Earthquake Response Operation

Nepal Red Cross Society
Message

We are delighted to see happy faces and completed infrastructures in this photo album.

The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) reached millions of people through emergency relief assistance and earthquake response operation in communities affected by the devastating earthquake in 2015. Over the past 48 months, close to 9,000 volunteers and staff have made invaluable contributions to the delivery and effectiveness of emergency aid and integrated re-covery programme.

Under the leadership of the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), Movement partners joined hands together and delivered coordinated responses. In addition to International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), 51 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies supported the earthquake response operation with substantial support and funding. 26 National Societies were physically present in Nepal during the first three months of the operation. Likewise, 13 Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners were present in country to support NRCS in earthquake response operation during recovery phase of the operation.

We would like to thank Nepal Government, Movement and non-Movement partners and other stakeholders for their continued support and engagement in the earthquake response operation. Moreover, we are grateful to beneficiaries for believing on Red Cross and putting their efforts to change lives in their respective communities.

We also congratulate all concerned staff and volunteers of NRCS, IFRC and Partner National Societies for their tireless efforts to publish this photo album.
Foreword

In response to the earthquake on 25 April 2015, NRCS with support of Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement and non-Movement partners carried out relief operation reaching out to nearly 3.5 million people directly and indirectly. The relief phase was followed by seasonal support and integrated recovery programme benefitting hundreds of thousands people with shelter, WASH, health and livelihood interventions.

Among all successes, some are presented in this photo album as a reflection of the earthquake response operation; from relief to recovery. All the faces and infrastructures captured in this photo album were taken with consent of the concerned.

I would like to thank NRCS volunteers, social mobilizers and staff as well as Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners for collecting these photographs. Similarly, PMER-IM, CEA and communication team are greatly appreciated for their hard work to publish this photo album. And congratulations to entire team for this collective achievement.

Umesh Prasad Dhakal
Executive Director | Former Head of Earthquake Response Operation
Summary
On 25 April 2015, Nepal suffered a massive loss of lives and property when the devastating earthquake of 7.8 magnitudes struck Barpak in Gorkha district of Nepal. Subsequent aftershocks, including one of 7.3 magnitudes on 12 May, caused additional loss of life and property.

As a result of both the earthquakes, 8,790 people died and more than 22,300 people were injured. Assessments showed that at least 498,852 private houses and 2,656 government buildings were destroyed. Another 256,697 private houses and 3,622 government buildings were partially damaged. In addition, 19,000 classrooms were destroyed and 11,000 damaged.

In response to the disaster, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) quickly activated its Emergency Operations Centre and carried out immediate relief operation with the support of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement and non-Movement partners. The NRCS mobilized more than 8,000 volunteers and staff who delivered first aid and distributed relief items. For the first four months, focus was largely on provision of food, emergency shelter, healthcare and medical services, access to safe water, improved sanitation and essential household items. The international RCRC Movement support enabled NRCS to reach more than three million people with emergency relief and assistance.

Following the relief phase, the NRCS provided seasonal (winterization) support to 49,996 families in 16 affected districts. NRCS implemented an integrated recovery programme through Earthquake Response Operations, in partnership with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Partner National Societies (PNSs) across 14 worst affected districts. Sectoral components such as school construction and livelihood activities were implemented in a few category-B districts. The Red Cross earthquake recovery programmes were designed to build communities’ safety and resilience for further risks, in line with overall recovery strategy of the Government of Nepal and community ownership. The Integrated Recovery Programme includes FOUR plus ONE components: shelter; water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH); health and livelihood; plus institutional capacity building (ICB) of NRCS. While gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), community engagement and accountability (CEA), planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and information management (PMER-M) and community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) are cross-cutting approaches in all the sectors.

As an auxiliary to the government, the operation has been implemented in close coordination with Government of Nepal and other concerned stakeholders both at the central and local levels.

Key achievement of the Earthquake Response Operation (Recovery Phase) as of March 2019

Shelter: A total of 5,683 masons and carpenters were trained on earthquake resistant shelter construction and more than 70,000 people oriented on build back better techniques. A total of 34 demo/model houses were constructed and more than 7,200 households were supported with shelter cash grants along with technical assistance for owner driven house construction.

Livelihood: More than 33,000 families were supported with livelihood cash grants and 24,000 people received livelihood technical trainings to restore their livelihoods. Through cash for work initiative of the Red Cross, more than 6,000 people were benefited. A total of 16,896 animals were insured and some 4,222 animal sheds were reconstructed. To improve accessibility in affected communities, some 43 foot trails were reconstructed. Likewise, 85 irrigation canals were either reconstructed or rehabilitated.

WASH: A total of 280 drinking water supply schemes (DWSS) were constructed/rehabilitated with 2,015 tapstands and 170 intake/reservoir tanks that have been benefiting nearly 80,000 people. More than 9,000 household toilets, 90 schools/public toilets and 35 rain water harvesting schemes were constructed. Improving community hygiene and awareness remained priority throughout this operation whereby more than 163,000 people were reached with hygiene promotion orientation and messages.

Health: One semi-permanent district hospital and 25 prefab health posts were constructed with staff quarters. Some 12 health posts were rehabilitated, and 5 health posts are under construction. More than 3,800 volunteers, staff and community members were trained on community-based health, first aid and psychosocial support. Some 78,700 people were reached with community-based health care and first aid activities. To protect the newborn babies from extreme winter condition 17,149 mothers (with babies less than one-year-old) were provided with mother baby kits “Nyano Jhola”. Likewise, NRCS supported Government of Nepal in their Total Immunization Campaign for completing immunization in 34 villages and municipalities.

In addition to shelter, WASH, health and livelihood interventions, NRCS supported construction of 11 schools in Dhading and Udayapur. Construction of one school is under construction in Sindhupalchok district. Likewise, 21,254 improved cooking stoves and 140,147 solar home systems were distributed with the support of Alternative Energy Promotion Center, Nepal.

ICB: Construction of district chapter/sub-chapter buildings, provision of office equipment and vehicle as well relevant trainings to staff and volunteers have helped to strengthen institutional capacity of the NRCS in order to deliver sustainable programmes and services.

Cross cutting issues: NRCS remained committed to promote social inclusion and accountability. One hostel was constructed for visually impaired school children and 225 assistive devices were distributed to people with disabilities. More than 3,400 volunteers were trained on protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and disability inclusion, and 3,300 staff and volunteers took an oath on Child Protection and Anti-Harassment Code of Conduct. Likewise, 14 child friendly spaces were established in health posts, and NRCS district chapter and headquarter premises.

Through CEA activities, NRCS maintained mechanism to facilitate two-way communication with, and ensure accountability to, disaster affected communities through Naamaste Red Cross 1130 Hotline, newspaper column, radio programmes. In addition, 49 street dramas were performed in different themes, 42 mural events were conducted, and 105 suggestion boxes were installed in different places to count voice of people. Furthermore, web-based management information system (MIS) was developed and implemented for effective management of information. The system has been replicated in regular development programmes of NRCS as well.

NRCS volunteer providing psychosocial support to a woman after the devastating earthquake. Bhaktapur

Relief
Earthquake impacted shelter and settlements sector the most. More than 800,000 houses were destroyed/damaged across the country.

Tadateru Konoe, then President of IFRC, travelled to Nepal to show his support following the earthquake. He visited debris site of Kathmandu valley together with Nepal Red Cross senior management team.

Narayan Shrestha transported so many injured people for treatment in Dhading that children started calling him “Ambulance Uncle”.
Dragana Kojic, Then Head of Delegation Nepal of ICRC, Dev Ratna Dhakhwa, Secretary General of NRCS, Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General of IFRC, Sanjeev Thapa, Chairman of NRCS and Jagan Chapagain, Under Sectary General of IFRC (Then Director of IFRC Asia Pacific region) (from left to right), joined press meet organized by NRCS.

Jackie Chan, Head of Jackie Chan Foundation, distributed relief items to people with disabilities in collaboration with Red Cross.

Tadateru Konoe, then President of IFRC, Sanjeev Thapa, Chairman of NRCS initiated relief cash grants in Dharmasthali, Kathmandu.

British Prince Harry observed NRCS emergency warehouse in Bhaktpur.
NRCS volunteers formed a chain to pass along relief items after the 2015 earthquake. More than 8,000 volunteers were mobilized during the relief phase of the earthquake operations.

People carrying non-food items package containing tarpaulin, blanket, rope, cloths and kitchen utensils.
People came to Nepal Red Cross spontaneously and donated blood immediately after the earthquake, as a result there was no scarcity of blood in hospitals.

A field hospital established in Sindhupalchowk, the district most affected by the earthquake. Seven emergency health facilities (ERU and others) were established in Rasuwa, Dolakha, Dhading and Sindhupalchowk districts.

A child received health service from the Emergency Response Unit (ERU)-Health.
Tarpaulins were instrumental for first house for the families whose houses were destroyed by the earthquake.
NRCS distributed water to people affected by the earthquake as the water supply systems were disrupted by the earthquake.

Hygiene promotion activities were conducted along with.
People received 'ready to eat food' from Nepal Red Cross after the earthquake.
NRCS distributed food to nearly 500,000 families with support of World Food Organization.
Seasonal Support
Nepal Red Cross distributed seasonal support, NPR 10,000 to 49,996 families to buy warm clothes during winter in 2015.
“Now, I have a safer house to live in.”

Dambar Giri
Sindhupalchowk

Recovery
Shelter
Participants of Participatory Approach for SaferShelterAwareness (PASSA) in Lapilang, Dolakha. NRCS reached more than 70,000 people with build back safer orientations.
Glimpse of build back safer/PASSA events in community to share information on key technical features of an earthquake resistant home reconstruction.
Radhika Shrestha, one of 5,211 masons trained with support from the Nepal Red Cross, works on a construction site.
Trained masons and carpenters have been contributing for safer shelter construction.
NRCS constructed demo/model houses in communities. The houses have now been used as sub-chapter office by Red Cross or as office/place for community meetings/activities by local communities.
People have attained durable shelter solutions.
People have attained durable shelter solutions.
I have water tap near to my house. It has saved my time and energy for other activities.

Binita Pariyar,
Siranchowk, Gorkha

Water Sanitation and Hygiene
Nepal Red Cross constructed/rehabilitated drinking water supply scheme with community participation and contribution across 14 districts. Aitabare Drinking Water Supply Scheme (with double lifting system) has benefitted 159 households in Rampur, Ramechhap with easy access to water to meet their daily needs, shelter construction and livelihood activities. Villagers in Rampur contributed labour to construct the scheme.

Prior to the construction of the scheme, it used to take them more than three hours walk down to the hill to fetch water.
Community members have easier access to safer water.
A true partnership between communities and Red Cross on drinking water supply schemes resulted easier access to safer water.
A true partnership between communities and Red Cross on drinking water supply schemes resulted in easier access to safer water.
With the reconstruction Purano Padhero Drinking Water Supply Scheme, villagers have access to safer water for their daily needs in Lachyang, Nuwakot.
Ananta Devi Rijal fetching water from tap stand near to her house in Melamchi -12. A total of 110 households have been benefitted through the scheme in this area.
Children now have easy access to water after reconstruction of child friendly tap stands as part of drinking water supply schemes.
Nepal Red Cross handed over Chilaunepani Dobhan Lifting Drinking Water Supply Scheme to community in Kavrepalanchowk district. More than 400 people from more than 200 households have been benefitted from this scheme.
More than 9,000 household toilets destroyed by the earthquake have now been reconstructed with the support from Red Cross.
More than 90 school/public toilets were constructed.
Community members and school students have improved hygiene practice in programme area.
After listening to NRCS volunteer, we realized our daughter was suffering from malnutrition. We took her to nearest health post where she got right treatment. Because of NRCS door to door awareness service, our daughter got treatment in right time.

Dolhari Khatiwada
Harkapur, Okhaldhunga

Health
A mother receiving Nyano Jhola (winter baby kit) from a NRCS volunteer. Red Cross distributed Nyano Jhola to 17,149 mothers who had their baby less than one year.

Female community health volunteers taking notes using solar-powered lights (WAKA WAKA light) provided by the Red Cross.

Female community health volunteers played vital role in implementation of health activities.
Nepal Red Cross supported Government of Nepal for obtaining different villages, municipalities and districts as complete immunization zones through mobilization of staff and volunteers for assessment, door to door visit with immunization messages and support during immunization events.

Participants involving in practical exercise during first aid training in Sindhupalchowk. Nepal Red Cross Society trained 2,130 community members, staff and volunteers on first aid in the integrated recovery programme area.

Community members receiving free health checkup during health camp organized by Nepal Red Cross.
Nepal Red Cross constructed semi-permanent district hospital with staff quarter in Dhunche and handed over to the Government of Nepal on 2 January 2018. Catchment population of the hospital is 43,300. The hospital has indoor, outdoor and emergency services.
Nepal Red Cross supported to fill gaps in medical infrastructure of affected population. One semi-permanent hospital and 25 prefabricated health posts have been reconstructed, 12 health posts rehabilitated and five health posts (three permanent and two prefabricated) are under construction.
With the support of Nepal Red Cross, I got confidence to grow my tailoring and cloth business.

Ashika Pariyar
Tarakeshwar, Kathmandu

Livelihood
Households affected by the earthquake have restored their livelihoods and increased income with the livelihood cash grants and technical training received from Nepal Red Cross.
Beneficiaries showing their goat sheds which were constructed with the support of Nepal Red Cross.
Beneficiaries started improved livestock farming with the support of Nepal Red Cross.
Nepal Red Cross provided technical and vocational trainings to community members in different fields to develop their capacity and increase income.
Nepal Red Cross promoted livestock insurance to provide coverage of losses due to death of livestock.
Glimpse of Ashimure-Niwaha Lift Irrigation Scheme in Sitalpati (currently Sunkoshi -6), Sindhuli constructed with the support of Red Cross. The scheme irrigates 160 ropanis of land benefitting 72 households.
Sajhe Sugare Tarikhet Irrigation Scheme at Siddhicharan 5, Okhaldhunga. The scheme irrigates 275 ropanies of land benefiting 107 households.
Baraghare Irrigation Scheme in Thampaldhap, Sindhupalchowk. The scheme irrigates 200 ropanis of land benefitting 65 households.
Kalleri Fant Bhunte Kulo Scheme in Manakamana, Gorkha. The scheme irrigates 225 ropanis of land benefiting 53 households.
Villagers involving in foot trail construction in their community as part of cash for work initiative of Nepal Red Cross.
Foot trail constructed through cash for work initiative.

Truss bridge constructed in Suryabinayak through cash for work initiative.
Temporary blood bank constructed at NRCS headquarters for operating central blood transfusion service department until the permanent building is completed in Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu.
Newly constructed sub-chapter in Nawalpur, Sindhupalchowk (photograph at top) and in Siranchowk, Gorkha (Photograph at bottom).
NRCS Tadi sub-chapter convened its Annual Assembly in the newly constructed building.
Newly constructed Emergency Operation Center (EOC) at NRCS headquarters.
Nepal Red Cross has completed reconstruction of 11 schools in Dhading and Udaypur whereas construction of one school is ongoing in Sindhupalchowk. More than 3,000 students will have earthquake resistant class rooms in these schools.
Nepal Red Cross distributed more than 1,400 solar home systems and 21,000 improved cooking stoves with the support of Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC).
A woman carrying improved cooking stove received from Red Cross.
Indra Bahadur K.C, then Acting Executive Director of Nepal Red Cross Society, singing on commitment for stopping violence against women during 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign at National Headquarters in October 2017.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
NRCS staff taking oath on anti-harassment and child protection code of conduct at national headquarters.

Community members showing pocket card with referral numbers to report/ask for help against gender-based violence and child abuse.

NRCS staff delivering training on Minimum Standard Commitment to Gender and Diversity.
Students participating in fun group games during an 'OPEN DAY' as part of a programme to promote psycho-social wellbeing and resilience.
Nepal Red Cross constructed a hostel for visually impaired students and handed over to Shree Madhyamik Bidhyalaya School (Shree Secondary School) at Ladhabhir, Dudhauli. The school has been parenting 17 children with visual impairment.

Person with disability receiving assistive device from Nepal Red Cross.

Child friendly space at NRCS headquarters.
Group of women participating in community awareness raising session at Nagarkot.

Community Engagement and Accountability
With the purpose creating awareness in different social issues especially in shelter, health and discrimination in community, Nepal Red Cross organized 49 events of street drama reaching out to more than 23,000 people.
Murals on shelter, WASH, health, and livelihood were painted through participatory approach.
School students participating in art completion during participatory mural events.
A beneficiary from Sindhupalchowk district called at Red Cross Hotline 1130 to get information about technical assistance for his shelter construction.
NRCS volunteer operating the Red Cross Hotline 1130. It is a two way response mechanism established by Nepal Red Cross.
NRCS volunteer distributing posters and pamphlets with health and hygiene messages to visitors in Kiosk.

Visitors playing games in Kisok.

NRCS staff collecting community voice for Radio Programme.

Interaction programme with chief editors of different national level media about Nepal Red Cross programmes and services including earthquake response operation.

Interaction with Chief Editors/Editors of Nepal

25 February 2019

Kathmandu
Hoardings with messages on safe shelter reconstruction and ways to contact Nepal Red Cross.

Suggestion box to collect feedback and complaints from the community.

Notice board with programme information and updates.
NRCS volunteers using mobile phone to collect information in field. Nepal Red Cross implemented mobile/web based management information system in earthquake response operation-integrated recovery programme. Gradually, the system has been replicated in other programmes. This has improved data readiness of the National Society.
NRCS social mobilizer carrying out household survey using mobile phone.
Focus group discussions were carried out in different communities to get in-depth knowledge about their particular issues and problem as well as perspectives and feedback in the programme activities.
Women group participating in video making during participatory video monitoring training.
The Nepal Red Cross Society would like to express its gratitude and thankfulness to all our partners, agencies, authorities, organizations and people for their generous support and involvement in Earthquake Relief and Recovery efforts.

**Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners**

- American Red Cross
- Australian Red Cross
- Austrian Red Cross
- Belgian Red Cross - Flanders
- British Red Cross
- Red Cross Society of China
- Red Cross Society of China Hong Kong branch
- Danish Red Cross
- Finnish Red Cross
- French Red Cross
- German Red Cross
- Italian Red Cross
- Japanese Red Cross Society
- Luxemburg Red Cross
- Red Cross of Monaco
- Liechtenstein Red Cross
- Malaysian Red Crescent Society
- The Netherlands Red Cross
- New Zealand Red Cross
- Norwegian Red Cross
- Philippines Red Cross
- Qatar Red Crescent Society
- Singapore Red Cross Society
- Spanish Red Cross
- Swedish Red Cross
- Swiss Red Cross
- The Canadian Red Cross Society
- Thai Red Cross Society
- Turkish Red Crescent Society
- The Republic of Korea National Red Cross
- Taiwan Red Cross Organization
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

**Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners who contributed funding through IFRC appeal:**

Afghanistan Red Crescent, Albanian Red Cross, Andorran Red Cross, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Belarus Red Cross, Botswana Red Cross Society, Brazilian Red Cross, Bulgarian Red Cross, China Red Cross Macau Branch, Colombian Red Cross Society, Croatian Red Cross, Ecuadorian Red Cross, Estonia Red Cross, Haitian Red Cross Society, Icelandic Red Cross, IFRC at the UN Inc, Irish Red Cross Society, Kazakh Red Crescent, Latvian Red Cross, Lithuanian Red Cross Society, Mauritius Red Cross Society, Mexican Red Cross, Mongolian Red Cross Society, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Polish Red Cross, Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan, Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Red Cross of Montenegro, Red Cross of Viet Nam, Romanian Red Cross, Seychelles Red Cross Society, Slovak Red Cross, Slovenian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Suriname Red Cross, The Red Cross of Serbia, The Red Cross of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Our special thanks to Ministry of Home Affairs, National Reconstruction Authority, Ministry of Health and Population, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, Department of Drinking Water and Sewerage and all other relevant ministries and concerned government authorities of Nepal both at the central and local levels.

Nepal Red Cross Society would also like to express its appreciation to all international organizations, UN agencies, NGOs, INGOs, private sector and corporate houses, communities, and individuals who extended their support and cooperation in implementing Earthquake Response Operation successfully.
Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

**Humanity**
The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

**Impartiality**
It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

**Neutrality**
In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

**Independence**
The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

**Voluntary Service**
It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

**Unity**
There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

**Universality**
The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide. The Fundamental Principles were adopted by the 20th International Conference of the Red Cross, in 1965. In 1986, the 25th Conference decided to include them in the Preamble of the Statutes of the Movement. The latter not only recall that every component of the Movement is bound by the Fundamental Principles, but also establish that States have to respect at all times the adherence of those components to the Fundamental Principles.