



NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

APRIL 2015 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2016

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ONE-YEAR UPDATE

Since two devastating earthquakes rocked Nepal last spring, an outpouring of compassion and giving has helped hurting families survive and begin to recover. Your partnership has played a vital role in that.

Your support, along with support from other corporations, organizations, government grants, and individuals, toward delivering emergency supplies, shelter, food, and more. It also provided support for activities aimed at protecting children and helping them heal from the loss of loved ones, friends, homes, and schools, everything that makes them feel safe and provides a normal life. This report shows the valuable ways your support has helped children and families and enabled them to begin to rebuild their lives.



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Nani displays her World Vision-issued ID card that enables her to receive a cash grant and other services.

EARTH-SHATTERING NIGHTMARE

The April 2015 earthquakes impacted more than 8 million people, leaving 2.8 million in need of assistance. Some 8,857 people were killed and another 22,309 were injured. More than 345,000 homes were either partially or completely destroyed, as were schools, hospitals, clinics, roads, and businesses.

REACHING OUT TO THE HURTING

Nani thought the worst had passed when her home in the Lalitpur district was destroyed by the April 25 7.8 magnitude earthquake. But when the May 12 7.3 magnitude earthquake followed, it took something far more valuable than her home—it took her husband's life, leaving her a widow with two children.

Your support helped World Vision care for women like Nani with supplies and, importantly for a family that lost its wage earner, \$75 cash grants that helped buy food and other essentials. These grants also stimulated the local economy, which has suffered as well.

Working with the Nepalese government and alongside other aid organizations, World Vision has so far provided assistance to 386,984 people in the districts of Bhaktapur, Dhading, Dholaka, Gorkha, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Lamjung, Nuwakot, Sindhuli, and Sindhupalchowk. Our response has brought help through shelter, health and nutrition, jobs and cash grants, water, sanitation, hygiene, education, and protection of children.

READY TO RESPOND

World Vision was able to react quickly after the first quake struck because we already were on the ground, with more than 200 regular staff members implementing long-term community development programs in Nepal since 2001. Prior to the earthquakes, World Vision had served more than 1.2 million people with maternal and child health, education, child protection, livelihood support, water, sanitation, and hygiene projects. World Vision operates 16 community development programs in 10 of 75 districts in Nepal.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The emergency phase of World Vision's response focused on alleviating immediate suffering by distributing essential supplies such as food, household goods, and shelter items. Setting up safe spaces for children and mothers also was a priority.

In October 2015, the response transitioned to a recovery phase, with the aim of restoring safety for affected children and their communities. Homes began to be rebuilt, schools repaired, infrastructure rehabilitated, and efforts were made to teach communities how to build resilience to future disasters by restoring what was destroyed stronger, meeting higher standards.

The Nepal response has operated using five principles that ensure activities are appropriate, effective, and efficient. To align with humanitarian principles, the response is *driven by needs*. Plans have been designed, reviewed, and adjusted to meet local needs. *Gender equality and social inclusion* strategies have been integrated into all programs, to address the social and cultural contexts found in Nepalese communities and to ensure the needs of the marginalized and most vulnerable are met.

The response *focuses on operations*, which ensures effective implementation of beneficial interventions. To build resilience, the response uses the *Build Back Better* methodology, which includes constructing more disaster-resilient infrastructure as well as developing skills and knowledge that contributes to families' ability to improve their communities in the future. World Vision also strives to *build and maintain strong partnerships* with all stakeholders, including, but not limited to, communities, local authorities, and other organizations.

Here is a sampling of how your support has helped World Vision respond to the pressing needs of children and families in Nepal.

Shelter and other essential items

The earthquakes and subsequent aftershocks destroyed 605,254 houses and damaged 288,255 more, making hundreds of thousands of Nepalese homeless. World Vision responded with these activities:

- 30,588 tarps with rope were distributed to protect 76,470 people in 17,282 families.
- 13,600 blankets and sleeping mats were provided to help 68,025 people.
- 189,848 corrugated iron sheets helped 11,738 families, or 58,690 people, rebuild their homes.
- 5,077 family winter kits provided 25,385 people with blankets, warm jackets, socks, hats, and shawls.
- 2,551 infants received winter kits with clothing and blankets.

Other items included solar lamps, kitchen kits, and assorted household goods.

Health

More than 1,200 health facilities were damaged or destroyed and more than 22,000 people were injured. In the months following the earthquake, an estimated 18,500 pregnant or nursing women were considered at risk of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

World Vision distributed tents and medical supplies to health posts, and trained health volunteers to serve families in some of the most remote and underserved



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“I was worried about my newborn's health after the devastating earthquake because the makeshift tents could not withstand strong winds, rainfall, and scorching heat. But after receiving [corrugated iron] sheets, I was relieved.”

—Malati



“We were having a tough time with health and hygiene until World Vision delivered hygiene kits and materials to rebuild our toilet.”

—Arun, 16

communities. Pregnant women received delivery kits with the necessities for having a cleaner, safer birth (gloves, soap, plastic sheeting, and tools to cut and clamp the umbilical cord).

Dedicated spaces for mothers and young children were established and staffed with trained female community health volunteers who conducted training on mother and child health and nutrition, and provided counseling.

Other assistance included:

- Two health facilities were repaired, benefiting 13,146 people in 2,920 families.
- Medical supplies were sent to five village health posts, benefiting 60,560 people in 12,112 families.
- 1,064 babies received baby hygiene kits with soap, ointment, powder, diapers, and more.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

As many as 4.2 million people were left without clean water, basic hygiene supplies, or sanitation facilities. More than 1,500 water supply systems suffered major damage and another 3,663 were partially damaged. An estimated 220,000 toilets were partially or completely destroyed. The disruption of water supplies had a disproportionately negative effect on women and girls, who traditionally are responsible for managing household water. In some affected areas, the time needed to fetch water increased by up to three hours. With no toilets and damaged homes, women and girls lacked privacy for their personal hygiene, which can have a broad effect on the health and well-being of a community.

World Vision worked with communities to promote safe sanitation practices to reduce the incidence of waterborne disease. Efforts also included:

- 91 water systems were renovated or constructed to bring safe water to 19,595 people in 3,919 families.
- 14,443 family hygiene kits were distributed, benefiting 72,215 people.
- 22,492 families received clean water kits, which benefited 112,460 people.
- 2,828 families received help to repair or construct toilets, benefiting 14,140 people.
- 252 volunteers were trained to teach people about sanitation and hygiene, benefiting 67,615 people in 13,523 families.

Livelihoods and food security

Jobs and businesses were lost or put on hold after the earthquake, and reliable access to food was scarce. To meet immediate needs, World Vision provided food kits, and paying jobs clearing debris and recovering agricultural land, plus cash transfers to help meet families' needs.

Some of that assistance looked like this:

- Food packs were distributed to 1,600 families.
- Cash transfers helped more than 18,000 families obtain basic necessities.

Education and Child Protection

The effect of the earthquake on children was immense, with more than 950,000 left in urgent need of assistance. Loss of homes and the terror of aftershocks

A Child-Friendly Space

is a structured site where children and youth can play, learn to deal with the risks they face, take part in educational activities, and relax in a safe place. It can be a tent or existing building in a community or camp, and employs staff recruited from the local community when possible, such as teachers or community workers who have some basic knowledge of child development and psychosocial care. They receive additional training from World Vision to help identify and care for children at risk of long-term trauma.

World Vision also established spaces where mothers with infants and young children can go for services, and where mothers can take care of and feed their babies with privacy in a safe, clean place. Mothers also can learn about maternal and child healthcare and nutrition during educational sessions at such centers.

increased feelings of anxiety, insecurity, and fear. And with 36,000 classrooms completely destroyed and another 17,000 damaged, the education of an estimated 1.5 million children was interrupted.

To address these issues, World Vision provided this help:

- 35 Child-Friendly Spaces (see description at left) were established to help children cope, benefiting 3,535 children.
- 54 temporary learning centers were established to provide teachers and 8,214 students with safe places for learning.
- 4,777 children received student kits filled with school supplies.
- 12 teacher training sessions benefited 329 educators.
- Two damaged schools were repaired.
- 44 child protection committees were established and trained, benefiting 2,466 people.
- 4,927 children received psychosocial support to help them cope with anxiety and fear stemming from the earthquake.



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Children visit and play before starting their school day in temporary classrooms constructed by World Vision.

CHALLENGES

The response faced a number of challenges, beginning with a monsoon season that brought heavy rains, exacerbating the need for shelter. Nepal's mountainous landscape made it difficult to reach remote communities, and a closure of the border with India created a shortage of fuel for relief vehicles.

World Vision met these challenges by changing and adapting program approaches, while working with available resources and limited fuel. For instance, the response shifted from direct distribution of goods to a cash/voucher delivery. As some of the goods were available in the local markets, this minimized the challenges of navigating transportation across the border with India. World Vision staff also worked to establish local supplier agreements in Nepal.

During the relief phase, airlifts were scheduled to reach communities in mountainous areas not accessible by roads. World Vision also established warehouses to pre-position supplies for more rapid deployment of relief items to different locations, and mobilized local groups to reach out to remote areas.

NEXT STEPS

World Vision remains committed to the people of Nepal, and will continue to provide aid and services that help families continue to recover and rebuild.

Shelter and other essential items

Reconstructing houses will be a priority going forward, and World Vision will offer technical assistance and training on constructing disaster-resistant homes,

schools, health centers, markets, water sources, and community buildings. Master masons, community builders, and home owners will be trained on Build Back Better techniques. Other assistance will include repairing, retrofitting, or reconstructing damaged houses. Estimated target for the remainder of the response: 70,000 people.

Health

World Vision will work with the government to focus on repair and reconstruction of health posts. World Vision will provide equipment and training for health workers and community volunteers to ensure earthquake-affected communities have access to primary healthcare services. To complement improved buildings and services, there will be a focus on teaching awareness of communicable diseases, the importance of prenatal and postnatal care, safe delivery of babies in a health facility, and good nutrition. Estimated target: 8,000 people.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene

One year after the earthquake, 500,000 people still need help in this area. More than 47 percent of households have no access to safe water or sanitation facilities, putting them at increased risk of waterborne diseases. World Vision will help build and repair thousands of household toilets in some of the most heavily affected areas, and continue to restore and construct community water systems. Estimated target: 120,000 people.

Livelihoods and food security

Rehabilitating irrigation systems and providing seed and livestock to small-scale farmers will put families back to work and improve access to nutritious food. Vocational training, support for savings groups, and stimulating production will increase economic resilience in the face of future disasters. Estimated target: 40,000 people.

Education and child protection

A year later, some 166,000 children still are not back in a permanent classroom. World Vision's efforts will be aimed at using Build Back Better principles to create safer schools, and empowering the education community to understand and plan for disaster management and risk reduction. Teachers will receive training in psychosocial support as well as disaster management. Estimated target: 18,300 children.

THANK YOU

World Vision joins 386,984 Nepalese people, both children and adults, in thanking you for your partnership to bring critically needed emergency assistance to central and western Nepal, and to help rebuild homes, schools, infrastructure, and lives. Your support of this response has helped deliver real, tangible help to people in dire need.



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“At the CFS (Child-Friendly Space) we sang songs, danced, sang the national anthem. Then we wrote about how the earthquake struck, experiences during the earthquake, and favorite games. I feel happy to come to CFS.”

—Alina, 10



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World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.