



Responding to Earthquake-Affected Communities and Households in Nepal (REACH)

QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT

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ACRONYMS AND TRANSLATIONS

AIN	Association of INGOs in Nepal
CDO	Chief District Officer
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
GoN	Government of Nepal
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
HH	Households
HNDC	Healthy Nepal Development Centre
HoH	Head of Household
KLL	Kathmandu Learning Labs
NFRI	Non-Food Relief Items
MOF	Ministry of Finance
NPC	National Planning Commission
NRCS	Nepal Red Cross Society
SACCO	Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization
SWC	Social Welfare Council
VDC	Village Development Committee
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project name:	Responding to Earthquake-Affected Communities and Households in Nepal (REACH)
Duration:	May 5, 2015 to November 5, 2015 ¹
Funding:	Total funding: 1,000,000.00 USAID: 1,000,000.00
Direct Beneficiaries:	3,500 Heads of Households (HoH) from homes either partially damaged or totally destroyed.
Indirect:	27,476 individuals in 7 VDCs across Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha
Reporting period:	July 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015.

Target area:

District	VDC	Activities
Sindhupalchowk	Karthali	Registration and distribution of kits and cash to 392 households ² .
	Ramche	Distribution of kits and cash to 1,072 households.
	Ghumtang	Distribution of materials and training for construction of 300 latrines. Hygiene and sanitation promotion activities.
	Maneswor	Distribution of materials and training for construction of 300 latrines. Hygiene and sanitation promotion activities.
	Melung	Registration and distribution of kits and cash to 1,150 households. Distribution of materials and training for construction of 100 latrines. Hygiene and sanitation promotion activities.
Dolakha	Chyama	Distribution of kits and cash to 886 households.
	Sahare	Distribution of materials and training for construction of 100 latrines. Hygiene and sanitation promotion activities.

¹ On July 9, 2015, a no-cost extension was granted to extend the program's end date for an additional three months to November 5, 2015.

² In consideration of both the widespread destruction and the risk of exacerbating already rising levels of intra- and intercommunity tensions, Mercy Corps targeted whole communities at a time. District teams conduct activities in VDCs systematically so that registration, kit and cash distributions can be carried out quickly and successively.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In a span of less than three weeks, two major earthquakes – measuring 7.8 and 7.3 in magnitude – and a continuing series of serious aftershocks jolted Nepal, affecting more than eight million people. In the days immediately following the first earthquake, Mercy Corps conducted rapid needs assessments in seven of the impacted districts. The teams found massive destruction to houses, productive assets, shops and other infrastructure. In addition to the physical damage caused by the earthquakes, levels of fear, anger, frustration and hopelessness among the population rose in the face of a system that has until now struggled to meet their immediate and medium-term needs. Based on initial assessments, conducted in coordination with the district-level government, the primary needs of those affected by the earthquake include basic goods, shelter, water, sanitation, hygiene, health and food.

In order that the affected populations in Nepal are able to meet their basic needs and recover from the effects of the 2015 earthquakes, Mercy Corps, supported by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), is implementing the *Responding to Earthquake-Affected Communities and Households in Nepal (REACH)* program. The program focuses on emergency response interventions in the sectors of Shelter and Settlements and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) to help affected households, and communities recover from the effects of the earthquakes, while also working to stimulate local-level businesses and markets. The program provide necessary temporary shelter materials to affected households through the distribution of kits with non-food relief items (NFRI), as well as a one-time \$75 cash transfer to enable households to meet their individually prioritized needs. In addition to this, Mercy Corps and implementing partners are building latrines for vulnerable households and raising awareness about proper hygiene through the distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, combined with improved access to sanitation facilities where appropriate.

During the second quarter, Mercy Corps completed distributions of NFRI kits and unconditional cash to 17,500 people, supported 800 schools and vulnerable households with materials and training to rebuild latrines and conducted hygiene promotion activities that reached 9,978 individuals in the targeted area. All distributions were carried out in collaboration with local partners and local government agencies. In addition to these program activities, post-distribution monitoring and focus group discussions were initiated with beneficiary groups. Findings from the post-distribution monitoring and focus groups will be included in the analysis in the final report.

These efforts will leverage Mercy Corps’ ability to transition into a longer term recovery strategy which includes building access to financial services and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies to foster long term resilience among target communities.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Summary

Period	Activities
Q2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered the remaining 1,542 households (Mercy Corps was unable to register these households in the first quarter due to time constraints). • Distributed 3,500 non-food related item kits to households in Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha reaching 17,500 people. • Distributed 3,500 cash transfers valued at 7,500 NPR (\$75) per transfer in Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha, reaching 17,500 people. • Distributed materials and conducted trainings for construction of 800 latrines for vulnerable households in Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha reaching 4,767 people. • Conducted hygiene promotion activities reaching 9,978 people in Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha.

Program Set Up

This second quarterly report covers three months of project implementation from July 1 until September 30, 2015. In coordination with local governments, Mercy Corps established agreements with Village Development Committee (VDC) level officials and requested endorsements from the Chief District Officers (CDO) to initiate activities in Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha. In addition, Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (SACCOs), banks and vendors were identified to conduct the cash transfers. The emergency response distributions of consolidated NFRI kits and unconditional cash, as well as implementation of all WASH activities, were carried out by district-based Mercy Corps staff in collaboration with local partner organizations (described below). Distributions began in Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha in July, 2015.

Partner Coordination

All program operations in Nepal are required to have a local implementing partner. Mercy Corps worked closely with the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) chapters and Healthy Nepal Development Centre (HNDC) across Mercy Corps' target VDCs to plan distributions, coordinate with community leaders and facilitate the cash transfers, kit distributions and implementation of WASH activities. As a key implementation partner, NRCS will continue to play a critical role in Mercy Corps' longer-term recovery strategy. In July, Mercy Corps participated in an exhibition sponsored by the Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN) to mark the three month anniversary of the initial earthquake and showcase the contributions and work of INGOs involved in relief and recovery efforts across the affected districts in Nepal. Following the exhibition, Mercy Corps Nepal's Country Director, Sanjay Karki, participated in a panel discussion with the National Planning Commission (NPC), Ministry of Finance (MOF), Social Welfare Council (SWC), and representatives from the United Nations, the larger donor community and the media. The goal of the exhibition and panel was to foster a higher level of transparency between NGOs involved in response and recovery programs, the media and the Government of Nepal (GoN).

In addition, Mercy Corps is maintaining a long-term partnership with Kathmandu Learning Labs (KLL) to develop and implement digital data collection methods to standardize registration of beneficiaries and monitoring distribution activities. Mercy Corps is piloting an external progress dashboard³ for accountability and transparency which is available to all stakeholders.

Mercy Corps coordinated with the UN cluster groups throughout the course of the program by regularly attending Shelter, Cash and WASH cluster coordination meetings, adhered to reporting requirements and shared activity updates about its emergency response with all partner NGOs. This helped to avoid duplication of efforts and ensured proper utilization of resources. Mercy Corps team members also regularly participated in meetings with government officials at the district, VDC and ward level, to coordinate relief efforts and share the project's progress, challenges, and future plans.

Shelter and Settlements

At the end of this quarter, Mercy Corps provided 3,500 households in Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha with critical NFRIs and unconditional cash transfers. Distributions are coordinated and managed by locally-based district teams and the district NRCS chapters. Primary districts were selected based on findings from initial assessments in coordination with the district-level government.

Sub-sector 1.1 Emergency Transitional Shelter

As of September 30, 2015, Mercy Corps distributed 1,464 consolidated NFRI kits and cash transfers in Sindhupalchowk and 2,036 households in Dolakha.

³ The KLL dashboard is available here <http://kathmandulivinglabs.github.io/mc-dash-v2/>

NFRI Kits

NFRI kits included shelter, hygiene, and kitchen items as well as a solar lamp. Mercy Corps reviewed the recommendations for the contents of the kits provided by the Nepal Red Cross Society and Shelter Cluster, and made additions for utility and relevance to gender roles and norms in the target distribution areas. Based on this initial review and analysis from field visits, Mercy Corps made an effort to address all urgent needs in the kits due to the severity and breadth of the destruction. Any kit items included outside the approved OFDA items list were paid for by private funding. Categorized kit contents and rationale as follows:

- » **Hygiene Items:** Affected communities are at high risk of disease and illness. Many latrines and water systems were completely destroyed or badly damaged and the monsoon rains increase the risk of waterborne diseases. To encourage hygienic household practices, items like water purification tablets, soap, and buckets were included. Selected hygienic items for both male and female hygiene needs enabled all household members to maintain proper hygiene and sanitation, including toothpaste, toothbrushes, and sanitary pads.
- » **Shelter Items:** The earthquake and subsequent aftershocks destroyed 500,000 homes, and those left standing were often unstable and at risk of collapsing. Shelter kits, including items like tarpaulins and rope allowed affected families to quickly find shelter from the elements, particularly with the onset of the monsoon season, which is at its peak from June through August and continues into September. Additional multi-purpose string was also included with the assumption that it could be used to hang clothing, secure temporary shelter or simply help transport relief items from distribution points. Mercy Corps utilized private funds to include items like insecticide-treated mosquito nets.
- » **Kitchen Items:** Mercy Corps utilized private funds to include kitchen items in the NFRI kits. Stainless steel cookware and utensils enabled households to safely prepare and eat food, mitigating health and nutrition concerns and helping children to return to normal meal schedules.
- » **Solar Lamp:** The earthquake damaged the electrical grid in affected areas, leaving many communities without electricity. Each household received one solar lamp as part of their relief distribution. The lamp was included as a safety measure, as it is easily portable and can be carried after dark.

Cash and Vouchers

Backed by our headquarters' Technical Support Units (TSU), Cash Transfer experts from Mercy Corps' Middle-East programs arrived in-country to guide the development of our cash programming. After on-the-ground assessments, speaking with peers and participating in the Financial Services Sub-Group of the CCG, it was determined that Mercy Corps would use a diverse group of suppliers (vendors, SACCOs and banks) to expedite the transfer process and enable greater flexibility for location of distribution. In return, vendors, SACCOs and banks received a 100NPR commission for each transfer, stimulating market recovery and infusing capital back in to lending bodies.

The size of the cash transfer (7,500 NPR / 75USD) for 3,500 people was based on payment modality recommendations from the UN Cash Coordination Group (CCG), which determined unconditional grants should be 70% of a minimum expenditure basket. Throughout the planning and implementation phase, Mercy Corps actively participated in the CCG by contributing to assessments, attending weekly meetings, collaborative development of post-distribution monitoring (PDM) tool and data sharing, bringing CCG representatives to focus group discussions and collaborating with CCG, Save the Children and ACAPS with volunteers from Google to improve data collection tools.

During the project planning phase, Mercy Corps anticipated that this project would be an early cash response, with potential to follow up with a larger cash responses. At this time, Mercy Corps is not planning to facilitate more cash transfers, though there will be a small cash-for-work component under Disaster Risk Reduction and infrastructure projects during the recovery phase of Mercy Corps' programming. Relationships built with SACCOs and banks during the response will be leveraged through the financial services component of therecovery programming as well.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Mercy Corps conducted several rapid needs assessments following the April earthquake. The assessments revealed that apart from shelter and food needs, there was an immediate need for WASH interventions among the earthquake-affected communities. Sanitation was an obvious risk, as most toilets were destroyed or unusable, leaving people with no other option but to defecate in open areas. Based on these initial findings, Mercy Corps selected intervention areas in coordination with district-level government agencies and the UN WASH Cluster to ensure adequate coverage across affected areas. Based on these coordination discussions, OFDA's WASH support was ultimately directed specifically to 27 villages across Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha districts.

Sub-Sector 2.1 Sanitation Infrastructure

In the wake of the earthquake, virtually all household and public latrines, including those at local schools, were destroyed. This left everyone without a safe and sanitary option for disposing of human waste and forced people to defecate in the open areas near their home. "We had to go use the nearby jungle area," says Sanokanchi Tamang, a latrine recipient, "or into the crop land where the corn is high."

The emergency response team facilitated construction of 800 latrines for schools and vulnerable households in Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha. To facilitate the construction of latrines, the team distributed two pieces of corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheeting, tarpaulin, 25kg of cement, a toilet pan, supply pipe and ten pieces of brick for each latrine. Community social mobilizers, after receiving training from Mercy Corps engineers, managed groups of volunteers to train household members and school officials to build and maintain latrines. Mercy Corps engineers and emergency staff reviewed construction of latrines for quality assurance.

Sub-Sector 2.2 Hygiene Promotion

Mercy Corps conducted hygiene and sanitation promotional campaigns in Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha to inform community members on proper waste management and handwashing, use of latrines, and water purification practices. Three-day trainings of trainers (ToT) were conducted in centralized locations, attended by members of women's groups, community health volunteers and community mobilizers who then developed action plans to raise awareness and safe practices in home communities.

Once trained, these community health workers and volunteers promote basic hygiene practices, safe drinking water and water purification practices using local women's groups and schools as an entry point for sanitation and hygiene promotion within the wider community.⁴ In total, hygiene and sanitation promotional campaigns, implemented by community health workers and volunteers, reached a total of 9,978 school children and adults in Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha.

Program Impact

Mercy Corps reached 17,500 people with NFRI kits and cash transfers, 4,767 people with access to a safe and sanitary latrine and reached 9,978 people with a hygiene and sanitation promotional campaign. As some activities were overlapping, OFDA and Mercy Corps reached more than 29,500 unique beneficiaries with critical support in the wake of the earthquake.

In the final report, Mercy Corps will discuss program impact, identify opportunities and constraints and detail lessons learned in order to document the specific events that hindered or supported the progress of REACH goals. The final report will address the various implementation challenges, lessons learned, and findings from our data collection sessions with beneficiaries on the impact of these services.

⁴ Hygiene and Sanitation Promotion Pamphlet Materials are included in Appendix 1

Performance against Indicators

SECTOR: Shelter and Settlements					
Beneficiaries Targeted	17,500 (3,500 HH)				
Beneficiaries Reached	17,500 (3,500 HH)				
Indicator	Baseline	Cumulative Target	Q1 Performance	Q2 Performance	Notes
SUB-SECTOR: Emergency Transitional Shelter					
Number of households in the program area receiving emergency/transitional shelter	0	3,500	0	3,500	Consolidated NFRI kit and unconditional cash distributions initiated on July 10 and were completed by August 28
Number of households in the program area receiving emergency/transitional shelter pursuant to Sphere Project standards and FOG guidelines	0	3,500	0	3,500	Consolidated NFRI kit and unconditional cash distributions initiated on July 10 and were completed by August 28
Percentage of total affected population in the program area receiving emergency/transitional shelter assistance, by sex	0	100%	0	100% (50% female, 50% male)	Sex disaggregated data by household is gathered at registration and distribution.
Total USD amount and percentage of approved project budget for emergency/transitional shelter spent on goods and services produced in the affected host country economy	0	326,053 USD 100%	0	326,053 USD 100%	Consolidated kits included items approved for purchase with OFDA funds and additional items purchased with private funds. All items included in OFDA/private kits were procured locally.
Additional Program Indicators					
Total amount of cash (\$) transferred to beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex)	0	\$262,500	0	\$262,500 (\$131,250 female, \$131,250 male)	Unconditional cash transfers were distributed at household level.
SECTOR: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)					
Beneficiaries Targeted	17,500 (3,500 HH)				
Beneficiaries Reached	27,478				
Indicator	Baseline	Target	Q1	Q2 Performance	Notes

			Performance		
SUB-SECTOR: Sanitation Infrastructure					
Number of people directly benefiting from the sanitation infrastructure program	n/a	4,000	0	4,767	
SUB-SECTOR: Hygiene Promotion					
Number of people receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double-counting)	0	17,500	0	27,478	3,500 HH (17,500 people) received hygiene kits. Additional hygiene promotion activities reached 9,978 people.
Number of respondents who know three of five critical times to wash hands	n/a	0 ⁵	0	9,978	

⁵ At time of proposal submission, hygiene promotion activities beyond the distribution of hygiene kits were undefined. Implementing a hygiene promotion campaign required significantly more collaboration with local government institutions and health organizations as well as mobilization of local partners. It was unclear at time of submission whether many government agencies and health organizations could operate at full capacity in the wake of the earthquake. As a result, initial targets for this indicator were not set. Mercy Corps is discussing how to incorporate this indicator into our recovery programming with funds provided from private donations.

8 सुरक्षित खाना

राखी सज पकाएको तातो र ताजा खाने कुरा मात्र खाओ किन्हुन बसेको बासी सडे अलेको र गरेका जनावरहरूको मासु नखाओ र नखुवाओ ।



- खाना राखरी पकाएको हुनु पर्दछ,
- पकाएको खाना धुलो नपस्ने, भिगाँ नसस्ने गरी छोपेर राख्नु पर्दछ,
- पहिले पकाएर राखेको खाना खुवाउनु भन्दा अगाडि बेस्सरी तताउनु पर्दछ,
- खाना खुवाउनु भन्दा पहिले, पाल-कचौरा साइन पानी वा खरानी पानीले सफा गर्नु पर्दछ ।
- किन्हुन बसेको बासी सडे गर्नेको र गरेका जनावरहरूको मासु नखाओ र नखुवाओ ।

किनभने

खाना राखरी पकाएमा त्यसमा भएका रोगका किटाणुहरू नष्ट हुन्छन् । खानामाई छोपेर राखेमा खानामा भिगाँ बस्न पाउँदैनन् र धुलो-मैला पनि पस्न पाउँदैन । खानामाई तताएर खानाले खानाको स्वाद भीठो हुन्छ । खाना बढी रूख । तातो खानाले बच्चाको पेट विगार गर्दैन । सफा भोटोमा खाँदा आनन्द आउँछ, खाना पनि बढी रुन्छ । यसको साथै यी व्यवहारहरू गर्नाले भाइटापखाना र जुका पर्ने जस्ता सल्ला रोगहरू लाग्नाबाट बचिन्छ ।

भूकम्प पछि पनि सफा र स्वच्छ जीवन



५ सरसफाइ र स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षामा विशेष ध्यान पुऱ्याओ

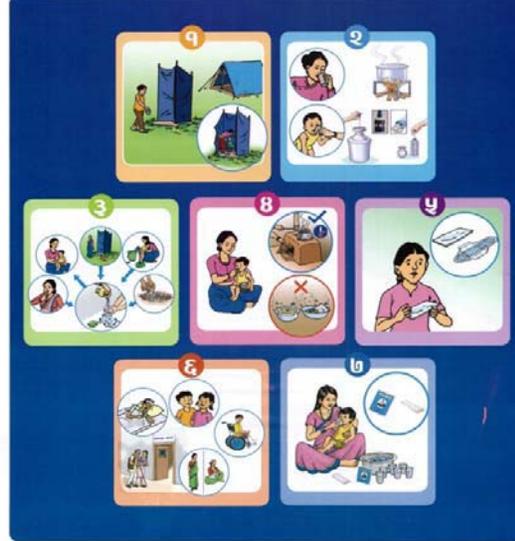


घाईते, बिरामी, वृद्धवृद्धा, बालबालिका, गर्भवती, सुत्केरी र महिनावारी तथा अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरूको सरसफाइ र स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षामा विशेष ध्यान दिओ, र बिरामी भएमा नजिकैको स्वास्थ्य संस्थामा लैजाओ । खानेपानीको श्रोत सुरक्षित छ वा छैन सो को एकिन गर्न जिल्लाको खानेपानी तथा सरसफाइ कार्यालयमा सम्पर्क गरौ ।

भूकम्प पछि पनि सफा र स्वच्छ जीवन



खानेपानी, सरसफाइ र स्वास्थ्य प्रवर्द्धन सम्बन्धी संदेशहरू



भूकम्प पछि पनि सफा र स्वच्छ जीवन



पुनर्जलीय भोल

भाडापखाला लागेमा के गर्नुपर्छ ?

- भाडापखाला भएमा बिरामीलाई पुनर्जलीय भोलसँगै भोलिलो खानेकुरा (जस्तै: भातको माड, तरकारीको भोल, दाल र फलफूलको रस इत्यादि) प्रशस्त मात्रामा खान दिने ।
- बिरामीको अवस्थामा सुधार नआएमा वा भन्नु बढी पखाला लागेमा, खान पिउन नसकेमा, ज्वरो आएमा, दिसामा रगत देखिएमा तुरुन्तै नजिकको स्वास्थ्य संस्थामा लगी उपचार गराउने ।



पुनर्जलीय भोल कसरी बनाउन सकिन्छ ?

- कने पनि प्रकारको शुद्धीकरण गरेको एक लिटर पानीलाई सफा भौँडोमा हाल्ने ।
- त्यो पानीमा एक प्याकेट पुनर्जलीय भोलको धुलो सबै हालि घोल्ने र पखाला लागेको मानिसलाई पिउन दिने ।
- एकपटक बनाएको पुनर्जलीय भोल २४ घण्टामित्र खुवाईसक्नुपर्छ ।
- ५ वर्ष मुनिका बच्चालाई भाडापखाला लागेको छ भने उसलाई पुनर्जलीय भोलसँगै दिनको १ मात्रा जिङ्ग चक्की खुवाउनुपर्छ ।
- २ महिना देखि ६ महिनासम्मको बालकलाई आधा चक्की र ६ महिना देखि ५ वर्षसम्मको बालकलाई एक चक्की जिङ्ग १० दिनसम्म नबिराई खुवाउनुपर्छ ।
- जिङ्ग चक्की र पुनर्जलीय भोल महिला स्वयंम सेविकासँग निशुल्क पाईन्छ ।



भूकम्प पछि पनि सफा र स्वच्छ जीवन