NEPAL

"Rebuilding Lives, Restoring Communities."



A Message from the Chief Executive Officer **Dominic MacSorley**



Since Concern began in 1968 during the devastating famine in Biafra, responding rapidly to emergencies has been core to the organisation's DNA. So when an earthquake of 7.8 magnitude struck near Kathmandu on the 25th of April 2015, we knew Concern had to spring into action.

Concern had worked in Nepal from 2010 to 2015, and when disaster struck it was of crucial importance that we had contacts and partner organisations on the ground. Within 48 hours of the earthquake, Concern staff had been deployed to help mount a large scale emergency response. The impact of the earthquake and its aftershocks was severe, killing almost 9000 people and injuring a further 22300 at the time. On top of that, the logistical challenges of mountainous Nepal are legendary and accessing the people in greatest need was as difficult as it was urgent. Poor road

access, regular and sometimes severe aftershocks, transport shortages and a lack of availability of key supplies, required the full ingenuity of the team to reach the more remote communities.

The commitment and courage shown by our team and local partners in the face of extreme logistical challenges meant that we were able to reach over 70,000 people with assistance in a very short time in four of the worst affected districts. Though physical challenges are ever present in Nepal, there is no shortage of capacity to deliver, and as Concern carried out our three year commitment to help rebuild after the earthquake, the team also channelled this great energy into other emergency responses, including responding to last year's flooding and extreme cold brought on by severe weather conditions.

Much remains to be done in terms of Nepal's overall recovery, but it is clear that the country is in a far better position than three years ago, and this is bolstered by a strong national NGO and civil society presence in country.

We know that Nepal's vulnerability to natural disasters and climatic events remains high, and though Concern is winding down operations in Nepal after a three year commitment, we do so in the knowledge that Nepal may need our support again at some stage in the future. In that event, the strong relationships we have built up, particularly with our Alliance2015 partners mean we are ready, should the call come, to support the Nepalese people in their time of need.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Nepalese community in

Ireland who have consistently supported our work on behalf of their community as well as all Concern's supporters for their extraordinary generosity in responding to the emergency and recovery operations. Finally a huge thanks to the Concern team and partners for their incredible work and determination over the last three years. Together, you have helped to ensure that thousands of people hit by the most devastating of disasters were able to get back on their feet again. You responded to the humanitarian imperative with the urgency and efficiency that was desperately needed and for that we are extremely grateful.

Dominic MacSorelyChief Executive Officer,
Concern Worldwide

A Message from the Country Director **Eileen Morrow**

There's an old Irish saying that goes, "You can't eat the scenery" and it applies to many of the locations where Concern has worked over the past fifty years. Nepal is no exception: It sits right on the convergence of two tectonic plates resulting in the spectacular Himalayan range, and also comes with a very high risk of natural disasters including landslides, floods and earthquakes.

After our immediate relief effort in the wake of the 2015 earthquake, that saw Concern and its national NGO partners provide emergency shelter for an estimated 70,000 people, Concern made a three year commitment to the government and people of Nepal to restore damaged infrastructure and livelihoods, and to help people reduce the risks from future disaster.

The April 2015 earthquake happened on a Saturday morning and between it and the many aftershocks over 9,000 schools were damaged or destroyed. Had the earthquake occurred on a school day, the fatalities and the heartache would have been unthinkable. Ensuring the safety of schools by building back better to protect the children that attend them was therefore our key priority. Our recovery and reconstruction work targeted 44 schools and their surrounding communities to improve preparedness and resilience of vulnerable women, men and in particular children in earthquake affected communities to shocks and disasters. Our multi-pronged approach focused on school reconstruction, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, with the specific aim of restoring access to a safe learning environment for over 7,000 pupils and teachers in four of the most affected districts.

My sincere thanks goes to our fantastic team and local partners who went the extra mile to ensure that our programme goals were achieved on time and to a high level of quality; many have walked for hours to reach remote communities to provide technical assistance and address obstacles. Our staff and partners' commitment to Concern's mission and values was particularly telling during the emergency response to the Terai floods and cold wave in late 2017, with people working long hours, in poor weather conditions, away from their families to ensure that affected communities received the emergency assistance they needed.

As Concern's earthquake recovery work and my own time as Country Director in Nepal draws to a close, my lasting memory will always be of the resilience and quiet courage of the people of Nepal. While I was not here during the earthquake and the difficult immediate months after it, time and again I have heard stories from Nepalis across the

country about how everyone grouped together and helped each other: from restaurant owners who chartered helicopters to fly food up to cut-off communities, to families who fed and housed their neighbours for months while they rebuilt their homes and their livelihoods. The people of Nepal were the first responders and we honour them for their efforts.

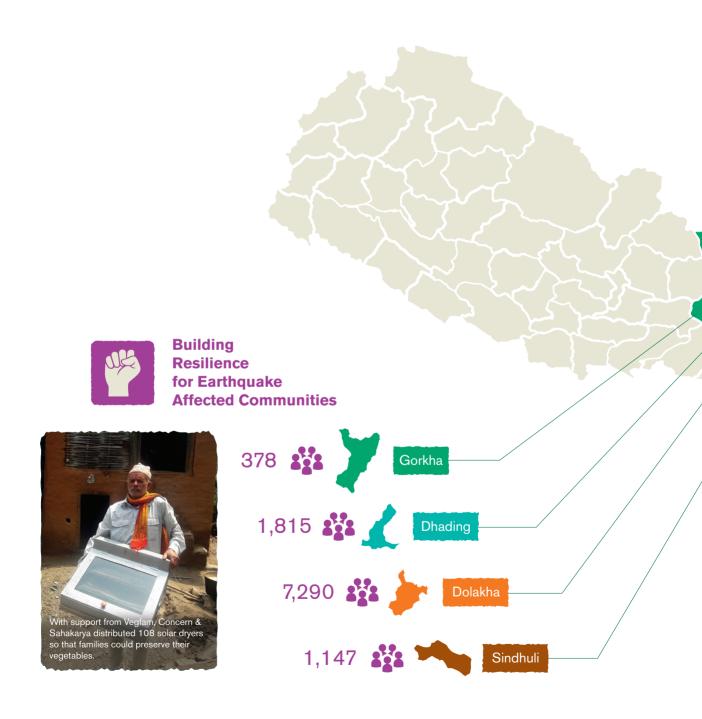
When disaster came calling on this idyllic corner of the world, Concern felt duty bound to respond and assist those most affected in the aftermath of the earthquake. It has been Concern's honour to be part of this effort, to help people recover, and to go some way to protect the safety of the future generations of Nepal.

Eileen Morrow

Country Director, Concern Worldwide Nepal



Where we work **2015-2018**









2015 Gorkha Earthquake Response

Following the April 2015 earthquake, Concern returned to Nepal within 48 hours. In collaboration with our former partners Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN) and Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH), we mounted a response reaching over 77,000 households affected by the disaster in Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk and Sindhuli districts.

- Worked in 5 Districts
- NFI 28054 HHS in Dolakha, Sindhuli, Gorkha and Sindhupalchowk
- 27027 HHS supported with temporary shelter in Dolakha
- 300 temporary latrines constructed in Sindhuli
- 218 temporary bathing units constructed in Sindhuli
- ♦|♦ 416 household latrines in Gorkha
- 392 temporary classrooms in 47 schools in Dhading
 - 2 water supply systems were established in 4 schools of Gorkha





The Road to Recovery: Building Resilience in Earthquake Affected Communities

The central goal of Concern's Building Resilience in Earthquake Affected Communities (BREAC) was the improved preparedness and resilience of vulnerable women, men and in particular children in earthquake affected communities to shocks and disasters.

The BREAC programme's focus areas were:

School safety: Target schools constructed to withstand earthquakes and function as the focal points for emergency preparedness and response in their communities.

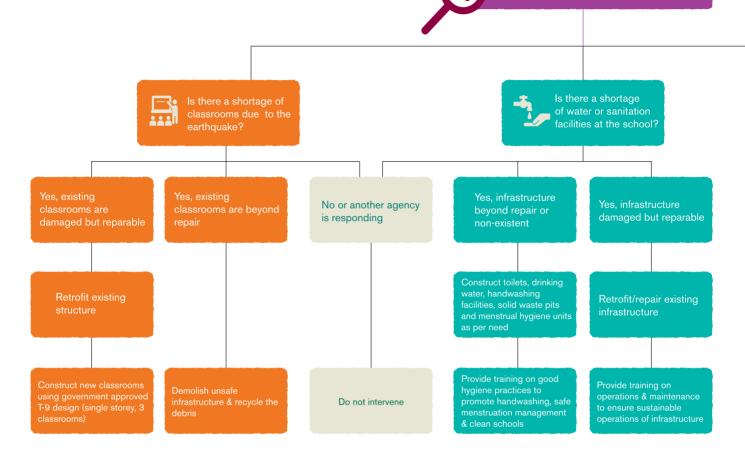
WASH: Improved access to safe drinking water, safe disposal of faeces and sound hygiene practice adoption in target schools.

Livelihoods: Target groups have improved food security and access to markets.

Equality and accountability are embedded across programme sectors.

Deciding the **Specific School Package**

Identify school specific needs in partnership with local government, partners and school management committee





School Reconstruction

83 earthquake resistant classrooms constructed or retrofitted creating a safe place for learning in 17 schools.

100 unskilled labourers trained in demolition and debris management.

12 earthquake damaged buildings safely demolished and over 430 tonnes of debris and rubble recycled into roads and foundations.

2 Community Centres constructed.

137 masons trained on DUDBC approved mason training course.



Water & Sanitation

44 schools in 4 districts received WASH infrastructure – drinking water, toilets and handwashing facilities, hygiene promotion training and operation and maintenance training. This increased access to safe facilities and sound hygiene behavior among students.

2 community water systems constructed benefiting 1484 people.

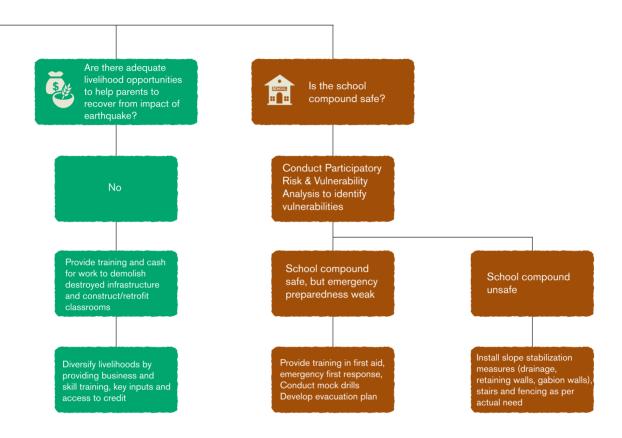


Disaster Risk Reduction

44 Participatory Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (PRVA), mock drills and evacuation drills conducted in schools.

Following PRVA, DRR mitigating structures (gabion walls, stairs, retaining walls, railings, drainage canals) installed in 20 schools.

When Concern and partner staff visited schools to see what the needs were, common themes emerged, but each school and community had different needs. Here is how the school specific package was decided:





Livelihoods

1,70,16,043 NPR (146,690 euro) paid as cash for work to local masons and unskilled labourers to construct project infrastructure. 25,877 man days of cash for work for reconstruction provided to skilled and unskilled community labourers, helping earthquake affected households rebuild their livelihoods and learn improved construction techniques.

185 households provided supported to establish businesses of choice through training, input support (sewing machines, livestock, seeds and tools, dairy fridge, plastic tunnelling) and access to low interest loans.

608 households trained in agricultural methods and provided with seed.

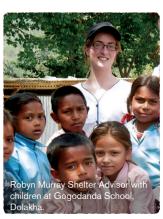
39 reservoir tanks constructed to support the irrigation system for agricultural livelihoods.

Over 9000 schools were damaged or destroyed during the 2015 earthquake. In the immediate aftermath, over 1 million children were out of school, as there was no access to classrooms. Concern's response was to construct Temporary Learning Centres to help children quickly return to school and we supported the construction of 392 classrooms.

As the focus shifted from emergency to recovery, securing the safety of Nepal's children by building back better permanent school infrastructure became the focus of Concern's BREAC programme. The design selected was the government approved T9 Design. As Robyn Murray, Concern's Shelter Advisor explains:

"T9 are one-storey, three-classroom blocks. This type of structure was chosen as it's most similar to what the community was building themselves. We trained and employed labourers from the school community "

The T9 structure is earthquake-resistant, it uses steel reinforcing bands to withstand the impact of earthquakes stronger than the 2015 earthquakes. The last big one happened on a Saturday, when no children were in school. As children attend school six days a week, there is a higher chance of an earthquake happening on a school day, so safe schools are a key priority."





All of Concern's work in Nepal is implemented in partnership with communities, local NGOs and government bodies to further our mission to ensure the lasting elimination of extreme poverty. We work through local NGOs who understand the context and dynamics and have a lasting relationship with the community. This approach strengthened our partner's capacity in emergency response, construction, project management, procurement and financial management. By helping them build more robust organisations that provide relevant and efficient services, we help ensure lasting impacts in the communities even after Concern's support ends.

Implementing partners:

No organization was willing to work in this place. We have many natural resources but the only thing not in our favour is the remoteness and no access to good roads. Concern Worldwide besides all those circumstances came here and constructed schools, WASH facilities, Community buildings and helped to enhance capacity of the community people. We want Concern to stay long and work further in Nepal. We are very saddened by the fact that Concern is leaving Nepal. However we are so much thankful to Concern and Unification Nepal for such a great support in need indeed.

- **Mr. Homraj Gurung** President, PTA, Milim Primary School, Gorkha We were facing water scarcity in our village, and we were struggling. Concern Worldwide implemented the WASH and livelihood project supporting the community people with safe drinking water and strengthening the livelihood of the vulnerable families providing for the basic needs of the people like new machines, seeds, goats, chickens, pigs and so on. I always lack words to thank Concern Worldwide along with the Implementing Partners Deepjyoti Samaj Sudhar Sangh and ECARDS Dolakha.

- Mr. Nabaraj Khadka Ward Chairperson-7, Melung Rural Municipality, Dolakha

We were not being able to reach most rural areas of Sindhuli [with school infrastructure]. Concern supported the government rebuilding of the school buildings creating a stronger and safer place to study. The most important thing is that Concern always tried its best to ensure the quality of the work so that no child or any community people die if any other disaster occurs.

- Mr. Anil Jha Engineer, DLPIU (Education), Sindhuli

Concern built WASH facilities along with the school building and also provided trainings which helped to ensure the practise of good hygiene behaviour among the students. Because no behaviour change can be seen without the structures and capacity enhancement on the use of it. Thank you Concern Worldwide for putting the effort and concentration in every micro needs of the people.

- **Ms. Bindu Bhujel** Chairperson, School Management Commitee, Panchakanya Primary School, Dhading













Chandra Jyoti Integrated Rural Development Society चन्द्र ज्योती एकिकृत ग्रामिण विकास समाज











Equality

Promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion are central to how Concern plans, targets, implements and evaluates our projects in Nepal. Recognizing that women, girls and members of lower castes have higher levels of vulnerability and are slower to recover from the impacts of disaster, all our interventions aimed to:

Identify and address the specific needs of women and girls, vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Increase the meaningful participation of females and marginalized groups by specifically prioritising them in interventions and create quotas for them in trainings.

As women and girls are usually responsible for collecting water, a key component of the BREAC programme was installing water points in schools and communities. As women and marginalized groups are often the poorest in the community, they were given first priority for livelihoods interventions: from cash for work for school construction to business training.

I used to walk for more than half an hour to fetch water. The water was not safe especially during summer/monsoon. The road condition was not good. I am grateful toward Concern for providing a basis for safe water constructing these user friendly tap stand. We get to fetch safe and clean water and also saved our time. I can use the time in other progressive work.

Kamala Bhandari, Melung, Dolakha

My husband married another woman and my only son died in an accident. I felt just helpless. I was unable to support myself. This changed when Concern & ECARDS provided me with a cash grant to purchase goats. I am now able to cope by myself and sustain my own livelihood.

 Ms. Kalika Bhandari, Melung 7,
 Dolakha Global Giving programme participant





Accountability

In recognition of our commitment to accountability, Concern Worldwide were certified against the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability(CHS) in October 2017. We were the first Irish organisation to be certified and the thirteenth humanitarian organisation globally.

This commitment to Accountability is reflected in the Concern Nepal programme. Throughout the programme we ensured the priorities of the target communities were identified and addressed by the programme. At all project sites a locked CRM box was available for posting complaints and a complaint response phone number was posted. Concern staff and partners raised awareness of the complaint and feedback response mechanism during regular monitoring visits.

The endline survey 82% of communities reported they knew how to make a complaint and a functional complaints response mechanism was in place. However, only 14 complaints written complaints were made through the life of the BREAC programme, 10 of which actually related to an appreciation for Concern's work and a sincere request for us to continue! Two related to delays in work, which were addressed during the field visits. The final two were not related to Concern's work but issues in the schools around teacher attendance, which were fed back to the School Management Committee.

I had never imagined one day I would earn my own living to support my six family members; I never imagined I would be able to send my four children to a good school; I never imagined my husband would stop being addicted to drinking alcohol. I used to work on daily wages basis shifting from one place to another in search of work. I would cry when I had to take two days off in a row. Concern showed me the possible way; they trained me and provided me with seeds for a kitchen garden, helped me construct a plastic tunnel for growing vegetables, do mushroom cultivation. They gave me tools and constructed reservoir tanks for irrigation. I started agriculture business at my own village. I can now work at my own to sustain livelihood of my family. Thank you Concern for leading us towards a new path to sustain our life.

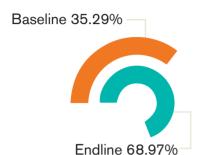
Shanti Maya Kafle, Bitizor, Sindhuli



IMPACT OF THE BREAC PROGRAMME

% of Target Schools





Prepared with a Risk Analysis that addresses the specific vulnerabilities of the school community members most vulnerable to disasters.



Baseline 23.53% Endline 100%

Prepared with first aid skills and contingency plans meeting minimum standards.



Endline 100%

Practicing mock drills and simulations meeting minimum standards.



Baseline 26.47% Endline 65.52%

Prepared with identified safe zones that meet minimum standards.



Baseline 31%



That have hand washing facilities with soap.



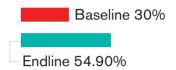
In November 2017 and again in May 2018, a dedicated team of enumerators surveyed Concern's 44 schools, 2 communities and 105 households. Using digital data gathering devices, their aim was to document the impact of Concern supported project interventions. Here is what they found:



% of Target Community

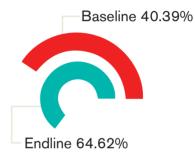


Percentage of households earning incomes from self employment.





Improvement in Households ability to afford key items (material deprivation index).



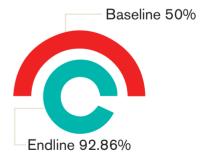


Reduction in number of households migrating from their homes for livelihoods generation.



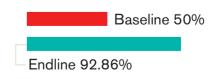


Respondents who keep sanitation facilities clean.





Improvement in access to (no more than 50m from dwelling) and use of sanitation facilities.



Achievements by the **Districts**



Panchakanya School, one of 6 reconstructed in Dhading district.



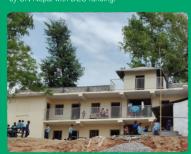
Ganesh School, Sindhuli constructed by Relief Nepa



Janajagriti School, Dhading - 15 classrooms retrofitted with funding from MCC.



Pupils of Mahadevesthan School, Gorkha constructed by UN Nepal with DEC funding.



Jalpadevi School, Dhading



Fire safety training in Dhading



One of 39 Ferrocement tanks constructed in Bitizor Sindhuli with support from Vegfam to help farmers grow vegetables year round.



Classroom blocks built at Dharapani School, Sindhuli by partner Relief Nepal with funding from Harambee donors, IMPACT and the DEC Appeal.



Relief Nepal with support from Concern installed thi staircase with railings.



With DEC funding, Relief Nepal built a T9 block at Tunibhanyang School, Sindhuli.



Concern engineer Subodh Vijapure at Gaurishankar School Dolakha



Shree Kamdhenu Maipakha Community Forest UC Building, Gorkha



One of two Temporary classroom blocks built at Pipaltar School, which will be submerged in five years when the damn is built unstream



Shanteswori School, Sindhuli



Students and teachers at Mahadevesthan school in Gorkha engaged in a Participatory Vulnerability Analysis exercise.









Out of the 8 classroom blocks constructed 4 were retrofitted and 4 were new T-9 design builds. In total, 41 classrooms in 6 schools were reconstructed in Dhading benefiting 1765 children.



7 WASH infrastructure including drinking water, handwashing facilities, solid waste pits and toilets was installed in 7 schools.



Mock drill and evacuation plans were completed in 8 schools. The PRVAs prompted the installation of DRR structures like gabion wall, step maintenance in 3 schools.



4114: The number of days people were engaged in cash for work to demolish and reconstruct buildings. 25% were women and 20% from marginalised groups.



50 beneficiaries were trained on masonry, retrofitting, debris and demolition management. Among the trained masons 20% were women.

It was so hard for us to maintain personal hygiene. It was even harder for girls during menstruation due to lack of safe latrine and place for disposal of used sanitary pads. Concern Worldwide had constructed toilets including menstrual hygiene unit and hand washing stations which supported in practice of sound hygiene behaviour among the students.

- **Suvadra Kumal**, Student, Pipaltar Basic School, Dhading









In Gorkha 3 schools were constructed schools in 2 locations with 8 classrooms. 3 blocks were newly constructed with the T-9 design approved by the government which benefitted 300 children. WASH infrastructure was implemented in 3 schools benefitting 190 children.



2 community centres were constructed.



Mock drill and evacuation plans were completed in 3 schools while DRR structures such as retaining wall and surface drainage were implemented in 2 schools.



4155: the number of days people were engaged for cash for work. 10% of labourers were women and 15% from marginalized groups.



78 beneficiaries were trained on masonry and debris and demolition management. The beneficiaries used this training to build there homes as well as an income generation activity.



"Encouraging women and mobilizing them in construction of School and paying them as cash for work has improved the lifestyles of many women in the locality. I myself have saved around Nrs. 45,000 during my working days there. The way people look at women has significantly changed in past two years and UN Nepal/CWW deserves most of the credit to that. Now, I am working as a mason in reconstruction of community houses. I earn around Nrs 16000 per month. From that money, I am somehow able to teach my kids who are currently studying +2 level education. I never dreamed that this day would come."

Maya Tamang, Gorkha













4 T-9 classroom blocks constructed in 3 schools: 12 classrooms benefiting 240 pupils.



29 schools benefitted from WASH activities benefitting 5435 children along with Hygiene promotion, O&M repair kits and training on preparedness plan.



WASH activities reached 1304 people in 2 communities of Melung by constructing 61 tap stands and hygiene promotion activities.



Mock drill and evacuation plan was completed in 3 schools while DRR structures were implemented in 2 schools. Provision of CBDRM tools in all schools.



6883: The number of days men and women were engaged in cash for work programmes



51 beneficiaries were trained on masonry and debris and demolition management.



500 men and women supported with food security and livelihoods activities by providing tailoring machines, provision of goats and pigs, vegetable seeds, microfinance, electrician training and blacksmith tools.













700 people in the Bitizor community of Sindhuli have access to safe, accessible water sources through the construction of 28 tap-stands and hygiene promotion activities.



8 classroom blocks reconstructed in 6 schools: 2 were renovated and 6 were new T-9 design buildings. 22 classrooms constructed in total benefiting 607 children.



7 schools received WASH facilities – toilets, drinking water and handwashing facilities and hygiene promotions



Disaster risk reduction was implemented in 8 schools such as catch drain, gabion wall, retaining wall, fencing, slope stabilisation structures. These structures have a big impact on reducing erosion and landslides thereby protecting the schools.



Under the food security and livelihoods programme 108 households benefitted from seeds distribution, 108 solar driers, 216 tomato tunnelling sheets, construction of 39 Ferro cement tanks for irrigation, 9 irrigation ponds, mushroom farming and training on market linkage to enable the farmers to sell there produce in the market.

We had never heard about mushroom farming in our village before, let alone eaten them! Concern & Sahakarya introduced us to different vegetables including mushroom and trained us for the same which helped in increasing our dietary diversity and supporting our livelihood. I produced 115 kg of mushroom and earned 26250 NPR (219 euro) in one season!

Mr. Bharat Bahadur Thapa, Bitizor, Sindhuli - Vegfam programme participant This is the first time I have learned to prepare homemade sanitary pad at my own. It is very easy, useful, cost effective and environmental friendly as well. I want to thanks Concern Worldwide for providing such platform. I will teach my students and community in near future.





Joint Emergency Preparedness Planning

Faster and better humanitarian response can be achieved through effective partnerships. In 2016, two international NGOs and Alliance 2015 partners - Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe (WHH) - came together to develop a Joint Emergency Preparedness Plan (JEPP). In Nepal, all internationally supported humanitarian response must be implemented through local NGOs, as local NGOs are the frontline responders and best understand the local context. As WHH and Concern have different local NGO partners covering different districts, it made sense to partner together to achieve better geographic coverage while leveraging the strength of existing relationships.

The overall objective of JEPP is to have a rapid response team consisting of skilled staff from international and local NGOs that can be mobilized as a "JEPP team" as soon as disaster strikes. While humanitarian response is part of Concern's identity and core business, many local NGOs have limited capacity in implementing rapid, relevant and efficient emergency interventions. Furthermore, to be effective as a consortium, both international and local partners - must have planned and trained together and made a high-level commitment to joint response.

The first step of JEPP therefore involved gaining buy-in and commitment from the local NGO leadership. This was followed by a joint planning and contextual review, resulting in the formation of the JEPP document, which outlines all the key components of emergency response, from thresholds of engagement to the contents of distribution packages.

Now entering into its third year, the JEPP team partners have been meeting on an annual basis to train together and define roles and responsibilities. The JEPP rapid response team has been effectively mobilized on four occasions, including the Terai Flood Response in 2017 and the Cold wave response in 2018.



JEPP IN ACTION: The Terai Emergency Response

In August 2017, the worst rains in 30 years triggered a humanitarian crisis affecting 1.4 million people in 35 districts in Nepal. CWW and WHH reached out to local partners Aasaman and Sahakarya to conduct an assessment. Three districts were prioritized: Rautahat, Saptari and Mahottari. Funding was secured from Concern's and WHH's regular givers, START fund, and Irish Aid. In total, 27 distributions were carried out over the duration of the response. 10,000 households in Rautahat and Saptari received Hygiene Kits and Food Kits, while 1,600 households in Mahottari received food kits only.

In January 2018, the JEPP team, this time consisting of staff from Concern and Aasaman Nepal was mobilised to respond to the biting cold wave in the Terai reaching 6308 people.

The JEPP local partners include Action Nepal, Rural Reconstruction Nepal, Aasaman Nepal, Sahakarya, Relief Nepal, Li-Bird, CEPREAD, Forward, Deepjyoti. Partner staff are mobilized based on the location and scale of the response.



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Government of Nepal





















Concern Worldwide







