

# EARTHQUAKES IN NEPAL: THREE YEAR UPDATE

APRIL 25, 2018



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

**actalliance**



# THREE YEARS ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

**O**n April 25, 2015, a powerful **7.8-magnitude earthquake** struck Nepal with the epicenter near the border between Gorkha and Lamjung districts, about 48 miles (77 kilometers) northwest of Kathmandu. The quake caused landslides and avalanches, including the most deadly avalanche ever recorded to hit Mount Everest. The most severely affected areas included small rural communities near the epicenter. A second earthquake, at **7.3 magnitude**, struck on May 12, 2015, its epicenter about 47 miles (76 kilometers) northeast of Kathmandu, near the Chinese border, resulting in significant aftershocks as well as further casualties and damage.

Immediately after the April 25 earthquake, the government of Nepal declared a state of emergency and requested international humanitarian aid for the affected areas. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) was already working in Nepal with existing development programs close to the epicenter, and we mobilized our emergency response within the first 24 hours after the first earthquake hit. LWR Nepal staff, in cooperation with our local partner Committee for the Promotion of Public Awareness and Development Studies (COPPADES), began by assessing the needs of the people affected by the earthquake and attending response coordination meetings with the Government of Nepal, the United Nations and other international and local humanitarian organizations, such as the Nepal Red Cross Society. From May to September 2015, LWR distributed food packs, Quilts, Personal Care Kits, water filtration units, tarpaulins and corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets to affected families most in need.

From June to September 2015, the torrential rains of the monsoon season precipitated more deadly landslides. Working in remote mountain communities throughout the monsoon, LWR began implementing our early recovery and livelihood activities, including cash-for-work (CFW), seed and livestock distributions, and improved agriculture and livestock skills trainings.

## BY THE NUMBERS<sup>1</sup>

 **7.8 & 7.3**  
magnitude earthquakes

 **8 MILLION+**  
people affected

 **8,891**  
people reported dead

 **20,000+**  
people injured

 **605,254**  
houses totally destroyed

 **288,255**  
houses damaged

<sup>1</sup> Source: UN OCHA, "Humanitarian Bulletin: Nepal Earthquake," Issue 4, 1-30 September 2015

After the rains passed, internal challenges arose. A four-month blockade of the India-Nepal border, a delay of the start of the Government of Nepal's National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) and the onset of winter hindered recovery efforts and threatened the health and safety of millions who were living without permanent shelter. LWR worked around these challenges as best as possible, helping communities strengthen their resilience to future disasters through livelihood diversification, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and training of local masons on earthquake-resistant construction techniques to help these communities build back safer. As soon as we received approval from the NRA in May 2016, LWR launched a permanent shelter response, offering housing grants to supplement the money families were receiving from the government so they could afford to build earthquake-resistant houses that will hopefully withstand the next big quake.



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

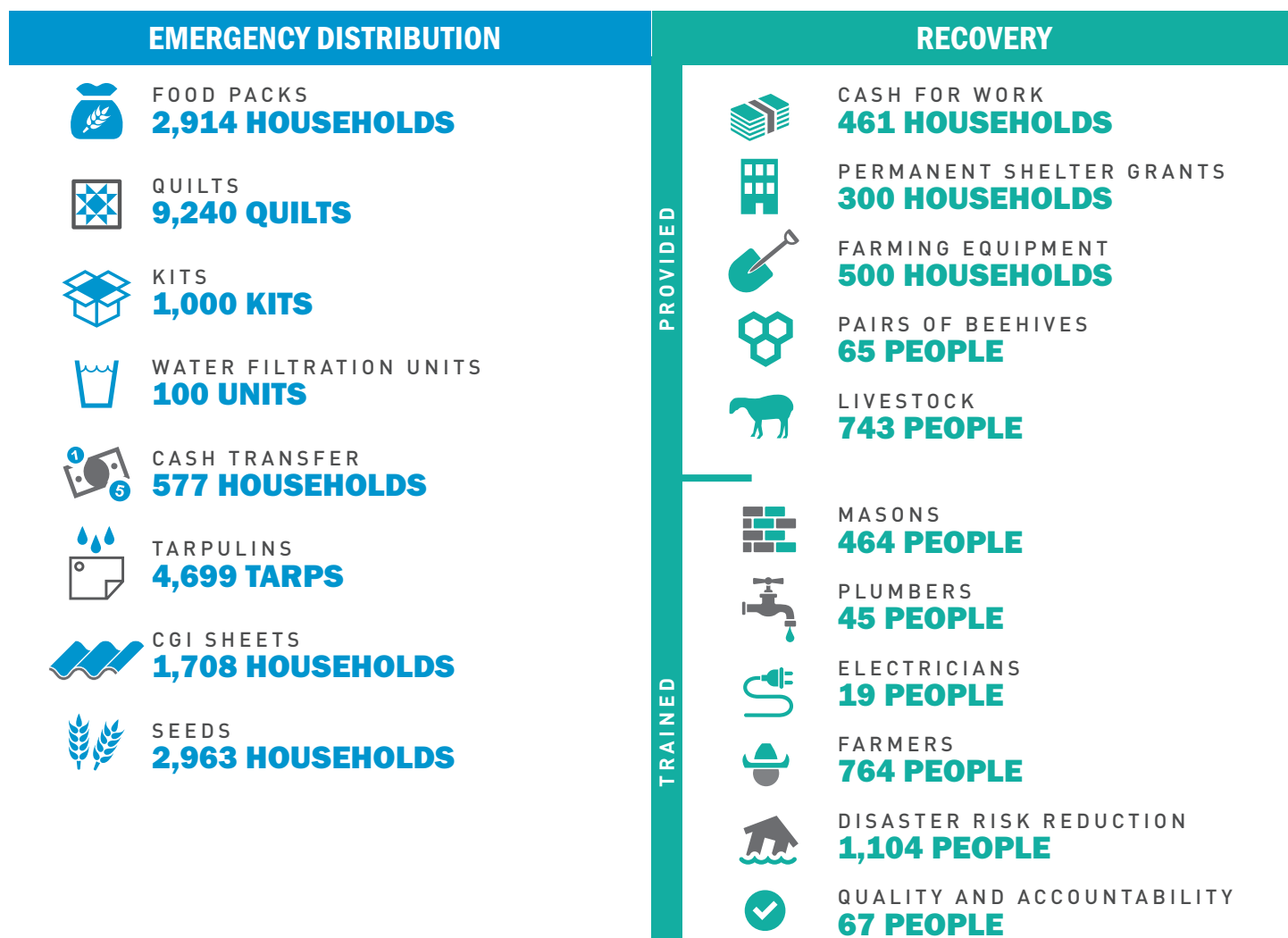
actalliance

# LWR'S RESPONSE

In response to the conditions in Nepal, LWR committed **\$3,335,661** to meet the immediate relief and long-term recovery needs of five earthquake-affected VDCs<sup>2</sup> in Lamjung and one in Gorkha, plus seven other districts,<sup>3</sup> **reaching more than 66,200 people** in total.

For nearly three years after the April 25 earthquake, LWR implemented projects to address food security, non-food items (NFIs) and material resources (MR), shelter, early recovery and livelihoods, and quality and accountability (Q&A). Our work was informed by needs assessments; coordination with other humanitarian actors; and input from local partners, local government officials and the affected people themselves

## LWR'S RESPONSE SNAPSHOT



<sup>2</sup> Nepal adopted a new constitution in 2015 that changed the country's administrative divisions, but for consistency with previous reports, we will use the former division terminology. A VDC, or Village Development Committee, was the village or municipal level of government administration in Nepal. A district was made up of several VDCs, and each VDC had several wards.

<sup>3</sup> The seven other districts are Bhaktapur, Dolakha, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Sindhupalchowk.



# NEW LIVES FROM NEW LIVELIHOODS

**A**s Santosh Gurung worked the fields of his farm in Paaudukharka near the town of Gorkha on April 25, 2015, he was separated from his wife and their toddler son by nearly 100 miles of mountains and valleys while they visited relatives in Kathmandu.

Santosh's home was one of the half-million destroyed by the massive earthquake that shook Nepal that day, killing nearly 9,000 people and injuring nearly 22,000. Uninjured, he was desperate for news from his family. With the phone network down, it took more than nine hours for him to learn that his wife and son were also safe.

Thanks to your swift response to provide immediate aid and the promise of true recovery, LWR was soon in this remote rural community, assisting Santosh and his neighbors with building stronger temporary shelters and providing emergency food rations. LWR also helped people begin to recover their livelihoods by providing agricultural supplies and training in modern growing techniques, even distributing goats that people could breed for income.

Just before the earthquake hit, Santosh said, he had been planning to go away to Dubai to look for work to support his family, but he changed his mind after the tragedy because he

*Continued...*



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

actalliance



wanted to be near his loved ones. The assistance he got from LWR has helped him to stay close, and he is one of many who say they are better off today than they were before the quake, thanks to your generous support.

“Now,” he says, “I’m getting a good income from my vegetable farming. I don’t need to go away to look for work. ... Nobody was here before like Lutheran World Relief — we never knew we could cultivate vegetables this way and earn this much money. I am thankful that you are here.”

In nearby Phinam community, a treacherous drive on narrow, winding, gravelly roads high up in the mountains, Dil Kumari Magar and her husband, Sujan, echo a similar sentiment. After the earthquake, the Magar family spent more than a year in a temporary shelter while they worked on rebuilding their house. During that time, Sujan participated in masonry training, while Dil Kumari learned how to grow a diversity of vegetables in a home garden and how to care for goats whose milk she can sell for extra income. They used to eat mainly potatoes and chickpeas, she says. Now that their diet has improved thanks to her vegetables, their health is better and they have more energy.

With so many houses damaged or destroyed, demand has been high for masons, and Sujan has been able to capitalize on his new skills. “If not for that masonry work,” he says, sitting in front of his newly completed concrete house, “I would not have been able to afford to build such a good house. If we have another earthquake, I know that this house won’t be destroyed.”

Acknowledging the remoteness of his village and the difficulty of access, he adds, “You saw that coming here was very difficult. Because of that, not many organizations want to come here to work. So we are thankful to you.”



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

actalliance



*Purna Bahadur Biswo Karma*

## REBUILDING HOME

The damage to infrastructure in the 2015 quake was severe, and reconstruction has been slow. According to a report published by the United Nations, as of October 2017 only 19.5 percent of households eligible nationally for reconstruction and repair grants from the Government of Nepal had begun construction on their homes, due to a variety of factors. A lack of information about eligibility for the funds, particularly in remote rural areas, coupled with a lack of materials and labor, have contributed to the delay.

In the rural communities where LWR is working with your support, staff have worked to inform people of the assistance available to them, trained skilled workers to assist in the reconstruction effort and provided supplemental funding to families to help them build earthquake-resistant homes. Sakun Tala Shrestha, along with her husband and four daughters, recently moved into their new home, built with a combination of funds from the Nepalese government, LWR and their own

savings. Several of her neighbors in the rural community of Phinamtar, outside Gorkha, have either recently moved into newly completed homes or are still living in transitional shelters while their homes are under construction.

Minbahadur Biswo Karma received masonry training from LWR after the earthquake. With his skills in high demand, he has been able to earn a better income than before and says he learned a lot about how to ensure that buildings are resistant to future earthquakes. Purna Bahadur Biswo Karma, another LWR-trained mason, says he has been so busy helping his neighbors rebuild their own homes that he hasn't had much of a chance to work on his own — but he doesn't mind so much. His family has a safe place to stay and, thanks to the goats they received from LWR, an additional source of income. "I'm very happy you have supported us," he says. "Our entire village has benefited."



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

actalliance

# FOOD SECURITY

In Lamjung District, where LWR has been working on climate-smart agriculture and natural resource management projects with COPPADES for the past seven years, food insecurity is a chronic challenge. In neighboring Gorkha District, the situation is not much better. Both districts have significantly limited access to food that meets their nutritional needs as well as their preferences. The earthquakes only exacerbated their food insecurity.

The earthquakes struck at a particularly sensitive point in the agricultural cycle of Nepal, after the harvest of maize but just before the normal time for planting rice. As a result, farmers who had stored their maize harvest or had seeds purchased and prepared for planting lost much of their assets if their buildings collapsed. To further compound the issue, landslides and inaccessibility to remote areas meant that food stocks were quickly in short supply.

**LWR reached 2,914 households with locally purchased food packs designed to feed a family of five for 15 days.** The packs adhered to Sphere standards<sup>4</sup> on nutrition, providing the following food per person per day:

- 600 grams of rice
- 75 grams of pulses
- 35 ml of cooking oil
- 10 grams of salt
- 25 grams of sugar

LWR also provided soybean seeds to farmers in Lamjung and Gorkha for planting before the worst of the monsoon rains came in July. Soybeans were chosen particularly for their nutritional value and the farmers' familiarity with their cultivation. Potato seeds were also distributed. Our local partner reported that the potatoes have grown exceptionally well and are helping to meet intermediate food needs.

PROJECT DATES:

**May 2015–December 2017**

PROJECT AREAS:

**Bhalayakharka, Bichaur, Chakratirtha, Dudhpokhari and Kolki in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District**

PEOPLE REACHED TO DATE:

**14,720 people (2,944 households)**



<sup>4</sup> "The Sphere Handbook is one of the most widely known and internationally recognized sets of common principles and universal minimum standards in life-saving areas of humanitarian response." The Sphere Project. [sphereproject.org](http://sphereproject.org).



**LWR implemented cash-for-work (CFW) activities in Lamjung and Gorkha districts** to help families earn

much-needed cash for additional food and other short-term spending priorities. Participants could work on projects (up to 10 days total), including the clearing of debris from main roads, schools and irrigation canals, which in turn improved access to these remote VDCs, allowed children to return to the classroom sooner and contributed to the early recovery of agricultural livelihoods.

LWR formulated the CFW projects in four targeted VDCs according to the government of Nepal's CFW guidelines. Participants were paid NPR 450 (USD 4.22) in Gorkha District and NPR 500 (USD 4.69) in Lamjung District per person per day, and cash distributions were made weekly.<sup>5</sup>

Each VDC formed a CFW management committee from among its local residents, encouraging local ownership of the projects and ensuring the participation of those who are the most vulnerable or marginalized. With assistance from LWR, our partners and the CFW management committees, women (who were occupied with child-rearing and household duties) were enabled to participate in CFW activities as well.

Over the duration of 10 days of CFW activities, some participants earned as much as NPR 5,000 (USD 46.91). To date, members of **461 households have taken advantage of these CFW opportunities**. Satisfaction interviews indicated that participants used the cash they earned to supplement their family's food supply, purchase additional shelter repair materials, pay for their children's school fees and recover lost farming tools and inputs, such as seeds and fertilizer.

<sup>5</sup> Each fiscal year, the Government of Nepal's Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, in consultation with district officers and aid agencies, sets fixed wage rates for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labor in each district. These rates can vary from district to district. LWR adhered to Lamjung District's and Gorkha District's wage rates for CFW payments.



# NON-FOOD ITEMS & MATERIAL RESOURCES

**W**ith many of their personal belongings lost in the rubble, families indicated they needed blankets for warmth as well as personal hygiene items. In coordination with the United Nations, LWR shipped Quilts, Personal Care Kits and water filtration units from LWR's prepositioned stock at the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot warehouse in Dubai. These shipments arrived in Nepal on May 11, 2015, and distributions to the local government-designated families took place over a week in Kathmandu Valley<sup>6</sup> and Lamjung and Gorkha districts. A total of **8,659 families received at least one LWR Quilt.**

Caring individuals, churches and other community groups across the U.S. handmade and assembled the Quilts and Kits. Each Personal Care Kit was packed with a bath towel, toothbrush, comb, nail clippers and bars of soap. **A total of 1,000 kits were distributed to those most in need.**

**One hundred of LWR's water filtration units were installed in local schools** that either lost or never had access to safe drinking water. Each filtration unit can supply clean water to **more than 1,000 people.**

A year later, to help improve the quality of life for people in Gauda and Ilampokhari in Lamjung District, **LWR purchased foam mats, mattresses, improved cooking stoves and personal water filters for 633 households that were in need of those items, from the local market.** The foam mats are multipurpose, used for sitting, extra cushioning for mattresses, warming up a room and keeping dew on roofs from dripping into a room. The improved cooking stoves are smoke-free and reduce the use of wood as well as cooking times.

PROJECT DATES:

**May 2015–December 2017**

PROJECT AREAS:

**Bhalayakharka, Bichaur, Chakratirtha, Dudhpokhari, Gauda, Ilampokhari and Kolki in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District; Kathmandu Valley**

PEOPLE REACHED TO DATE:

**21,164 people (9,292 households)**



<sup>6</sup> Lutheran World Federation distributed LWR's NFIs/MR in Kathmandu Valley.





## SHELTER

The earthquakes in Nepal decimated the country's housing and infrastructure, completely destroying more than 600,000 homes and leaving many more partially damaged or structurally weak.<sup>7</sup> In addition, the frequency of aftershocks left those families whose homes were still standing with a psychological strain, living in constant fear that their home might not survive the next shock. For weeks and even months, many pitched tents and slept outside, awaiting external validation that their home was safe to live in. Those whose home collapsed began the arduous process of picking through the rubble in an attempt to salvage building materials, seeds or just-harvested stores of maize, and personal effects.

In LWR's targeted districts, the earthquakes and aftershocks rendered approximately **96 percent of homes uninhabitable**. With little more than a month before the onset of the monsoon season, LWR quickly mobilized with our local partner COPPADES to meet the communities' immediate need for emergency and temporary shelter. In early May 2015, LWR locally purchased and **distributed 4,699 tarpaulins to 3,816 households**. LWR also provided other necessary

PROJECT DATES:  
**May 2015–December 2017**

PROJECT AREAS:  
**Bhalakharka, Bichaur, Chakratirtha, Dudhpokhari, Kolki, Ilampokhari and Gauda in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District**

PEOPLE REACHED TO DATE:  
**19,080 people (3,816 households)**

construction materials and tools, such as rope, tie wires, nails, handsaws, shovels, pliers and claw hammers. For those families who wished to purchase their own shelter repair materials, LWR offered cash transfers of NPR 15,000 (USD 141). In total, **577 households received cash transfers**. In addition to these materials, LWR and COPPADES staff trained households on how to construct safe emergency shelter.

*Continued...*

<sup>7</sup> UNOCHA "Humanitarian Bulletin: Nepal Earthquake." Issue 3, 1-31 August 2015.



Despite the poor condition of roads and limited local stock, LWR **distributed two bundles each of corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheeting to 1,708 households** between June and early August 2015 to enable construction of more-protective temporary shelter. Where the roads were impassible, the CGI sheets had to be manually carried up to an hour, mostly uphill, to reach these remote communities as quickly as possible.

While the Government of Nepal was organizing its NRA, LWR used its guidance as well as that of the UN Shelter Cluster to **train local masons and community members on safe building practices and on earthquake-resistant home construction** using local and appropriate materials. In total, 464 people were trained. Additionally, **45 people were trained to provide plumbing services and 19 were trained to provide electrical wiring services** for newly constructed homes or toilets. This approach offered safer permanent shelter to those in need while also creating local jobs. In addition, LWR formed **12 shelter reconstruction committees in Lamjung District and six in Gorkha District**, each consisting of 15 to 17 households in need of shelter support as well as trained masons, to start planning the permanent home construction process in their VDCs, being sure to identify and prioritize the most vulnerable households.

In collaboration with the NRA, once it was established in December 2015, LWR **offered 300 households in Lamjung and Gorkha districts NPR 200,000 (approximately USD 2,000)** each to supplement their government housing grants and help them get closer to covering the full cost of building earthquake-resistant homes.

As LWR's permanent shelter programming was underway, we were in a position to provide some water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support to the VDCs of Ilampokhari and Gauda in Lamjung District. We **repaired seven drinking water systems used by 813 people**, reducing their walking time from their homes to fetch water to under five minutes. We also **built private toilets for 258 households** that either did not have one before or lost theirs when the earthquake hit. Additionally, **we trained 140 community leaders and Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) on improved health and hygiene practices** that they in turn passed down to 845 people in their communities.



# EARLY RECOVERY AND LIVELIHOODS

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), two-thirds of Nepal's population derives their livelihood from agriculture.<sup>8</sup> For many of Nepal's farmers, the earthquakes took a significant toll on their main source of income in addition to destroying their homes.

In anticipation of launching livelihood recovery programming after the 2015 monsoon season had passed, LWR assisted VDCs in forming or reforming farmers groups that would provide sustainable, local leadership for the implementation of improved agricultural methods, technology and marketing strategies in their communities. In September 2015, these farmers groups surveyed their communities' preferences for types of seeds. Based on that feedback, LWR distributed cauliflower, cabbage, radish, pea, onion, bean, carrot, tomato and green vegetable seeds to farmers for the November planting season. In total, **2,963 households received seeds.**

The communities also expressed an eagerness to learn new agricultural techniques as soon as possible, so LWR began conducting planned farmer trainings earlier than originally scheduled. A total of **764 farmers (both men and women) were trained in improved agricultural production, and 500 households received needed farming tools and equipment.** We introduced **beekeeping, providing pairs of hives to 65 of these farmers, and cardamom farming to 40 farmers** to help them generate additional streams of income. LWR also **provided livestock, such as goats and piglets, and training in animal husbandry to 743 households** with little land for farming.

In October 2015, LWR confirmed that project participants were ready to transition from emergency relief to early recovery, the next stage of the program. Because Nepal is prone to natural disasters (ranging from earthquakes to floods), our early recovery programming focused on building livelihood resiliency and disaster risk reduction (DRR). LWR **trained 1,104 people in DRR** activities, which included identifying potential risks and building community-based response capacities, and we supported the development of community and VDC-level DRR plans for implementation when a disaster strikes.

<sup>8</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "Nepal Earthquake's impact on food security and agriculture likely very high." [fao.org/news/story/en/item/285171/icode](http://fao.org/news/story/en/item/285171/icode).

PROJECT DATES:  
**September 2015–December 2017**

PROJECT AREAS:  
**Bichaur, Dudhpokhari and Kolki in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District**

PEOPLE REACHED TO DATE:  
**14,815 people (2,963 households)**



# QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

To ensure that relief and recovery efforts are of high quality and accountable to project participants, LWR employs a rigorous monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework in all our projects. LWR made sure our new Nepal staff as well as our partners' staff were thoroughly trained on our M&E tools and procedures before beginning to implement the long-term projects.

In May 2015, August 2015 and March 2016,<sup>9</sup> LWR held trainings on quality and accountability (Q&A) in emergency response for our local implementing partners, COPPADES and SSICDC. Staff from other INGOs, such as Save the Children and Caritas Nepal, also participated in some of the trainings. For many on the partners' staff, this was their first experience responding to a large-scale natural disaster in Nepal, and they had not received such training before.

## The comprehensive training sessions addressed:

- Sphere Minimum Standards
- Protection Principles
- Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS)
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
- Food security and nutrition
- Shelter, settlement and non-food items
- Complaints response mechanisms (CRM)

In November 2016, the ACT Alliance provided further training to local LWR and partner staff on the CHS, covering such important topics as:

- A project's appropriateness, relevance, effectiveness and timeliness
- How to strengthen local capacity
- Community communication and participation
- CRM
- Coordination and complementary assistance
- Learning and project adaptation
- Human resource management
- Resource management

At the end of September 2015, LWR trained our new Nepal staff and our partners' staff on how to conduct a readiness assessment and facilitate participatory rapid assessment (PRA) activities, such as social mapping and focus groups, which measure the level of families' need and readiness

## PROJECT DATES:

**May 2015–December 2017**

## PROJECT AREAS:

**Bichaur, Dudhpokhari, Gauda, Ilampokhari and Kolki in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District**

## PEOPLE REACHED TO DATE:

**67 people**



to transition from emergency relief to longer-term recovery and livelihood rehabilitation. We also showed them how to conduct satisfaction surveys and after-action reviews. The information gathered and discussed through these processes helped staff reflect on what went well and lessons learned for future emergency responses. Five of the trained staff then conducted a readiness assessment and satisfaction survey with PRA activities in October 2015.

To assess how LWR's earthquake response projects were progressing and how the project participants were perceiving them, we hosted a reflection meeting in November 2016 consisting of LWR and partner staff as well as representatives from the project communities. During this reflection meeting, the group discussed project achievements, challenges and gaps that could be addressed, including how to strengthen gender integration and inclusion. LWR and partner staff used the information they garnered to adapt our projects accordingly.

<sup>9</sup> LWR conducted the August and March trainings in collaboration with Community World Service Asia.



## ENSURING QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

To date, LWR has conducted six social audits with project participants, local government officials and other stakeholders to ask for their direct input on how the projects are going and if there are any problems to address. LWR has also installed CRM boxes in Bichaur, Dudhpokhari, Gauda, Ilampokhari, Jaubari and Kolki VDCs to allow any community members to anonymously give feedback to LWR. LWR strives to address Q&A issues raised through these mechanisms as efficiently and transparently as possible in order to best meet the needs of the communities with which we work.

## GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Some of the hardest-hit VDCs near the earthquakes' epicenters were also some of the hardest to reach, deeply embedded in the mountains of Lamjung and Gorkha. With no paved road access, these VDCs faced a significant risk of not receiving the emergency food, shelter and other relief items as quickly as they needed it.

After consulting with the local governments' District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs), LWR committed to serving some of the most remote earthquake-affected VDCs in Lamjung and Gorkha as part of our efforts. Due to the poor condition of roads, relief items, including CGI sheets, were often hauled in with tractors or manually carried across the mountainous, muddy terrain in order to reach these communities as soon as possible.

Some other earthquake-affected VDCs were more accessible, but in keeping to our commitment to serve rural and marginalized communities, LWR chose to literally go the extra mile to reach those in need.



## CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

LWR worked hard to overcome challenges in the response and recovery process to best meet the needs of people affected by the earthquakes in Nepal. We also identified a number of opportunities and achievements that led to a more effective and robust response.

### CHALLENGES

- **Limited supply of shelter materials and skilled labor.**

The supply of shelter repair materials in local markets was quickly depleted after the earthquakes. By working closely with our local partner, however, LWR was able to procure and transport needed materials to affected populations within two weeks of the first earthquake. The sheer volume of houses needing to be rebuilt vastly outnumbered the skilled masons and tradespeople available, forcing those with fewer resources to wait much longer for permanent housing. LWR trained additional people in earthquake-resistant construction techniques to help with this labor shortage.

- **Remote locations and complicated transportation.**

Impassible mountain roads restricted vehicle access and complicated transportation of relief items to LWR's targeted VDCs. LWR took all means necessary to reach the communities as quickly as possible, including hiring tractors and manually carrying relief items.

- **India-Nepal border blockade and the delayed start to the NRA.** This posed significant challenges to the continuity and timeliness of LWR's response, especially regarding longer-term shelter and livelihoods support. Under these

conditions, LWR continued to carry out what activities we could, such as livelihoods skills training and DRR training. LWR was prepared to immediately launch permanent shelter activities as soon as it was possible.

- **Alignment with government policy.** For various reasons, the Government of Nepal's earthquake response, especially regarding shelter reconstruction, kept evolving, which meant INGO responses, including LWR's, had to continuously evolve with it. The government also did not initially include Lamjung District in its list of first-priority districts, even though it was greatly affected, which delayed LWR's provision of permanent shelter support there by an additional year.

- **Needs in earthquake-affected communities far exceed available funding.** While LWR was able to meet the emergency food and shelter needs of our targeted communities, some of the early recovery activities had to be scaled back due to limited funding. In seeking to provide a more holistic response to myriad needs at each household, LWR provided a reduced number of families with more complete support.





## OPPORTUNITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

- **LWR was already present and working in Nepal.** Because LWR was working in the country with our local partner COPPADES at the time of the earthquakes, we were well positioned to immediately engage and coordinate our emergency response with the government of Nepal and local government committees. This coordination allowed LWR to reach those most in need faster and with official support. It also served to prevent aid duplication and identify gaps in coverage.
- **LWR's cash-for-work activities in Kolki cleared the blocked main road quickly.** This allowed government aid to reach more of the remote VDCs.
- **LWR accompanied many partners and collaborated with experienced INGOs to help improve the overall response.** For many of LWR's local partner staff, the earthquakes in Nepal were their first experience responding to a natural disaster of this magnitude. LWR accompanied our partners in building organizational capacity in emergency response

and quality and accountability. We were also afforded the opportunity to learn additional best practices in emergency response from other organizations like ACT Alliance and DanChurchAid.

- **LWR's recovery activities strengthened community resilience.** In promoting DRR practices, earthquake-resistant construction practices and diversified livelihood practices, we helped these communities be better prepared to absorb and adapt to the impacts of a future disaster.<sup>10</sup>
- **LWR received recognition from the Government of Nepal's District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC).** Our organization was recognized for our emergency response work in Gorkha and Lamjung.

<sup>10</sup> For more information about LWR's approach to resilience, visit [lwr.org/resilience](http://lwr.org/resilience).



## THANK YOU

LWR’s response to the earthquakes in Nepal would not be possible without the support of individual donors and funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, ACT Alliance, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Thrivent Financial, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), and the Henry Schein Cares Foundation. We thank our donors for their gifts and trust in LWR to make a difference in the lives of those affected by the earthquakes. We would also like to express our sincerest gratitude to the Government of Nepal and the people of Bhalayakharka, Bichaur, Chakratirtha, Dudhpokhari, Gauda, Ilampokhari, Jaubari and Kolki, who trusted us and our approach in working with them.

For more information about LWR’s response in Nepal, please visit [lwr.org/where-we-work/nepal](http://lwr.org/where-we-work/nepal). You can also follow the conversation about our response on LWR’s blog ([lwr.org/blog](http://lwr.org/blog)), Facebook page ([facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief](https://facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief)) and Twitter feed ([twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief](https://twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief)).

## SUMMARY OF LWR’S NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RELIEF AND RECOVERY ASSISTANCE<sup>11</sup>

Response Activity	Project Areas	Project Dates	People Reached to Date
Food Security	Bhalayakharka, Bichaur, Chakratirtha, Dudhpokhari and Kolki in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District	May 2015 – December 2017	14,720 people* (2,944 households)
Cash for Work	Bhalayakharka, Bichaur, Chakratirtha, Dudhpokhari, Gauda, Ilampokhari and Kolki in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District	May 2015 – July 2017	2,305 people* (461 households)
NFI and MR	Bhalayakharka, Bichaur, Chakratirtha, Dudhpokhari, Gauda, Ilampokhari and Kolki in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District; Kathmandu Valley	May 2015 – December 2017	21,164 people (9,292 households)
Shelter			
Tarpaulin	Bhalayakharka, Bichaur, Chakratirtha, Dudhpokhari, Kolki, Ilampokhari and Gauda in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District	May 2015-December 2015	19,080 people* (3,816 households)
Transitional	Bichaur, Dudhpokhari and Kolki in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District	May 2015-September 2017	13,080 people (2,285 households)
Permanent	Bichaur, Dudhpokhari and Kolki in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District	May 2015-December 2017	1,717 people (300 households)
WASH	Gauda and Ilampokhari in Lamjung District	May 2016-July 2017	2,841 people (492 households)
Early Recovery and Livelihoods	Bichaur, Dudhpokhari and Kolki in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District	September 2015 – December 2017	14,815 people* (2,963 households)
Quality and Accountability	Bichaur, Dudhpokhari, Gauda, Ilampokhari and Kolki in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District	May 2015 – September 2017	67 people

<sup>11</sup> Total figures might double-count participants who benefit from multiple activities, though careful steps were taken to avoid this when possible. Unless denoted by \*, these figures represent the actual number of people and households reached. When project participant actual numbers were tracked by household only (denoted by \*), the household number was multiplied by five, an average household size in Nepal.





Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

**actalliance**

700 Light Street  
Baltimore, MD 21230, USA

800.597.5972

[lwr.org](http://lwr.org)

[facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief](https://www.facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief)

[twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief](https://twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief)

[youtube.com/LutheranWorldRelief](https://www.youtube.com/LutheranWorldRelief)

[lwr.org/blog](http://lwr.org/blog)



The information in this document may be copied, distributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes. Lutheran World Relief should always be cited as the author.