

PLAN INTERNATIONAL IRELAND

DONOR REPORT TO IRISH LEAGUE OF CREDIT UNIONS

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

In June 2015, Plan International Ireland gratefully received a donation of €10,000 from the Irish League of Credit Unions towards the Nepal Earthquake Emergency Response Appeal. Two devastating earthquakes struck Nepal within weeks of each other in April and May 2015. On 25th April 2015 a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck 81 km northwest of Kathmandu, now recognised as the largest earthquake to hit Nepal in the past 80 years. Less than two weeks later, on 12th May, a 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck 76 km northeast of Kathmandu. Approximately eight million people, or one-third of Nepal's population have had their lives changed by these events. The widespread destruction touched residential, government, cultural and infrastructural buildings. Because so many rural areas in Nepal are isolated and difficult to reach even without infrastructural destruction, these areas were particularly impacted.

RESPONSE

Plan Nepal's Go Team, including specialists from Plan International Ireland who were deployed, undertook Rapid Needs Assessments between 27th April and 3rd May. The assessment found that the Sindupalchowk and Dolakha areas were severely affected and had huge unmet needs of children and young people. Additionally, it was found that between 70-95% of the houses in these districts sustained significant damage. Shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene materials and assistance (WASH) were determined to be among the key needs of affected people, according to the rapid needs assessment.



Distribution of Shelter and WASH Kits



Plan responded in areas where we already had programme presence. Plan carried out a rapid helicopter assessment of inaccessible areas and made a decision to prioritise Dolkha due to the absence of other responders. Dolkha was the epicenter for the second earthquake and Plan was able to respond on the day in Charikot town with the distribution of procured tarpaulin.

Activities in Dolkha have reached over 100,000 people. Plan International was assigned to work in 16 out of 48 communities in Dolakha district in coordination with District Disaster Risk Committee and other key humanitarian actors in the district (including coordinated partnership with UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision). Due to the urgency of emergency relief and the wide impact of the earthquakes on the whole population, distribution of relief items (tarpaulins, rope, food and water kits) was carried out by Plan.

Young boy receives Shelter and WASH Kits

Plan also provided tarpaulins and food, with logistical support from the United States Marines, to inaccessible high-altitude areas in the north of Dolkha where road transport was not possible.

Plan field staff directly carried out relief activities. Materials procured in Kathmandu were transported to the field warehouse. Items were dispatched on the day of arrival from Kathmandu or subsequent day due to limited field storage capacity and requirement to provide materials urgently. In each community, 2-3 distribution points were arranged to ensure the safe travel for beneficiaries. Collaboration with community authorities and the Nepalese army was taken into account for the storage of items and mobilisation of volunteers for distribution. At each distribution point, collection of feedback using tablets and written suggestions were obtained and analysed for quality improvement.

A Help Desk was established at each distribution point, run by Plan staff and volunteers, to provide information in relation to Plan International's response and relief programmes. Distribution of information, education and communication materials on child protection, trafficking, and hygiene promotion was carried out during Help Desk sessions in order to inform population groups on issues of concern and to utilise the conglomeration of populations to deliver messaging on other key issues linked to the emergency.

The Plan International response to date has reached an estimated 195,909 persons of which 81,964 are children. In particular, 8250 shelter kits were distributed to 7,600 households, allowing them to construct temporary shelter using tarpaulins and local materials. These kits also included non-food items such as blankets. In addition, 5,323 households received a standard WASH kit which included soap, buckets, jerry cans, and water purification tablets.



Couple registering to receive Shelter and WASH kits

As of the end of July 2015, the majority of people have constructed temporary shelters. The District Disaster Responses Committee is currently working on re-locating communities who are in danger of potential landslides during the upcoming monsoon season. Temporary shelter needs remain high for support in transition to semi-permanent shelters with provision of corrugated galvanised iron sheets, and community water points require repairs to cope with the monsoon and winter seasons. In terms of water and sanitation, 41 of the 48 communities in Dolkha have received full WASH kit coverage. At this stage, no health epidemics were recorded in the district which demonstrates the effectiveness of the hygiene programme.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The initially planned items to be distributed were adapted to the evolving needs and coverage through other actors and sources: the shelter kit distributed included 1 tarp and 1 rope per family for an initial distribution covering 7,600 households. Initially, it was planned to distribute 2,500 kits with more items, but in light of the dire need for shelter it was decided to reach more households, if with a slightly less detailed kit. For example, mosquito nets were removed from distribution kits as they were not needed in the target area of Dolkha, which is at an elevation where mosquitos and malaria are not an issue. 5,323 households received a standard WASH kit distribution in line with the UNICEF standard kits. Each kit contained a bucket with lid, jerry can, 10 soaps and 60 aquatabs as standard items.

The Irish League of Credit Unions' generous contribution to Plan Ireland's Nepal appeal allowed Plan to continue to provide life-saving aid in Nepal. Needs and responses change during the timeline of a disaster response. Given the diverse and changing situation for the children and families on the ground, Plan Ireland allowed the Nepal team to attribute the funds and resources where their experts ascribed the greatest and most urgent needs, as described throughout this report.

Plan Ireland's early presence on the ground in Nepal resulted in our involvement in responses to families' immediate, basic needs. The first phase of the response focused on shelter, water and sanitation needs for an estimated 195,909 people, including 81,954 children. The Irish League of Credit Unions' contribution was allocated to the distribution of shelter and sanitation kits to 375 of these households, approximately 2,625 people.

Budget Breakdown:

	Unit Cost	No of Units	Total budget
Shelter kit - Tarpaulin	12	375	4,500
Installation materials (including rope)	2	375	750
WASH kits	11	375	4,125
Transportation and distribution	625	1	625
Total			10,000

GOING FORWARD

The Irish League of Credit Unions' generous donation to the Nepal appeal enabled Plan to respond and meet the immediate shelter, water and sanitation needs of 375 families. Going forward, Plan will work to establish Temporary Learning Centres, enabling children whose schools have been destroyed to continue in their studies.

Plan remains conscious that the residents in these areas remain at significant risk, particularly in light of the ongoing monsoon season, which is expected to cause further health and sanitation threats to earthquake effected areas. Plan is particularly cognisant of the fact that children are among the most vulnerable in the aftermath of natural disasters, and their core needs - including shelter, water, health care, and essential protection mechanisms - will be among our immediate priorities. Plan will maintain its presence in the region with the aim of delivering assistance to those in need as efficiently and effectively as possible.



Help Desk for distribution of information regarding Plan International response