

**HelpAge
International**

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**2015 Nepal Earthquake Response Project
PUTTING OLDER PEOPLE FIRST**



**A Special newsletter produced by HelpAge
to mark the first four months of the April 2015
Earthquake**

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Message from the Regional Director

It is my great pleasure to contribute a few words to this HelpAge International Nepal e-newsletter being published to mark the four-month anniversary of the earthquake of 25 April, 2015, focusing on 'Putting Older People First in a Humanitarian Response'.

Of the eight million people in the 14 most earthquake-affected districts¹, an estimated 650,000 are Older People over 60 years of age², and are among the most at risk population in immediate need of humanitarian assistance. When factoring-in long-standing social, cultural and gender inequalities, the level of vulnerability is even higher among the 163,043 earthquake-affected older women³.

In response to the earthquake, HelpAge, in collaboration with the government and in partnership with local NGOs, is implementing cash transfers, transitional shelter, health and inclusion-protection activities targeting affected Older People and their families.

Furthermore, an Age and Disability Task Force-Nepal (ADTF-N)⁴ has been formed to highlight the specific needs and vulnerabilities of Older People and Persons with Disabilities and to put them at the centre of the earthquake recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. HelpAge continues to engage with the cluster system at national and district levels to ensure that Older People are included in the humanitarian response activities of all actors.

HelpAge welcomes the innovative, combined efforts of stakeholders, including the youth, to **Speak Up** for and support an age-friendly humanitarian response that addresses the fundamental needs of earthquake-affected Older People, including the provision of shelter, protection, livelihoods, health, WASH and legal services, among others.

As this e-newsletter represents the voice of earthquake-affected Older People from the field as well as the demands and opinions of organisations working for Older People and Persons with Disabilities, I sincerely hope it will be instrumental in contributing to a coordinated and inclusive humanitarian response that is adequate, accessible, acceptable and accountable to the most vulnerable earthquake-affected Older People, and those Older People caring for their families and/or with younger dependents.

I thank our partner Ageing Nepal for collaborating in publishing and disseminating this e-newsletter and I recognise the efforts my team has put in to ensure its timely publication.

I look forward to your continued cooperation to promote and strengthen the issues and rights of earthquake-affected Older People in the wider humanitarian response based on the human rights principles of equality, impartiality, neutrality and non-discrimination.

With Best Wishes,

Peter McGeachie

South Asia, Regional Director

HelpAge International

Kathmandu, August 2015

¹Nepal Earthquake 2015, Executive Summary Post Disaster Needs Assessment, Government of Nepal.

²Based on the national average of Older People from the total population in most earthquake affected districts.

³ Presentation by the Protection Cluster Gender Working Group.

⁴ ADTF-N is a core network of national and international and organisations at national level that strives to build greater awareness with humanitarian responders to better integrate and be sensitive to the particular needs and vulnerabilities of earthquake-affected Older People and Persons with Disabilities.

Editorial – Putting Older People First

The earthquake that struck on 25 April 2015 in Nepal did not just leave behind physical destruction and debris, but also scattered the spirits and morale of the entire country. The two major earthquakes that followed, on 26 April and 12 May respectively, only exacerbated the suffering of the affected populations.

In the four months since *that* Saturday afternoon, we have seen countless footages and videos of the deceased as well as survivors and relief-beneficiaries. We have heard and read stories about the relief work done by our policemen, army men, and countless individuals at local-community levels. Though global media attention on our post-earthquake situation may have tapered off gradually, the attention and commitment of humanitarian agencies that, both in and outside of Nepal, continues to be focussed on how we can continue to make things better and easier for a population that still requires aid and support.

'Putting Older People First' is what we in HelpAge strive to personify in our humanitarian responses all over the world. As you turn the pages of this newsletter, you will see glimpses of the unique work that HelpAge International in Nepal has now come to be recognised and appreciated for – a unique, specific response to addressing the needs of one of the most neglected, and forgotten, population groups in Nepal, Older People above 60 years of age, in the present humanitarian response.

We hope that the stories you will read in this newsletter, from both young and Older People, commendable outputs of coordination and networks between HelpAge and like-minded agencies, and reflections of how our immediate responses have helped our target beneficiaries further help themselves, in approaches that are uniquely specialised and catered to Older People's unique and distinct conditions, will leave a lasting impact on your understanding of Older People.

'Putting Older People First' is what we in HelpAge strive to personify in our humanitarian responses all over the world.

We are indebted firstly to the Government of Nepal for allowing us to cater exclusively to our designated target beneficiaries, Older People in Nepal, in a humanitarian response in a scale and magnitude well-beyond our initial expectations. Our national partners, especially the National Senior Citizen's Federation, have supported us tirelessly in ensuring that the immediate and urgent needs of Older People affected by the earthquake are addressed by an organisation that understands clearly how their needs vary and differ from general populations that humanitarian response usually seek to address.

Lastly, a warm word of appreciation and gratitude must be conveyed to Ageing Nepal, one of our oldest advocacy partners in Nepal, for their commitment to contributing to a wider platform news and updates from our work here.

It is our sincerest effort to reproduce this information outlet on a regular basis, and our deepest hope that you will gain valuable knowledge and understanding of just how HelpAge looks at humanitarian responses, and how we continue to lead others in terms of understanding the actual and specific needs, risks, and capacities of our Older People. If our work inspires you to learn more about us and partner and support us, our Older People will, gradually and gladly, realise that they are now the subjects of a growing number of well-wishers and benefactors.

We hope to share more with you next time.

Pradesh K Rai

Advocacy, Communication, and Fundraising Coordinator
HelpAge International Nepal
Kathmandu, August 2015

HelpAge International in Nepal

2015 Nepal Earthquake Response Project

Background:

Immediately after the earthquake on 25th April 2015, HelpAge International Nepal initiated its 2015 Nepal Earthquake Response (NERP). HelpAge discussed with its local partners the possible steps to urgently address the needs of earthquake-affected Older People. A three-pronged earthquake response was then created which sought to address the growing needs of Older People affected by the earthquake, which consisted of the following components:

- (i) Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCTs)** to meet the immediate basic needs of vulnerable Older People, Persons with Disabilities and other vulnerable groups living in the worst-affected districts.
- (ii) Health Interventions** to support the medical needs of Older People, Persons with Disabilities and other vulnerable groups in most affected districts through age-focused health camps, including eye care and psychosocial support.
- (iii) Inclusion-Protection Programme** to include Older People and Persons with Disabilities in the emergency response of humanitarian actors, including the government, UN agencies and donors through advocacy.

i) Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCTs)



HelpAge observed UCTs as the most appropriate humanitarian response in order to improve Older People's ability to meet their immediate humanitarian needs, including access to medical services, and labour for shelter repair and/or temporary shelter construction.

From May-July 2015, an unconditional cash grant of Nrs 7,500 (USD 75) was given to 10,516 Older People above 60 years of age in a total of 11 most-affected districts¹. The cash amount was done in adherence to the recommendations of the UNOCHA's Cash Coordination Working Group.

The UCTs included a systematic distribution process such as rapid needs assessment; liaison and coordination with relevant local authorities; beneficiary identification and validation; and post-distribution monitoring. A complaint mechanism was also instituted to allow beneficiaries and stakeholders to report challenges faced during the entire UCTs process. All complaints and feedback received from various channels during and after the UCTs were recorded, investigated and necessary action taken upon.

A post-distribution monitoring (PDM) was undertaken in all 11 UCTs districts through random sampling of beneficiaries to evaluate the use of UCTs by Older People.

¹Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Tanahu, Kaski, Lalitpur, Sindhuli, Sindhupalchowk, Nuwakot, Dolakha, Makwanpur and Gorkha

Table 1: Percentage of Older People provided with Unconditional Cash Grants:

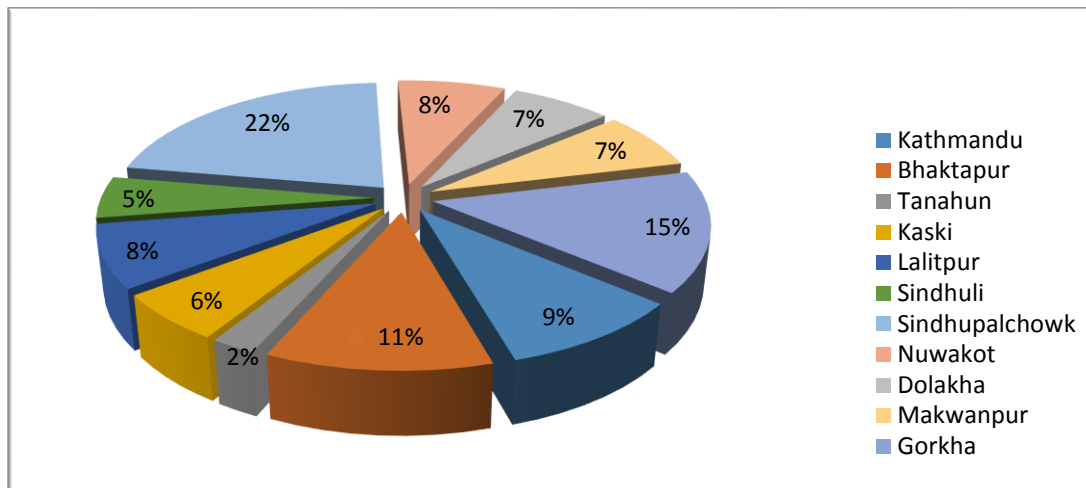
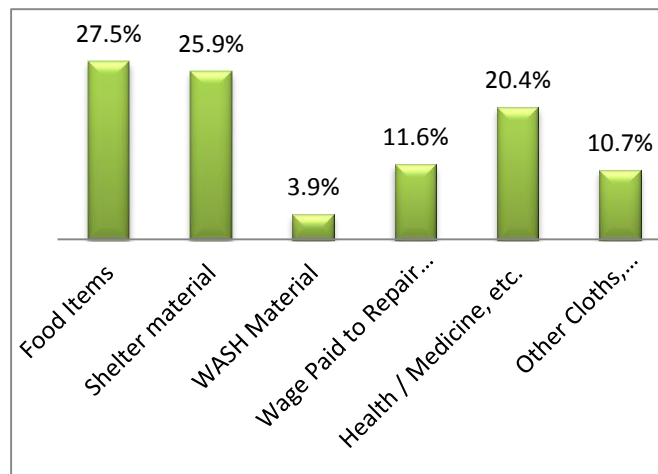


Table 2: Percentage-wise needs usage of the Unconditional Cash Grants:



ii) Health Interventions



'Health' component under HelpAge's 2015 NERP focuses on three major activities to support and address the health concerns of Older People in earthquake-affected districts of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Nuwakot, Gorkha, Kavrepalanchok, Dolakha and Sindupalchok district where the following activities were conducted:

- a. Integrated health camp and referral services focusing on chronic conditions of health like diabetics, hypertension, heart diseases, orthopedics, and eye care and psychosocial counseling for stress relief;
- b. Community-based psychosocial care; and,
- c. Rehabilitation, nursing care, physiotherapy, psychosocial counseling, and coordination for family reunification to earthquake-affected Older People discharged from hospital.

Till 25th Aug 2015, HelpAge's integrated health interventions have directly reached/benefitted 3,291 people (1362 males 41.3% and 1,929 females 58.7%) through outreach services from 15 integrated mobile health camps in four districts (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Kavrepalanchok and Nuwakot). Of the total beneficiaries, 69% were found to be Older People above 60 years of age. In terms of targeted services, 156 Older People received free cataract surgeries, 1299 Older People were given prescription glasses, and camp-based psychosocial counseling was given to 476 total people respectively.



Upcoming Health Camps

From the 18th of September 2015 onwards, health camps are planned, one each for the Foksingtar, Ghartichhap, Banakkhu Chor, and Budhakhani VDCs of Kavrepalanchok district. In addition, community based psychosocial support is ongoing in different VDCs of Gorkha, Dolakha, Sindupalchok and Kathmandu districts.

iii) Inclusion- Protection Programme

The Inclusion-Protection Programme (I-PP) is the third component of HelpAge's 2015 NERP, which acts as the 'heart' of the entire emergency response. The programme takes guidance from HelpAge's UCTs and health interventions' overall findings, identifies crucial risks and needs of two distinct populations – Older People and Persons with Disabilities. It aims to advocate for the inclusion of Older People and Persons with Disabilities in the present national humanitarian response by influencing the wider humanitarian response to be responsive to their issues, specific needs and vulnerabilities in relief, recovery and reconstruction stages.

To ensure that the interests of Older People and Persons with Disabilities are represented and met by the earthquake response, HelpAge, along with national and international agencies working on ageing and disability in Nepal, has established an Inclusion Working Group, titled the **Age and Disability Task Force-Nepal (ADTF-N)**, under the auspices of the Inter-Cluster Gender Task Force. The ADTF-N is supported by an Advocacy Alliance of 15 national and international organisations working on ageing and disability in Nepal, representing voices and immediate needs and priorities of Persons with Disabilities and Older People from earthquake-affected districts in Nepal.

The aim of the ADTF is to influence the wider earthquake response to be responsive to the needs of Older People and Persons with Disabilities affected by the earthquake through: 1) Strengthening coordination mechanisms on inclusion of Older People and Persons with Disabilities by supporting humanitarian actors, including local governments, to deliver an effective response and recovery, 2) Undertaking advocacy efforts in responding to the earthquake in partnership with national agencies, Older People's Associations (OPAs) and Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) and; 3) Informing the earthquake response with evidence-based analysis of immediate needs, priorities and impact of the earthquake on vulnerable groups, in particular, Older People and Persons with Disabilities.

Since its establishment in May 2015, the ADTF-N has made impressive strides in terms of networking and coordination with national and international humanitarian actors, sensitising them on the specific issue and needs of earthquake affected Older People and Persons with Disabilities and providing them with inputs to their guidelines and policies, including to the National Human Rights Commission's Guideline on Displacement and Relocation of the earthquake affected-people and Guideline of Shelter Cluster Technical Working Group on Winterisation of Shelters.

As an immediate impact of advocacy initiatives of the ADTF-N, an increased understanding of humanitarian actors has been observed in the growing inclusion and prioritisation of Older People and Persons with Disabilities in their humanitarian efforts. Examples can be referred from the specific mention of Older People and Persons with Disabilities in the revised Nepal Flash Appeal-April-September, 2015, health cluster's priority actions and objectives of Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster.

Inclusion and Protection Programme, under the 2015 NERP, reinforces its efforts for making an age and disability-friendly humanitarian response through community targeted protection interventions in five programme districts¹, capacity enhancement of stakeholders and issues and evidence-based advocacy at local and national levels.

¹ Sindhuplachowk, Nuwakot, Gorkha, Kathmandu and Bhaktapur

Confidence Re-Born

A social worker recollects the joy of helping Older People in a Humanitarian Response

When Nayak Pariyar, a 75-year-old male, arrived at Hope Hermitage Nepal on 1 July 2015, he came in with a crutch and unlimited tears.

Nayak's first words upon his arrival were, "my son cannot stitch clothes like me." A tailor by profession, Nayak felt that his family's source of income was now lost due to the loss of his limbs.

When Nayak was pulled out from the rubble of his destroyed home about a month earlier, he found out that both his right hand and leg had been broken. An amputation on his broken limbs was then performed at Melamchi Hospital in Sindupalchok, and he was later brought to Dhulikhel Hospital for further treatment where it was found that his right side had been rendered paralysed. A full, intensive bout of physiotherapy then followed.

His physical limitations meant that Nayak felt increasingly uncomfortable staying in a temporary tent for earthquake survivors. It was then that *Hope Hermitage Nepal* met Nayak and decided to bring him to Kathmandu and see if he could get better medical care and counselling.

At HHN, Nayak spent two whole months where he was provided with a safe and disability-friendly environment, including nursing care and regular psycho-social and physiotherapy treatments and regular checkups to Dhulikhel Hospital.



When his son arrived on 22 August 2015 to take Nayak back home, Nayak thanked us for our support and left us a positive note, "I am now confident that I can go back to sewing clothes and providing for my family."

We also gave him his identity card as an earthquake survivor that was given by the Government of Nepal. This will now enable Nayak, and many older survivors like Nayak, to avail of free medical facilities in government hospitals.

To see Nayak leaving with renewed happiness and confidence, seeing how our sustained efforts had helped give him a sense of renewed confidence, even at his advanced age, we realised how important it was for a humanitarian worker to understand and respond to both physical and mental needs of Older People.

We, here in HHN, continue to do just that.

The writer of this article, Ms. Pramila Thapa, is Founder-President of Hope Hermitage Nepal, one of five local health Partners supported by HelpAge for physical rehabilitation and health care of older earthquake survivors.

Reflections from the Field

- Govinda Wagle

Facing the many challenges that the 2015 April earthquake brought – the emotional turmoil of seeing deceased bodies in destroyed houses, survivors screaming for help – can be quite a nerve-wracking experience.

I was deployed for a majority of my field work in the district of Sindupalchok, where, as we all know, the damage has been overwhelming. Almost 95% of houses have been destroyed there, and over 3500 people have lost their lives.

Immediately after the first two major quakes on 25 and 26 April 2015, HelpAge International Nepal initiated focused group discussions with local partners and community people and identified Older People above 60 who had survived the earthquake, lost relatives, and had their houses partially or completely destroyed. These community-based discussions then gave us a deeper idea of the specific needs of Older People which are ordinarily not addressed by general humanitarian responses. An unconditional cash grant was handed out to each older beneficiary to help them meet their

Showing a letter that her son had previously sent her from Malaysia, Tokba thanked us for the small amount which she then promised to use to 'buy some food and build a temporary shelter.'

immediate needs of food, medicine, and shelter.

I particularly remember a case of a 76-year-old woman named Tokba Tamang in Ichok, Sindupalchok. Her son was abroad when the earthquake struck, taking the lives of her 2-year-old grandson and 24-year-old daughter-in-law, her small house and livestock. As telecommunications were also unreliable, she had received no word from her son nor had she been able to tell him about the loss at home. Showing a letter that her son had previously sent her from Malaysia, Tokba thanked us for the small amount which she then promised to use to 'buy some food and build a temporary shelter.'

Being a part of this unique intervention which has helped over 10,500 Older People in 11 districts, I am starting to gradually realise and appreciate the special attention that we in HelpAge give to Older People affected in a humanitarian crisis.

I look forward to serving more Older People in the future, as HelpAge plans its second phase of humanitarian interventions.



Mr. Wagle is a field monitor involved with HelpAge's 2015 Nepal Earthquake Response Project

Humanitarian stakeholders working for Older People and Persons with Disabilities in earthquake-affected districts

S. N	Organisation	Sector	Sub-sector	Services Available	Admission Criteria	Working Districts (VDCs / Municipalities)	Service period	Contact Person/ Focal Point
1	Handicap International Nepal	Health	Injury & rehabilitation	Rehabilitation care, assistive devices, psychosocial first aid, referral and emergency trainings for organizations and clusters	People with injuries, People with Disabilities and Older People affected by the crisis	Sindhupalchowk: Chautara, Irkhu, Kadambas, Kubhinde, Kunchok, Gloche, Marming, Pipaldanda and Yamunadanda VDCs. Nuwakot / Rasua: Bageswori, Chokade, Belkot, Bidur N.P, Bungtang, Charghare, Chaughada, Duipipal, Ganeshthan, Gerkhu, Kabilas, Kakani, Kalyanpur, Kaule, Kharanitar, Ratmate, Samundratar, Suryamati, Taruka, Tupche, Dhunche and Syafru VDCs Kathmandu: Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Kirtipur Municipality, Ramkot, Naikap, Purano Bhanjyang and Dhapasi Bhaktapur: Madhyapur Thimi Municipality and Gundu Lalitpur: Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan city and Sunakothi	May- Dec, 2015	Tel: 1660-01-78482 (NTC users) - Free call Tel: 9801571100 (NCell users) - Free call Email: inclusion.ktm@handicap-international-npl.org
2	HelpAge International Nepal	Health	Community-based psychosocial support, ophthalmic care and health camp	Health checkup focus on chronic conditions, eye care along with assistive device, psychosocial support and rehabilitation facilities	Health camp is targeted to Older People 60 years and above. However other age group in need are also provided with the services	Kathmandu: Dharmasthali, Goldhunga, Machegaun and Thankot Bhaktapur: Balkot, Sipadol, Gundu, Dadikot and Duwakot Nuwakot: Gorsyang, Gerku and Devighat Sindhupalchowk: Helambu, Kiul, Mahankal, Ichok, Talarang Dolakha: Sunkhani and Japhe Gorkha: Thumi, Manbu and Aaru Arbang Kavrepalanchok: Foksingtar, Ghartichhap, Banakkhu Chor, Budhakhani, Anaikot, Nayagaun Deupur, Jaisithok Mandan, Gairi Bisouna Deupur	June-Dec, 2015	Sasmita Poudel Tel: 9851194498 Email: sasmita.poudel@helpagesa.org
		Shelter	Transitional shelter	Shelter kit and cash for skilled labor	Older People 60 years and above	Sindhupalchowk: Helambu, Kiul, Mahankal, Ichok and Talarang Nuwakot: Gerku, Gorsyang and Ratamate	Sept-Dec, 2015	01- 5524038
		Protection	Inclusion and advocacy	Formation of OPA's, sensitization about entitlements and human rights, data collection and needs assessment and capacity enhancement of stakeholders, including OPA's and DPOs	Older People 60 years and above and Older Persons with Disabilities	Kathmandu: Dharmasthali, Goldhunga, Thankot and Machegaun Bhaktapur: Sipadol, Gundu, Balkot, Duwakot and Dadhikot Nuwakot: Gerku, Gorsyang and Ratamate Sindhupalchowk: Helambu, Kiul, Mahankal, Ichok, Talarang, Bhimtar and Nawalpur Gorkha: Thumi, Manbu and Aarubang	July- Dec, 2015	Bisakha Tamang Tel: 9851016524 Email: bisakha.tamang@helpagesa.org
3	National Federation of Disabled Nepal (NFDN)	Protection	Advocacy for inclusion	Advocate and lobby to include Person with Disabilities and Older People in the humanitarian response	Persons with Disabilities and Older People	Sindhupalchowk: Golche, Baramchi, Selang, Bhimtar, Thulo Sirubari, Sangachowk, Mankha, Barabise and Duwachaur Makwanpur: Thaha, Chitlang, Sisneri, Agra, Gogane, Tistung, Raksirang, Gadhi, Namtar and Markhu Kavrepalanchok: Jaisithok, Gairibisauna and Jyamdi Bhumletar, Naya gaun, Chandeni, Dolaghat, Baluwapati and Mahadevsthan	May- Dec, 2015	Sudarson Subedi Tel: 9851059360 Email: shudarsons@gmail.com Tika Dahal Tel: 977-9851090732 Email: tikanfdn93@gmail.com
4	CBM International	Health	Disability and inclusion	Medical, physical rehabilitation, psychosocial rehabilitation, advocacy and medical camps	Persons with Disabilities, Children with Disability, People with Injuries and People with Mental Illness	Physical Rehab: All VDC's are covered by medical camps Mental Rehab: Bhaktapur: Suryabinayak municipality, Madhyapur Thimi, Anantalingeswor and Bhaktapur municipality	May- Dec, 2015	Shweta Sharma Tel: 9801166318 Email: ertnepalinclusionadvisor@cbmsaro.org

5	Ageing Nepal	Protection	Advocacy and research for inclusion of Older People	Publication and dissemination of materials and messages for mass awareness building for the government, private media and social and professional groups	Older People above 60 years of age	Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Makwanpur, Kaski ,Dolakha and Gorkha	April 2015- August 2016	Krishna Murari Gautam Tel: 98510-64706 Bhumidatta Poudel Tel: 98511-44058 / 4485827 Email: ageingnep@gmail.com
6	Hope Hermitage Nepal(HNN)	Health	Injury and rehabilitation	Care and support to earthquake-injured Older People and rehabilitation, physiotherapy and psychosocial support with accommodation in HHN until they are fit to reunite with their families	Older People injured and evacuated from the affected districts	Kathmandu	May- Nov, 2015	Pramila Bajracharya Thapa Tel:4439441, 4002117 Email: thh@thehopehermitage.org.np
7	National Association of Senior Citizens Federation (NASCIF)	Protection	Inclusion and advocacy	Legal assistance and counselling, policy analysis, monitoring and advocacy	Older People above 60 years of age	Nation wide Advocacy	Jan- Dec, 2015	Dr. Gauri Shanker Lal Das- 9803-258744 Email: gsl_das@yahoo.com Chhatra Pradhan - 98510-01411 Email: pchhatra@gmail.com /info@nascif.org.np
8	Nepal Disabled Women Society	Protection and Livelihood	Inclusion & advocacy	Empowerment of women with disabilities and livelihood support	Women with disabilities and their families	All VDCs in Gorkha, Dhading, Kavre, Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk and Kathmandu	April- Dec, 2015	Meena Paudel Tel: 9851185351 E-mail: ndwa.2009@gmail.com
9	Nepal Society of the Disabled	Protection	Empowerment and advocacy	Awareness building, capacity development, advocacy and livelihood	Socially and economically marginalised Persons with Disabilities and their families	Kathmandu: Koteshowr, Balaju, Buspark and Gausala Lalitpur: Kuponhole and Jawalakhel	April, 2015 - ongoing	Tej Kumari Tiwari Tel:9841702387 / 4218672 Email: nsd2051@gmail.com
10	Independent Living Center for PWDs (CIL)	Disability	Camps for Persons with Disabilities	Wheelchair, crutches and air cushion distribution to the earthquake victims, mobile toilet and peer cancelling	Persons with Disabilities, including people injured due to earthquake	All VDCs where there are Persons with Disabilities in Sindhupalchowck, Bhaktapur, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Makwanpur and Kaski districts	April- Dec, 2015	Krishna Gautam Tel: 9851004522 Email: Info@cil.org.np
11.	National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)	Human Rights	Human rights mobile camps	Issuing of human rights violation related complains/cases, monitoring and investigation on those issued complains/cases and refer cases from the field to NHRC head office if needed	Human rights camps are accessible to all people with special focus to the most vulnerable and marginalized people	All people from every village and VDC in 11 most affected districts (Sindhupalchowk, Gorkha, Nuwakot, Dolakha, Rasuwa, Dhading, Ramechhap, Sindhuli, Makawanpur, Kavrepalanchowk and Okhaldhunga)	26 Aug, 2015- 14 Jan, 2016	Sindhupalchowk: Som Sapokota- 9751011009 Anjana Yongon, Facilitator- 9818352315 Gorkha: Not available Nuwakot: Padam Upreti, Co-ordinator- 9851084959 Ram Hari Neupane, Facilitator- 9841653409 Dolakha: Krishna Bahadur Basnet, Co-ordinator- 9844060199 Rabindra Gautam, Facilitator- 9844011999 Rasuwa: Shardha Acharya, Co-ordinator- 9741001872 Niraj Shrestha, Facilitator - 9849822080 Dhading: Damodar Aryal, Co-ordinator -9851020450 Bipana Rijal, Facilitator -9849778760 Ramechhap: Pandap Pd Prasai, Co-ordinator -9744015790 Bidur Khatri, Facilitator - 9844095796 Sindhuli: Sanjya Kumar Dahal, Co-ordinator -9844040140 Gokul Bhujel, Facilitator, Tel not available Makawanpur: Krishna Dhital, Co-ordinator -9845025762 Kamal Gautam, Facilitator - 9845105602 Kavrepalanchowk: Narayan Sapkota, Co-ordinator - 9751090000 Okhaldhunga: Dipendra Rumdali, Co-ordinator -9841803000 Samjhana Tamang, Facilitator- 9868196289



A Special Appeal to the Government of Nepal, UN and other humanitarian agencies, to mark the first three months of the Nepal Earthquake in April 2015

Older People and Persons with Disabilities are among vulnerable groups that require specialised care and attention in natural disasters.

The 25th of July 2015 AD (9 Shrawan 2072 BS), marked the third month of the Nepal earthquake that first struck on 25 April 2015. To date, in the 14 most affected districts, the earthquake (and two major aftershocks on 26 April and 12 May respectively) has affected approximately 8 million people and produced 8,676 casualties and injuries to 22,300 people¹. An estimated 460,000 Older People above 60 years of age and between 105,600 - 195,960 Persons with Disabilities² are believed to be directly affected. Furthermore, among earthquake-affected Older People and Persons with Disabilities, 163,043 older women aged 65 and over, and 39,987 women with disabilities are even more vulnerable and in immediate need of humanitarian assistance³.

In emergencies, Older People and Persons with Disabilities are among the most at risk as they experience increased difficulties due to separation from family members, loss of assistive and mobility devices, and difficulties with accessing information and humanitarian relief. The situation is compounded by pre-existing cultural and social discrimination. Therefore, their special needs and vulnerabilities should be well-considered by humanitarian responders in all the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction stages.

WE, the Age and Disability Task Force-Nepal (ADTF-N)⁴, a Working Group of Protecon Cluster working on ageing and disability in Nepal, hereby acknowledge the ongoing efforts of the Government of Nepal and humanitarian actors in response to the impact of the earthquake, but still maintain that the following must be urgently considered:

- **Identify the specific humanitarian needs and post-disaster risks of earthquake-affected Older People and Persons with Disabilities by collecting Sex, Age and Disability-disaggregated Data (SADDD).**
- **Address the emergency health, nutrition, WASH, food, shelter, protection and livelihood needs and emergency legal, social, gender and security issues of earthquake-affected Older People and Persons with Disabilities, including those most vulnerable in remote areas.**
- **Identify Older People and Persons with Disabilities under present and potential risks of earthquake-induced landslides and floods, and relocate them to safe locations and ensure easy access to basic humanitarian needs and rehabilitation support.**
- **Protect older women, older women with disabilities and older widows from neglect, abuse, and age and gender-based violence and set a mechanism for systematic reporting and documentation of such abuses, including legal remedy.**
- **Ensure that government and non-government humanitarian agencies place Older People and Persons with Disabilities at the CORE of their humanitarian response at all levels.**
- **Consult Older People and Persons with Disabilities and ensure their participation in all humanitarian decision-making processes that impact both their daily lives and livelihoods.**
- **Recognize, strengthen and make use of the skills and experience of Older People and Persons with Disabilities in the all recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction processes.**

*WE know the will and intention exist, but now is the time to translate this into **Urgent Action**.*

¹ Nepal Earthquake 2015, Executive Summary Post Disaster Needs Assessment, Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission.

² The 2011 Government Census states that Older People above 60 years of age constitute 8.13% of Nepal's total population. Disability prevalence is seen to be 1.94% in the same study, though the 2010-11 Nepal Living Standards Survey states that 3.6% of the population consists of Persons with Disabilities.

³ Presentation by Gender Working Group of Protection Cluster.

⁴ ADTF-N is a core network of national and international organisations such as the National Senior Citizens Federation, Ageing Nepal, Hope Hermitage Nepal, and HelpAge International Nepal representing the ageing side, while the National Federation of the Disabled Nepal, CBM International, and Handicap International Nepal on the disability side. ADTF-N, strives to build greater awareness with humanitarian responders to better integrate and be sensitive to the particular needs and vulnerabilities of earthquake-affected Older People and Persons with Disabilities.



नेपालमा २०७२ बैसाखमा गएको महाभूकम्पको पहिलो तीन महिनालाई
स्मरण गर्ने अवसरमा नेपाल सरकार, संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ
तथा अन्य मानवीय सहयोग निकायहरूलाई

विशेष अपिल

प्राकृतिक विपदका समयमा ज्येष्ठ नागरिक र अपाङ्गता
भएका व्यक्तिहरू सबै भन्दा बढि जोखिममा रहेका समूहमा
पर्दछन् जसलाई विशेष हेरचाह र रेखदेखको जरुरी छ।

नेपालमा २०७२ बैसाख १२ गते विनाशकारी भूकम्प गएको तीन महिना पुरा भएको छ। उक्त भूकम्प
र यस पछिका दुईवटा ठूला पराकम्पहरूका कारण आजका मिति सम्ममा भूकम्पबाट सबै भन्दा बढी
प्रभावित १४ वटा जिल्लाहरूमा लगभग ८० लाख व्यक्तिहरू प्रभावित भएका छन् भने ८६७६ व्यक्तिहरूले
ज्यान गुमाउनका साथै २२,३०० जना घाइते भएका छन्।^१

उक्त भूकम्पबाट अनुमानित ४६०,००० जना ६० वर्ष भन्दा माथिका ज्येष्ठ नागरिक र १०५,६०० देखि
१९५,९६० जना अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरू प्रत्यक्ष प्रभावित भएको विश्वास गरिएको छ।^२ यस मध्ये बढि
जोखिमयुक्त १६३,०४३ जना ६५ वर्ष माथिका ज्येष्ठ महिलाहरू र ३९,९८७ जना अपाङ्गता भएका
महिलाहरूलाई तत्काल मानवीय सहायताको आवश्यकता छ।^३

आपत कालिन अवस्थामा परिवारका सदस्यहरूबाट छुट्टिनु पर्नाले, सहयोगी र हिड्न सहयोग गर्ने सामग्रीहरू
गुमाउनाले, र सूचना र मानवीय राहतमा पहुँच प्राप्त गर्न गाह्रो हुनाले बढी जोखिममा रहेका ज्येष्ठ
नागरिक र अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरूको जोखिमतालाई पहिले देखि विद्यमान साँस्कृतिक र सामाजिक
विभेदले भन बढाएको छ। तसर्थ उनीहरूका विशेष आवश्यकताहरू र जोखिमताहरूलाई मानवीय
सहायताकर्मीहरूले गम्भिरतापूर्वक लिनु आवश्यक छ।

१ नेपालमा भूकम्प २०१५, विपद पश्चातको आवश्यकता पहिचान कार्यकारी सारांश, नेपाल सरकार, राष्ट्रिय योजना आयोग।

२ सन् २०११ मा सम्पन्न केन्द्रिय तथ्यांक विभागको जनगणना अनुसार ६० वर्ष नाघेका वृद्ध व्यक्तिहरू नेपालको कुल जनसंख्याको ८.१३ प्रतिशत रहेका छन्। सोहि गणना अनुसार अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरू
कुल जनसंख्याको १.९४ प्रतिशत रहेका छन्। यद्यपि नेपाल जीवनस्तर सर्वेक्षण २०१०/२०११ अनुसार ३.६ प्रतिशत व्यक्तिहरूमा कुनै न कुनै प्रकारको अपाङ्गता रहेको उल्लेख छ।

३ संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघ संरक्षण क्लष्टर/ (Protection Cluster) अन्तर्गतको जेन्डर कार्यदलले उपलब्ध गरे अनुसार।

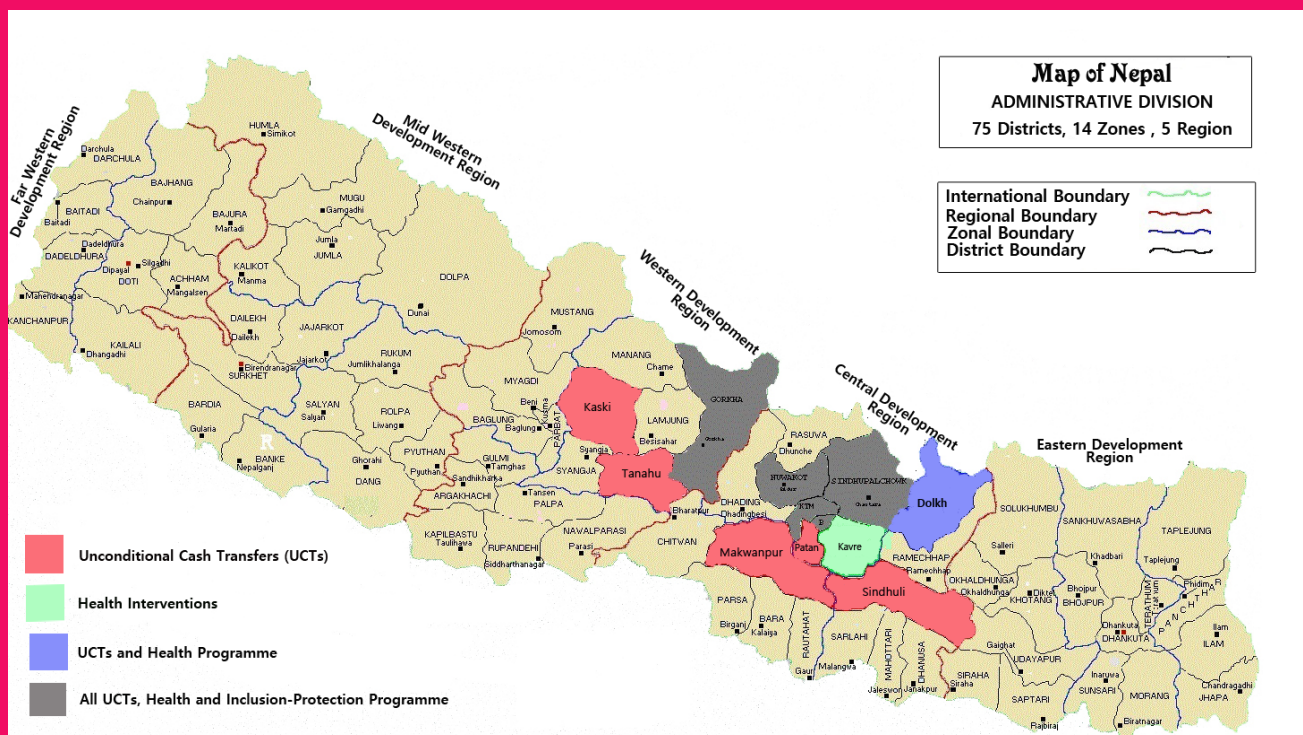
उमेर तथा अपाङ्गताका क्षेत्रमा नेपालमा कार्यरत राष्ट्रिय तथा अन्तरराष्ट्रिय संस्थाहरूको क्रियाशील समूह—उमेर तथा अपाङ्गता कार्यदल— नेपाल (Age and Disability Task Force-Nepal (ADTF-N)⁴—भूकम्पको प्रति कार्य स्वरूप नेपाल सरकार तथा अन्य सबै मानवीय सहायता कर्मीहरूबाट हाल सम्म भए गरेका सबै प्रयासहरूको सराहना गर्दै, अभै पनि निम्न कुराहरूमा तत्काल ध्यान दिन जरुरी रहेको ब्यहोरा निवेदन गर्दछौं:

- लिङ्ग, उमेर र अपाङ्गताका आधारमा छुट्याइएका तथ्याकं (SADDD) संकलन गरी भूकम्प पीडित ज्येष्ठ नागरिक र अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरूका विशिष्ट मानवीय आवश्यकताहरू र बिपद पश्चातका जोखिमहरूको पहिचान गरियोस।
- दुर्गम भेगमा बसोबास गर्ने लगायत भूकम्प पीडित सबै ज्येष्ठ नागरिक र अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरूका आपत कालिन स्वास्थ्य, पोषण, पानी, सरसफाइ, खाद्यान्न, आश्रय, संरक्षण र जीविकाका आवश्यकताहरू र आपतकालिन कानुनी, सामाजिक, लैङ्गिक र सुरक्षा सम्बन्धि विषयहरूलाई विभेद रहित ढंगबाट सम्बोधन गरियोस।
- भूकम्पका कारण सिर्जित हुने भूस्खलन तथा बाढी आदिबाट पीडित हुन सक्ने सम्भावना भएका ज्येष्ठ नागरिक र अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरूको पहिचान गरियोस र उनीहरूलाई आधारभूत मानवीय आवश्यकताहरू र पुनःस्थापना सहयोगमा सुलभ पहुँच सुनिश्चित हुने गरी सुरक्षित स्थानमा स्थानान्तरण गरियोस।
- ज्येष्ठ महिलाहरू र अपाङ्गता भएका महिलाहरू एवं ज्येष्ठ एकल महिलाहरूलाई बेवास्ता र दुर्व्यवहार तथा उमेर र लिङ्गमा आधारित हिंसाबाट संरक्षण गरियोस र कानुनी उपचार लगायत त्यस्ता दुर्व्यवहारको व्यवस्थित प्रतिवेदन तथा दस्तावेजीकरण गर्नका लागि सन्यन्त्र खडा गरियोस।
- सरकारी तथा गैरसरकारी मानवीय निकायहरूले आफ्ना मानवीय प्रति कार्यका सबै तहमा ज्येष्ठ नागरिक र अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरूलाई केन्द्रमा राख्ने पहल सुनिश्चित गरियोस।
- ज्येष्ठ नागरिक र अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरूसँग परामर्श गरियोस र उनीहरूका जीवनसँग सम्बन्धित हुने सबै मानवीय निर्णय गर्ने क्रियाकलापहरूमा उनीहरूको सहभागिता सुनिश्चित गरियोस।

सुधार, पुनःस्थापना र पुनःनिर्माणका सबै चरणहरूमा यस भयंकर विपत्तिबाट प्रभावित सबै ज्येष्ठ नागरिक र अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरूका विशिष्ट आवश्यकताहरूलाई समान रूपमा समावेश गर्न हामी सबै सरोकारवालाहरूलाई आव्हान गर्दछौं। कृपया ध्यान रहोस हामीसँग भएको इच्छा र चाहनालाई तत्काल कार्यान्वयन गर्ने यहि नै उत्तम मौका र उचित समय हो।

४ ADTF-N नेपालमा २०७२ बैसाख १२ गते भूकम्प गए लगत्तै स्थापना भएको राष्ट्रिय तथा अन्तरराष्ट्रिय गैसस निकायहरूको सञ्जाल हो जसले नेपालका ज्येष्ठ नागरिक र अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरूलाई प्रतिनिधित्व गर्दछ। यस सञ्जालले ज्येष्ठ नागरिक र अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरूका विशेष आवश्यकताहरूलाई सम्बेदनशील रूपमा मानवीय प्रति कार्यका सबै प्रक्यामा समावेश गर्नको लागि सम्बन्धित सबै क्रियाशील निकायहरूलाई सचेत गर्ने ध्येय राख्दछ। ADTF-Nमा रहेका अन्तरराष्ट्रिय तथा राष्ट्रिय गैससहरू मध्ये राष्ट्रिय ज्येष्ठ नागरिक महासंघ, एजिड नेपाल, होप हर्मिटेज नेपाल, र हेल्पएज इन्टरनेशनल नेपालले ज्येष्ठ नागरिकको प्रतिनिधित्व गर्दछन भने, राष्ट्रिय अपाङ्गमहासंघ नेपाल, सीबीएम इन्टरनेशनल र ह्याण्डिक्वाप इन्टरनेशनल नेपालले अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरूको प्रतिनिधित्व गर्दछन।

2015 Nepal Earthquake Response Project



HelpAge International Nepal is an international non-governmental, non-profit organisation working in Nepal since May 2012 in 11 districts on various themes such as livelihoods, disaster risk management, inclusive health, and social protection

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