

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

5-YEAR REPORT

BACKGROUND

On 25 April and 12 May 2015, Nepal was struck by 2 devastating earthquakes, causing unprecedented damage to the country and its people.

Mercy Relief deployed our first response team within 48 hours of the first quake. Since then, Mercy Relief has established long-term partners on the ground, rising to meet the evolving challenges of recovery and implementation. The road to recovery has been an uphill journey marked by issues including limited resources, infrastructural inefficiencies, difficult terrain and the seasonal changes. In spite of these obstacles, Mercy Relief's programmes have led to better, more resilient communities. With the support of donors and partners, we have implemented projects that span the entire Disaster Management Cycle – from response to preparedness – which have benefitted over 51,310 individuals to date.

> 8.1 million

Affected

> 22,000

People injured

> 600,000

Houses damaged

< 9,000

Fatalities

14 HEAVILY AFFECTED DISTRICTS

GORKHA	BHAKTAPUR
DHADING	KABHREPALANCHOK
MAKAWANPUR	SINDHULI
RASUWA	RAMECHAP
NUWAKOT	DOLAKHA
KATHMANDU	SINDHUPALCHOK
LALITPUR	OKHLADUNGA



\$1.74 million

Total funding received in SGD

51,310

Beneficiaries to date

TIMELINE

25 APR 2015	WITHIN 48 HOURS	APR - MAY 2015	MAY - OCT 2015	MAR 2016 - DEC 2017	JAN 2018 - AUG 2020	MAR - JUN 2020
Disaster Strikes	Response		Recovery	Mitigation	Preparedness	COVID-19 Relief
Mercy Relief received appeal for assistance	Response team was deployed	Conducted 28 Relief Distribution Operations (RDOs) & 8 medical missions	Began School Support Project & Transitional Shelter Project	Initiated Building Resilient Communities Programme	Commenced Enhancing Economic and Social Resilience of the Earthquake-affected Communities in Sindhupalchok District (ESRS)	Conducted immediate COVID-19 relief aid and assistance

RELIEF ACTIVITIES

Mercy Relief deployed a team to respond to the disaster and evaluated needs on the ground, within 48 hours. Mercy Relief's nimble and agile approach allowed the team to respond quickly and effectively, providing immediate aid to survivors. In its Response Phase, the team conducted a total of 28 extensive Relief Distribution Operations. Through a partnership with volunteer doctors and nurses from Changi General Hospital and Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Mercy Relief also facilitated 8 medical missions. Our relief efforts extended across 7 heavily affected districts.

20,000

Beneficiaries reached

Apr - May 2015

Duration



Items Distributed



HYGIENE KIT

Hand Soap
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Mask



FOOD ITEMS

Rice
Dhal
Food Grain
Salt
Cooking Oil
Noodles
Beaten Rice
Spices
Potatoes



NON FOOD ITEMS

Steel Plate
Bucket
Jug
Blanket
Tarpaulin
Carpet

SCHOOL SUPPORT PROJECT

10,000

Survivors benefitted

May - Oct 2015

Duration

29

Transitional classrooms constructed

1,300

School packs distributed

Project Summary

By mid-May 2015, Mercy Relief moved into the Recovery Phase focusing on bringing back a sense of normalcy to survivors' lives. The team identified the need for transitional structures for the community. Mercy Relief collaborated with 6 ground partners to construct 29 transitional classrooms, 12 toilets and 3 water supply systems. Because of the emotional trauma caused by the quakes, the team also conducted psycho-social therapy workshops to affected students and distributed school packs and free meals to 7 schools in 4 heavily affected districts.



BACK TO NORMALCY

By providing transitional spaces, families could focus on other pressing matters and children could return to school. Easing the burden on families and being reunited with classmates for the children brought a sense of normalcy into survivors' lives.



ACCESS TO EDUCATION

By prioritising temporary classrooms, Mercy Relief reduced the time children were out of school, providing a safe place for students to return to proper guardianship. This allowed parents to continue rebuilding what they had lost.

TRANSITIONAL SHELTER PROJECT

3,500

Survivors benefitted

Jun - Oct 2015

Duration

690

Transitional shelters constructed

8 affected districts

Location



Project Summary

With the oncoming force of the monsoon season in mid-2015 and with so many survivors left without homes, Mercy Relief worked with 5 ground partners to provide much needed transitional shelters to nearly 3,500 survivors. These shelters were constructed using Corrugated Galvanised Iron (CGI) sheets that protect families from the harsh wind and rain from the monsoons. While waiting for more permanent housing, families remain in these shelters up to this day.



SHELTER

The transitional shelters provided a more immediate solution to survivors who had lost or damaged homes. The shelters shielded families from the elements, as challenges to rebuild Nepal persisted.



REDUCED RISK

Although the transitional shelters were for temporary use (up to 3 years), the structures were designed to withstand unexpected quakes, with minimal damage, protecting families and reducing risk of loss.



2,530

Survivors benefitted

Mar 2016 - Dec 2017

Duration



Programme Summary

Entering the Mitigation Phase, Mercy Relief worked closely with our affiliate networks to “Build Back Better”. Since April 2016, Mercy Relief has been focusing on the reconstruction of 20 earthquake resilient classrooms across 3 schools and the development of a community-managed settlement. With our partners, we provided nearly 400 students with new and safer classrooms, after tremors destroyed most of the schools’ infrastructure. The team also conducted water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities at the schools to promote good hygiene management. Schools also received new supplies, furniture and equipment. Through prior assessment, Mercy Relief identified a need for better disaster preparedness. Therefore, the schools will be used as community evacuation centres to protect students and others, in the event of future disasters. The team also developed Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) media training for a popular radio station on best practices for disseminating information during a natural disaster; encouraging the stations to utilise their reach when disasters strike. The participating radio stations also helped to create awareness on the importance of building earthquake-resilient structures .

Projects

Reconstruction of Shree Sundara Devi Basic School (Nuwakot)
 Reconstruction of Chyandanda Basic School (Sindhupalchok)
 Reconstruction of Fulpingkot Secondary School (Sindhupalchok)
 School Equipment Support

COMPLETED
 COMPLETED
 COMPLETED
 COMPLETED



MASONRY TRAINING



117

Houses constructed to date

Mar & Nov 2016

Duration

36

Masons trained

Sindhupalchok

Location



Project Summary

Mercy Relief organised training sessions for 36 survivors to acquire high-demand masonry skills. To date, these masons have constructed 117 homes and parts of our school projects using local materials in compliance with the nation's building codes. They also shared their new knowledge, skills and importance of building resilient structures with their communities.



INCREASED LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

The trainees have seen an increase in job opportunities within their local community and are better equipped to contribute.



IMPROVED DRR INFRASTRUCTURES

With the increased awareness and knowledge of the new building codes, more structures are built to withstand future disasters, decreasing the risk of damage and injury to individuals.

ENHANCING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE OF THE EARTHQUAKE-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN SINDHUPALCHOK DISTRICT (ESRS)

4,265

Individuals reached

\$222,850

Expenses in SGD

Jan 2018 - Aug 2020

Duration

Sindhupalchok

Location



Project Summary

Mercy Relief was the funding partner for ground partner Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD) to implement the project "Enhancing Economic and Social Resilience of Earthquake-affected Community in Sindhupalchok (ESRS)" which worked on Wards No. 2, 3 and 4 of Lishankhupakhar Rural Municipality. ESRS is part of the third phase initiative to help the affected communities and households achieve sustained livelihoods.



PHASE 1: Providing Immediate Relief Materials



PHASE 3: Enhancing Economic and Social Resilience of the Earthquake-Affected Communities in Sindhupalchok (ESRS)



PHASE 2: Rebuilding Family Farms (RFF)

- 1 Provided seed and planting materials, agri-tools and technical support.

- 1 Increased income and employment opportunities through engagement in agricultural value chains.
- 2 Enhanced resilience of disaster risk-prone communities by developing and implementing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) management plans.

ESRS PROJECT OUTCOME ① : ENHANCING ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

To increase income and employment opportunities through engagement in agricultural value chain

> 306%

Change in household cash income

874

Households served

2 out of 3

Cooperatives experienced improved management capacity

32

Farmer groups assisted



Major activities

To achieve the outcome, a multidisciplinary team identified and implemented production enhancement of fresh vegetables, potatoes, goats, poultry, and mushrooms; facilitated development of marketing infrastructure and capacity building of farmers groups and cooperatives, and developed linkages of farmers groups and cooperatives with the wholesale market in Kathmandu.

Agricultural products identified and activities conducted:



Vegetables

Provision of seasonal vegetable seeds, some agricultural tools and plant protection measures.

Training and on-farm technical support to improve knowledge and skills.

Establishment and operationalisation of collection centers.

Materials for the marketing of vegetables.



Poultry

Provided 14 days of training and material support to two entrepreneurs at Wards No. 3 and 4.

Two brooding centers successfully established and operational.



Goats

Provided support for shed improvement and breeding of bucks.

Established fodder nursery and distributed saplings to produce nutritious fodder for rearing of goats.

Provided training on goat rearing and exposure visits.

Purchased insurance to protect farmers against their goats contracting Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) disease or internal and external parasites.



Mushrooms

12 farmers were supported with training and materials for the promotion of Shiitake and Oyster mushrooms production in the project site. All farmers who received training were involved in the production and marketing of mushrooms on a small scale.



Potatoes

Enhanced knowledge and skills through training on seed potato production and testing of new varieties.

Facilitated connection with wholesalers in Kathmandu for material support to market potatoes, so that farmers will get a better price for their produce.

Intervention Outcomes

- 1 Increased number of farmers cultivating vegetables.
- 2 Increased average income from NPR 2,006 to NPR 10,154 per year for beneficiaries.
- 3 11,100 chicks produced and distributed/sold to the resource-poor households who are on subsidy.
- 4 Average annual income increased from NPR 14,220 to NPR 18,037 per household.
- 5 3 Shiitake and 7 Oyster mushroom farmers earned NPR 136,900.

ESRS PROJECT OUTCOME 2: ENHANCING SOCIAL RESILIENCE

To develop and implement Local- and Community-level Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans (LDCRP/CDCRP)



Major Activities

The ESRS project collaborated with the municipality, and supported conducting vulnerability assessment and preparing plans to address the vulnerability context at the community, ward, and municipality levels. Vulnerability context included landslides, flash flood, drought, plant and animal disease, wind, house fire, lightning and soil erosion.

The following plans and committees have been established to work as a focal point for managing and implementing disaster preparedness and disaster response activities.

16 Community Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans (CDCRP)

16 Community Disaster and Climate Resilience Committees (CDCRC)

3 Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans (LDCRP)

3 Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Committees (LDCRC)

1 Municipal-level LDCRP formed



1 DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FUND ESTABLISHED

A Disaster Risk Management Fund (DRMF), with an amount of NPR 5,000,000, was created in the municipality with the ESRS project contributing 17% of the amount. 45 disaster-affected families have received support from the DRMF ranging from NPR 15,000 to NPR 75,000, depending on the case and type of loss and damage.

2 AGRI LIME DISTRIBUTION

The project supported soil testing which saw the distribution of 60 tonnes of agri lime to 673 beneficiary households who had soils with higher levels of acidity. Soil was also loosened during the process which also contributed to an improvement in crop yield over the 35 hectares of land. The municipality conducted an agri lime distribution programme on their own in the subsequent year.

3 WATER RESOURCE CHANNELS

To deal with scarcity of water, the protection and promotion of the use of five small water resources have benefitted 129 households. As a result, water was easily available for the cultivation of vegetables, potatoes, and fruits, as well as establishing nursery beds for rice, and drinking water for domestic animals during the dry season. Also, five plastic ponds were constructed that benefitted 111 households for the same purpose.



SURVIVOR STORY

Bhupendra KC (35 years) is a farmer resident of Lishankhupakhar Ward No. 3 in Wafal, Sindhupalchok District. He has five members in his family. Before the project intervention, it was not that easy for him to produce enough food and earn an income to maintain his family's livelihood.

After receiving support in breeding buck, and nursery and shed improvement through the ESRS project, he has progressively added the number of goats under his care, and is now known as a goat entrepreneur in the village. The sale of 20 mother goats, 11 male goats earned him approximately NPR 500,000.

COVID-19 RELIEF AID AND ASSISTANCE 2020

10,979
Beneficiaries

\$20,600
Expenses in SGD

Mar - Jun 2020
Duration

Kathmandu Valley
Location



Project Summary

Mercy Relief carried out immediate COVID-19 relief aid and assistance to vulnerable families living in the informal settlements in Kathmandu Valley from 28 March to 8 June 2020. Relief packs in the form of food, medical supplies and protective gears were distributed to help cushion the impact of the pandemic.

Items Distributed



Food items such as rice, pulses, oil, sugar, and salt were distributed to communities in five districts.



Hygiene supplies including soap, hand sanitisers, towels, buckets and bed pans were also allotted to vulnerable groups.



Personal protective gears and boots were distributed to 45 waste workers, ensuring their safety while at work.



Medication and lab tests were provided for 80 elderlies to meet their medical needs during the lockdown.

A huge thank you from Mercy Relief!

We would like to acknowledge our key supporters for their contributions to this relief effort.

ClubSNAP

Giosis Pte Ltd

KK Women's and Children's Hospital Pte Ltd

Michael Tay Wee Jin

Rahmatan Lil 'Alamin Foundation

SATS Staff Association

Sikh Welfare Council

Singapore Civil Defence Force

Singapore Red Cross

Singapore SOKA Association

And special thanks to all the volunteers and donors including individuals, communities and organisations. We could not have done it without you.

Public fundraising commenced on receipt of the foreign fund permit no. 0019/2015 from the Commissioner of Charities (COC) for the period of 27 April to 30 June 2015. Completed project accounts were audited and submitted to COC within the 2-month requirement.



It takes a team of specialised aid workers to respond timely and effectively to humanitarian crises around the region as well as implement impactful developmental projects. When you donate to Mercy Relief's General Fund you enable our ability to scale as an organisation and strengthen our expertise on the field. Please note that all donations will be directed to this fund will enjoy a tax deduction of 250 percent of the amount of the donation.

For more information, visit www.mercyrelief.org/donate



Disasters show no mercy, but you can.