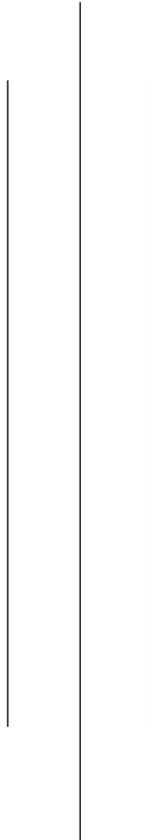


Report On
Impact Study in 14 Earthquake Affected Districts on Civil Society
Contribution on DRR



NGO Federation of Nepal

Projet
soutenu par

**Fondation
de
France**

Acknowledgments

To consolidate the DRRM practices in Nepal, and potentially contributing to the pool of both national and global DRRM knowledge, NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) initiated this study to compile, analyze and document the multiple recovery efforts, as undertaken by multiple NGOs in Nepal, following the Gorkha 2015 earthquake. As an integral part of strengthening the base of Civil Society Organizations' engagement in DRRM, this study commences following the growing realization of the need to acknowledge and recognize the roles and contributions of the NGOs, which remain complementary to the government's post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts for rebuilding the nation. This report was prepared under the leadership of Dr. Raju Thapa with assistance from Mr. Diponkar Adhikari, Mr. Ozal Pradhan, and Ms. Aditi Adhikari. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to SBR Innovation Chairperson Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa and Mr. Bishnu Timilsina Board of Directors for continuous support to make it happen. We are grateful to NFN district chapters along with their representatives from 14 severely earthquake-affected districts for their contributions to consultations, and coordination during the study.

This was a lot contribution, guidance and supervision from NFN Secretariat in undertaking of this study and preparation of this report. Continuous support, supervision and guidance was provided by Mr. Hum Bhandari (ED, NGO Federation Nepal) during the research. We are also grateful to the many stakeholders at the community, local government, district, and central levels that took time to provide insights about the project and its achievements and impacts in their respective project areas. Supported from Atullya Foundation Pvt. Ltd. is also acknowledged. We are thankful to Fondation de France for the financial support in this study.

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Abstract

Following the 2015 earthquake, NGOs carried out several programs for recovery and restoration in various communities throughout the 14 severely affected districts. This study was carried to review the DRRM plan and policy from CSOs' perspective, identify major DRR initiatives, plans, institutional capacity, and DRR activities of CSOs and collect replicable and exemplary work of CSOs. A training package, under the guidance and supervision of disaster management experts and professionals, was drafted and the representatives of NGOs from 14 severely earthquake-affected districts were given ToT. The participants were consulted for the preparation of questionnaires for the survey and about the case studies necessary for the study.

Furthermore, 14 districts level discussions were held in severely earthquake-affected districts in presence of the ToT participants who facilitated the programs and the study team successfully got a chance to hear the first-hand experiences of many responders that worked with their respective NGOs in the period of earthquake recovery. The NGOs worked in clusters in the aftermath of the earthquake and collaborated with different donors and government bodies to provide relief to the affected. NGOs were able to build policies and work following them that made their activities more transparent and built complaint hearing mechanisms to reach out to the affected efficiently. From the analysis of questionnaires handed out to different NGOs that worked in the affected districts, it was found that most of the financial capital was mobilized in WASH which was 18.3 % of the total financial capital and 16.9% of total financial capital was mobilized for reconstruction. Likewise, many people benefitted from the activities of NGOs along with the marginalized and vulnerable communities as around 7% of Dalits were shown to be either direct beneficiaries or were mobilized by NGOs as technical or non-technical human resources. The study team collected many case stories from the different participants and revisited them for fruitful learnings of good practices and lessons learned. The case studies documented the various activities done at the community and household level that resulted in the rehabilitation of the communities and built them back better.

The study recommended that NGOs should ensure the adequate inclusion of the marginalized and vulnerable communities by coordinating amongst each other and other governmental and non-governmental institutions. Likewise, the study recommends that community participation must be ensured in every process of the DRRM by NGOs, the projects must be demand-driven, the local government must formulate and regularly revise a clear Standard Operating Procedure in the context of disaster management and the government should introduce 'NGO Mobilization

Guideline for Post-Disaster situation' to guide and streamline NGOs interventions. The study has discovered the lessons during the period of research such as government should recognize the capability of NGOs to act as first responders, and in the immediate aftermath of the 2015 earthquake, the government was unable to reach all the affected places efficiently to provide an effective response. During this crisis, NGOs assisted the government by providing relief and assistance in these affected places and saved the government from public outcry, and mitigated the crisis. Similarly, in a disaster situation, the local NGOs know the affected communities and their people and can provide an immediate and efficient response and can deal with different kinds of rumors by understanding them thoroughly and relaying the actual information to the general public.

Abbreviations

CBDM	Community-Based Disaster Management
CCA	Climate change Adaptation
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DDMC	District Disaster Management Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction Management
ERP	Earthquake Recovery Program Nepal
EU	European Union
FNCCI	Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GLOF	Glacial Lake Outburst Flood
GoN	Government of Nepal
HEOC	Health Emergency Operation Centre
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
LAPA	Local Adaptation Plans for Action
LDCRP	Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan
LDMC	Local Disaster Management Committee
LGOA	Local Government Operation Act
LSGA	Local Self Governance Act
MoFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
MoWS	Ministry of Water supply and Sanitation
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Action

NCRA	Natural Calamity Relief Act
NDMA	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
NDRA	Natural Disaster Relief Act
NDRF	National Disaster Response Framework
NDRRM	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
NDRRMA	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
NFN	NGO Federation of Nepal
NEOC	National Emergency Operation Centre
NRA	Nepal Reconstruction Authority
PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
PDMC	Province Disaster Management Committee
PDNA	Post-Disaster Needs Assessments
SAR	Search and Rescue
TLC	Transitional Learning Center
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster
USD	United States Dollar

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Chapter 1

1.1 Introduction

Nepal is largely a mountainous country in South Asia. Occupying an area of 147,181 square kilometers and located between the high Himalayan range to the north and the plains to the south, Nepal has got extremely diverse topographies. Such variations in topography further create a wide range of weather, vegetation, and climate. The diversity in climatic conditions in combination with the geological positioning of the country, characterized by rugged mountains and steep terrains, give rise to a multiplex of disasters, depending on the geological and physiographical zones (MoHA, 2019). In a global ranking, Nepal holds the 20th position for the most multi-hazard prone countries and ranks 11th and 30th in the context of earthquakes, and flood risks respectively (MoHA, 2015), and collectively indicate a high-risk multi-hazard scenario. The central, southern, and eastern parts of the country have been more vulnerable than the northern and western regions. The studies have shown that the Terai and the Siwalik hill and the lesser Himalayan and the higher Himalayan regions have fragile geologic structures and endure more catastrophes (Dhakal, 2014).

As for the loss of lives and damage of properties, earthquakes tops the list of disasters. Comparably, other geophysical hazards landslides, avalanches, heat-waves, cold waves, cloud bursts, glacial lake outbursts, flash floods and rain-induced floods, thunderstorms, agricultural droughts, insect infestations, epidemics are hazards prevalent in the country (EM-DT, 2020), and hence a part of the Nepalese life. In 2017 and 2018, natural hazards-induced disasters impacted more than 160,000 people and more than 20,000 houses were damaged (MoHA, 2019). The country suffered a collective financial loss of more than USD 10 million in the same period (MoHA, 2019).

The moment magnitude of the earthquake of 25th April 2015 was Mw7.8, with its hypocenter located in the Gorkha region (about 80 km north–west of Kathmandu). The seismic tremors of this earthquake were one of the highest magnitude recorded in the past century in Nepal (KC, Subedi, and Pokharel, 2018). This particular seismic disaster claimed the lives of nearly 9,000 people left more than 22,000 people injured and damaged more than 790,000 buildings including cultural and historic buildings (KC, Subedi, and Pokharel, 2018). Thirty-one out of the 77 districts were affected, among which fourteen were officially declared as crisis-hit (PDNA, 2015). A second major earthquake occurred on 12th May 2015 with a moment

magnitude (Mw) of 7.3, 18 km Southeast of Kodar thereby causing further damage to the people and livelihoods. In addition to the major aftershocks, more than 400 minor tremors were recorded within two months. Such tremors further catalyzed landslides and avalanches in Mount Everest as well, which injured and took the lives of many mountaineers. A similar landslide in the Ghodabela area of Langtang claimed the lives of hundreds of people. The economic loss amounted to USD 10 billion, equivalent to one-third of Nepal's GDP, and compelled the country to face severe long-term socioeconomic impacts.

The 2015 Gorkha earthquake marks defining moment in the history of disaster management in Nepal. The Constitution of Nepal, 2015, drafted after this earthquake specifies disaster management in its Directive Principles, Policies, and Obligations of the State (Clause 51), further highlighting the significance of early warning systems, preparedness, rescue, relief, and rehabilitation to mitigate risks from all forms of disasters. Schedule 7, 8 and 9 of the constitution provide a list of concurrent authorities at the federal, state, and local levels focused on early preparedness for rescue, relief, and reconstruction from natural and human-induced disasters for disaster management. Through such efforts, the constitution has made disaster risk reduction and management a top priority for all three tiers of the government.

Furthermore, consolidating the DRRM practices in Nepal, and potentially contributing to the pool of DRRM knowledge both nationally and globally, the NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) conducted the study to compile, analyze and document the Gorkha 2015 earthquake recovery efforts undertaken by the various NGOs in Nepal. As an integral part of strengthening the base of Civil Society Organizations' engagement in DRRM, this study commences per the growing and realized the need to acknowledge and recognize the roles and contributions of the NGOs, which remain complementary to the government's post-disaster reconstruction and revitalization efforts for rebuilding the nation.

In cooperation with the local NGOs, the study team took the lead in the activities of collecting qualitative and quantitative data via questionnaires, discussion with key stakeholders, and case studies from affected districts on the works of NGOs to identify the recovery efforts, which comprised of community mobilization, private and public housing reconstruction, restoring basic utilities and community infrastructures, raising disaster risk awareness, the investigation into the accountability and transparency, and similar others. Thus, this report presents findings and simultaneously creates a repository of the notable and significant outcomes in the recovery phase of the 2015 earthquake. It draws a multitude of lessons learned for projects and programs in various sectors related to the DRRM practices. Simultaneously, this study is expected to help promote the concepts of building back better by existing as a reference document for policy makers and DRRM practitioners in Nepal and beyond.

Chapter 2

2.1 Objectives

This study aimed to achieve the following objectives.

- To review DRRM plan and policy from the lens of CSOs participation, contribution, and their specific roles and responsibilities.
- To analyze the local government's opinion on the impacts of DRRM activities carried out by CSOs.
- To identify major DRRM initiatives, plans, institutional capacity, and DRRM activities of CSOs and their policies, system, and operational modalities.
- To collect replicable and exemplary work of CSOs at the community, household, and institutional level.

2.2 Scope and Limitation

This study has placed forward the following scopes:

- The DRRM plan and policy documents of the CSOs that worked in the aftermath of the 2015 Gorkha earthquake to be reviewed
- Analysis of local level government's work and opinion on CSOs contribution in the respective areas of study ensuring their meaningful participation
- Collecting at least 2 case studies from each district to document them and produce the lessons learned from them
- Analyze the financial and human resource mobilization pattern of NGOs in the 14 severely earthquake districts from a questionnaire survey

The study has the following limitations:

- The study has tried to generate the documentation of activities done by NGOs and lessons learned from the perspective of NGOs.
- The study incorporated only the 14 districts that were categorized as severely earthquake affected hence the findings, to a certain extent, can be limited. However, this shall narrate the overall picture as well.
- The study and its survey did not encompass all the NGOs of the study area and the study had financial and time constraints as well.

2.3 Methodology

This study covers 14 districts out of 77 districts that were affected heavily by the 2015 earthquake. They were Bhaktapur, Dhading, Dolakha, Gorkha, Kathmandu, Kavrepalanchowk, Lalitpur, Makwanpur, Nuwakot, Okhaldhunga, Ramechhap, Rasuwa, Sindhuli, and Sindhupalchowk.

Local NGOs that had engaged in relief and recovery stages of the 2015 earthquake disaster in those fourteen districts were the target group of this study.

Considering the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting restrictions in travel and interactions, all of the activities requiring any form of interaction were conducted via virtual and online platforms.

The methodology of the study progressed in the following sequence:

i. Design of training package, case study data collection format, and questionnaires.

A training package, under the guidance and supervision of disaster management experts and professionals, was drafted. The training revolved around raising sensitization towards DRRM and familiarization of concepts and research methods and was specifically structured to suit the level of representatives of various NGOs involved in DRRM programs (Annex 1). The case study data collection format and the questionnaire were also formed in line with specified guidance. The case study focused more on extracting information on the nature of intervention the NGOs were implementing, the situation before the implementation, the situation after, the lessons learned, and the identified best practices. The questionnaires focused to extract information on technical details of the NGOs' interventions and were aimed to identify the timeframe of project implementations, the relevant sector of projects implemented (which included Health, WASH, Shelter, Food Security and Nutrition, Protection, Reconstruction, Education, Information Communication, and Camp Coordination and Management), funding, beneficiaries for the NGO implemented projects, the total technical and non-technical staff mobilized in the relief, rescue and recovery stages, accountability, and transparency. The case studies and the questionnaires were designed together to yield a combination of both qualitative and quantitative information.

The research tools were field-tested before being used in the study to ensure the proper collection of relevant data and to avoid any unforeseen difficulties and challenges.

ii. Training package for Training of Trainers (ToT)

The representatives of 28 NGOs were given ToT. Two NGOs from each of the 14 crisis-hit districts of Nepal were selected, and their respective representatives were invited for the ToT. The participants were oriented regarding the importance of the study to compile, analyze and document the Gorkha 2015 earthquake recovery efforts undertaken by NGOs in Nepal and to strengthen the base of Civil Society Organizations' engagement in DRRM. This study commences following the growing and realized the need to acknowledge and recognize the roles and contributions of the NGOs, which remain complementary to the government's post-disaster reconstruction and revitalization efforts for rebuilding the nation. The participants were consulted for the preparation of questionnaires for the survey and about the case studies necessary for the study.

iii. District Level Orientation Program

With the help of the ToT trained representatives of the selected NGOs, separate District Level Orientation Events were conducted for different districts as shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** below. The objective of such orientation programs was to sensitize the participants regarding the role of NGOs in the DRRM, to inform them about the objectives and rationale of this study, and to familiarize the participants on the modality of filling up questionnaires and develop case studies.

Table 1 District level orientation program

S.N	District	Date of Orientation	S.N	District	Date of Orientation
1	Sindhuli	November 9, 2020	2	Rasuwa	November 11, 2020
3	Bhaktapur	November 11, 2020	4	Dhadhing	November 11, 2020
5	Dolakha	November 12, 2020	6	Sindhupalchowk	November 13,2020
7	Nuwakot	November 13, 2020	8	Gorkha	November 22, 2020
9	Lalitpur	November 22, 2020	10	Makwanpur	November 25, 2020
11	Kavrepalanchowk	November 25, 2020	12	Kathmandu	December 1, 2020
13	Okhaldhunga	December 1, 2020	14	Ramechhap	December 6, 2020

iv. Collection and analysis of Case studies and Questionnaires

The case studies and questionnaires received from the district NGOs were reviewed and, as required later, improved with further investigation in the incomplete case stories. The information was processed to make it applicable for the study.

Chapter 3

For the study, NGO representatives from 14 severely earthquake-affected districts were selected for the training of the trainers. They participated in a 2-day training program during which they were oriented regarding the objectives of the study. With their consultation, the questionnaire was prepared and sent to the 14 districts. Also, the participants were asked to prepare the case studies regarding rehabilitation and recovery activities done in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake. District Level Orientation programs were held and during the study, multiple interactions with various stakeholders were held, and the study team came across various findings which are as presented below.

3.1 Desk Review and Policy Analysis

When a disaster occurs it brings about a substantial amount of death and destruction. In times of disaster, it is often recorded that the poor and marginalized communities suffer the most. In the context of Nepal during the monsoon flood which occurs annually, it is the poor marginalized farmers and labor communities that suffer the most. Therefore, disasters have become one of the major threats to sustainable development in Nepal. Such devastations and losses are preventable through proper and effective legal frameworks and policy reform for DRRM and the adoption of the whole-of-society approach.

3.1.1 Legal Framework on DRRM

Over the years Nepal has developed a comprehensive body of legislation through several political changes. The national laws have been formulated in such a manner that they regulate matters in a broader sense, which is also relevant to disaster risk reduction and its management. Nepal's legal framework is founded upon a holistic approach, it includes legal framework from disaster response, to laws relating to building and construction, environmental protection, water and forest management, and land management.

In the context of governance for DRRM, the legal frameworks set standards and objectives. It establishes mandates, responsibilities, and duties to various agencies and actors while empowering them with a certain degree of power as guided by the legal frameworks. The legal frameworks also provide a clear guideline for resource allocation, facilitate community participation, and encourage the involvement of civil society and vulnerable groups. It also formulates systems of control, monitor and evaluation to maintain transparency and accountability of relevant actors and agencies. The effective framework promotes the

mainstreaming of DRRM into relevant sectors. The governance system in Nepal is equipped with a legally mandated system of devolved decision-making and local governance, which is central to DRRM implementation. However, a discussion of Nepal's current legislative framework for DRRM needs to consider two major factors. The first is the current process of political transition, which impacts law-making and implementation, and may also result in fundamental changes to governance structures shortly. The second is the overall structure of national and local governance in Nepal as it stands today, which provides the context for understanding how DRRM laws and regulations are implemented.

Traditionally disaster management in Nepal was done on an ad-hoc basis and was attended to as and when it occurred. The Constitution of Nepal, 2015 under Article 51 has made clear provisions for disaster management. It states to mitigate risks from natural disasters, provisions for the warning, preparedness, rescue, relief, and rehabilitation must be established. Further Schedule- 7, 8, and 9 lists of concurrent powers of the federation, state, and local level focusing on power distribution and sharing of jurisdiction which also facilitates disaster management.

In 1982, Natural Disaster Relief Act (NDRA) as known as Natural Calamity Relief Act (NCRA) was enforced which is replaced by the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017. In 1982 Soil and Watershed Conservation Act was formulated. This act is considered as one of the major DRRM acts which have defined soil and water conservation as a function of controlling landslides, floods, and soil erosion. Likewise, Water Resources Act (1992) was enforced to minimize the adverse effect on the environment caused due to landslides, soil erosion, deforestation, and flood. Through Forest Act, 1993 a comprehensive framework is formulated for forest resource management in Nepal which in correspondence to disaster management. Likewise, constructions of buildings are regulated under the Building Act 1998 which has laid out a legal mandate to protect buildings from fire, flood, earthquake, and other natural calamities.

The Local Government Operation Act (LGOA) 2017, which has replaced the Local Self Governance Act (LSGA) 1999, empowers local bodies to govern themselves. It recognizes that local people and local bodies are the most appropriate points of entry to meet the disaster management needs at the local level. Although the Act has made local entities responsible, as the situation stands, integrated execution of concepts introduced through the Act has stalled due to the absence of necessary rules, budgetary allocation, and adequate guidance for the purpose.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017 has made provision of effective disaster risk management throughout the disaster management cycle-preparedness, response and rehabilitation, and mitigation (MoLJCAPA, 2017). This Act provides for a detailed action plan right from the federal government to the district and local levels to draw implement and execute a disaster management plan. According to the act, the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) will function under the chairpersonship of the prime minister. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) under the NCDM will be set up under the Ministry of Home Affairs to act as the focal point for disaster management functions in Nepal from the formulation of appropriate strategies and plans to implementation and supervision of disaster management activities. Similarly, the state disaster management authorities will be under the Chief Ministers and the district disaster management authorities under the Chief District Officers (CDOs) clarifies the role, responsibility, and functions of security forces including the Nepal Army.

This Act has made provision of recommendation to the government of Nepal for the declaration of disaster-prone zones, streamlining of responsibilities, and involvement of local communities. The new Act can be considered as an umbrella Act that covers the whole spectrum of disaster risk management from the preparedness phase to response, relief, and rehabilitation. It has followed the new restructuring of the state and made provision of disaster risk reduction activities accordingly. The institutional set-up provisioned by this act has made effort to decentralize the role of disaster management activities, such as preparedness, response, rescue, and relief to the province and district/local level. However, this Act still has made the concentration of disaster-related policy-making authority to the National Council making the province and district/local bodies as implementing agencies, which can be thought of as a major shortcoming of this Act.

3.1.2 Institutional Framework on DRRM

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017 has made provisions for a new institutional set-up for disaster risk management replacing the previous institutional framework set by National Strategy for Disaster Management, 2009.

Guided by the DRRM legal instruments, various institutions have been established at the federal and provincial levels, which is the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (NDRRM) Council (the highest level DRRM institution in Nepal). It is led by the Prime Minister. The role of the council is to approve the national acts, policies, and strategies for

DRRM in Nepal to ensure strategic leadership in case of a disaster or humanitarian emergencies. Then, the NDRRM Executive Committee, a committee chaired by the Home Minister, and has the role of preparing DRRM acts, policies, strategies for approval from the aforementioned council.

Likewise, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) operates under the NDRRM Executive Committee and provides overall leadership for implementing the approved DRRM policies and interventions in the country. Its primary role entails responsibility for designing, implementing disaster preparedness and response activities throughout the country through provincial and local governments. Simultaneously, it is also the designated emergency response office of Nepal and National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) hosts the overall disaster-related emergency operations. The NEOC is a coordination and communication point for disaster information across Nepal, including government agencies and other response and recovery stakeholders such as the Nepal Red Cross Society, UN agencies, INGOs, and NGOs. Currently, NOEC comes under the operational jurisdiction of the MoHA, and it has been decided that it is going to be under the management of NDMA shortly.

For the provinces, Provincial DRRM Council is led by Chief Minister and the Provincial DRRM Council to provide strategic leadership at the Provincial level for DRRM policies. Similarly, Provincial DRRM Administrative Committee is led by Internal Affairs Minister and the Provincial level DRRM Committee which provides leadership for DRRM interventions at the provincial level. At the district level, District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) is led by the Chief District Officer for district-level disaster response activities via this committee and at the local level, the Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC) does the disaster-related activities.

The active participation of the Government of Nepal in various international forums and conferences which are centric on disaster management portrays a clear commitment to fulfilling the disaster management obligations at national as well as international levels. Nepal is a signatory to world conferences and showcases the best practices and learning.

Furthermore, four priority areas have been determined in SENDAI Framework and the National Strategic Plan of Action on DRR across all sectors at local national regional, and global levels, Priority 1 is to understanding disaster risk, Priority 2 is about strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, priority 3 is related to investing in disaster

risk reduction for resilience and Priority 4 focuses on enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

3.1.3 NGOs Evolution and Engagement in DRRM Sector

Globally, the history of non-governmental organizations dates back to at least the mid-nineteenth century. Mostly, active in the anti-slavery movement and the movement for women's rights they worked in many different humanitarian sectors. However, the phrase "non-governmental organization" came into use after the establishment of the United Nations in 1945. Article 71 of Chapter 10 of the United Nations Charter allowed for a consultative role for organizations that are neither governments nor member states. Different policies have led to the development of NGOs emphasizing humanitarian issues, DRRM developmental aid, and sustainable development.

To meet the immediate humanitarian needs that arise from the disasters, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), begun playing a major role across the world to provide disaster relief facing multiple challenges. Initially, just focusing on immediate relief during the disaster the NGOs have evolved by focusing on all four stages i.e mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery in the present time. Similarly, NGOs have been a crucial part of public welfare and governance in Nepal. Time and again NGOs have extended their cooperation and have shared their resource pool with the Government of Nepal to service the interest of the people. As disaster governance in Nepal began to evolve with the introduction of various legal and institutional frameworks, the NGOs' presence in the DRRM sector evolved along with it. Natural Calamity (Relief) Act, 2039 (1982) was mainly focused on rescue and recovery rather than preparedness and this was the basis of disaster activities in Nepal then, NGOs were focused on response activities rather than mitigation and preparedness. This led to activism around Nepal and NGOs actively participated in this and raised public awareness about this. The NGOs started voicing out the importance of working in all phases of the disaster cycle and with the help from INGOs and umbrella organizations like DPNET-Nepal, NGOs drafted the DRRM act in 2007 and handed it over to the government. This movement was further strengthened after the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake as the 2015 Gorkha earthquake marks another turning point in Nepal, both in terms of the immediate response to the earthquake, as well as with the promulgation of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017.

The Constitution of Nepal, 2015 drafted after this devastating earthquake specifies disaster management in its Directive Principles, Policies, and Obligations of the State (Clause 51). It

mentions early warning, preparedness, rescue, relief, and rehabilitation to mitigate risks from natural disasters. Schedule 7, 8, and 9 of the constitution provide a list of simultaneous powers at the federal, state, and local levels focused on preparedness for rescue, relief, and reconstruction from natural and human-induced disasters for disaster management. The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017 was formed after this which further strengthened the disaster sector and enabled NGOs to work on this area in depth. Furthermore, Strategic Action Plan (2018-2030) in line with Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) helped to guide NGOs by providing a working framework. Keeping these things in mind government also prioritizing policy formulation in all tiers of the government system as well. This systematic approach to the DRRM sector has enabled NGOs across the nation to move forward steadily.

3.1.4 Complaint, transparency, and accountability mechanism

An additional role assumed by the NGOs in disaster management is ensuring quality and accountability of the disaster management interventions by government and non-government actors. NGOs set up a proper complaint handling mechanism and thus can be an important complaint collector from the various stakeholders. Such concerns and complaints are then conveyed to relevant sectors via various reports and lesson learned documents, which can be used to improve pre-disaster efforts and future rescue, relief, and post-disaster activities in a case similar disasters occur. NGOs too are found to have been rigorous in maintaining transparency in disaster fund and program management.

3.1.5 NGOs DRRM Related Initiatives, Institutional Capacity, and Operational Modality

Disaster risk reduction using top-down government and institutional interventions alone is often considered insufficient as they tend to have a lower understanding of community dynamics, perceptions and needs, and ignore the potential of local knowledge and capacities. (ISDR, NGO's Disaster risk reduction background paper) The main actors in Disaster risk reduction and disaster response are the local communities and local organizations. During the zero hours of the disaster, immediate response mainly comprising (but not limited to) search and rescue are executed by the affected communities, grassroots organizations, and local NGOs.

NGOs' involvement in M activities has proved beneficial for several reasons, such as NGOs can operate at the grassroots level with communities and local organizations as partners, and take a participatory approach to development planning. This allows them to respond better to local people's priorities and build on local capacities. Similarly, NGOs enjoy higher operational flexibility as they are relatively free from bureaucratic structures and systems, and better able to respond and adapt quickly and easily. Finally, NGOs often work with and on behalf of the neediest groups: the poorest and the most vulnerable.

The NRA's NGO guidelines provide the framework within which these organizations can participate in recovery and reconstruction programs and projects with the NRA. NGOs and INGOs generally cannot commit financial resources to the National Reconstruction Fund or the government budget. Instead, their support is offered in cash or in-kind to beneficiaries, or in-kind to government agencies. Even so, NGOs and INGO projects must fall within the framework of national reconstruction plans and standards. NGOs and INGOs will be permitted to work in a particular geographic location based on resource mapping and equitable distribution of support and services to affected communities. NGOs and INGOs will submit program and project plans, including geographical location of interventions, and reports on project results to the District Development Committee (DDC) and the NRA, to facilitate real-time monitoring by the NRA. They will also submit a report to the NRA at the close of each fiscal year. The NRA has simplified procedures for NGOs and INGOs to sign tripartite agreements with the NRA and the local implementing agency (generally a district or municipality). Approval from the NRA of reconstruction programs and projects will provide the basis for the issuance of work visas for international staff. The Development Cooperation Coordination and Budget Management Section of the NRA, which is responsible for coordination and facilitation of NGO and INGO activities, will provide a one-stop window for approval of NGO and INGO projects. (PDRF, 2016-202)

3.1.6 Glimpse of Rescue Relief, Rehabilitation (Recovery and Reconstruction) Activities

National NGOs have provided a range of financial, technical, and material services during relief and early recovery, and many are offering to provide significant support to the ongoing recovery and reconstruction process. (PDRF, 2016-2020)

During the rescue and relief period, 134 international Search and Rescue (SAR) teams from 34 countries responded to Nepal's request for help. For SAR, 4,236 helicopter flights with 7,558 persons were rescued by air, and 4,689 persons were rescued by land. More than 90 percent of

the security forces were mobilized to focus on SAR. Overall, 22,500 civil servants, 65,059 staff of the Nepal Army, 41,776 staff of Nepal Police, and 24,775 staff of the Armed Police Force, as well as 4,000 government and private health workers were mobilized to aid rescue and relief efforts (PDNA, 2015). At the same time, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) participated extensively—often filled the gaps that domestic and international responders had left (EIAS, 2016). Rescue and relief response managed by the Nepalese CSOs including local NGOs were lifesaving. A study reveals that NGOs were able to deliver their services during the 2015 earthquake for their good social capital, network, trust, and values typical to Nepalese society. They utilized their social capital, which was largely structured by informal social relations, as well as national and international support (Connell and Hilling, 2017). For example, local NGOs built temporary shelters immediately in the earthquake-hit villages and cities in the Kathmandu Valley with official support in designated public spaces. However, the supply of non-food items, particularly tarpaulins, proved inadequate as the fear of being trapped drove many families, including those whose houses were still intact, to seek temporary shelter in the open space (PDNA, 2015). Local NGOs stepped in and supported the hundreds of thousands of affected families with both food and non-food items. Also, the NGO Federation of Nepal, as a CSO watchdog, actively engaged in humanitarian advocacy with appeals to pressurize the local and federal governments to meet the relief and response needs (NFN, 2016).

An important role of CSOs in times of emergency was that of managing communication between humanitarian organizations and the public. Traditional and social media became the channels to share disaster-related information with affected people. For example, many NGOs updated their Facebook page consistently with practical advice on immediate disaster response concerns and explaining how to register missing people or search for relatives and friends (EIAS, 2016).

To manage the reconstruction in the post-earthquake, the GoN had set up National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) under the act of ‘National Reconstruction Act, 2072’. The NRA endowed with more than USD 4 billion worth of international donations earmarked USD 3000 to each family that needed new housing (KC, Subedi, and Pokharel, 2018). GoN also offered a concessional loan to the affected families ranging from USD 3000 to USD 25,000 to finance the construction (KC, Subedi, and Pokharel, 2018). The technical and funding resources required for reconstruction were significantly huge, while the government support was notably inadequate. To an extent, the resources from NGO sector was able to bridge a resource gap to reconstruct, private housing, public assets such as school, hospitals, trail,

bridges, water facilities, and small-scale community-managed hydro power stations and recover livelihoods. The role of local NGOs turned out to be important to enhance the quality and accountability of the government recovery activities in the earthquake most affected districts.

3.2 Findings from Survey Questionnaire

The project interventions carried out by the local NGOs were short-term, midterm, and long-term. In general, the major activities performed by the Nepalese CSOs in the post-earthquake period were listed out in the questionnaire, and the activities of the grouped as per them. Likewise, financial mobilization patterns, human resource mobilization patterns, and the beneficiaries from the activities done by NGOs intervention were studied via the questionnaire.

3.2.1 NGOs Financial Mobilization Pattern

Many development NGOs and all humanitarian NGOs engaged in relief operations during the series of shocks and aftershocks of the earthquakes. NGOs were able to reach out to the remote villages with relief packages on short notices. In the recovery phase, NGOs, activities mostly

In the aftermath of 2015 Gorkha Earthquake, we mobilized a lot of our financial resources to construct water supply system in affected communities and ensured sanitation and hygiene as well.

-Bhuwan Shrestha, NGO Federation Ramechhap

included technical and financial support in temporary arrangements for shelter and learning centers, retrofitting and reconstruction of private

housing, public structures, and community assets such as roads, bridges, trails, irrigation canals, community buildings, power plants, public water supply networks to name a few vital lifelines. Skill-building training such as mason training was an important need that many NGOs stepped in to support communities for building back better.

Some NGOs contributed to the restoration of livelihoods with business re-building and capital formation activities, technological activities, skill development, income generation activities such as capacity-building workshops and on-the-job training, SMSE activities. NGOs with the objective of rural and urban displacement recovery activities included support in private housing and establishing integrated housing settlements in the earthquake most affected villages. Health-focused NGOs engaged in reproductive health and geriatric care activities, nutrition promotion, and public awareness through media, IEC, and behavior change activities.

WASH activities were highly promoted with successful impacts. NGOs also contributed to the capacity building of the Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC).

A large segment of the earthquake-affected families was met with food shortages. NGOs targeted food security activities, agricultural activities, and homestead food production including poultry for existing and returnee households. Education-focused NGOs were able to support the earthquake-affected children to resume learning activities at home and schools. Some local NGOs also engaged in activities to restore cultural heritage. Environmental damage was restored with ecological functions enabling activities in which NGOs played an important role. Research-related NGOs contributed to information management for building back better activities.

The following table 2 shows the key areas of interventions that NGOs did in the recovery phase of the earthquake 2015.

Table 2 NGOs' contribution to the recovery of the earthquake impacts in 14 worst-hit districts

Category	Amount	Percentage	Category	Amount	Percentage
WASH	1,248,002,153	18.29%	Reconstruction	1,152,190,693	16.89%
Miscellaneous	707,230,212	10.36%	Protection	670,509,992	9.83%
Food security	617,270,877	9.05%	Health	472,390,644	6.92%
Rehabilitation	395,154,586	5.79%	Shelter management	388,855,629	5.70%
Education	362,833,092	5.32%	Livelihood upliftment	362,678,476	5.32%
Nutrition	204,113,860	2.99%	Logistics	196,318,238	2.88%
Communication	43,253,877	0.63%	Cash Support	2,697,276	0.04%
Grand Total			6,823,499,609.13		

Source: Questionnaire Survey 2021

A total of NPR 6.8 billion was spent by the CSOs that participated in the study which is far less than the actual amount that was spent in the aftermath. However, it could be suggested that the data present in what proportion the financial mobilization was done.

Analyzing the data, the sectors in which the most amount of money was spent was found to be WASH followed closely by reconstruction. This could be due to the immediate need for proper sanitary and hygiene and the necessity of drinking water after such mega-disaster so that further outbreaks of communicable diseases like cholera could be prevented. Likewise, reconstruction

was the second most prioritized category as most of the housing and living conditions were destroyed and this needed immediate recovery activities.

From the chart below, the area of least expenditure was cash support and communication. The trend of supporting the affected with immediate cash release was not adopted much at the time of crisis and they were rather helped in daily activities. Similarly, communication was also the area that might have received more support but CSOs didn't commit much to this area. The cash support and communication sector need to be addressed much more by the CSOs in the circumstances of such disaster in the future.

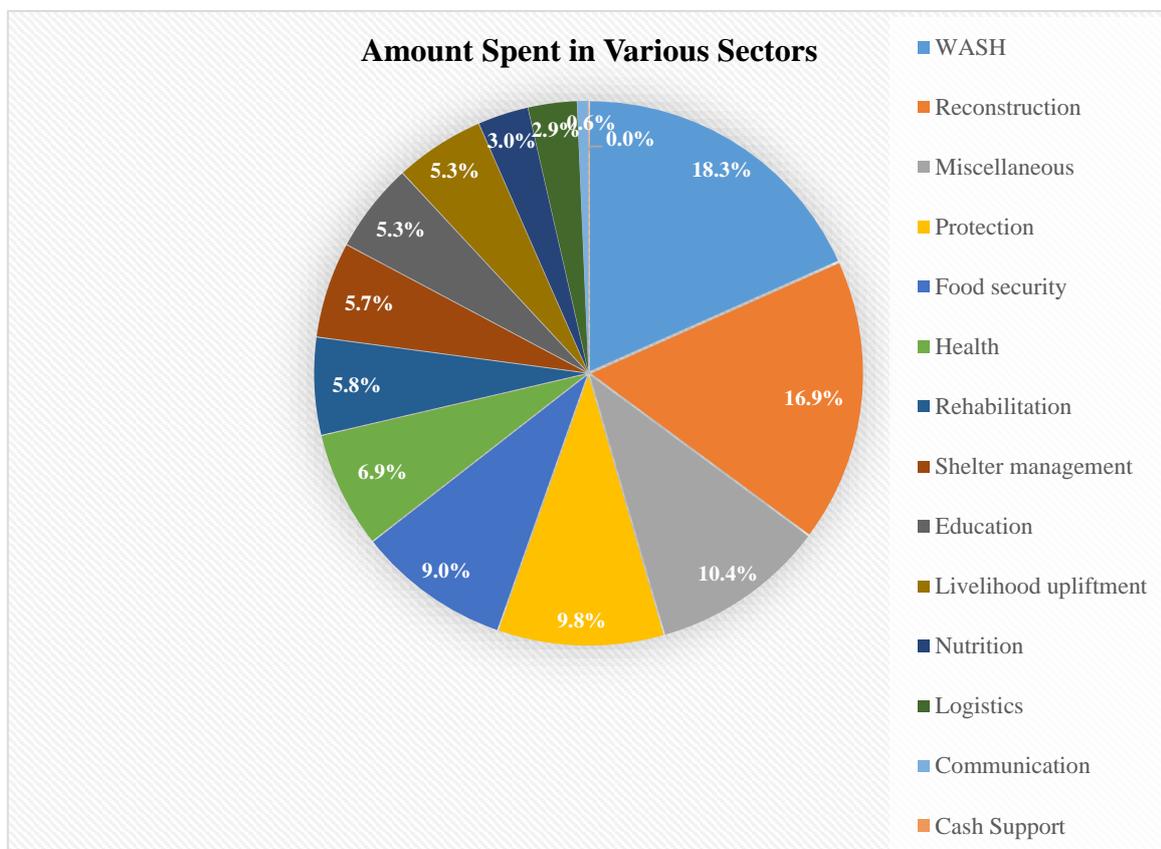


Figure 1 Amount Spent in Various Sectors

3.2.2 NGOs Intervention's Beneficiaries

From the questionnaires received, the total beneficiaries from the contribution of the CSOs in the affected area were a total household of 313,090. The data for the male and female population of the beneficiaries was created from the available

Many of the affected communities were provided assistance and we tried to make the process inclusive as much as possible but we still feel that marginalized and vulnerable communities like Dalits could have benefited more.

-Binod Lamichhane, NGO Federation Rasuwa

data via questionnaire and the total male and female beneficiaries amounted to 48.90% and 51.10% of the total population. Likewise, the beneficiary population was categorized based on their ethnicity and the graph was generated.

The study shows that from the total of beneficiaries most were from the ethnic group which was almost half of the total. Also, the Chhetri population was a quarter of the total population. However, very few Dalits and others were beneficiaries in the Post-Earthquake works. It is estimated that 13% of the national population are comprised of Dalits and the beneficiaries from the intervention activities are only around 8% thus there is still a lot of work to be done by CSOs for making their activities more inclusive.

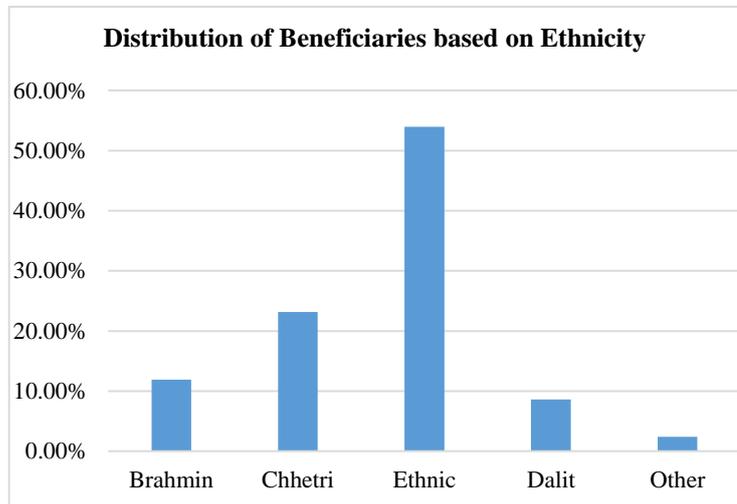


Figure 2 Beneficiaries based on ethnicity

3.3.3 NGOs Human Resource Mobilization Pattern

The study also found the NGOs' human resource mobilization pattern via the data generated from the questionnaire received from various CSOs/NGOs. The manpower used in the post-earthquake was differentiated into technical and non-technical manpower.

The technical and non-technical manpower used was 31% and 69% of the total of 1327. The technical and non-technical manpower was further analyzed by categorizing them based on genders and ethnicity. As per the information received, 68% of the male and 32% female were a part of technical manpower. The total of the technical manpower had much more involvement of male than female and this might be due to the tendency of male involvement in the technical sector than the females.

The technical manpower was mostly comprised of people from ethnic groups and closely followed in by the Brahmin people. The Chhetri was also included in the workforce but the inclusion of Dalit was only 7% of the total workforce in the process and this needs to be addressed by the NGOs in their future activities as it feels like many

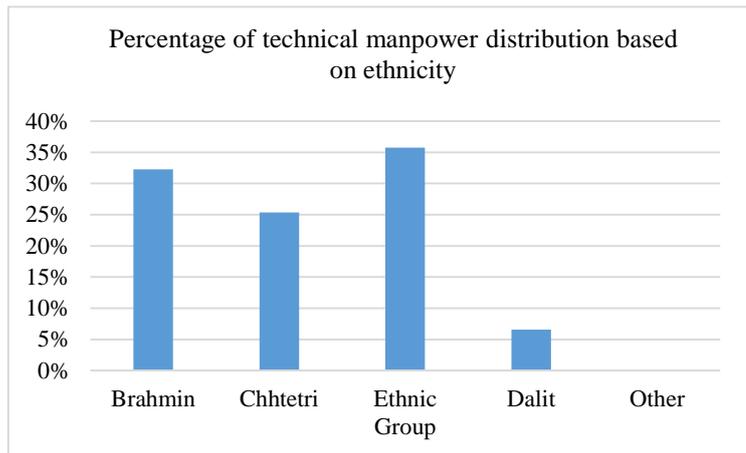


Figure 3 Technical manpower based on ethnicity

of the marginalized and vulnerable communities have not been enabled and included when it comes to technical manpower.

The total of the non-technical manpower had almost equal involvement of male and female and this was more inclusive than technical sector. The non-technical manpower was mostly comprised of people from ethnic groups and Brahmin people. The Chhetri was also included in the workforce but the inclusion of Dalit was only 8% in total and it feels like many of the marginalized and vulnerable communities have not been enabled

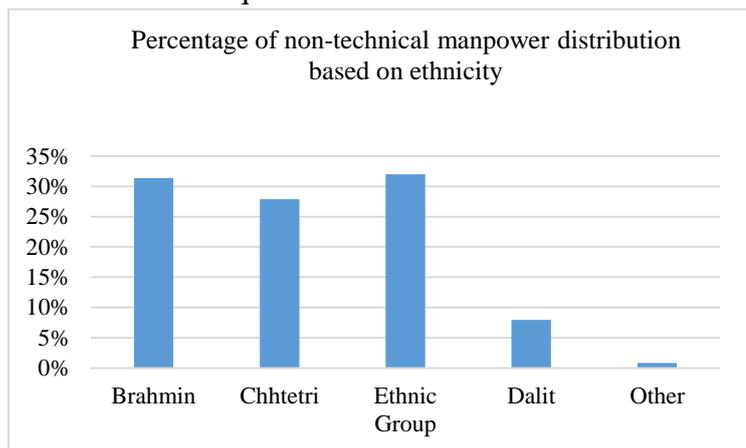


Figure 4 Non-technical manpower based on ethnicity

and included when it comes to non-technical manpower as well.

3.3 Important learnings from NGOs Intervention in various sectors

The study collected many case studies for understanding the lessons learned from the project interventions in the 14 earthquake-affected districts of Nepal. Along with this, it was intended to figure the cases of best practices that provided exemplary help in the affected communities in various sectors.

3.3.1 Post-earthquake initiatives in the sector of Shelter and Housing

Provisions of timely and adequate shelter can become crucial factors, which can save a lot of lives particularly during the initial and also later stages of a crisis. The shelter, settlement, and housing assistance is usually focused around the need of the communities, the capability of the civil societies and government bodies, and when conducted efficiently invoke a sense of safety among the people, protect their dignity and further promotes social cohesion, which becomes essential to gain better recovery. The SPHERE standards have internalized such importance, and have further identified how such responses in a post-disaster scenario can go well beyond just the distribution of hardware, the conventional tarpaulins and temporary shelter distribution, and construction materials, but can also include legal and technical assistance, knowledge sharing and awareness creation.

Findings from the case studies hence indicate the following shelter efforts in Nepal in the post-2015 earthquake scenario. Nepal, with the support of the Lutheran World Federation, worked to ensure a temporary shelter and housing construction assistance program at Changunarayan Municipality, the northeastern part of Bhaktapur district, Nepal. The situation of the municipality was rather dire with the 2015 earthquake destroying a lot of houses leaving the people deprived of a roof over their heads. The majority of the population was agricultural workers with heightened vulnerability due to the disaster. The NGO intervention led to 18 temporary housings being created, which then further led to better focus towards building proper housings in the future.

FOCUS Nepal, in partnership with Christian Aid, under the Earthquake Recovery Program Nepal (ERPN) implemented a shelter-focused program in Dhading district, Nepal. Addressing the need for shelter and housing of the vulnerable, particularly the persons with disabilities, FOCUS Nepal built 6 model houses, which

We were able to help the community people by constructing model houses especially for PWDs with proper sanitary facilities and it has helped them focus on livelihood activities.

-Dhruba Gyawali, Focus-Nepal

had two rooms and proper sanitary facilities. The project also promoted social cohesion as there was the active promotion of community involvement during the construction phase, which later on would guarantee a sense of ownership among the people. The persons with disabilities have then henceforth been able to focus more on their livelihood income generation instead of having

to worry for shelter, and there have also been some reports of some people utilizing the built model houses for both residence and small-scale business as well.

A similar disability-centered initiative was implemented by Child Welfare Society Makwanpur, under the SERB Project run by Mercy Corps Nepal, in Makwanpur District, Nepal. Focusing on the dire state of the persons with a disability, the Child Welfare Society provided them with financial and technical support for house reconstructions.

An initiative by Community Development Program Sindhuli in Sunkoshi rural municipality in Sindhuli District, Nepal, was another notable assistance-focused program under the support of Mercy Corps Nepal. Before the project, the people were struggling to find clear instructions on how they should build their houses, procure materials, or gather labor even though they had their names registered for receiving financial support from the government. The initiative implemented by the Community Development Program Sindhuli, therefore, helped the people by providing technical assistance and monitoring through timely visits to facilitate the construction works. Further assistance in contacting and reporting house construction progress to the relevant ward offices to receive the promised installments of house reconstruction grants from the government also proved to be highly beneficial.

Atmanirbhar Resource Centre and Land Rights Forum also took into account the joint issue of reconstruction and vulnerability. The beneficiaries in this initiative were the residents who were affected due to the earthquake and were significantly vulnerable to potential landslides in the Uttargaya rural municipality of Rasuwa District, Nepal. Through the involvement of geologists, the residents were included in the beneficiary list of risky areas, and only then they were able to receive relief assistance for reconstruction from the government.

RICOD Nepal implemented a different kind of approach in the Konjyosom Rural municipality of Lalitpur district, Nepal. Acknowledging the issue of government support for housing not being sufficient, RICOD introduced a top-up support program. This program operated in the modality of distributing additional materials to those families who had already received support from the government. Within this initiative, per family distribution averaged 185 kg iron rod, 25 bags of cement & 3 bundles of CGI sheet. Technical assistance and monitoring were also provided for the beneficiary families. In addition to this, RICOD also provided the beneficiaries with one goat and 3 days of goat farming training to pave the way for income generation for the families.

From the above case studies, the following lessons can be derived. Beneficiaries, particularly those vulnerable, such as landless people, persons with a disability, women-headed households, or ethnic minorities, experience difficulties in accessing the support made available by the government. They may not even be able to access resources available from the local public bodies. Support from NGOs is particularly crucial in understanding the barriers such people experience in accessing such resources and such supports also play a significant role in bridging the gap between the resources provided by the government and the actual needed amount through additional top-up grants or relief assistance. The NGOs also play an important role in taking their assistance services to the very doorstep of those who are excluded due to disability, illiteracy, marginalization, or exclusion.

3.3.2 Post-earthquake initiatives in the sector of Livelihood

Both the SPHERE standards and the national policy documents, such as the National Strategic Plan of Action, place heavy importance on the livelihood recovery of disaster-affected people, specifically under the rehabilitation stage of the DRRM cycle. Guiding documents as such view livelihood strengthening and diversification as a means by which better individual income and capability can be enhanced, the resilience of the community as an entity can be further strengthened and the overall adaptation and coping capacity can be made stronger.

Findings from the case studies hence indicate the following livelihood efforts in Nepal in the post-2015 earthquake scenario.

Under the recommendation of the NGO federation and the NGO Rupantaran Nepal as the implementing body, a vocational training program, specifically a three-month cooking training program, and additional assistance in professional networking were conducted in Suryabinayak municipality in Bhaktapur district, Nepal. Interventions as such have yielded notable benefits to the people involved as people have become more financially independent and less reliant on others and/or on the government.

Red Cross Society-Nepal and Aastha-Nepal acknowledged the issue of numerous families having to live a life of poverty and hardship due to losing the prime income generators of the household. Targeting such economically fragile families in Lalitpur District, an initiative was implemented to encourage the people to realize their income diversification capabilities and to provide assistance to channel them into small-scale businesses. Regardless of the scale of such

initiated businesses, the benefits went well beyond just income and livelihood security and included stronger social dignity for the economically weak as well.

Agricultural training also seems to be a widely practiced and effective livelihood betterment tool among the NGOs in the post-earthquake scenario. RICOD targeted the people living in Temporary Shelters in Konjyosum Rural Municipality of Lalitpur district, Nepal, and provided them with agricultural training programs. The training program was designed such that it focused on more than just conventional and subsidy farming. It included sustainable ideas and, practical and first-hand knowledge dissemination on constructing agricultural tunnels, commercial farming techniques off-season farming, use of drip irrigation system, mulching

During such crisis, when living in temporary shelter every small help is appreciated. Even needles and thread helps to mend your torn clothes for the time being. Keeping this in our organization targeted people living in temporary shelter and providing them training programs on agriculture like off-season farming, drip irrigation, etc. to help sustain their lives.

-Rachana Maharjan, RICOD

techniques, mushroom farming, preparation of compost manure, and pest management using organic methods. The beneficiaries were taken to various organic farms within the

district to motivate them as well as help them learn about efficient and effective farming methods. Additionally, RICOD also supplied plastic sheets to make tunnels and local seeds to help with the initiation of the agricultural farming business. Such an initiative has helped various beneficiary families to overcome challenges of low income, has helped children of such families secure education, and has also motivated them to expand such businesses to be inclusive of poultry farming as well.

Prayas Nepal, in partnership with United Mission to Nepal, addressed the issues and problems of water supply in especially the heavily agriculture-dependent village in Dhading district, Nepal. The situation analysis revealed large-scale damage to households, cowsheds, and more importantly the crucial irrigation canals, which in turn rendered large areas of irrigable lands useless. Temporary shelters and housing supports, to a certain extent, solved the shelter problems, but the production loss due to the absence of irrigation was dire. Therefore within the post-earthquake Disaster Management Program, Prayas Nepal provided the beneficiaries with rods, cement, and wires, which were then utilized to construct RCC ditch to facilitate irrigation. The water supply has hence brought benefits in many forms, with the most notable being the increased agricultural productions.

Another similar farming-related training effort was initiated in Kalika Rural Municipality of Rasuwa District, Nepal, by Belabhumī Adhikari Manch and Atmanirbhar Kendra. Technical knowledge on nursery keeping, planting, sewage and weeding, pest management, and pesticide use, and safety training was shared with the beneficiaries. Also, various field staff with technical skills on the matter was mobilized and were sent to provide assistance, advice, suggestions, and encouragement to the beneficiaries. Calculating profitability and training on investment for income were also a significant part of the initiative. As a result, a lot of traditional agriculture practices were replaced with agriculture tunnels and smart planting choices whilst also simultaneously promoting financial independence and growth in self-esteem.

In a similar context, RICOD had also initiated goat raising training program in the Godawari Municipality of Lalitpur district, Nepal. The program beneficiaries received 3 days of goat rearing training, which included knowledge in methods of providing care to the goats at different stages of their life, their dietary requirements, methods of managing their sheds, risk of zoonotic diseases with potential harm to humans, and disease prevention through vaccinations. Field experiences and opportunities for practical knowledge were also organized through visits to various goat farms within the district itself. To help start the goat farming business, RICOD also provided improved breeds of a full-grown and two young goats Urea Molasses Mineral Block (UMMB) and fodder seeds along with the training. Such training has helped the beneficiaries to further expand their business and has helped them secure a reliable livelihood.

Sarokar Samba Sindhuli combined the livelihood strengthening initiatives with reconstruction efforts and helped families in Golanjor Rural Municipality in Sindhuli district, Nepal. The initiative began by coordinating with the Reconstruction Authority and helped the beneficiaries get themselves registered in the list of the Reconstruction Authority to receive their share of the financial support provided by the government. In the second phase, such beneficiaries were integrated into goat farming training which included consultations with experts in agriculture and animal husbandry. Such families then progressed on to initiate combinations of agricultural and animal farming practices using modern-day practices and have motivated many other members of the society to do the same.

Some livelihood initiatives however focus on and contribute to strengthening the skills that the people already have. In this context CCDN, Partner of Stromme Foundation began the initiative

to aid in livelihood recovery for a blacksmith family in Kanchanthali, Aambhanjyan VDC in Makwanpur District, Nepal. Given the loss of machinery and tools due to the earthquake, the program provided financial support on top of the government support to help the continuation of the blacksmith business. A bundle of CGI sheets, working tools, and a quintal of raw iron were provided as support. The beneficiaries have had the opportunity to strengthen their livelihoods and have also importantly had the capability to address various psychological and physical ailments caused due to the disaster. CCDN also conducted a similar initiative in Bakaya VDC of the same district and supported the livelihood strengthening of a person with a disability who previously belonged to the profession of teaching. The beneficiary was provided with a combination of support which included teaching materials (included desks, benches, and a whiteboard) and training on vegetable farming and its required materials (a quintal of potato seed, chemical fertilizer, and pesticides). The combination of the two has helped secure a decent earning for the beneficiary family.

Lessons to identify from such case studies include the following. It is important to channel and streamline various interventions to economic recovery based on the knowledge and resources of the affected communities. The above case studies show success when assistance was focused on agriculture and livestock training, based on their known occupations and relevance to the local market. Furthermore, it can also be derived that investment is necessary for rehabilitating infrastructure of economic activities such as irrigation canals for agriculture.

3.3.3 Post-earthquake initiatives in the sector of Protection

Although disaster hits a given area and its residents quite equally, the effect and distress felt by the people differ significantly. In a lot of cases, it is due to the vulnerability factor, as already discussed in prior sections. Given the existence of such disparity arising out of the complexity of vulnerability, the SPHERE standards, as well as various national guidelines, emphasize the protection of vulnerable population groups, which often comprise women, children, elderly, PWDs, socially excluded, and various others. The protection principles also highlight the importance of addressing such issues through various areas of concern such as child protection, gender-based violence, refugee rights, internally displaced populations, social dignity, and many more.

Findings from the case studies hence indicate the following protection efforts in Nepal in the post-2015 earthquake scenario.

Sahayatri Samaj Nepal has been dedicatedly working against gender-based violence and women's access to justice with a priority focus on helping the most vulnerable women, children, and hence communities. In this regard, Sahayatri Samaj Nepal had implemented an initiative to prioritize the pregnant women close to giving birth and women in postpartum and recognize them as a population group at high risk. Under this initiative, safe spaces were built in five places in Dhading district, Nepal. The safe spaces provided the at-risk women with proper drinking water, nutritious food, and comfortable space for their daily care routine. Sahayatri Samaj Nepal also addressed the lack of vulnerability prioritization in the district and initiated dialogues with the Chief District Officer of the Disaster Management Committee and enabled prioritized relief material distribution. Such efforts brought a lot of benefits to those pregnant women who were in dire need of relief materials and support. Within the same district Sahayatri Samaj Nepal also initiated small-scale programs to address the sanitary needs of especially women with disabilities, who were injured and admitted to the district hospital. Two women volunteers were specifically mobilized for the care of such injured and women with disabilities and five disability-friendly toilets were constructed as well. Such initiatives helped deliver the much-needed special care for the most vulnerable and the needy of the community.

The SAHAS project, run in partnership with Unification Nepal Gorkha and DCA, initiated an effort combining the motive of protection of the marginalized and livelihood strengthening in Bhumlichowk village in Gorkha district, Nepal. The marginalized groups of the village, such as the Chepang, were identified and an analysis of their potential profitable skills was conducted.

With the identification of weaving “Doko” as a valuable skill, the beneficiaries were gathered and

SAHAS has helped the Chepangs of Bhumilchowk by strengthening their livelihood as it has taught them profit making skills, and protecting their social dignity.

-Sitaram Shrestha, NGO Federation Gorkha

business plans were developed as per the investment conditions, raw materials, production cost, and the market conditions. Financial grants were then provided in two installments, one during the launch and another following the initiation of business operations for the growth of the business. Such initiatives aided the beneficiaries to gain social dignity as well as much-needed protection.

Addressing the situation of trees being cut down by marginalized communities haphazardly for temporary construction of houses and barns in a village in Dhading district, Nepal, and to address the increased risk of landslide, flood, and soil erosion, Prayas Nepal, in partnership with United Mission to Nepal, launched an initiative to organize Disaster Risk Reduction Plan

Program. The major motive was to select and rehabilitate such at-risk areas and to coordinate tree planting with local community forests to reduce the impacts of climate change and global warming as well. For the encouragement of plantation, a 7-day training program was organized targeting the community forest members on nursery management. Besides seeds, poly bags, plastic, and other materials, as well as necessary advice and suggestions were also provided to the beneficiary groups. Such initiatives fulfilled the goals of a-forestation and allowed the marginalized to efficiently use the forest and natural other non-timber products without upsetting the natural balance.

Lessons to learn from such cases might be the following. Disasters make the life of the most at-risk population groups immensely difficult, such as pregnant women, lactating mothers, and marginalized groups. Providing the necessary support that meets their immediate needs, such as food, health care, hygiene, and sanitation, enhances their protection. Rehabilitation after the disasters could increase pressure on the natural resource base available in and around the temporary settlement proximities. Protection of natural resources is deemed important in contributing to environmental protection which in turn contributes significantly to the long-term protection efforts of the entire community and especially the marginalized. Reducing pressure on the natural resources base can also contribute to the aversion of various disputes and distress among the community residents.

3.3.4 Post-earthquake initiatives in the sector of WASH

International standards, especially the Sphere Minimum Standards for water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) promotion exist on the grounds of crucial right to access of water and sanitation in humanitarian crisis contexts and beyond, such that it addresses the need for proper WASH initiatives even in post-disaster scenarios. It is based upon beliefs, principles and rights declared in the Humanitarian Charter and indicate a cross-sector presence spanning across the aspects of dignity, protection, and humanitarian assistance based on needs. The national efforts in Nepal are complementary to such ideologies and are often verified by the efforts of the Ministry of Water supply and Sanitation (MoWS) in streamlining DRM and Climate change Adaptation (CCA) guidelines in WASH.

Findings from the case studies hence indicate the following WASH efforts in Nepal in the post-2015 earthquake scenario.

FOCUS Nepal, under the financial support of Christian Aid, had an initiative in Siddhalek RM ward, Dhading, Nepal, to help solve the issue of the absence of pipelines for domestic water supply. Acknowledging how the need to walk for multiple hours to reach the nearest water source would create hardships and hamper the livelihoods and education of the people, FOCUS Nepal supported the construction of drinking water and irrigation facility. Following the establishment of a Small Scale schemes construction committee, construction of collection chambers, RVT of eleven thousand liters, repair of already existing RVT, and support for distribution pipelines were made. Beneficiaries were then able to rejoice in a better lifestyle and were able to strengthen their livelihoods through better production yield as well.

A similar issue was addressed in Tamakoshi rural municipality, Dolakha district, Nepal, where the water source was far from the areas of settlements, and there was very little possibility of using the water for agricultural or sanitary purposes. The problem further escalated when the earthquake destroyed the water sources comparatively nearby and compelled the people to

Previously people of Tamakoshi area had to travel many hours to fetch water after the local water resources dried up after the earthquake. However, with partnerships with different aids 68 water taps in the village was installed with formation of consumer committee and this has improved the sanitation level of the village.

-Dil Bahadur KC, NGO Federation Dolakha

travel farther distances for drinking water. Under the Dolakha program of integrated shelter, climate adaptation, and disaster risk reduction program in partnership with Christian Aid and Community

Development Forum, various surveys were initiated, and eventually, more than 68 water taps were connected to the households. A maintenance fund was also set up and the Consumer Committee was made responsible for the collection of fees from the consumers for regular maintenance. The intervention impact was in the line of ease of sanitation, livestock and agricultural betterment, and better education opportunities given the absence of the need to travel for drinking water.

OXFAM and COSOC Nepal, under the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene program, took the initiative to support the economically weak families in Satyadevi VDC in Dhading, Nepal. Extension of support and distribution materials such as pan, pipe, rod, cement, binding wire, plain sheet, tower bolt, handle, nails and hinge for either new toilet construction or repairing the existing ones were the core activities of the initiative. The modality was community-based and hence the community member themselves were encouraged to invest in their efforts and use locally available products, in addition to those provided by the supporting NGOs, to

construct the toilets. The beneficiaries, as a result, could practice good sanitary practices and personal hygiene and reduce their overall vulnerability to various hazards. Such initiatives also served to initiate a chain reaction which motivated various other families, who were not within the original group of beneficiaries, to build their toilets by learning from others.

Lessons learned from such case studies include the following. Allocation of resources from the government for water and sanitation facilities is not adequate for which NGOs can be instrumental in terms of generating additional resources. An efficient mode of sustainability has also been demonstrated by the creation of a user fee mechanism and a water users group, which facilitates the continued operation and management of the newly constructed revitalized water supply systems.

3.3.5 Post-earthquake initiatives in the sector of Education

Deprivation of education is one of the most concerning and long-term affecting issues that come combined with the onset of any disaster. The destruction of educational infrastructures itself and the conversion of schools as refuge shelters for the disaster-affected people disturbs the normal operations of such institutions. This has been a major concern expressed in many international and national policies. Furthermore, SPHERE standards also highlight the importance of running schools as early as possible for creating a safe space for the children and availing psychosocial support to the affected children.

Findings from the case studies indicate the following Education efforts in Nepal in the post-2015 earthquake scenario.

To reduce the number of children deprived of schooling and education, and to address the additional issue of psychological trauma and stress on children, Sahakarya Nepal, in cooperation with Finn Church Aid and under the funding of EU and UNICEF, supported the construction of Transitional Learning Center (TLC) in Pipalmadi VDC, Sindhuli district, Nepal. In a similar effort, Sahakarya Nepal, under

We made TLC in Pipalmadi with help from EU and UNICEF so that children who could not study in the aftermath of earthquake could regularly study and provided them with psychological counselling.

-Jankak BK, NGO Federation Sindhuli

the same funding and cooperation mechanism, also supported the reconstruction of a school in Ambote & Jinakhu VDC of the same district. Also, orientation on hygiene promotion & WASH facility maintenance, including proper handwashing steps, menstrual hygiene, personal

hygiene, surrounding sanitation, and water purification methods were given to the students, parents, and teachers as an effort to make the schools more resilient and prevent them from being possible sources of disease contamination. The distribution of UNICEF school kit materials was also included and had a significant benefit in the increase in the number of attendance in schools.

The 'SAHAS' project run in partnership with Ekikaran Nepal Gorkha and Denmark Smiling, and under DCA's financial support focused on improving the education for the children of the marginalized communities in Ward 2 and 6 of Gandaki RM in Gorkha District, Nepal. The initiative began with the identification of the schools which the tribal and marginalized groups would attend. In such schools, the walls were then painted with various attractive and simultaneously informational graphics, which caught the attention of the students and helped them to learn and become better educated. Schools even reported the improved academic status of the students as a result of such initiatives.

The lessons that can be drawn from such case studies include the following. It is found that rehabilitating the school classrooms, equipping those with teaching and learning materials, and rehabilitating additional amenities, such as WASH facilities, contribute to starting a protective learning environment for the children.

3.4 Findings from the Stakeholders' Discussion

After conducting 14 district-level interaction programs along with a national-level interaction program with the representatives of 14 severely earthquake-affected districts, many conclusions could be drawn regarding the performance, abilities, institutional capacities, and lessons learned during and after the earthquake.

3.4.1 Coordination and Collaboration among Stakeholders

In the aftermath of the earthquake, the local NGOs themselves were traumatized and donors and various INGOs felt this. In the meantime, there was a lot of crowding in the affected areas to provide help. To ensure coordination, in various districts NGO Federation and

In Dhading after the earthquake many INGOs came in for relief distribution as a result there was crowding and the relief works were not responsive enough. Thus, we made them work in clusters in coordination with DDRC and local NGOs which had an immediate impact.

-Ekraj Chhatkuli, NGO Federation Dhading

DDRC requested donors/INGOs to collaborate with local NGOs to effectively distribute relief

packages. Along with this, districts like Sindhupalchowk, which accounted for almost 45% of the total human casualty with massive physical destruction, enforced a policy that required the external agencies and I/NGOs willing to work in the district, to need permissions from District Development Committee. This enabled them to form groups and make them work in clusters. During the crisis, most organizations focused only on district headquarters ignoring rural areas but they were later sent to these rural areas to provide relief and help as per need assessment. Afterward, all the incoming reliefs were monitored and so that they could provide it to all the affected rather than unequal distribution that had occurred before the coordination and collaboration which resulted in some affected getting tons of relief while the rest got nothing.

There were instances like in Sindhupalchowk where NGOs tackled fake news created by the media that claimed NGOs had spent a lot more than actual by coordinating with each other and created real data related to expenditure. Also, they had previously made DPRP and clusters were made before the earthquake. Thus, immediately after the earthquake, they were able to do cluster meetings DDRC and do so time and again for updates and proper response. Like in the case of the rural area of Melamchi in Sindhupalchowk the cluster worked with the leadership from the Nepal army to provide relief in the necessary area. Surya Bahadur Thapa explains that "In the context of coordination and collaboration, they had formed a FRIENDS group which included all kinds of the people from the affected community, local concerned authority, members of political parties and donors. They would decide the beneficiaries of the community and distribute the relief and support. This ensured that duplication was avoided and conflict was successfully minimized. Also, DDRC was constantly informed and invited for monitoring." He also gave examples of how NGOs assisted and help with the government scheme related to insuring the livestock. The NGOs explained to the people in the locality how the scheme would work and even provided 25% more assistance on the government scheme which was already providing 50% subsidy.

3.4.2 Public-Private Partnership and Networking

From what was gathered from the discussion, public-private partnership is heard a lot about but none of this was realized as most of the activities from the private sector were done as a part of their CSR, which resulted in vulnerable being left

Some households with seemingly enough resources procured raw materials from vendors in credit for reconstruction but many extremely vulnerable households could not benefit from these kind of public-private partnerships due lack of resources and facilitation.

-Dronacharya Timalisina, SSICDC, Gorkha

behind. Working with private sectors in collaboration was a tough job in general as they did not want to bear any risks. Like in the case of Gorkha and Dhadhing vendors did give materials in credit but to only those whom they thought the payback was guaranteed but not to those that were extremely vulnerable. In these cases, the NGO Federation facilitated the process by taking any kind of future responsibilities. There were examples of private sectors helping immediately after the earthquake-like, the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI)-Kaski immediately provided help and relief in the Rasuwa district. But, they helped on some ordinary level mostly individually but the help was not done in an organized way.

3.4.3 Governance, Quality & Accountability, Complain Hearing Mechanism

Regarding good governance, everyone did this as a part of donor compliance that made them put suggestion box and toll-free hotline numbers to register complaints. The organizations would do meeting updates and confirm where the policies were followed up or not. Thus, due to the earthquake institutional development was done and policies were developed and this

presented the NGOs with a big opportunity regarding governance. Like in Dhading, FOCUS-Nepal developed 11 policies in the aftermath of the

Our organization made different policies for the recovery and relief works in the aftermath of earthquake as donor compliance. However, it has helped us to make our works more transparent and good governance has been established.

-Ichchharam Sapkota, CDECF, Sindhupalchowk

earthquake that is still in use. Being a civil society organization that is a watchdog of all kinds of development, good governance is a necessity, thus public hearing in every project was put in place. The budget and source of the budget were put up as notice in front of any kind of development or reconstruction work along with Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) by providing complaint form while providing relief materials. The volunteers explain that the suggestion box did not provide results as expected but the hotline numbers did help. Mr. Dronacharya Timalsina said, “The donors ask about the good governance from local level NGOs or partners but they need to upon to open up about their transparency.”

3.4.4 Sustainability of NGO Intervention

During the recovery phase, the concept of sustainability was thought of and since the WASH sector was most worked, thus they focused on this primarily. Since the community had received a lot of responses and a mindset developed in them that they would get another help even if the existing got destroyed. First and foremost they minimized this sort of thinking and made user committees and registered it and developed an O&M plan and fund and handed it to the groups. Likewise, a consumer committee was made and a tie-up was created between the local government and them. In the livelihood upliftment sector, groups were focused than individuals, and farmers were taught to make groups establish cooperatives, and then they were tied up with the local

government to establish the beneficiaries to continue even after the project period. But, since the community had

Many communities benefitted from newly made water supply systems. To ensure their sustainability O&M plans were formulated for these and also user groups were formed and tied to government institutions.

- Gobinda Prasad Sapkota, CDECF, Sindhupalchowk

received a lot of responses and a mindset developed in them that they would get another help even if the existing got destroyed. First and foremost they minimized this sort of thinking and made user committees and registered it and developed an O&M plan and fund and handed it to the groups. Thus, an exit strategy also as a part of donor compliance was followed to ensure the sustainability of the projects. Similarly, by coordinating with other NGOs and local government they ensured that all the projects in the area were done by keeping the local government in the loop so that they would not put the budget for the same activity twice and rather separate the fund for O&M of the constructed projects.

But in the case of shelter management, after the temporary shelters, the government gave models of houses for reconstruction to the affected. However, they were not sustainable to rural households as they did not meet their needs thus they keep on adding bits and parts to their houses.

3.4.5 Important Learning of NGOs Including Bitter Experience and Areas to be improved by NGOs in future DRRM Intervention

The role played by various numbers of NGOs during and post 2015 earthquake was remarkable.

Their strong networking within the affected communities helped the government to navigate search and rescue efforts and post-earthquake rehabilitation programs. They also actively advocated for the rights of the victims and affected families and communities. They provided

When formulating a project, community people feel that it should be demand driven and often ask us to facilitate a meeting between them and donors so they have an opportunity to suggest and express their needs.

- Ram Babu Dhakal, ROPE-Nepal

I feel that despite what we all have achieved there are still lapses in communication between the NGOs and our local government and this needs to be addressed so that in future affected get quicker response.

- Binod Lamichhane, NGO Federation Rasuwa

them with material, moral and emotional support. During this process, the institutional capacity of the organization and the government was tested. The need for proper legal and institutional instruments and frameworks was largely felt. It also showed some of the fundamental weaknesses in disaster management operations and the NGO sector mirrored the government's lack of preparedness for a crisis. During and after the crisis-affected faced many barriers. There

A Mobilization Guideline for NGOs during the times of diasaster would really be fruitful to make the entire operation swift and responsive.

- Sitaram Shrestha, NGO Federation Gorkha

were overlapping and repetition of work within the NGO sector. The outreach of the NGO sector was far from organized and the chain of communication and

coordination within the NGO sector and with government agencies was ineffective and inefficient in various parts of the country.

3.5 Summary of good practices adopted by NGOs in post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation

Various activities and assistance related to reconstruction and rehabilitation conducted by different I/NGOs were performed in an integrated, coordinated, and equitable manner. The assistance that was received for reconstruction and rehabilitation were mobilized transparently and efficiently and an environment was created in which national and international knowledge, skills, and resources could be utilized to the maximum in the reconstruction, rehabilitation, and

livelihood activities of the disaster affected areas. Similarly, uniformity in performance by creating an atmosphere of trust between government agencies, international donors, non-governmental organizations, local communities, and other stakeholders involved in the reconstruction and rehabilitation work was achieved and all the activities conducted by the partner organization were mainstreamed following the Post Disaster Need Assessment Damage (PDNA) and Post Disaster Rehabilitation Framework (PDRF) action plan and duplication of grants from government and non-government sectors to the beneficiaries of reconstruction and rehabilitation were eliminated.

While conducting reconstruction, rehabilitation, and livelihood programs from partner organizations, the same system approach was utilized by the NGOs. While mobilizing the partner organizations, geographical area and thematically affected areas and beneficiaries were covered by listing names through a fast process. While working in a certain geographical location or a certain thematic area, the lead partner organization was identified and the work was done by grouping other partner organizations under that organization. For this purpose, NEA determined the basis of choosing the lead partner organizations.

The local infrastructure including rehabilitation, community relocation, integrated community development, reconstruction of private housing, maintenance, reinforcement, and drinking water and sanitation were developed at the local level along with historical heritages and monuments, and other urban infrastructure. Human Resource Development, income Generation, livelihood, skill development training, and other activities related to economic and social rehabilitation including self-employment was done by different NGOs in severely affected areas of Nepal. Also, works related to mapping, design, and construction of government buildings and other structures, schools, health institutions, and community buildings, resource centers, etc., and assisting in the planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction and management of any area or administrative unit were done by NGOs. Finally, earth and its related studies, research, risk assessment, and mitigation activities along with technical assistance, Disaster Risk Reduction, public awareness, construction materials and equipment distribution, supply chain management, transportation of construction materials, and grants were other activities where NGOs have actively participated in community and local level.

Some of the exemplary activities carried out by different I/NGOs across 14 severely affected districts in post-earthquake rehabilitation and recovery are as bellows:

- Conducted technical and other capacity-building training programs to mainstream the beneficiaries of the poor and marginalized community.
- Conducted infrastructure and livelihood activities in the relocated settlements.
- In addition to the damaged private houses, the physical and social infrastructures were reconstructed as per the criteria prescribed by the concerned bodies.
- Encouraged the development of the latest technology as well as basic knowledge and green technology in the reconstruction work.
- Used approved standards, design, construction method, and quality construction materials during the reconstruction.
- Carried out works related to the construction and maintenance of public sector structures.
- Performed data collection, processing, and utilization activities.
- Adopted the concept of "Build Back Better" while carrying out the work of reconstruction.

Chapter 4

4.1 Conclusion

Following the 2015 earthquake, NGOs carried out several programs for recovery and restoration in various communities throughout the 14 severely affected districts. This study was carried to review the DRRM plan and policy from the lens of CSOs' participation, contribution, and their specific roles and responsibilities and analyze the local government's opinion on the impacts of DRRM activities carried out by CSOs. Likewise, the study identified major DRR initiatives, plans, institutional capacity, and DRRM activities of CSOs and their policies, system, and operational modalities and collect replicable and exemplary work of CSOs at the community, household, and institutional level.

A training package, under the guidance and supervision of disaster management experts and professionals, was drafted. The training revolved around raising sensitization towards DRRM and familiarization of concepts and research methods and was specifically structured to suit the level of representatives of various NGOs involved in DRRM programs. The representatives of NGOs from 14 severely earthquake-affected districts were given ToT. The participants were oriented regarding the importance of the study to compile, analyze and document the Gorkha 2015 earthquake recovery efforts undertaken by NGOs. The participants were consulted for the preparation of questionnaires for the survey and about the case studies necessary for the study. With the help of the ToT trained representatives of the selected NGOs, separate District Level Orientation Events were conducted for different districts. The case studies and questionnaires received from the district NGOs were reviewed and, as required later, improved with further investigation in the incomplete case stories. The information was processed to make it applicable for the study.

From the 14 district level discussions held in severely earthquake-affected districts in presence of the ToT participants who facilitated the programs and the study team successfully got a chance to hear the first-hand experiences of many responders that worked with their respective NGOs in the period of earthquake recovery. The NGOs worked in clusters in the aftermath of the earthquake and collaborated with different donors and government institutions to provide relief to the affected. For instance, in many places of the severely earthquake-affected districts, they facilitated public-private partnerships allowing the affected to buy raw materials from shops early in credit so they could continue the reconstruction works. NGOs were able to build policies and work following them that made their activities more transparent and built

complaint hearing mechanisms to reach out to the affected efficiently. From the meetings with stakeholders, it could be concluded that sustainability was ensured by NGOs in many of their projects by handing it over to communities by forming user groups and linking them with government institutions, and making operation and maintenance plans for the projects. However, the outreach of the NGO sector was far from organized and the chain of communication and coordination within the NGO sector and with government agencies was ineffective and inefficient in various parts of the country and the stakeholders hinted that this could be largely improved.

From the analysis of questionnaires handed out to different NGOs that worked in the affected districts, it was found that most of the financial capital was mobilized in WASH which was 18.3 % of the total financial capital and 16.9% of total financial capital was mobilized for reconstruction. This can be attributed to the fact that there is an immediate need for safe drinking water and sanitation in the aftermath of such a mega-disaster and with the housings and other necessary infrastructures collapsed at a large scale, NGOs heavily supported reconstruction as well. Likewise, many people benefitted from the activities of NGOs along with the marginalized and vulnerable communities as around 7% of Dalits were shown to be either direct beneficiaries or were mobilized by NGOs as technical or non-technical human resources.

The study team collected many case stories from the different participants and revisited them for fruitful learnings of good practices and lessons learned. The case studies documented the various activities done at the community and household level that resulted in the rehabilitation of the communities and built them back better. Many water supply projects were built at the community level with the local participation by making user groups and forming Operation & Maintenance plans making them sustainable. Likewise, Temporary Learning Centers (TLC) were made in the affected area so that education of children was not hampered, disability-friendly structures like temporary shelters, toilets were made, and many such successful cases were registered.

The study recommended that NGOs should ensure the adequate inclusion of the marginalized and vulnerable communities by coordinating amongst each other and other governmental and non-governmental bodies. Likewise, the study recommends that community participation must be ensured in every process of the DRRM by NGOs, the projects must be demand-driven, the local government must formulate and regularly revise a clear Standard Operating Procedure in

the context of disaster management and the government should introduce 'NGO Mobilization Guideline for Post-Disaster situation' to guide and streamline NGOs interventions.

The study has discovered the lessons during the period of research such as government should recognize the capability of NGOs to act as first responders, and in the immediate aftermath of the 2015 earthquake, the government was unable to reach all the affected places efficiently to provide an effective response. During this crisis, NGOs assisted the government by providing relief and assistance in these affected places and saved the government from public outcry, and mitigated the crisis. Similarly, in a disaster situation, the local NGOs know the affected communities and their people and can provide an immediate and efficient response and can deal with different kinds of rumors by understanding them thoroughly and relaying the actual information to the general public.

4.2 Recommendation

The study from the consultation with various stakeholders has generated the following recommendations:

- NGOs must ensure the adequate number of marginalized and vulnerable people in their human resources and mobilize them when needed. Likewise, it can be also applicable in cases of identifying beneficiaries from marginalized and vulnerable communities and assisting them.
- NGOs mobilized significant financial resources in the recovery of the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake and proper and accurate mapping of vulnerable groups, areas, and region is likely to increase the effectiveness of response and recovery works; and pre-disaster efforts like mitigation and preparedness must be done in such areas in coordination with all stakeholders aiming to raise awareness and community's capacity while adopting a whole-of-society approach.
- NGOs need to share the data and resources they have available amongst each other digitally under simplified categorization without any barriers along with their institutional capacities and scope for better communication and collaboration to avoid duplication.
- Community participation must be ensured in every process of the DRRM by NGOs to promote indigenous knowledge, increase community awareness, establish knowledge sharing culture, ensure ownership within the local community and facilitate monitoring and evaluation process.

- Projects must be demand-driven and consultation between affected communities and donors before the start of the project is necessary and should be facilitated by NGOs. The NGOs must also make it a priority to align their goals and projects with the national priorities and goals.
- Local government must formulate and regularly revise a clear Standard Operating Procedure in the context of disaster management which must be DRRM centric and it must clearly state the roles and functions of NGOs, civil society, and private sector so that bureaucracy will not be an obstacle to humanitarian issues.
- Government should introduce the 'NGO Mobilization Guideline for Post-Disaster situation' to guide and streamline NGOs' interventions

4.3 Lesson learned

The study has discovered the following lessons related to CSOs contribution to the 2015 Gorkha earthquake on 14 severely affected districts:

- As NGOs are the first responders in the disaster response in their respective communities, the government should utilize the capability of NGOs and engage them in DRRM activities.
- In the immediate aftermath of the 2015 earthquake, the government was unable to reach all the affected places efficiently to provide an effective response. During this crisis, NGOs assisted the government by providing relief and assistance in these affected places and saved the government from public outcry, and mitigated the crisis. Hence the NGOs can be used in similar circumstances by recognizing NGOs' competency.
- During times of disaster, the coordination is weak amongst the various governmental and non-governmental institutions working on helping the affected, and NGOs can play a coordinator role and help the needy group by prioritizing them using the one-door policy.
- In a disaster situation, the local NGOs know the affected communities and their people and can provide an immediate and efficient response. Thus, NGOs should be pre-positioned to deal with such scenarios.
- NGOs can deal with different kinds of rumors by understanding them thoroughly and relaying the actual information to the general public. So, NGOs can be used to clarify such confusion and other queries.

- People's trust in NGOs can decline while working on disasters as they mobilize a lot of funds while working in such scenarios, so public participation can be ensured in such works and public hearings can be done to provide accountability to the general public and increase their trust.
- The study suggests that most of the post-earthquake recovery efforts are concentrated on physical infrastructures. Priorities should also be put on sensitizing the public affected by the trauma of disaster by providing needed psycho-social counseling. This is often overlooked however it is equally important to deal with like working in rehabilitating and reconstructing physical infrastructures.

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Annex-I

Case study

1. Topic selection and title

Choose topics that are appealing with appropriate titles

Title

.....

2. Introduction

Write briefly the details introducing the concerned organization or person such as full name, address, contact number, age, number of family members, and what motivated him/her to do related work?

3. Content description

For example, how afforestation started on the hill slopes, who gave technical advice or training, what are the benefits of afforestation in the present and future? etc.

4. Mention some of the challenges and solutions you used.

Note: You will also need to attach some suitable pictures that will need a thousand words to describe.

Case Study Compiler:

Address:

Contact No.

Date:

Signature

Questionnaire

(For district based NGOs)

NGO federation has been involving in social studies and research since its establishment. After the 2015 earthquake, the Federation itself and its member organizations have been carrying out various activities in the field of disaster management in the most affected 14 districts due to the earthquake. In this regard, the Federation has prepared this questionnaire intending to study the contribution made by NGOs in this field. We hope that you will support the study by giving appropriate answers to the following questions

1. Details of the respondent and the organization

A. Name of the organization:

B. Name of the respondent:

b. Position:

=

C. Respondent contact number:

D. Organization Address: District Municipality Ward No.

E. Institution Registration District:

F. Year of establishment:

2. When did the organization start working in the disaster area? (choose one)

A. Before the 2015 earthquake

b. After the 2015 earthquake

3. Choose the fields of disaster management in which your organization gained experience.

Education	Health	Drinking water	Shelter	School	Health post

Mention if any other

7. Mention some of the roles your organization has contributed towards government policymaking since 2015, in the field of disaster management.

8. Write down the remarkable activities of your organization relating to social awareness, inclusion, and good governance, accountability, while working in the field of disaster management.

- 1.
- 2.

9. Were the complaint arrangements made for your organization's beneficiary when working in the field of disaster management.

- A. Yes
- B. No

If yes, what did you do?

- 1.
- 2.

10. Please write down the main lessons learned by your organization, when working in the field of disaster management.

- 1.
- 2.

11. If there is anything else related to the field of disaster management, please mention it below.

- 1.
- 2.

Data Collector:
No.

Address:

Contact

Date:

Signature