

# Nepal Earthquake Recovery Project



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## **Nepal Earthquake Recovery Project**

### **Assisting Together for Earthquake Affected Communities To Restore Losses And Build Back Better To Manage Current And Future Disaster**

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DanChurch Aid  
Lalitpur, Nepal  
Tel: +977-1-5013550  
[www.danchurchaid.org](http://www.danchurchaid.org)

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## Foreword

More than a year has already passed since the massive earthquake struck Nepal on April 25, 2015 destroying houses and settlements in around 14 districts of Nepal, leaving these areas in a state of limbo for the longest time. Thousands of lives were lost in the devastating calamity. Immediately after the earthquake, DCA and our local partners, as ACT Alliance members, were immediately on the field to provide quick relief to the earthquake survivors in different districts. Several months after the passage of the initial phase, we decided along with likeminded ACT Alliance members -- who have expertise on particular components such as shelter, WASH, and cash programming-- to come together to further enhance our responses to the larger needs of the communities rattled by the earthquake.

We, DCA (DanChurchAid), Christian Aid, ICCO Cooperation and Lutheran World Federation came together to launch Nepal Earthquake Recovery Project funded partly by European Union's Humanitarian and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) and partly by our own contributions. We launched this project in four different highly affected districts -- Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, Makwanpur and Rasuwa-- in September, 2015.

The project ran for ten months in 13 VDCs and one municipality in the four districts, helping people to live a better life with proper, resilient shelters to live in, access to proper sanitary facilities as well as clean drinking water and also by empowering local residents with appropriate skills to construct earthquake resistant houses.

This would not have been possible without the hard work and expertise of our consortium members, implementing partners and all those who have been continually working toward making this project successful. In total, we have been able to construct 1650 earthquake resistant transitional shelters, 2500 toilets and repair or rebuild 45 water supply schemes. With this we have been able to reach out to more than 50,000 individuals including children, the elderly, women and many differently abled people.

I believe that our endeavors in assisting the communities in the worst hit districts have definitely empowered the communities to not only restore some of their losses but also to build back better to manage the current and future disasters.

This photo book is a compilation of our endeavors across the four different districts. This book showcases the journey of our work through the ten months of our operation for earthquake recovery programs and the impact that this project has had on the highly affected communities.

Most importantly, it shows people taking charge of their own recovery in times of disaster; thus demonstrating the strength of local people to overcome even the worst catastrophe.

Best Regards,

David Smith  
Country Director - Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan

## European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) aims to save and preserve life, prevent and alleviate human suffering and safeguard the integrity and dignity of populations affected by natural disasters and manmade crises. EU assistance, amounting to one of the world's largest, is enshrined in the Treaty of Lisbon and supported by EU citizens as an expression of European solidarity with any person or people in need. Headquartered in Brussels with a global network of field offices, ECHO ensures rapid and effective delivery of EU relief assistance through its two main instruments: humanitarian aid and civil protection. By bringing together the two under one roof in 2010, the Commission has built up a more robust and effective European mechanism for disaster response both inside and outside the EU. Since November 2014, ECHO operates under the mandate of Mr Christos Stylianides, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management.

## About Nepal Earthquake Recovery Project



Few months after the April 25, 2015 earthquake, we formed a consortium to launch Nepal Earthquake Recovery Project aimed at responding to devastating impacts of the earthquake. The consortium led by Dan Church Aid and three other Act Alliance members-- Christian Aid, Lutheran World Federation Nepal and ICCO Cooperation-- implemented the project with the support of European Union's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO).

Our endeavors, as mentioned earlier, were primarily focused on responding to disastrous impacts of the earthquake while they also laid emphasis on the existing gaps in the immediate humanitarian response in some of the remotest areas in Nepal's mountainous and high hill terrains, specifically those in the

districts of Rasuwa, Sindhupalchowk, Makwanpur and Dhading.

In the initial phase, the consortium addressed the need for winterization as the Himalayan communities strongly needed some support in order to fend off the harsh Himalayan-winter. For this action we handed out cash vouchers to the communities through which they could buy warm blankets and clothes to keep themselves warm in the winter that is quite bitter in this part of the world.

The consortium, in parallel, addressed the shelter needs of the communities by providing financial aid, shelter materials and technical assistance, allowing affected households to build back better and to help them stay prepared in case of future disasters.

Our priority was not limited to building shelters for the communities but it was an integrated approach that also addressed their need for improved household sanitation as well as to provide access to water and hygiene services at community level. This action would not have been successful without the support of our implementing partners spread across four different districts.

In addition, the project also provided skill oriented masonry and carpentry training to the community members empowering them to build a more resilient and safer community. Similarly, taking the post-earthquake situation into account, the female community health volunteers were provided with relevant training for maintaining hygiene in the community.

After ten months of continuous hard work, we are very content that we could reach out to around 50,000 people in some 13 VDCs and one municipality by providing them with an access to a safer and resilient shelter, safe drinking water, appropriate sanitation facilities as well as skill oriented training for building back better.

Binod Dhungana  
Consortium Manager



# Shelter



The project supported 1650 targeted households to rebuild their houses in 13 VDCs and one municipality in Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, Rasuwa and Makwanpur districts. The beneficiaries were selected based on the shelter cluster recommendations on beneficiary targeting and prioritization. The project targeted people living with disabilities, female headed households and elderly people as well as Dalits (as priorities) while selecting the households. The consortium provided shelter materials including CGI sheets and cash worth NPR 25000 to the households who could not otherwise rebuild their shelters on their own.

For this purpose, the consortium adopted the recommended shelter design to ensure that they are appropriate for the local context taking into consideration the climate, local building techniques and availability of local materials such as mud, stones, wood and bamboos. Moreover, the salvaged materials of the old house of the beneficiaries were also brought into use while constructing the shelter. Meanwhile, the beneficiaries were also trained in the owner driven reconstruction methods so that they were able to monitor and manage their own construction work.

The shelter, however, was constructed using standardized and approved design by the DUDBC in coordination with the shelter cluster to ensure that the design is appropriate in local context. Furthermore, women were also involved to ensure that their needs too are integrated in the design process and final construction of the shelter. Additionally, a prototype shelter was constructed at each VDC targeting the most vulnerable beneficiaries in the respective communities.





“We had to face a lot of challenges brought about by the Earthquake, the hardest one being the realization that within a matter of minutes, our shelters ceased to exist. We lived in temporary shelter (mostly tents) for many months fearing wild animals, withstanding frequent changes in the weather as well as standing through the bad winter. Today, with the shelter support, we are able to live in a house that is safe to take shelter in even during earthquake. We do, however, understand that this is transitional shelter and we plan to live here till we build a permanent house”

*Shanti Dhakal, Makwanpur*



The consortium had employed a comprehensive and systematic approach to shelter construction and in-house capacity to design and implement the shelter response. In addition, it prepared the shelter designs in partnership with technical experts including the National Society of Earthquake technology (NSET), shelter cluster members, RedR and the DUDBC.

The earthquake recovery consortium worked towards achieving complete solutions for transitional shelter needs which included both repair and restoration work to make them disaster resilient. The shelter construction was driven by “owner driven approach” ensuring that the targeted households would not lose their wages in order to construct their houses. Instead they worked toward building their own house, managing the materials distributed through the project and using the financial-aid to hire trained masons and carpenters.





Taking into account the emergency humanitarian need of the earthquake affected families, the consortium started winterization campaign and handed out cash vouchers to the communities that needed support to ward off winter. The consortium altogether provided winterization support to 4844 families across four working districts, ensuring warmth for these families during harsh winter. The project provided winterization kit package containing plastic sheets/foam, blanket/quilt, local bed mattresses and clothes to each of the targeted households of Dhading, Rasuwa, Makwanpur and Sidhupalchowk. This was based on the guidelines of the shelter cluster.

## Winterization







“Around mid-January, the consortium completed its winterization program that came into operation since November which is even before the government had started to extend support to the affected families. The consortium decided to support the affected communities with winterization program after the findings of a survey helped us learn that people were in an urgent need of support to withstand the harsh winter. Thus we were determined to provide the people with winterization support”

*Binod Dhungana, Consortium Manager*

“All of our belongings were buried along with the house in the earthquake. Few months after the earthquake, winter was fast approaching and winters in the Himalayas are utterly bitter. Thanks to the winterization support, our children are not trembling with cold any more. Likewise, I see other children in the village whose families have been provided with winterization support, they are also prepared to face the cold and this was possible only through the cash vouchers through which we could buy materials to ward off winter”

*Pushpa Poudel, Dhading.*



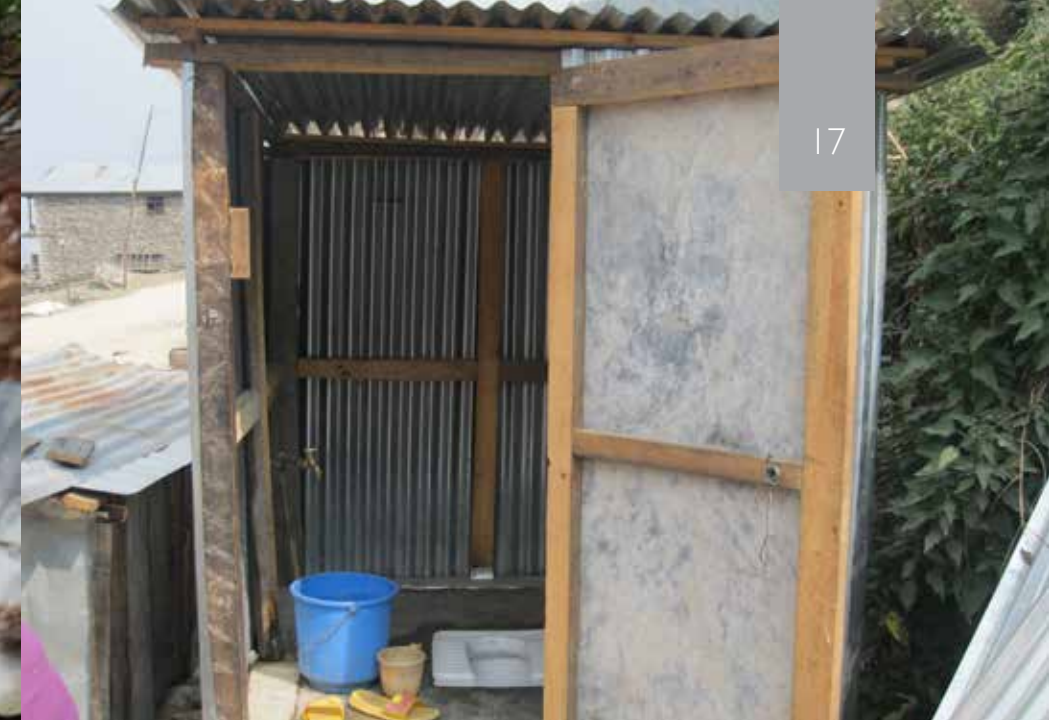


# WASH

For providing appropriate sanitary facilities the project helped construct as well as restore 2500 latrines that were damaged by the earthquake. The beneficiaries for this action were selected through the baseline survey. The latrines were constructed based on the designs suggested by the WASH cluster/ DWSSO. The beneficiaries were supported with construction materials as well as provided technical assistance. This particular action directly benefitted over 12,500 people.







“During the earthquake, our toilet collapsed and we were left with no other way than using the neighbors’ toilets or some place else. With the help that we received for toilet construction, our lives have become much easier now. Right now seven people including me and my wife use the toilet. For maintaining sanitation, we make sure that we clean the toilet every time after we use it. Thanks to the hygiene promoters from the organization, they come here time and again to make sure that we have maintained sanitation”,

*Gopal Shrestha and Dil Kumari Shrestha, Dhading*





## Community Orientation and Trainings

The shelter beneficiaries were trained in “Owner Driven Reconstruction Methods” such that they were able to monitor and manage their own construction work. For achieving this, the shelter engineers of the implementing partner organized community orientation at different locations in the Village Development Committees. They then gathered the communities to familiarize them to the shelter construction methods and imparted ideas on how to build resilient shelters as well as how to monitor their own reconstruction process.

The beneficiaries as well as the community members were thus trained with owner driven reconstruction methods empowering them to be able to monitor and manage their own construction work. Meanwhile, during the orientation there on-the job training was also provided to other masons and carpenters.





“Most of us that have come to attend this orientation training are women because we feel more than the men at home we could benefit from this orientation. Men go for work and return home late and it is us, the womenfolk, who have to monitor reconstruction of our houses. This is why we are here so that we could learn about how to make resilient shelters so as to make it stronger and able to stand even during earthquake. This orientation training has provided us information on the efficient ways of constructing house properly.”

*Sharmila Shrestha, Sindhupalchowk*



# Water Scheme

With the aim to provide sufficient and safe water for community people, the consortium repaired and rehabilitated 45 water schemes based on the need-assessment survey across 13 VDCs and 1 municipality in Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, Rasuwa and Makwanpur. During the rehabilitation/ repair process of water schemes, water user groups and local people were fully mobilized for creating their ownership after completion of the project. Similarly, the water quality testing was also conducted at relevant locations in the supply system (the source, inlet to storage tank, point of collection) to identify the point of any possible contamination. The testing prioritized identification of fecal bacterial contamination and turbidity. The results from the testing guided the intervention activities. The primary focus of the action was the rehabilitation of water intakes, storage tanks, distribution points and pipelines. Additional construction of storage tanks, water intakes, filters and tap stands were implemented where needed.







“Water sources dried up after the devastating quake and we went through a difficult time thereafter as we had to walk all the way to the river to fetch water. Too much time was lost in the process while the dangers of walking through a risky pathway remained at large. The water that we were using was contaminated but we were left with no other option. As a result, our children eventually started getting ill. But now, thanks to the support we are receiving, we formed a users’ group committee and also contributed some money and manpower to build the water scheme. Now we have an access to safe drinking water”

*Nirmala Basnet ,Makwanpur*







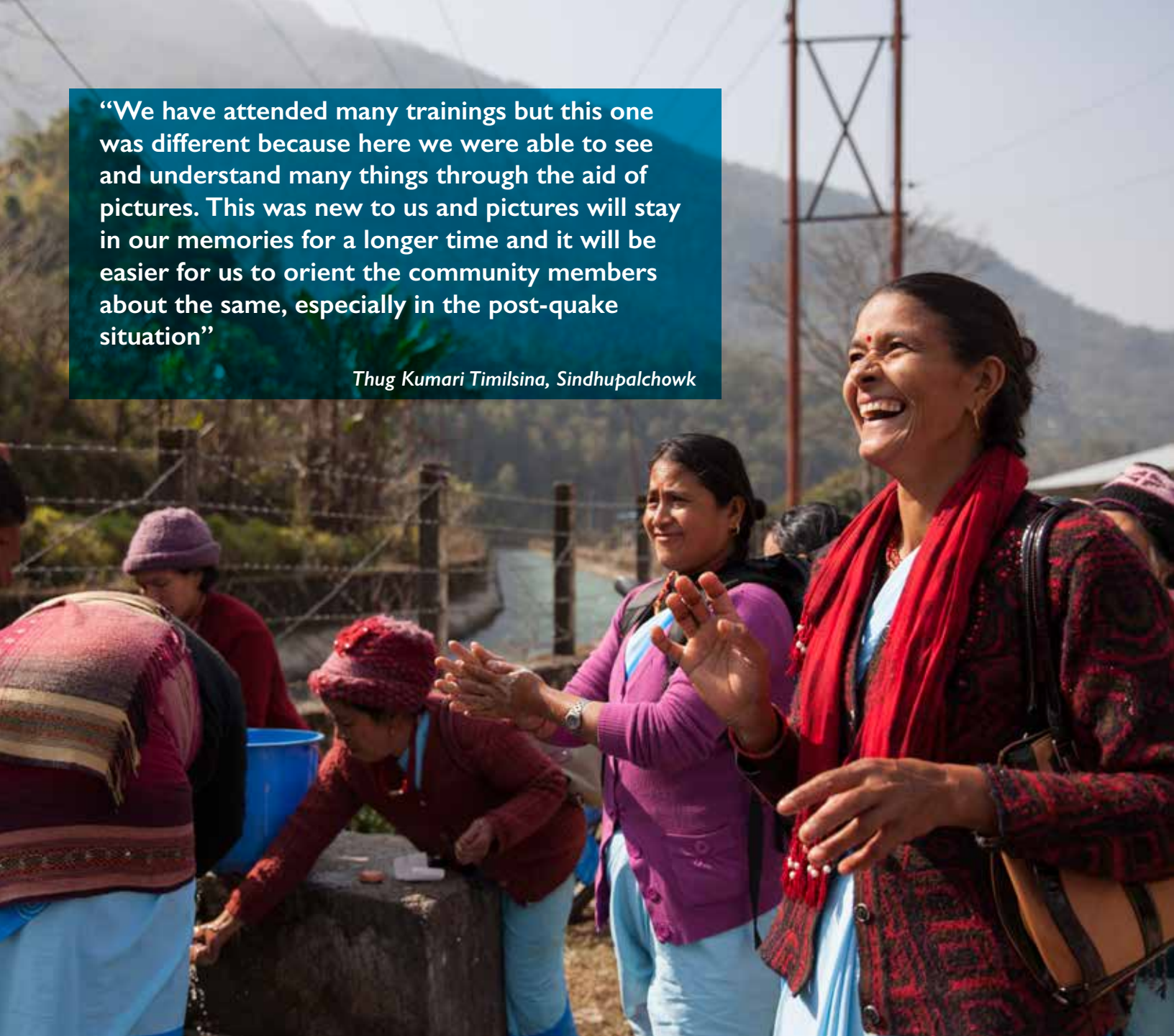
## Hygiene Orientation

The Female Community Health Volunteers were provided with Hygiene training with a target to help the communities learn appropriate techniques to work on issues of hygiene and sanitation especially during the post-earthquake phase. The hygiene and sanitation promotion campaign was conducted across four districts. A total of 106 community health mobilizers were provided with the training and knowledge on the techniques to support their respective communities whose state of hygiene and sanitation has dwindled owing to the earthquake. This action has targeted more than 10,800 beneficiaries who would be made aware of maintaining sanitation and hygiene in their respective communities.



“We have attended many trainings but this one was different because here we were able to see and understand many things through the aid of pictures. This was new to us and pictures will stay in our memories for a longer time and it will be easier for us to orient the community members about the same, especially in the post-quake situation”

*Thug Kumari Timilsina, Sindhupalchowk*





# Training of the Trainers

The master training of masons and carpenters was conducted to enhance the abilities of the carpenters and masons who already possessed basic knowledge and skills on the sector. Under the guidance of shelter engineers, the trained master-trainers then transferred their skills to the local people in their respective communities. The master trainers also provided technical services to beneficiaries along with helping them with building their shelters. This allowed the community people to learn locally suitable construction techniques and to build their own economy by using local techniques. This particular action produced more than 90 master trainers who ultimately transferred their skills to more than 1300 people in their respective communities.



“If we incorporate these new techniques that we learnt here in this training into the traditional construction methods, our houses will be strong enough to resist future earthquakes. Now I can implement these techniques and ideas in my village, thanks to the training. I will also motivate other families to reconstruct their houses using these techniques so that they can also build an earthquake-resilient shelter. Meanwhile, I, as part of transferring the skills, will also be providing training to other masons especially female masons in my home town”

*Bhagwati Tamang, Dhading*





**“It looks like the Nepal Earthquake Recovery Project is very well managed at the same time it is on the track. The consortium has not delayed to fulfill the needs of the community on time. The project seems very intense as some of the places are far away and have difficult road access but even in those areas the project is running smooth. So, what we have seen looks like a good result of the joint effort of the international community, local partners to help the survivors of the earthquake and helping the community to become more resilient”**

*Cees Wittebrood  
Head of Unit, Asia, Latin America, Caribbean, Pacific  
Director General Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)*



### Implementing Partners



**MANEKOR**  
Society Nepal