead, UNICEF will support the restoration of sustained water and sanitation services through technical support to the national and district WASH coordination committees as the country transitions from response to recovery phase. UNICEF will support the Government in the development of National Guidelines for WASH Disaster Risk Management (DRM) for the realization of more disaster-resilient WASH facilities and services

at the community level. Inter-sectoral coordination with Education and Health sectors will also be strengthened to ensure that standard WASH facilities are available in schools, Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs) and health facilities.



A young mother with her newborn baby is all smiles in a Shelter Home in Sindhupalchowk District after receiving a family hygiene kit provided by UNICEF.

4,343 hygiene kits have been provided to pregnant and lactating mothers through Shelter Homes at 22 sites in 11 districts. In addition, approximately 82,000 hygiene kits have been distributed in 14 most-affected districts. These kits are for a family of five people and contain items such as large bucket with handle, small mug, hand soap, laundry soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, nail clippers, towel, sanitary clothes, ladies inner wear and baby diaper/cloths.

Indicators	Respondent	Target	Progress
People in the severely affected districts with access to a sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	Cluster	4,095,059	3,034,454
	UNICEF	840,000	764,608 (Emergency and Sustained)
People in the severely affected districts with access to adequate sanitation and hand washing facilities	Cluster	1,870,225	557,779
	UNICEF	840,000	188,053 (Emergency and Sustained)
People reached with hygiene education materials and interpersonal communication	Cluster	2,112,390	2,016,911
	UNICEF	840,000	495,189

As of 30 September 2015



Return of the toilets

Tilmaya would not eat or drink even if she were hungry or thirsty.

The temporary shelter, where she has been living since the 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 25 April destroyed her house, had no toilet and the only option was to use the open space.

"There were always people around the tent and due to my condition I could not go far to get privacy," said Tilmaya.

Her troubles were relieved when UNICEF supported the building of toilets and installation of safe drinking water facilities in her community. This she said, changed her life.

"Now I have started eating and drinking properly because I have a toilet close to my shelter now," she said, "I now won't have to wait for the nightfall to use the toilet."

As a swift response to the earthquake emergency, building toilets has been a success story, especially in a district like Sindhupalchowk, where a large number of toilet were totally destroyed or severely damaged due to the earthquakes. Before the earthquakes, a total of 67 Village Development Committees (VDCs) were declared Open-Defecation Free Zones but over 90 per cent of these toilets were destroyed, causing a major setback to hygiene and sanitation sector and Sindhupalchowk's bid of becoming a district free of open defecation.

Story by: Surya Thapa

ACHIEVEMENTS:



655,910

people have been reached with emergency water supply interventions, including water trucking to camps, distribution of water kits and containers and water treatment products.



98,561

people have been provided with sustained water interventions including repair and rehabilitation of water systems.



174,951

people have been supported with the establishment of sanitation facilities of whom 160,427 people have received support for sustained sanitation.



43,871

people have been provided with at least a one month supply of soap for improved hygiene behaviour.

Containing Cholera



In response to the reports of Cholera cases in Kathmandu Valley in July, UNICEF responded quickly with intensive water, sanitation and hygiene awareness campaign to support the Government of Nepal's efforts to prevent Cholera epidemic. Altogether 80 cases of acute gastroenteritis were confirmed as Cholera in the three districts of within the valley – Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur. UNICEF, with its Cholera preparedness plan and prepositioned stocks of necessary supplies, was able to provide required assistance to the Government from the start to contain the situation.

Also foreseeing the high chance of Cholera in the camp settings, UNICEF and the concerned partners supported the Department of Health Services to provide intensive hygiene promotion campaign in the camp sites and in the locations where Cholera cases had been detected. The Government water service providers reassured continuous chlorination of water in all water supply networks. Also as part of the campaign, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) and local youth volunteers went door-to-door and schools in Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur to raise awareness and help test the quality of drinking water in the communities using H2S Presence/Absence test kits. In order to regulate and monitor private water providers, the Government also conducted water testing at various water sources from where water was drawn for tankering services. A mass media campaign also helped in informing the larger population across the country. Thanks to concerted efforts of the concerned government and humanitarian agencies, no major waterborne disease outbreak was reported in the 14 earthquake-affected districts and beyond during this summer season.

EDUCATION

TOP PRIORITIES: SET UP TEMPORARY
LEARNING CENTRES FOR CHILDREN
AGED 3 TO 18 YEARS, PROVIDE
ESSENTIAL EDUCATION SUPPLIES
AND ORIENT TEACHERS ON
PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT TO
CHILDREN



UNICEF, under the leadership of the Department of Education of the Ministry of Education, supported the Emergency Education Cluster to complete structural assessment of all schools in the 14 most affected districts. UNICEF also supported the Back-To-School public information campaign to reassure children, teachers and families that going back to school would help children return to normalcy, recover from the experiences of fear and stress and learn key lifesaving messages. In collaboration with other members of the Emergency Education Cluster and the National Center for Educational Development (NCED), UNICEF helped develop a two-volume teacher activity book providing practical guidance for teachers on psychosocial support and risk reduction messages to children as well as integration of disaster information into curriculum subjects. UNICEF, along with Department of Education and partner Educational Pages, has supported girls' education and gender equity network in the 14 most affected districts by activating gender focal points at the District Education Offices.

Moving ahead, UNICEF will continue emergency education response to support the establishment of Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs) and undertake repair and maintenance of existing TLCs so that they are ready for winter and continue to provide a safe place for children to learn until the affected schools are fully rebuilt. UNICEF will also support the delivery of essential education supplies to children and teachers through the District Education Offices. In addition, UNICEF will assist the Government to develop disaster risk reduction and school safety strategies and policies to be included in the new education sector plan covering the period of 2016 to 2020. Lessons learned from the Nepal earthquakes response will be used to improve the preparedness and resilience of the education system to disasters in the future for the entire country.

In view of the upcoming winter season, UNICEF helped the Ministry of Education to come up with a guidance note on winterisation and maintenance of TLCs. These include guidance on materials to be used for insulating the TLCs against low temperature as well as on maintenance and fire prevention and environment protection.

Indicators	Respondent	Target	Progress
Children in severely affected districts assessing temporary learning centres (TLCs)	Cluster	466,800	278,900
	UNICEF	183,640	141,600
Teachers working in severely affected districts trained in psychosocial support and dissemination of life-saving message and disaster preparedness	Cluster	19,000	11,140
	UNICEF	8,106	4,593
Children in the severely affected districts are provided with ECD or school supplies	Cluster	1,000,000	587,330
	UNICEF	1,000,000	587,330

As of 30 September 2015


INNOVATION



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Teacher Hero Network is a network that provides information to and gathers feedback from teachers in earthquake-affected districts through text messages of mobile phone. More than 1,300 teachers are registered with Teacher Hero Network. These teachers have sent in more than 9,000 text messages so far, providing snapshots of the education situation in their schools. An on-air interaction with some of these teachers was conducted on UNICEF-supported radio programme *Bhandai Sundai* (Saying Listening) to learn more about the challenges and opportunities in their schools.

Pictured above, Mr. Tej Bahadur Tamang (black cap), school principal in Sindhupalchowk District and a Teacher Hero Network participant receives a UNICEF-provided book corner for his school.



Where there is no school

With a bright and infectious smile, Manjari Lama works on her assignment in a UNICEF-supported Temporary Learning Centre (TLC) in Charikot, the district headquarters of Dolakha. Since the 7.3 magnitude earthquake of 12 May damaged the Shri Mahankal Primary School. The seven-year-old hadn't liked coming to the school. But today, Manjari is enthusiastic about school and learning.

"I'm very happy to see my friends and teachers in my classroom," said Manjari. "They don't look scared anymore even when there are aftershocks."

The TLCs like the one Manjari goes to have been helping to remove fears of earthquake among many students and teachers. The basic structure of TLC consists of walls and roof made of corrugated galvanised iron sheets and is supported by metal poles. The floors are covered with tarpaulins to prevent the children from being affected by moist earth, especially during monsoon and winter. The walls and roof are painted with bamboo shaped design and includes a wooden window frame. The outside walls were painted with colorful artwork. In addition, there are separate toilets for boys and girls in the premises, built with similar design.

The newer TLCs are a welcome sight compared with the previously built makeshift structures with a tarpaulin roof and bamboo walls. Initially, such low-cost temporary structures were built throughout the earthquake-affected districts including Dolakha to quickly bring students back to school.

Story by: Naresh Newar

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 1,416 Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs) established with UNICEF support benefitting 141,600 children.
- 4,593 teachers trained on psychosocial approaches to provide support to Early Childhood Development (ECD) children and school students.
- Altogether 110 teams supported by UNICEF travelled to over 6,300 schools in 14 most affected districts to assess 55,000 classrooms. The assessment found 34,500 classrooms (62 per cent) as unsafe for use. Clear designation of safe and unsafe buildings was provided.
- The Back-To-School public information campaign reached over 1 million community members through newspapers, radio and television spots.
- Altogether 15,000 copies of a two-volume teacher activity books were printed and distributed to provide practical guidance for teachers on psychosocial support and



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risk reduction messages as well as integration of disaster information into curriculum subjects.

- Gender focal points of the District Education Office in all 14 districts were trained on gender and equity issues. These gender focal points have helped identify issues of trafficking and other forms of gender-

based violence in the earthquake-affected communities.

- A total of 587,330 children in the earthquake affected districts benefitted from ECD and school kits.
- 3,074 Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits were distributed in 936 schools.

A photograph of several children playing with colorful wooden blocks (red, yellow, green, blue) under a translucent tent. The children are focused on building structures with the blocks. The tent's interior is decorated with colorful paper flowers hanging from the ceiling. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting daylight.

CHILD PROTECTION

TOP PRIORITIES: PROVIDE
PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT, PREVENT
FAMILY SEPARATION, PREVENT
VIOLENCE AND TRAFFICKING OF
CHILDREN AND WOMEN

UNICEF is supporting key Government agencies, including Nepal Police and immigration authorities, in the establishment and strengthening of checkpoints at strategic locations to prevent and respond to trafficking, family separation and unnecessary institutionalization of children. In addition, UNICEF is supporting the establishment of transit centres for trafficking survivors waiting for reunification with family. Partnerships with Central and District Child Welfare Boards and local NGOs have resulted in the identification of a number of unaccompanied, separated and vulnerable children in earthquake-affected districts as well as emergency support to these children. To ensure that children and their parents recover properly from emotional stress of the

earthquakes and to help enhance their resilience, UNICEF, with partners, is supporting community-based services including psychosocial counselling and specialized mental health care.

Moving ahead, UNICEF will be focusing on the integration and mainstreaming of the ongoing earthquake response and interventions within the regular programme to further strengthen the existing child protection structures and mechanisms, including transitioning of Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) into early childhood development and day care centres. UNICEF will also analyze data collected in the aftermath of the earthquakes to help develop appropriate long-term interventions for children with disabilities and other difficulties.

Indicators	Respondent	Target	Progress
Children in the severely affected districts received community-based psychosocial support as well as specialised psychosocial service	Cluster	235,000	236,636
	UNICEF	165,300	158,478
People in the severely-affected districts reached by community groups to prevent and address violence, abuse and exploitation, including gender-based violence and trafficking	Cluster	143,500	161,877
	UNICEF	143,500	161,877
Children identified as separated or unaccompanied as a result of the earthquakes are reunited with their families or placed in proper alternative care	Cluster	100% of identified cases	379 identified and reunited
	UNICEF	100% of identified cases	379 identified and reunited

As of 30 September 2015

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



© UNICEF Nepal/2015/NShrestha

UNICEF through partners (National Federation of Disabilities and Karuna Foundation Nepal) have identified 5,245 children (44 per cent girls) with disabilities in the earthquake-affected districts. A total of 222 children with disabilities have been provided with essential service to protect themselves from further harm. Those included temporary shelter, educational materials, emergency medical services and assistive devices. Additionally, 1,911 children (898 girls) with disabilities had access to inclusive, safe and child friendly facilities with play materials to recover from the trauma of the devastating earthquakes.

Child protection system prevents trafficking

Sita Tamang's heart swells with pride when she sees her son Mohan's beautiful drawings.

"I am determined to do whatever it takes to support his aspirations," she says.

It was this blind support that almost got Mohan trafficked.

Post-earthquake, Sita's family was living under a tent in Central Nepal. Many people would stop by her neighbourhood bringing support and relief. One such person, she says, was a foreign woman who gave sweets and drawing lessons to the children.

All was well until Mohan insisted to go to Kathmandu with the woman. Sita tried to dissuade him, but the 14-year-old was adamant as he wanted to get drawing materials from the capital.

"I want to do well in drawing," he had said to his mother.

A few hours after Mohan was gone, the family received a phone call from the District Child Welfare Board telling them that they had intercepted Mohan at a check point as he was traveling with an unlikely company.

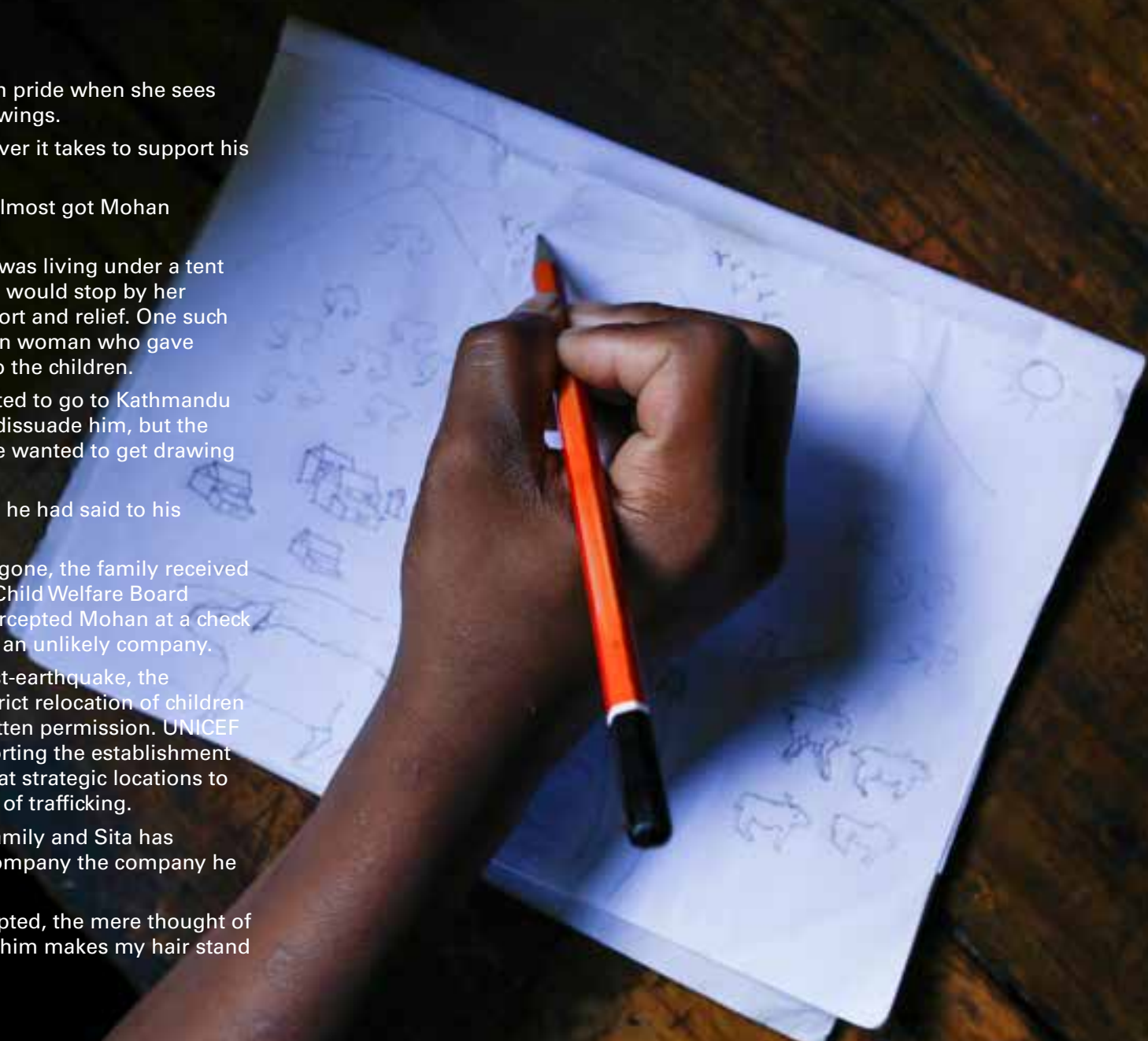
To combat child trafficking post-earthquake, the Government banned inter-district relocation of children without guardians or their written permission. UNICEF and partners have been supporting the establishment and operation of check points at strategic locations to protect children from the risks of trafficking.

Mohan is now back with the family and Sita has become more careful about company the company he keeps, she said.

"Had my son not been intercepted, the mere thought of what could have happened to him makes my hair stand on ends," she said.

All names changed

Story by: Avinashi Paudel



ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 956 people (281 girls, 427 women, 224 boys, 44 men) have been intercepted from trafficking since the earthquake and provided with temporary shelter, psychosocial support services, clothing, and health and safety awareness.
- 8,906 children identified as vulnerable in the 14 most affected districts. Out of these unaccompanied, separated and vulnerable children, 1,103 have so far been provided with emergency support.
- An estimated 16,094 children have benefitted from 226 Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS).
- Nearly 1,000 community psychosocial workers, social workers, teachers and health professionals trained on basic psychosocial support and psychological first aid.
- 84 police checkpoints around the country, including the borders with India and China, have been established to prevent and respond to trafficking.
- 12 trafficking screening and interception points and 11 transit centres have been established or scaled up.
- 27,911 children and 16,809 adults have been reached through awareness raising programmes on trafficking at schools, communities and through door-to-door visits. 80,000 flyers on preventing family separation and trafficking have been distributed in all the 14 affected districts.
- 3,948 community-based mechanisms and networks such as GBV Watch Groups and Women's Groups have been mobilized and strengthened to prevent and address violence, abuse and exploitation including gender-based violence and trafficking against women and children. Total 161,877 parents and children have been reached with preventive messages as well as response services through these networks.

Combating Trafficking of Children and Women



Kalpana Giri spends over eight hours every day helping Nepal Police monitor each vehicle that passes through Kirnetar Border Checkpoint in Ramechhap. Kirnetar links the district with Kathmandu and eastern Terai from where access to India is easy due to open border. "Our job is to mainly enter a vehicle and we record every little information about children and women who are traveling," said Giri, a volunteer with Environment, Culture, Agriculture, Research and Development Society (ECARDS) Nepal, a UNICEF partner working in Child Protection. Kalpana also hands out leaflets raising awareness about trafficking of children



and women. Thanks to such efforts of UNICEF and partners, nearly 1,000 people, including over 500 children have been intercepted from trafficking since the earthquake.

A woman with a yellow headband and a blue jacket is holding a sleeping child in her arms. They are sitting on a rocky slope. In the background, there are steep, rocky mountains under a blue sky with some clouds. A white tent is partially visible behind the woman. The child is wearing a pink and white patterned jacket and is sleeping peacefully. The woman is looking towards the camera with a slight smile.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

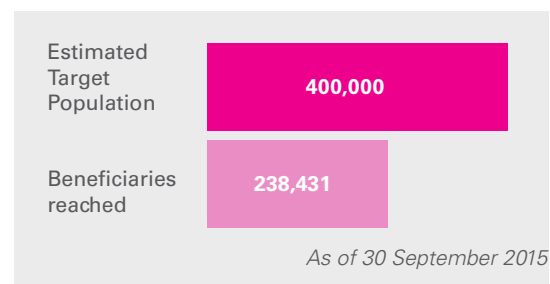
TOP PRIORITIES: PROVIDE
EMERGENCY TOP-UP CASH
ASSISTANCE TO THE MOST
VULNERABLE GROUPS OF
CHILDREN AND PEOPLE
THROUGH AN ENHANCED
SOCIAL TRANSFER SCHEME
OF THE GOVERNMENT

UNICEF has been providing technical and financial assistance to the Government of Nepal to deliver emergency cash transfer through established social assistance programmes in the 19 districts most severely affected by the earthquakes. Recognizing that many children rely on wider family support structures, an emergency top-up payment of NRs. 3,000 (US\$ 30) is being added to the regular cash transfer provided by the Government to an estimated 400,000 vulnerable individuals including *Dalit* children, people with disabilities, widows, senior citizens and highly marginalized ethnic groups.

The first emergency top-up payment of cash assistance took place in Sindhupalchowk District – the worst-hit district by the earthquakes – on 9 July. So far, cash distribution has been completed in four districts and is ongoing in the remaining fifteen with 238,431 individuals having received the payment as of the end of September. This has been monitored and followed up systematically through multiple channels and organizations to ensure the intended results.

UNICEF plans to support the sustained recovery of vulnerable households with young children affected by the earthquakes and to help the Government

develop a more robust social protection system that is better able to respond to future disasters in three ways. The first strategy is to help the Government expand the coverage of its current Child Grant beyond *Dalit* households and include all children under five in the most severely affected districts. Secondly, UNICEF will work with the Government to strengthen the Child Grant and the wider Social Protection system by reviewing benefit levels, strengthening linkage between birth registration and registration into the Child Grant programme, improving the concerned management information systems and realizing more effective programme delivery. Thirdly, support will be provided to make the Social Protection system more shock-responsive, such as defining trigger mechanisms for enhanced benefit provision at the time of emergency; ensuring immediate access to available funds to provide more timely response; and improving processes for rapid identification, registration and payment for newly eligible population.



INNOVATION



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Nepal and UNICEF demonstrating a way of “Doing Cash Differently”

In recent report by Overseas Development Institute of UK titled “Doing Cash Differently”, the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Cash Transfers recommended to significantly increase the use of cash responses to crises and to rely less on traditional in-kind assistance. The emergency top-up cash transfer programme in Nepal was designed to use and strengthen the Government’s existing social transfer schemes through enhanced monitoring and follow-up actions and complement other relief and recovery measures provided by the Government and humanitarian actors. It reaches households that were vulnerable even before the earthquakes and who have more limited labour capacity compared with others.



A welcome top-up

Srijana Bishwakarma was seven months into her pregnancy when the great earthquake of 25 April struck. She was pounding stones into *gitti* (aggregate) by the roadside when the earth moved below her and rocks started to tumble down the slopes. She was lucky to safely avoid the falling rocks and rushed home to find that her daughters Sajina aged 9 years and Shashi, who just turned 5 years were okay. But the roof of her hut had caved in. All their belongings were under the rubble.

When the monsoon rain started, the family took shelter under tarpaulin tents. As the weeks wore on, Srijana and her husband gathered whatever materials they could from the rubble and built a makeshift home. Two months later, Srijana gave birth to a baby girl Swastika.

Life is hard in the post-earthquake scenario. The rain is behind them, but winter looms ahead. Trying to keep the young family warm was on the top of Srijana's mind. And then the unexpected happened. She heard over the radio that those who had been receiving cash grant as per the government's social welfare scheme would get a top-up UNICEF cash grant of NRs. 3,000 (approximately US\$ 30). Shashi was eligible for it. Soon enough Srijana received the extra cash.

"I bought jackets for the girls," says Srijana with a big smile. "Now at least they have some protection against the cold!"

Story by: Rupa Joshi

Monitoring and evaluation is an integral part of this initiative and aims to provide real-time feedback from the community to enhance programme effectiveness and accountability; periodically collect and analyze management data for quick learning and adaptation of the programme; and understand programme impacts and learn lessons to improve the shock-responsiveness of the social protection system.



A woman in traditional Nepali attire, including a blue and red headscarf and a pink shirt, is holding a large, colorful informational poster. She is standing and pointing at the poster, which features various illustrations and text in Nepali. A group of villagers, including women and children, are sitting on the ground, looking at the poster. The setting is a mountainous region with a dirt path and a wooden structure in the background. The poster is titled 'आरोग्य विज्ञान केंद्र' (Health Science Center) and contains information about health and safety. The text 'COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT' is overlaid on the image in large white letters.

COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

TOP PRIORITIES: PROVIDE LIFE-
SAVING INFORMATION, RECEIVE
FEEDBACK FROM THE AFFECTED
POPULATION AND FACILITATE
NECESSARY ACTIONS

UNICEF has been using various communication channels to promote dialogue with affected populations around lifesaving messages and critical information. Also to ensure accountability to affected populations, it is providing them with platforms to voice their concerns, provide feedback on the response to duty bearers and also receive psychosocial counselling to help deal with their situation.

Moving ahead, UNICEF will continue dissemination of key lifesaving messages through mass media, community media and interpersonal channels with a focus on critical issues such as trafficking of women and children. UNICEF will also step up community level work through collaboration with youth-based networks and groups to provide the necessary skills to adolescents and youth for them to be better prepared to respond to emergencies. Support will also be provided for the capacity

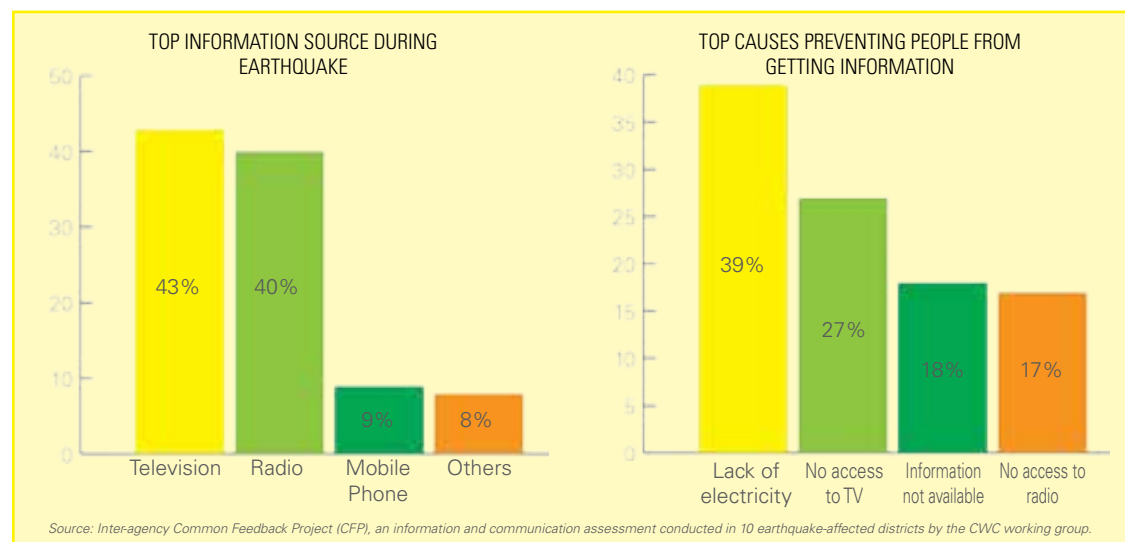
Indicator	Target	Progress
People in severely affected districts are reached with critical life-saving information	1,000,000	1,000,000

As of 30 September 2015

building of community radio stations so that they can air good programme on disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Further, UNICEF help strengthen the collaboration among the partners working on the communication response for the earthquake-affected communities through the Communicating with Affected Communities (CWC) Working Group of the international humanitarian community in Nepal which UNICEF has been leading.

According to Inter-agency Common Feedback Project- an information and communication assessment conducted in 10 earthquake-affected districts by

the CWC Working Group, 94 per cent of the sample population in the earthquake-affected districts are currently listening to the radio. Also 87 per cent remembered radio messages related to earthquakes. Most remembered information was related to shelter, food, nutrition, sanitation, clean water, healthcare and mental health. Besides, 55 per cent of the respondents said that an NGO worker had visited to provide information or they had attended a community consultation. The survey also provided insights on information sources during earthquake and top causes preventing people from getting information as shown below.





Broadcasting from under a UNICEF tent

Radio Sindhu, a community-based FM station in Sindhupalchowk District was destroyed during earthquake on 25 April.

Despite the setback, the radio station continued broadcasting, first from open ground and then from under a small tent.

"We kept the station running from the tent, but still faced many problems," said Ashmi Synathang, a presenter at Radio Sindhu. "We weren't protected from heavy rains and there wasn't enough space."

UNICEF supported the community radio station by providing a larger tent.

"The UNICEF tent was a huge help for us," she said. "We are protected from rain and since the tent is big, we have lot of space now."

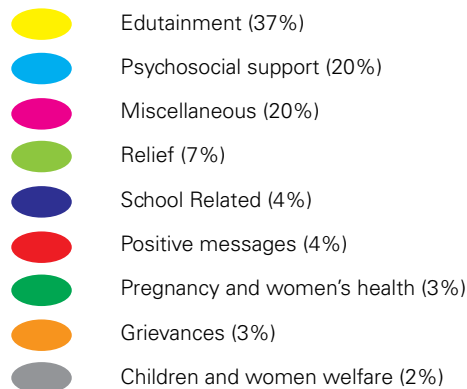
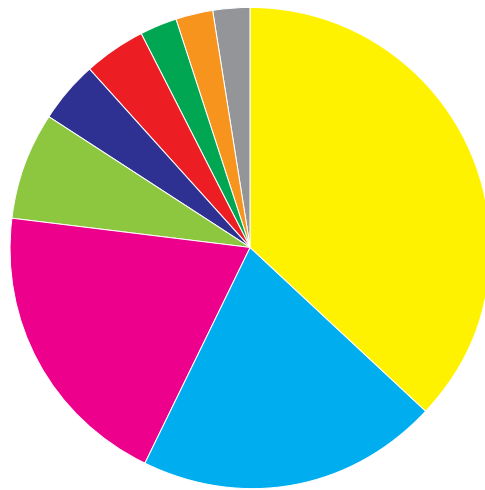
She also added that being able to continue operation under the UNICEF tent enabled the radio station to disseminate important emergency related information to the community.

"We were able to give out the information on things such as what should be done during disaster, where not to stay during an earthquake and so on," she said. "We are extremely happy and want to give lots of thanks to UNICEF for helping us do that."

Story by: Binoy Dil Lama



ISSUES RAISED BY ON-AIR CALLERS IN UNICEF-SUPPORTED RADIO PROGRAMME *BHANDAI SUNDAL* (SAYING LISTENING)



Total number of calls: 1,221

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Over 1,000,000 population reached through mass media with critical lifesaving messages.
- Nearly 385,000 in the most affected areas reached directly with key lifesaving information through community outreach initiatives.
- More than 100,000 minutes of key lifesaving information was disseminated through 191 community radio stations.
- More than 13,000 minutes of on-air psychosocial counselling was provided through a daily programme *Bhandai Sundal* (Saying Listening) on Radio Nepal. A total of 1,221 (829 males and 392 females) phone calls were received on the show (see pie-chart for issues raised by callers).
- Over 75,000 people, including school children were reached through edutainment programme *Bhandai Sundal Gaun Gaun Ma* (Saying Listening in Villages). This programme is a traveling show that brings together the country's popular comedians, singers and entertainers and provides mass psychosocial support through the use of music, comedy and entertainment incorporating lifesaving messages on health, sanitation, child protection, domestic violence and others.
- Altogether 191 community radio stations, five television channels and national dailies were used to disseminate key lifesaving messages.
- In total, 19 types of communication materials were developed and 1.8 million copies of the same were distributed.
- Support has been provided for the assessment, capacity building, restoration and rehabilitation of the damaged community radio stations.
- Support has been provided for the development of National Communication Response Plan in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population.
- A Communicating with Affected Communities (CWC) Working Group was established to ensure coordination of communication efforts among different humanitarian actors.

Shanti Lama is one of more than 50,000 people who have benefitted from the "edutainment" initiative. Shanti, who lost her sister and grandmother during the earthquake, was in a very somber mood before the show conducted at Naglebhare, in a remote area of Kathmandu. A smile could be seen on Shanti's face after the show. "I forgot about my pain and suffering for a while," she said. "I liked the messages given by the artists, especially about not being afraid of the earthquake."



Photo Courtesy: V-Chitra

UNICEF SUPPLIES

A person is seen from behind, carrying a large blue UNICEF supply box on their back. They are standing in front of a large, powerful waterfall. The person is wearing dark clothing and boots. The box has the UNICEF logo and text on it. The background is a lush green forest with the waterfall cascading down rocks.

Following the 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 25 April, UNICEF responded immediately with the release of emergency supplies pre-positioned in four UNICEF warehouses inside the country. Additional supplies were quickly mobilized from various parts of the world including Billund, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Liège, Paris, Dubai, Manila, Shanghai, Kolkata and Mumbai. In the last six months, UNICEF has worked with counterparts and partners to distribute vital supplies to children and their families in the affected districts. These include tents; hygiene kits; vaccines; water purification solutions; vitamins and therapeutic foods; medical supplies and kits; bed nets; materials for information, education and communication; school, recreational and early childhood development kits. As of September, the total value of UNICEF supplies received amounts to \$11.61 million, out of which \$7.8 million worth of supplies have been distributed.

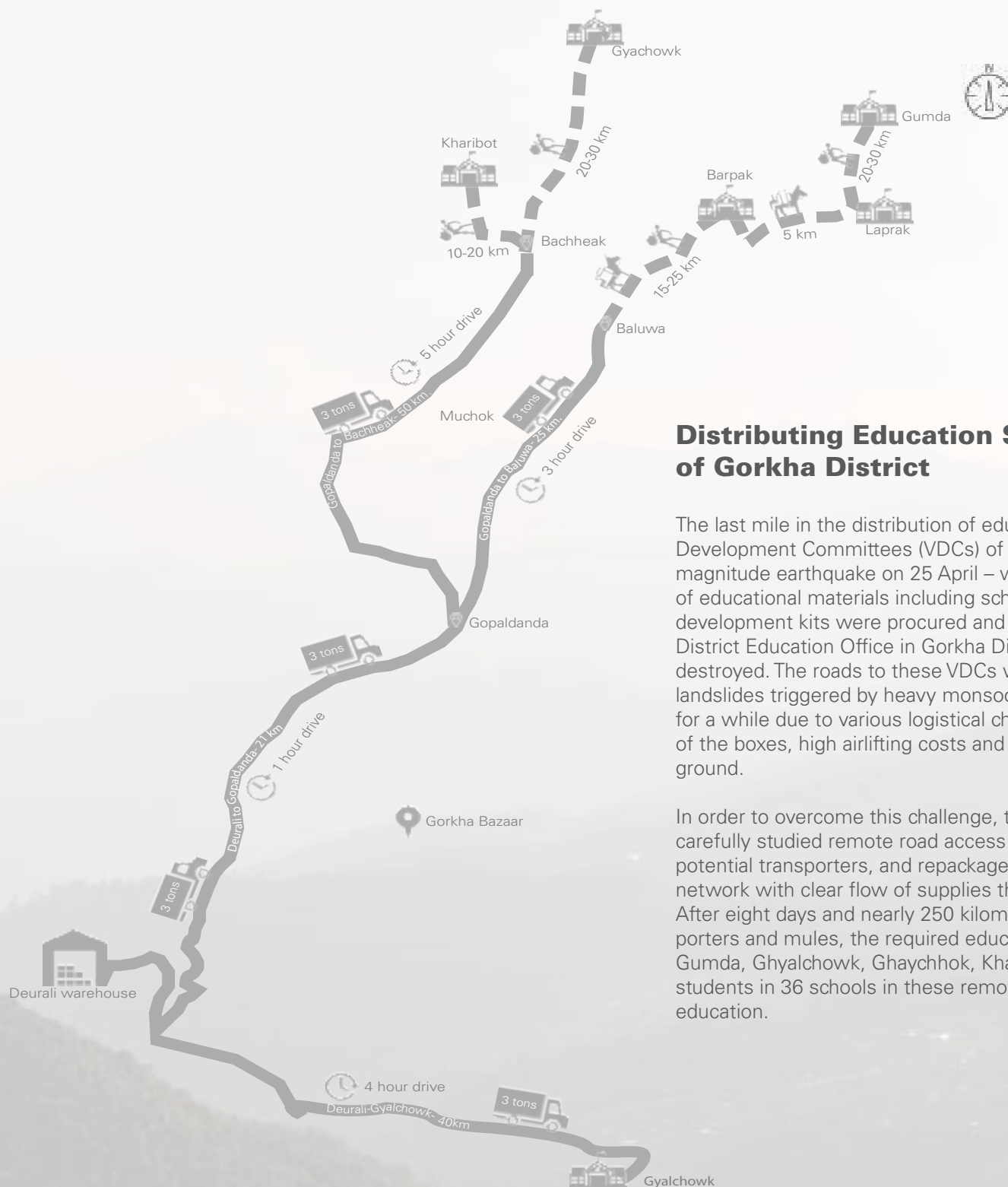
The distribution of these lifesaving supplies along the difficult terrains of Nepal posed a great challenge. Further, the monsoon rains started in early June caused a large number of landslides and damaged or blocked roads in numerous places in earthquake-affected districts. This delayed the transportation of relief supplies to the affected areas, exacerbating vulnerability of the areas and population already badly affected by earthquakes. Monsoon weather also hampered the flights of helicopters that carried relief supplies to remote mountain villages.

Despite these challenges, UNICEF worked hard with the concerned counterparts and partners to ensure that the relief supplies reach the most vulnerable and the unreachable by employing all kinds of means of transportation available including airplanes, helicopters, trucks, tractors, cars, mules and porters.

Distributing Education Supplies in Remote Areas of Gorkha District

The last mile in the distribution of education supplies in nine remote Village Development Committees (VDCs) of Gorkha District – the epicentre of 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 25 April – was quite a challenge. Large quantities of educational materials including school, recreation and early childhood development kits were procured and delivered to the concerned partners and District Education Office in Gorkha District where nearly 500 schools had been destroyed. The roads to these VDCs were impassable due to the blockage from landslides triggered by heavy monsoon rains. These supplies had to be stored for a while due to various logistical challenges including the size and weight of the boxes, high airlifting costs and capacity limitations of partners on the ground.

In order to overcome this challenge, the UNICEF Supply and Logistics team carefully studied remote road access in the district, identified and engaged potential transporters, and repackaged the materials accordingly. An operational network with clear flow of supplies throughout their journey was developed. After eight days and nearly 250 kilometres of transportation via trucks, tractors, porters and mules, the required educational supplies finally reached Barpak, Gumda, Ghyalchowk, Ghaychhok, Kharibot and Laprak VDCs. Thanks to this, students in 36 schools in these remote VDCs could continue their classes and education.



ACCOUNTABILITY TOWARDS BENEFICIARIES

FOLLOWING UP ON CHILDREN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The national launch of the “Children Consultation Report” by the Government of Nepal, UNICEF, Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision International was held on 25 July 2015. The objective of the launch was to share the recommendations made by the 1,838 children, who participated in focus group discussions in the 14 districts most seriously affected by the earthquakes. Some of the key recommendations made by children related to shelter, education, WASH and gender-related protection issues were reflected in Government's Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report.

Among the issues UNICEF followed up after the launching of the child consultation report was how to cope with stress and emotions during the aftermath of the earthquakes. A total of 140 children from 14 affected districts have been trained in life skills to enhance their resilience as peer educators. They in turn will be providing peer education support to other children in their communities. The peer educators are expected to reach an estimated 15,000 children in these affected districts.

In addition, to address the issue of sustainability, UNICEF is supporting the dissemination of the recommendations in the District and Village Development Committee (VDC) levels as well as capacity building of VDCs secretaries and social



mobilizers so that the recommendations can be integrated in the upcoming local development planning process.

Three children who participated in the consultation also shared their recommendations at the “High Level South Asia Policy Dialogue on Children and Disaster Risk Reduction” organized by UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia and Disaster Management Centre from the South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in Kathmandu in September. The concerns expressed and recommendations made by the children facilitated policy makers better understanding of the issues faced by children during the Nepal earthquakes. It also led to one of the recommendations of the conference that children's participation should be taken into consideration during emergencies as well as in related policy level forums.

RADIO PROGRAMME BY YOUTH FOR YOUTH IN AFFECTED DISTRICTS

Two weeks into the devastating earthquake of 25 April, UNICEF-supported popular youth radio programme *Saathi Sanga Mann Ka Kura* (Chatting with My Best Friend) began airing episodes on issues pertinent to young people in the post disaster scenario. The programmes were aired in Nepali, Newari and Tamang – the three main languages spoken in the 14 most severely affected districts. The programme covered a wide range of topics prioritized on the basis of feedback received from the young listeners in the affected districts. These topics included: adolescents and youth being hopeful and responsible; being resilient; trafficking and gender-based violence; preparing adolescents to resume school; personal hygiene in post-disaster situation; sexual harassment; nutrition; sexual abuse and social accountability; menstruation hygiene; and disability. Voices of young people on the content of the programme and any other concerns and issues were taken by using Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and SMS.

SUPPLY DISPATCH MONITORING

At the end of 2015, UNICEF will begin rolling out new mobile applications in Nepal to monitor the status of its humanitarian supply materials in earthquake-affected districts. As part of the Supply Chain Monitoring and Tracking project, supplies, such as multiple micronutrient powder packets, vitamin A capsules, vaccines, etc., will include barcodes with UNICEF-specific information that can be scanned via smartphones to enable more efficient receipt and registration of goods. UNICEF will also pilot mobile applications for partners to track distributions and product feedback, which will facilitate real-time monitoring and reporting of the distribution and quality of supplies, and enhance accountability towards the targeted populations in affected districts. In-depth training for partners and government counterparts on the tools will begin in November.

THIRD-PARTY MONITORING

To maintain quality humanitarian services and their further improvements in the most earthquake-affected areas, an independent end-user monitoring activity was launched by UNICEF in August. An external agency, Health Research and Social Development Forum (HERD), conducted critical assessment of key UNICEF emergency components, i.e., Health, WASH, Nutrition, Education, Cash Transfer, Child Protection and Communication for Development

The agency mobilized 20 field monitors in

HUMAN TOUCH FUND



© UNICEF Nepal/2015/NSHres/ha

Sunita Gurung had never waited for anything so anxiously in her life.

The 17-year-old paced nervously in front of the delivery room at Dhulikhel Hospital, where her mother was undergoing labour pain.

Five hours later, as she held her new-born baby sister, she

was filled with immense joy and pride. The birth of the baby girl was a happy ending to an arduous journey that Sunita and her pregnant and paralyzed mother Ram Maya Gurung had taken from Dhading District, which lies nearly 100 kilometers northwest of Kathmandu. The damaged health facility in Dhading, one of the 14 most affected districts, could not accommodate the complicated delivery case of Ram Maya, who had been paralyzed in the bottom half of her body for the last 12 years.

The mother-daughter duo were supported by UNICEF's "Human Touch Fund" for the journey from Dhading to Dhulikhel Hospital in Kavrepalanchowk District. The fund has also been supporting Ram Maya's rehabilitation at Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre as well as lodging costs of her caretaker. Established by UNICEF Nepal Staff Association in 2001, the fund provides direct and urgent assistance to disadvantaged children and women for specialized medical services. Since the devastating earthquakes on April 25 and May 12, the fund has provided \$2,500 in support to nine individuals.

all the 14 most seriously affected districts and were able to collect critical information on the ground to identify strengths and gaps

of UNICEF's interventions. The third party monitoring is carried out every month and will continue for six months.

CHILDREN'S VOICES



Students with hearing and speech disability at Bhimeshwor Bahira Prathamik Bidyalaya (School for Persons with Disability) gesture THANKYOU at a UNICEF-supported Temporary Learning Centre (TLC) in Dolakha District. The building where they used to study had been destroyed by the earthquake.

"When my nine-month old brother Sonish and I were buried under the rubble of our house, I never gave up on us. There was a small space to breathe and when I heard voices of people outside, I knew they would rescue us. And they did. I was rescued first and I was able to guide the people to rescue my little brother. Today, I feel so good to be alive and I want to work hard in my studies and become doctor one day. I have no more fear of the earthquake anymore."



Sonia Awal, 10, Bhaktapur

"My parents don't have a house anymore. So, I live in a makeshift hut with them. The school was also destroyed. We have no more playground, either. Even when big trucks ply near the road, the school shakes and we all fear that there is another earthquake. We live with just fear and frustration. However, now I feel good that UNICEF has sent us creative educational materials and we now have something to distract ourselves."



Sunil Rana Magar, 10, Sindhupalchowk

"I miss my friends a lot, especially the ones who were killed by the earthquake. Those who survived have also moved to newer places and I really miss them all a lot. Every path I walk on reminds me of them. I remember how we used to play and have fun before the earthquake. But I think it is also time that we have to move forward with our lives and be someone important today."



Raj Gurung, 12, Gorkha

"All the building in our village came crumbling down on April 25. We lost everything we had to the fire that broke a couple of hours later. The money, the cereals, the clothes, our books, everything was gone. Two months later, we all moved to Dhunche, the district headquarters, because of the landslides. We 9th and 10th graders now study in a local school under a Temporary Learning Centre. It is small and noisy when the rain falls on the corrugated roof, and our small tented hostel is of course cramped. But we are not complaining. Education here is much better than in the village school. The teachers here are very regular, and they teach in such a nice way that it's easy to understand!"



Rashmi Tamang, 18, Rasuwa

UNICEF VOICES



I arrived in Dolakha on 12 May – the same day the second Nepal earthquake of 7.3 magnitude struck Nepal. Dolakha was the epicentre of it and we had a narrow escape during the earthquake. I spent my first day as the UNICEF District Emergency Coordinator for Dolakha in a camp with families already displaced by the first earthquake. I looked around me and I saw families living in extremely difficult conditions. I also saw some children with disability living without proper shelter. My mind was occupied with these sad thoughts when I saw an 11-year-old child who did not seem to be scared. “If this child living in these conditions is not afraid, why am I panicking?” I thought.

Indira Koirala, UNICEF Nepal Programme and Planning Officer, served as the District Emergency Coordinator in Dolakha District, the epicentre of the 7.3 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal on 12 May.

All night long, there was one strong aftershock after another. Each aftershock was like a bomb explosion underneath the ground. None of us slept a wink that night. I hadn't been that scared on 25 April as I was very far away from the epicentre. But on 12 May, as I saw so much destruction around me, I really felt the true impact of the earthquake and its numerous aftershocks in the lives of people in Nepal.

Surya Khapung is a transport staff at UNICEF Eastern Regional Zonal Office in Biratnagar, Nepal. He was deployed to Dolakha District when the second major earthquake of 7.3 magnitude struck Nepal with its epicentre in the same district.



Photo Courtesy: Surya Khapung



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The earthquake brought tragedy and suffering into many families. I too lost family members. I faced a dilemma. While personal tragedy was pulling me to one side, my duties as a certified advance emergency responder as well as a Business Continuity Plan Committee member was triggering at me too. I had to make a decision and I did. The responsibility of a humanitarian worker took over and made me attend official duty to respond to the emergency the very next day of the quake. I will never regret my decision.

Raju Maharjan is an ICT Officer at UNICEF Nepal.

We had taken clothes, hygiene kits and other essential items for the affected population. I could see the relief reflected in people's eyes when they received the items. I remember the feeling of pride that swept over me at that moment for having been able to wipe off even just a tiny bit of sorrow from their faces. Women and children had gathered around me to share their stories. A little girl played with my glass bangles. Although I am far away from the village and those murmur of the women and children as they thronged around me, I can almost hear the chime of my bangles continue to reverberate in my ears even now. These are gentle reminders of my work and commitment to improve the lives of children and women in Nuwakot. I am proud to be working for UNICEF.

Anita Dahal is a UNICEF Nepal Governance Officer stationed in the Central Region Zonal Office in Bharatpur. She served as the Emergency District Coordinator in Nuwakot District. She is now back in the same district as the Emergency Specialist of the newly established UNICEF Emergency Site for Nuwakot and adjacent districts for the next six months.



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UNICEF PARTNERSHIPS

Over the past six months, the international community has responded swiftly and generously to the immediate needs of the children of Nepal. As of 29 September, UNICEF has received \$104.5 million from its donors with which it has been able to support 1.1 million children in the 14 most severely affected districts. Thanks to these generous contributions, UNICEF could provide clean water; water buckets; water purification tablets; soap; sanitation facilities; hygiene kits; tents and tarpaulins; health supplies and equipment; vaccines; Shelter Homes for pregnant and lactating women; vitamins and therapeutic foods; Temporary Learning Centres; school-in-a-box and other educational supplies; psychosocial support; protective services for the prevention of violence, trafficking and family separation; cash assistance to the most vulnerable population; and technical and financial assistance to the counterparts and partners that make these supplies, services and resources well delivered and utilised.

UNICEF would like to sincerely thank the Governments of the following countries and countries that contribute to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for their generosity and support:



UNICEF would also like to extend its warmest gratitude to UNICEF National Committees and UNICEF offices of the following countries for their strong support from their private sector fund-raising activities:

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UNICEF would like to further thank the IKEA Foundation and Micronutrient Initiative (formerly IDRC) for their considerable support to ensure a brighter future for children in Nepal. In the coming months, UNICEF looks forward to continuously working these and other partners to help rebuild the lives of children across Nepal's earthquake-affected areas.



DELIVERING TOP-UP TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD!

Government officials Binod Basnet, Pemba Sherpa and Sabita Rai (from left) walk towards Syangboche in Solukhumbu District to deliver emergency top-up cash provided by UNICEF to vulnerable people who had been receiving assistance under the Government's existing Social Protection scheme. © UNICEF Nepal/2015/KPanday



unite for children

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