



## Assistance to Self-Help Shelter and Sanitation Solutions in Dolakha, Nepal

**Final Program Results Report**  
**Project period: June 12, 2015 – March 11, 2016**



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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CGI	Corrugated Galvanized Iron
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
DDRC	District Disaster Relief Committee
DHO	District Health Office
DWASHCC	District Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GI	Galvanized Iron
HDPE	High Density Polyethylene
HH	Household
IEC	Information Education and Communication
KG	Kilogram
KII	Key Informant Interview
NGO	Non - Government Organization
ODF	Open Defecation Free
OFDA	Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance
PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
SEBAC	Social Empowerment and Building Accessibility Center
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
VWASHCC	Village Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme

## PROJECT SUMMARY

'Assistance in self-help shelter and sanitation solution project in Dolakha, Nepal' (the "Project") was initially designed to span three months (June 12, 2015 through September 11, 2015). The project provided life-saving Shelter and Sanitation assistance to individuals affected by the April and May 2015 earthquakes that struck Nepal. The project was, ultimately, extended to span nine months, ending on March 11, 2016.

The key Objectives of the project were;

- i. To support 20,000 displaced and earthquake-affected individuals of approximately 5,000 households.
- ii. To provide for the Sanitation needs of displaced and affected population.
- iii. To supplement Sanitation Infrastructure assistance with key Hygiene Promotion activities.

The Project addressed the emergency shelter and sanitation needs among residents of 11 severely affected Village Development Committees (VDC) which include Fasku, Magapuawa, Sailungeshwor, Bhusapheda, Pawati, Ghyangsukathokar, Katakuti, Bocha, Dudhpokhari, Bhedpu, and Dandakharka in Dolakha district. Focusing on the provision of emergency assistance to households attempting self-help shelter solutions and household level sanitation support, the project provided technical and material support to 5,000 households affected by the earthquakes of 2015.

Beneficiary VCDs were selected through Shelter Cluster Mapping, which identified and prioritized VCDs not receiving shelter assistance from other agencies. Social Empowerment and Building Accessibility Centre (SEBAC), a local NGO, coordinated the hygiene promotion component of the project and undertook the following main project activities:

- Provision of shelter kit and latrine repair/construction materials to 5,000 families.
- Training to 195 masons on safe shelter construction and toilet repair.
- Hygiene promotion activities for behavioral change.

## SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

The Project met or exceeded all its targets. Key sub-sector accomplishments include the following:

### **Emergency/Transitional Shelter:**

- The Project provided emergency shelter kits and technical assistance to 5,000 households. This is 100% of the target. In addition, the Project provided orientation and training on safe construction techniques to 195 masons, had transferred the techniques to households at the time of emergency/temporary shelter construction.

### **Sanitation Infrastructure:**

- 1,500 temporary latrine establishment kits and 3,500 latrine repair kits were provide to fulfill the sanitation needs of displaced and affected population. This is 100% of the target.

### **Hygiene Promotion:**

- 21,183 people participated in hygiene promotion activities. This is 106% of the targeted 20,000.

## RESULTS BY OBJECTIVE

### SECTOR: Shelter & Settlements

#### Objective 1: To support beneficiaries with temporary shelter solutions

Beneficiaries	Target	Achieved (Cumulative)
Number of beneficiaries by objective	20,000	19,133
Number of internally displaced persons reached	N/A	9,433 (49.3% of 19,133)

### Sub-sector: Emergency/Transitional Shelter

Performance against indicators	Target	Achieved (Cumulative)
Number of households in the program area receiving emergency/transitional shelter.	5,000	5,000
Number of households in the program area receiving emergency/transitional shelter pursuant to Sphere Project standards and FOG guidelines	4,000	4,000
Percentage of total affected population in the program area receiving emergency/transitional shelter assistance disaggregated by sex	29% (20,000 targeted/67,658 total affected) – (11,500, or 57.5% female; 8,500, or 42.5% male) from among the 11 VDCs	28.3% 19,133 (female- 9,519, Male,- 9,614)
Total USD amount and percent of approved project budget for emergency/transitional shelter spent on goods and services produced in the affected host country economy	\$0	\$0

**SECTOR:** Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

**Objective 1: To support emergency household and community sanitation**

**Beneficiaries**

	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved (Cumulative)</b>
Number of beneficiaries by objective	20,000	19,133 (female- 9,519, Male- 9,614)
Number of internally displaced persons reached	TBD	9433(calculated using 49.3% of total beneficiaries) 49.3% (out of surveyed 140, 69 are internally displaced)

**Sub-sector:** Sanitation Infrastructure

**Performance against indicators**

	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved (Cumulative)</b>
Number of people directly benefiting from this sanitation infrastructure program	20,000	19,133 (female- 9,519, Male- 9,614)
Number of people per usable latrine	< 20	4 (it was planned to provide 1 per group of 5 families, but later changed to provide 1 per family)
Number of people who report using a latrine the last time they defecated	400 (80% of those surveyed)	494 (99% of those surveyed)

**Sub-sector:** Hygiene Promotion

**Performance against indicators**

	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved (Cumulative)</b>
Number of people receiving direct hygiene promotion	20,000	21,183
Number of respondents who know 3 of 5 critical times to wash hands (disaggregated by sex)	400 (200 Women; 200 men), representing 80% of those surveyed	461 (221 women, 240 men; 92% of those surveyed)
Number of households with soap and water at a handwashing location	400, representing 80% of HHs surveyed	485 (97% of the HH surveyed)

## PROGRESS AGAINST PLANNED ACTIVITIES

### Activity

#### 1.1. Distribution of 5,000 emergency shelter kits to support impacted households creating temporary Shelter solutions.

**A total of 5,000 sets (100%) of the targeted 5,000 sets emergency shelter kits were distributed to support impacted 5,000 HHs.**

A total of 5,000 families were selected following a participatory and consultative process. This entailed a meeting with all family representatives at the ward level<sup>1</sup> in which the criteria was explained. Then as a group they went through the household list one family at a time, given each a score. Once this was completed a final review was undertaken to select the families. In most cases, the families with the highest scores were selected, however there were instances of some high scoring families that were removed due to their ability to self-fund their shelter repair. The selection criteria were adapted from Shelter Cluster guidelines in consultation with local communities.

Table 1. Outlines of the selection criteria for beneficiary selection.

Household Criteria	Weight
House damaged (uninhabitable)	Compulsory, no score
Loss of life due to earthquake	5
Underweight newborn	5
Children without parent	4
Pregnant women and lactating women	3
Single women headed	3
Excluded group (Dalits, minorities)	3
Members with disability	3
Teenage mother (<18)	2
Elderly family members	1
No regular income	1

Community members as a group went through the household list one family at a time and ranked them based on the household criteria outlined. This ensured that the most vulnerable families in the communities were included. 698 individuals (183 women, 515 men) at the VDC level and 6,696 individuals (2,878 women and 3,818 men) at the ward level were involved in the beneficiary selection process and the 5,000 families were finalized.

195 masons (190 Male and 5 Female) were also selected following a participatory process with local communities. At the time of mason selection, communities gave priority to those who were working as masons or carpenters, or their assistants. The Project provided an orientation update, featuring demonstration, on safe shelter as well as construction and repair of temporary shelters and latrines. From each ward, two individuals were selected for mason training. Following this, materials were procured, a distribution



<sup>1</sup> One VDC is divided in 09 Wards

plan was made, and materials were distributed. The following materials were distributed:

- 60,000 bamboos were delivered to 5,000 families (12 bamboos per family) of 11 VDCs.
- Temporary shelter materials, which included tarpaulin, GI wire, bitumen and nails were distributed to 5,000 families.
- Tool kits comprising a shovel, pickaxe, hand saw, and claw hammer were distributed, one set per 5 families, to facilitate the shelter and latrines construction processes.

The distribution was undertaken with the participation of locally trained masons, along with beneficiaries and Plan staff. They worked closely with communities on the delivery of materials and construction processes for the most vulnerable families, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, child-headed households and households headed by single women.

WFP provided transportation support for the Project, delivering 60 truckloads of materials to communities.

### 2.1 Establishment of 1,500 shared temporary latrines.

#### **No one shared temporary latrine established.**

Immediately after the earthquake, people were displaced and staying in temporary camps without any latrine facilities. At this time, it was perceived that the shared latrines would be appropriate, however many displaced persons returned home, changing their preferences from shared to individual latrines. Thus, the Project was revised to accommodate this development. The approach of latrine support was revised and materials were procured to support the construction of individual household level temporary latrines. Finally, latrine repair and construction materials were provided to individual families.

### 2.2 Provision of latrine repair kits to 3,500 beneficiary households.

#### **A total of 5,000 sets (100%) of the targeted 5,000 (1,500 temporary latrine establishment materials and 3,500 latrine repair kits) were distributed to support the 5,000 affected HHs.**

An assessment of the specific material needs was conducted by trained masons, analyzing the superstructure and substructure of latrines used by targeted HHs, the same as those provided with shelter support.

Following this assessment 5,000 beneficiary families from 11 VDCs (Dandakharka, Bhedapu, Ghyang, Sailungeswor, Katakuti, Powati, Phasku, Boch, Maghapauwa, Bhusafeda and Dudhpokhari) were reached with the materials. The details of the latrine support are given below:

Number of households	Nature of support	Distributed materials
3,500	Latrine repair kits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One set of tarpaulin, 10 feet nylon rope, and half KG nails; or</li> <li>• One set of HDPE pipe, Pan, Syphon, Tee, Cowl for ventilator, Cement, and nails; or</li> <li>• Both sets</li> </ul>
1,500	Temporary latrine establishment support	Pan, syphon, HDPE reducer, HDPE Tee, HDPE pipe, cowl, cement, iron spare pipes, iron stripes, GI wire, knot bolt

Beneficiaries are using distributed materials based on their needs, and Village Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committees (VWASHCCs) are monitoring communities to ensure construction of the latrines and thus enforce Open Defecation Free (ODF) status of VDCs.

### **3.1 Undertake critical hygiene promotion in concert with sanitation infrastructure activities.**

**A total of 21,183 individuals (106%) of the targeted 20,000 participated through the different types of hygiene promotion activities.**

Baseline data was collected in all eleven VDCs that helped to identify the needs of hygiene promotion and to develop the key messages for this activity. Plan worked in collaboration with a national level local partner, Social Empowerment and Building Accessibility Centre (SEBAC) for the hygiene and sanitation component of the Project. SEBAC organized hygiene and sanitation promotional activities at household, ward, village, and school levels by organizing small groups consisting of men, women, boys, and girls to reinforce the messages on hygiene practices and to monitor the practices.

Prior to the earthquake, many of the VDCs in the district were declared ODF due to an ongoing Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) campaign throughout the district. Plan's baseline report revealed that of total 29% of household latrines were completely destroyed during the earthquakes and only 18% of the households sustained no damage to their latrines. This indicated that a very high likelihood of populations returning to open defecation practices.

Information, education, and communication (IEC) materials related to hygiene and sanitation promotion such as pamphlets and flyers were produced and distributed to the communities to bring positive behavior change towards improved sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore, special attention was given to sanitation and hygiene promotion activities and proper techniques for hand washing with soap. Demonstrations through group gatherings were organized to reinforce behavior change. The importance of water purification and different purification methods like boiling, filtering, chlorination and Solar Water Disinfection as well as the safe water supply was discussed in the hygiene promotion sessions. Altogether 21,183 persons (10,835 male and 10,348 female) were reached through hygiene promotion sessions.

An endline survey was conducted among 500 households who benefited from the hygiene promotion interventions. The purpose of the survey was conducted to gather data on hygiene behaviors of community members in particular to examine the presence of handwashing space with soap and water in the beneficiary households. Also assessed were respondents' knowledge of handwashing and the use of latrine.

The survey found that 97% households had a dedicated handwashing space with soap and water. Of the total surveyed, 461 (221 female and 240 male) were able to name 3 out of 5 critical times for handwashing. 494 (99%) reported using latrine the last time they defecated.

## **CHALLENGES**

Project staff encountered some external challenges during implementation and executed mitigation measures where possible, as described below:

- There was continuous pressure from all local stakeholders to pursue blanket distributions. Plan was successful in negotiating with them for a targeted approach, though this delayed beneficiary selection.
- There were obstructions in movement due to landslides, delaying implementation.
- Remoteness of the VDC, difficult terrain, and poor road conditions impeded delivery of bamboo. Additionally, the lengths of the bamboos were too long to fit in trucks. The bamboos were shortened, keeping the total volume of support the same.
- As the required quantities of bamboos were not available locally, the supplier had to import them from other districts. A large quantity of imported bamboos were identified as sub-standard and were rejected by Project staff. Delays were encountered as the supplier replaced rejected bamboos with those of suitable quality.
- Communities were affected by rumors invoking fear that they might be excluded from the Government permanent shelter/toilet support if they received shelter support from any other agency. As HHs had more interest in securing permanent and semi-permanent shelters, it was sometimes difficult to convince them to use temporary shelters.
- The lack of uniformity of packages in housing and latrine construction of different organizations was also an issue.
- The strike in the Terai region substantially impacted the planned implementation.
- Most humanitarian agencies and organizations experienced an increase in the number of families requiring humanitarian support, as immigrants returned to their VDCs. Therefore, getting the updated secondary data on HHs became very difficult and thus required more time for validation, delaying implementation.
- Within the project period, different political parties declared a series of nationwide strikes for political issues that lasted for more than two months. Movement restrictions caused delay of project implementation in the field so was the procurement process. Similarly, there was significant fuel crisis in the country. It affected the movement of staff and logistics.

## COORDINATION

Plan International coordinated with relevant government offices at national, district and VDC levels, NGOs and other international actors who were working in the earthquake response. Plan regularly participated in the national and district level Shelter and WASH Cluster meetings. Coordinating with Cluster members, Plan regularly reported about the distributions and programming undertaken in VDCs of Dolakha. The Project's 11 VDCs were also selected on the basis of cluster meetings. VDCs were selected on the basis of Plan's initial shelter strategy, in accordance with Clusters' Strategic Objectives. Support focused on provision of emergency shelter for the most vulnerable, including hard-to-reach groups. Plan continued to implement its Shelter and WASH response program in close coordination with the Dolakha DDRC and VDC representatives and mobilized masons from the same VDCs to construct/repair temporary shelters and temporary latrines.

After finalizing the materials' delivery date and locations with consultation of VDC representatives, masons, VDC level Project implementation committee and beneficiaries, materials were delivered in the field. In most of the places masons and some of the members of the Project implementation committee supported Plan staff in distributing the materials to the beneficiaries.

The project provided technical assistance, which included demonstrations, in selected VDCs, as well as linked them to knowledge shared by masons on safe shelter construction. The masons also instructed the communities on proper repair of tarpaulins. In most cases, beneficiaries constructed their shelters in groups of five because sets of shelter construction tools were provided per group of five families. This provided families with a close source of social support and contributed towards community cohesion.

SEBAC had coordinated with the DWASHCC, DHO, VWASHCC and health facilities of the beneficiary VDCs to implement the hygiene promotion activities. Although, staffs of health facilities were under high pressure, they allocated time for facilitating the hygiene promotional session at their assigned VDCs.

## CONCLUSION

The project successfully met or exceeded its planned targets. The Project's final evaluation report also found:

- Sharing construction tools in a group of 5 households promoted mutual assistance among neighbors while constructing the shelters.
- The technical assistance in the form of training of the masons and demonstrating safe construction techniques was successfully transferred to the household level.
- The Project was relevant to local needs by basing the support on priority sectors identified the Shelter Cluster based on the input of the numerous local, national and international actors.

Immediately after materials distribution, a post-distribution survey had been carried out at the end of the February in all 11 VDCs, taking random samples of 19-20 HHs in each VDC. The survey found:

- 97% of the respondents reported satisfaction with the support that they received.
- 99% of the respondents reported that the materials they received are useful.
- 92% reported that they were using the materials they had received.
- 96% of the respondents reported that materials distributed were of good quality.
- 91% of the respondents reported that they had received the materials without any problems.
- 98% of the respondents reported that Plan International staff had interacted with them in a respectful or very respectful manner.

Some beneficiaries reported that the effectiveness of the material was reduced by delays in the distribution of materials. The utilization of the newly constructed temporary shelters was lowered as households constructed had previously constructed temporary shelters using whatever they had.

## Annex: Project Success Story



Krishna Bahadur Sunar, 65, from Phasku VDC of Dolakha district, does not want to remember last year's devastating earthquake. Many people lost their lives, family members, homes, and their properties. He also lost many things in a disastrous earthquake.

Even prior to the disaster, Krishna and his wife, Maiya, were surviving with numerous day-to-day difficulties. While the first earthquake of April 25th did not affect his home severely, his home was destroyed by the second earthquake of May 12th. Fortunately, Krishna and Maiya were physically safe, though they soon found that the earthquakes added even more complications to their lives.

According to Maiya, "we used to stay in an open space in a locally made tents, which was not always sufficient." During rainy season, the tent could not keep the water out, making everything wet and damp around them. During winter, they shivered through sleepless nights due to lack of sufficient warm clothes. Krishna also suffered from diarrhea, common cold and other health related problems during winter. Maiya says, "During the time of need, Plan International Nepal was a great help to her family and the entire community as well."

She further adds, "Plan has provided 12 bamboos, one tarpaulin, one kilogram of bitumen, two kilograms of galvanized wires, and one kilogram of nails to construct the temporary shelter from the OFDA project which has helped a lot." Now, they have constructed a temporary shelter for themselves using those shelter materials. Krishna added, "In reality those materials were not sufficient for shelter. We have also used other materials which we had. See my house I have used Plan provided seasoned bamboos for pillar and the bamboos to support trust wall are from my own bamboo bush". He also suggested to provide durable materials for the shelter roofing as the tarpaulin will not be appropriate for the coming rainy season. He also added, "I have used another tarpaulin to cover the toilet which was also provided from Plan. He said it may not last for months, however, now I don't have to use open field for defecation. Now, I am feeling safe."

Krishna continued, "Plan Nepal not only provided us food items which lasted almost a month for my small family. Along with that I have also received one tarpaulin, WASH items like bucket, jerry can, water purifier tablets, soaps and other necessary items, immediately after the earthquake." He further expressed that he had received some warm clothes and blankets in February from Plan. Krishna was selected for the unconditional cash grant support and received cash of NPR 15,000 (~\$135) from Plan International.

With these critical support services, Krishna is now farming his small piece of land. It is his only means of living. Through this project, he was able to create a temporary shelter and a latrine for himself and his wife. With a smile in his face, Krishna said "I want to thank Plan who helped me, my family and whole community in a very difficult time. All programs of Plan are good for us. However, two bundles of Corrugated Galvanized Iron (CGI) sheets would be better to make our family safe on coming rainy season."