CARE’s Nepal Earthquake Response

Quick Facts*

Number of lives affected: 8 million
Deaths: Nearly 9,000
Injured: 22,310
Displaced: 189,000
Houses damaged: 890,509 (605,254 completely destroyed)
Livelihoods affected: 2.8 million

Nepal earthquake and CARE’s Response:

On April 25 and May 12 2015 Nepal was rocked by two devastating 7.8 and 7.3 magnitude earthquakes. CARE is working with partners to deliver emergency relief in four of the worst affected areas of Nepal: Gorkha (55,370 individuals), Sindhupalchowk (22,543 individuals), Dhading (35,553 individuals) and Lamjung (12,689 individuals). CARE’s emergency response is focused on providing lifesaving shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, reproductive health, gender-based violence and livelihood assistance, helping communities recover in the months and years to come. So far, CARE has reached over 130,000 people (including those in the Kathmandu area). In the coming months, CARE will continue to assist at least 100,000 people.

CARE in Nepal

CARE has a longstanding presence and relationship with the people of Nepal. Founded in 1945, CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty and promoting gender equality. CARE has worked in Nepal since 1978, on key issues such as food Security, HIV/AIDS, health, education, water and sanitation, climate change and the empowerment of women and girls. CARE works in 47 of the 75 districts in the country and is very familiar with the regions affected by the earthquakes.

CARE organized an emergency preparedness planning meeting in 2012, focusing on planning and preparing for a major earthquake in Nepal. CARE Nepal had an earthquake simulation and refresher workshop just two weeks before this devastating event, helping better prepare staff and allow them to react very quickly when the earthquake hit.

* Source: OCHA, PDNA report, USAID website
CARE’s PROGRAM INFORMATION

SHELTER
CARE is providing shelter assistance to families whose homes are heavily damaged or destroyed. Some 10,000 people have already received emergency shelter supplies (that include tarpaulins, corrugated iron sheeting, shelter tool kits, fixing kits and kitchen sets) from CARE.

CARE is currently distributing high-quality shelter repair kits. These kits include corrugated sheets, specialized nails, tools and other useful items meant to help people rebuild their homes to be stronger and sturdier. In addition, some 2,700 families are receiving 15,000 Nepalese Rupees (roughly $150) to pay for labor and buy extra items they may need to rebuild. CARE and its partners are working to empower families to repair and rebuild their homes stronger to face future earthquakes. This long-term “building back safer” approach involves training local carpenters and community members on improved building techniques to make homes safer, building model homes, holding information sessions and having roving teams of local building experts available to offer helpful advice.

WASH (WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE)
CARE has distributed water purification tablets, built emergency latrines, provided hand washing facilities and carried out hygiene promotion amongst the affected communities. CARE staff and local partners are also conducting hygiene workshops and distributing temporary latrine materials. In some districts, CARE is also helping to rehabilitate water sources and working back towards achieving open defecation free (ODF) areas.

To date, CARE has reached nearly 6,500 people.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
An estimated 126,000 pregnant women affected by the devastating earthquake in Nepal are in urgent need of health services. As part of our emergency response to earthquake areas, CARE has distributed reproductive health kits with information related to maternal health to health facilities and pregnant women and oriented them on the usage of health kits. We have provided transitional homes and maternity tents for women and girls and equipped birthing centers with essential equipment and supplies.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
In times of crisis after natural disasters such as the Nepal earthquakes, incidents of gender-based violence (GBV) can increase. As part of our emergency earthquake response, CARE has created friendly spaces in a number of areas where women can go to at any time to feel safe and empowered and have access to information, education, recreational activities, support and services. Referral mechanisms for the reporting and identification of gender-based violence have been put in place. CARE is also working with the BBC Media Action to provide people with practical information through a radio program on different issues like shelter, safety information, information on economic recovery and livelihoods.

LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY
The Nepal earthquakes were devastating for local livelihoods. Some 2.8 million people were affected, with livelihoods and sources of income destroyed, lost or disrupted. Of these, 20,000 people have been identified as most vulnerable. Working closely with our local partners, CARE has begun assisting vulnerable families with financial support to restore such livelihoods as vegetable farming, rice production and other income-generating activities. CARE is also providing a variety of vegetable seeds along with weatherproof storage bags to families.

The goal of this programming will be to help families meet their basic needs, while earning additional income to help them build back their lives.

To date, CARE has reached 1,156 individuals with food and 5,597 individuals with livelihoods

OUR PARTNERS
CARE is working with a number of local partners in our programming, as these partners best understand the needs of the local communities.

Local partners include:

SAHAS Group of Helping Hands
Community Self-Reliance Center (CSRC)
Mahila Atma Nirbharta Kendra (MANK)
Shree Swanra Integrated Community Development Center (SSICDC)
Women for Human Rights (WHR)

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