

# UNICEF NEPAL: CONSOLIDATED EMERGENCY REPORT, 2018



*Figure 1: A mother and her two children returning from collecting essential supplies from. UNICEF Nepal/2018/NShrestha*

## Table of Contents

### Contents

Table of Contents .....	1
Abbreviations and Acronyms .....	3
Executive Summary .....	4
Humanitarian Context.....	4
Humanitarian Results.....	5
Results table.....	7
Narrative Reporting .....	9
Health.....	9
Post earthquake recovery support: Increased local health capacity through the construction of prefabricated health centres and capacity building: .....	9
Strengthened national immunization programme in disaster affected areas: .....	9
Establishment of Specialized Newborn Care Units: .....	9
Humanitarian response in flood affected districts: .....	10
Challenges and managerial response: .....	10
South-South cooperation and learning:.....	10
Nutrition:.....	11
Cluster coordination: .....	12
Challenges and managerial response: .....	13
Education .....	13
Flood Response .....	13
Response to the 2015 Nepal Earthquake .....	14
Cluster coordination .....	14
Challenges and managerial solutions in emergency response: .....	15
Child Protection .....	16
Child Protection system strengthening:.....	16
Case management and unaccompanied and separated children: .....	16
Psychosocial support to children and their families: .....	16
Anti- trafficking: .....	16

Cluster coordination support: .....	17
WASH .....	17
Challenges and managerial response .....	18
Cluster response .....	18
Learning.....	18
Social Policy.....	19
Building the capacity and preparedness of Nepal's social protection system for disaster response: .....	19
South-South Collaboration:.....	19
Challenges and Managerial responses:.....	19
Communication.....	20
Communication for Development [C4D] .....	20
Case study: Ensuring children can return to school in the aftermath of a disaster. ....	22
Results Achieved from Humanitarian Thematic Funding .....	25
Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation .....	25
Financial Analysis .....	26
Table 1: Funding status against the appeal by sector.....	26
Table 2: Funding received and available by donor and funding type .....	27
Table 3: Thematic Humanitarian contributions received in 2018 .....	28
Future Work Plan .....	29
Expression of Thanks.....	29
Donor Feedback Forms .....	30
Human Interest Stories: .....	30

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

•	Basic Sanitation Unit	(BSUs)
•	China Country Office	(CCO)
•	Civil Society Organizations	(CSOs)
•	Comprehensive School Safety	(CSS)
•	Disaster Risk Reduction	(DRR)
•	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management	(DRRM)
•	Early Childhood Development	(ECD)
•	Influenza A virus subtype	(H1N1)
•	Humanitarian Action for Children	(HAC)
•	infection prevention	(IP)
•	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference	(MUAC)
•	Ministry of Health and Population	(MoHP)
•	Ministry of Home Affairs	(MoHA)
•	Nepal Country Office	(NCO)
•	Oral Rehydration Salts	(ORS)
•	Post Disaster Recovery Framework	(PDRF)
•	School Management Committee	(SMC)
•	Severe Acute Malnutrition	(SAM)
•	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment in Relief and Transition	(SMART)
•	Transitional Learning Centres	(TLCs)
•	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	(WASH)

## Executive Summary

In 2018, small scale localized disasters such as floods, landslides, cold waves, house fires, diarrheal outbreaks, influenza H1N1 impacted life, livelihoods and infrastructure throughout Nepal. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) recorded 460 deaths, directly from these disasters (265 male and 195 female). Over 37, 945 people (7,589 households) were affected, of which 41 per cent, or approximately 15,600, were children.

UNICEF mobilized resource to support the local government's response to disasters across the country. Emergency response support was provided for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Education, Health, Child Protection and Nutrition programme through government system, cumulatively reaching 22,800 people (male: 11,172 and 11,628 female). The response support provided women, children and communities an immediate relief (such as water purification tabs, hygiene kits, Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS), Zinc). UNICEF's response and technical support remain crucial to local governments as most of them lacked resources and mechanism for disaster response while transitioning to federal structure.

Post-Earthquake residual support: UNICEF continued residual recovery work in districts affected by 2015 earthquake and 2017 floods, mainly in Health: construction of prefabricated health posts; in WASH: construction and maintenance of water schemes in communities and schools and in Education: construction of Transitional Learning Centre in earthquake affected district and flood recovery support in Terai districts. A total of 70 (out of 74 planned) fully equipped prefab health facilities were handed over to the Government; 165 earthquake resilient Transitional Learning Centres (TLCs) out of 250 as well as 119 gender and disabled-friendly basic sanitation units have been completed. Additionally, 92 community water supply schemes and 175 school WASH facilities including 43 water connections for TLCs were completed benefitting a total of 32,666 people and 29,051 children. UNICEF reached 5,821 children (2,843 boys and 2,978 girls) as well as 331 teachers and school management committee (SMC) members with disaster training.

2017 flood support: continuing the 2017 flood recovery, UNICEF reached 77,044 students from 273 flood affected schools with education materials and WASH interventions. Malnutrition was a major factor for 2018, with UNICEF reaching 1,400,772 children aged 6-59 months with Biannual Vitamin A supplementation, counselling of breast feeding and complementary feeding to the caretakers of 0-23 months children, screening of children aged 6-59 months children, treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), deworming of 12-59 months children, iron and folic acid tablets to pregnant and lactating women. Finally, 13,244 children with SAM were provided nutrition support in the flood affected districts.

## Humanitarian Context

Nepal, like many other countries in the South Asia, faces frequent natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, fires and cold waves that affect lives, livelihoods and infrastructure. The German Watch Global Climate Risk Index 2019<sup>1</sup> ranks Nepal 4<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries, in terms of climate related risk (2017). The global risk index prepared by Index for Risk Management, placed Nepal 46<sup>th</sup> out of the 191 countries. Cumulative figures over the past four decades (1971–2010) indicate that 30,982 people have lost their lives and another 57,227 have been injured due to small to medium scale disasters in Nepal.<sup>2</sup> The findings from the recent studies conducted by various research institutions underscore the probability of another high magnitude earthquake, particularly concentrating in

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<sup>1</sup> German Watch 2019, accessed on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

[https://www.germanwatch.org/sites/germanwatch.org/files/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202019\\_2.pdf](https://www.germanwatch.org/sites/germanwatch.org/files/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202019_2.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://drrportal.gov.np/>

western Nepal.<sup>3</sup> The country's inherent vulnerability to disaster and climate change and the lack of capacity to address those risks not only threatens hard-won developmental gains, but also increases the risk to life and livelihood's to people, especially children, in Nepal.

2018 was an unusually stable year for Nepal, with no large-scale disaster. Especially when compared to 2017 Terai floods and 2015 earthquakes. Despite this, mid-summer monsoon rains still triggered floods in a handful of Terai districts, and landslides in hill districts. This, compounded by the sporadic incidences of house fires, diarrheal outbreak and influenza H1N1 still meant that 2018 was a year marred by the tragic loss of almost 500 lives from disaster. While the entire population is at risk from natural hazards, children, women and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately exposed to the risk of loss of life, livelihoods and the future potential.

In addition to the localised disaster detailed above, the country continued to feel the residual impact of the 2015 earthquake and 2017 floods. About 2.8 million people were affected by the former and 102,524 people by the latter. More than three years following the 2015 earthquake, 370,241 private houses were constructed and remaining 595,620 under construction as per the update from National Reconstruction Authority.<sup>4</sup> The 2015 earthquake tested the disaster response capacity of Nepal, pushing additional 2.5 to 3.5 per cent of the Nepali population into further poverty.<sup>5</sup> The earthquakes severely affected 14 districts of Central and Eastern region - the deadliest disasters in the history of Nepal since the 1934 earthquake. The earthquakes claimed 8,962<sup>6</sup> lives including 1,489 children (770 male and 719 female) under five and 1,380 children (594 male and 786 female) aged 6 to 16 years and injured a total of 22,302 people as per Ministry of Home Affairs.<sup>7</sup> Similarly, in August 2017, large scale flooding and landslides affected 32 of the country's 77 districts. According to the Post Flood Recovery Needs Assessment carried out by the Government of Nepal, an estimated NPR 73.22 billion (approx. US\$ 662,985,134) was required to support the post flood recovery efforts.

In 2018, the country's transition to federal structure continued. Government of Nepal endorsed the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act in 2017. The newly enacted DRRM Act, the subsequent regulation and by-laws, which are currently being developed by the federal government, will provide guidelines to govern the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Act at provincial and local levels. In the current transitional period, the establishment of humanitarian coordination mechanisms at the provincial and local level has been slow. In addition, humanitarian preparedness and response capacity of the local and provincial government remains limited to carry out disaster risk management functions as mandated by DRRM Act.

## Humanitarian Results

In 2018 UNICEF finalized the last parts of its 2015 Earthquake recovery work and completed the 2017 flood recovery work. For the earthquakes, UNICEF focused on responding to the recovery and reconstruction priorities identified within the Post Disaster Recovery Framework (PDRF). The 2017 flood came while UNICEF was still implementing the recovery and reconstruction plan for the earthquake. To support the flood recovery, UNICEF worked with other UN agencies, humanitarian actors and the Government of Nepal to agree sectoral recovery plans.

Specifically, in 2018 UNICEF's response to the 2017 flood reached 77,044 students (53 per cent girls) from 273 flood affected schools with education materials and WASH interventions in six districts., in 2018, UNICEF support

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<sup>3</sup> Robinson, Tom R. et.al (2018) Use of Scenario Ensembles for Deriving Seismic Risk. Department of Geography, Durham University, Durham DH1 3LE, United Kingdom; and National Society of Earthquake Technology–Nepal, Kathmandu. PNAS, 116 (41).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nra.gov.np/np>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nepal/brief/nepal-country-results-brief>

<sup>6</sup> 3,934 male, 5,026 females and two of unknown gender

<sup>7</sup> <http://drrportal.gov.np/>

continued in 16 out of 32 flood affected districts to intensify routine immunization reaching 250,000 children. In addition, UNICEF distributed 700 insecticide treated bed-nets, 300 newborn baby suits, 2000 ORS and 1000 Zinc strips and treated over 200 cases of diarrhoea through government partners. UNICEF supported to establish specialized newborn care units in five earthquake affected districts for the treatment of sick newborns who need specialized care. UNICEF also completed its flood response and recovery works by providing technical and financial support for repair and reconstruction of damaged WASH services including hygiene promotion and reaching 141,647.

Post-earthquake work resulted in handing over 70 out of 74 prefabricated health posts. In 2018, 42 health posts were handed over to the local government authorities, and the remaining four will be handed over by April 2019. In addition, solar power backup systems were installed in 50 prefabricated health posts in 2018 and remaining 24 will be installed by April 2019. Of the 250 TLCs UNICEF still must complete, 165 were completed by December 2018 (66 per cent), with construction underway for a further 28 and the remainder to begin and be completed in 2019. As part of this work, 119 basic sanitation units and 46 water connections have also been completed across four districts.

UNICEF responded to localized disasters, most notably small-scale floods, in various parts of the country in 2018. Emergency response reached 22,800 people (male: 11,172 and 11,628 female). The immediate response provided women, children and communities an immediate relief (such as water purification tabs, hygiene kits, ORS, Zinc), to recover. UNICEF's response and technical support remained crucial to the local government as most of them lacked resources and mechanisms for disaster response while transitioning to federal structure. vulnerable population of five highly affected districts.

As part of its response to various small, localized disasters, UNICEF reached more than 3,470 households (18,904 people including 6,924 children) of seven districts through WASH response and technical assistance to the local governments.

UNICEF also supported the local government to respond to the localized flood in Saptari district by providing education supplies, helping 485 children (59 per cent girls) to resume their education. In earthquake affected districts, 7,761 children benefitted from education supplies in 2018. 165 earthquake-resilient TLCs were constructed, as well as 119 gender and disability friendly basic sanitation units. In addition, 331 teachers and early childhood development facilitators, and SMC members were trained on disaster risk reduction.

## Results table

SN	Indicators	Cluster Targets *	Cluster Achievement*	UNICEF Target *	UNICEF Achievement *
	Counselling of breast feeding and complementary feeding to the caretakers of 6-23 months' children	315,587	297,281	315,587	297,281
	Screening of 6-59 months children	979,971	630,976	979,971	630,976
	Admission of Severe Acute Malnourished Children in the OTC	15,000	15,201	15,000	15,201
	Vitamin A Supplementation to 6-59 months children	1,277,228	1,400,772	1,277,228	1,400,772
	Deworming distribution to 12-59 months children	1,123,091	1,209,568	1,123,091	1,209,568
	Iron and Folic Acid Tablet to Pregnant and Postnatal Women	280,374	160,950	280,374	160,950
	Number of households reached with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene support	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,470
	Number of flood affected children benefitting from WASH interventions and education materials	N/A	N/A	40,000	77,529 (cumulative)
	Number of flood affected classrooms supported with education supplies or infrastructure	N/A	N/A	1,000	1,268
	Number of flood affected schools with restored WASH facilities	N/A	N/A	250	250
	Number of teachers, ECD facilitators, SMC members and child club members oriented on the use of education supply materials, and emergency preparedness and management.	N/A	N/A	1,000	2,938
	Number of earthquake affected children benefitting from Temporary Learning Centers and education material	N/A	N/A	N/A	7,761
	Number of semi-permanent classrooms built or repaired in earthquake affected communities	N/A	N/A	N/A	330
	Number of gender and disability friendly latrines provided in earthquake affected schools	N/A	N/A	N/A	119



SN	Indicators	Cluster Targets *	Cluster Achievement*	UNICEF Target *	UNICEF Achievement *
	Number of teachers, ECD facilitators and SMC members trained on harmonized and comprehensive DRR and school safety package	N/A	N/A	N/A	472
	Number of Health posts completed and handed over to the local governments	N/A	N/A	74	70
	Number of cases of children with protection concerns supported by UNICEF and the GoN	N/A	N/A	N/A	435
	Number of cases of potential trafficking intercepted at the border, with support from UNICEF	N/A	N/A	N/A	368

\* Where applicable (there was no HAC or large coordinated response to disaster in 2018, only residual recovery work from 2017 floods and 2015 earthquakes, supplemented by localized responses to small scale disasters, which UNICEF responded to on an as needed basis)

## Narrative Reporting

### Health

Through health-related earthquake recovery, reconstruction and in response to the floods of 2017, the following was accomplished in 2018:

UNICEF closely works with Health cluster partners and support health system for rapid response during i) initial phase of the emergency response, ii) Post-trauma rehabilitation and management of patients and mental health and psychosocial support, iii) Revitalization of primary health care services including the rehabilitation of birthing centres, iv) Address specific health needs: Reproductive Health, Tuberculosis, human immunodeficiency virus and Mental Health and v) Re-establishment of health services as a part of recovery phase and initiating the transition towards development work and system strengthening.

#### Post earthquake recovery support: Increased local health capacity through the construction of prefabricated health centres and capacity building:

To support the 'build back better' initiative of the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in earthquake affected districts, UNICEF made a commitment to construct 74 prefab health posts where the health facilities were damaged or destroyed. By the end of 2018, 70 of the 74 have been completed and formally handed over to the local authorities (42 in 2018). The final four health posts will be completed and handed over by April 2019. The prefab health posts are resilient to strong wind, fire, and earthquake and can withstand severe weather conditions. The construction sites were selected through extensive consultation with the district health office, local communities, and non-governmental organizations in the respective districts. In addition, solar power backup systems were installed in 50 health posts, with the remaining finished by April 2019. The solar power backup system is important to provide electricity and hot water as there are several health facilities without electricity power.

In addition to the construction of prefabricated health centres, UNICEF conducted trainings on Infection Prevention (IP) and prefab maintenance to all the staff in the prefab health facilities to create a safe environment. The training was included government endorsed standard IP curriculum, with additional knowledge and hands on skills on maintenance of prefabricated materials. Altogether 449 health workers have been trained in 2018. In addition, UNICEF provided orientations on prefab maintenance to 291 members of health facility operation and management committee and 180 key stakeholders in 70 prefab sites.

#### Strengthened national immunization programme in disaster affected areas:

Although support to earthquake affected districts scaled down in 2018, UNICEF continued to support cold chain equipment repair and maintenance, auctioning of old equipment, and Effective Vaccine Management standard operating procedure training in 14 districts.

#### Establishment of Specialized Newborn Care Units:

In 2018, UNICEF provided support to strengthen the treatment of sick newborn in hospitals by establishing Specialized Newborn Care Units in eight hospitals (five out of eight are in earthquake affected districts). UNICEF procured equipment required for SNCUs as per the government standard and distributed in these hospitals. These SNCUs are providing free care to sick newborns including referral (if required) as per government protocol.

#### Humanitarian response in flood affected districts:

UNICEF provided technical support to intensify routine immunization activities in 16 flood affected districts in 2018 to reach 250,000 children. To ensure that every child receives immunization, UNICEF supported 16 district health offices to conduct district-level microplanning, organize regular coordination meetings, and monitor vaccine stock status and cold chain equipment status. UNICEF also conducted orientations for around 1,000 female community health volunteers on social mobilization, aired messaging through community radios and social mobilization, and disseminated Information Education and Communication materials.

UNICEF prepositioned ten basic health kits to cover 100,000 population for three months, and 700 long-lasting insecticide treated nets to replenish the preposition items of 20,000.

The flood response in Hanumannagar, Kankalini and Tilathi Koiladi municipalities of Saptari district in August 2018 includes 400 insecticide treated bed-nets and 300 baby incentive kits for mother and neonatal baby. In addition, there was seasonal flu (H1N1) epidemic in Kanchanrup and Hanumannagar municipalities. UNICEF disseminated Health Education materials and mobilized female community health volunteers to prevent transmission of seasonal flu. Few cases were referred to hospital and total four people died due to the seasonal flu during September 2018. UNICEF distributed 2,000 ORS and 1,000 zinc strips to district health office to respond to the 2018 diarrheal epidemic in Nainhi village of Jaleswor municipality in Mohhatari district. The district health office organized health camps and treated over 200 diarrhea cases in first week of the epidemic.

#### Challenges and managerial response:

Regarding prefabricated health Posts, there were many construction challenges faced, one major challenge faced in 2018 was physical access to the construction sites, with transportation of materials being complicated by the remoteness of the areas. Often without road access, over 150 containers worth of materials had to be manually moved to the construction sites. To overcome various difficulties in operating in remote areas, UNICEF has been making use of local resources. For example, in geographically difficult areas where container trucks cannot pass, UNICEF used local means of transportation like porters to transport materials. Where a crane was not available or deployable, these materials were erected using improvised pulleys. Throughout this process, UNICEF ensured compliance with all relevant safety procedures while adapting its methods to ensure timely construction of the health posts. Another challenge was high turnover of construction workers, as local construction workers are not familiar with prefabricated construction methods. Furthermore, the high turnover of the construction company's staff resulted in further delays in the overall construction schedule. UNICEF facilitated extensive on-site job training and initiated South-South cooperation with the UNICEF China Country Office (CCO) to overcome them during 2017 and 2018.

#### South-South cooperation and learning:

The project on prefabricated health centres is a good example of South-South collaboration between the CCO and Nepal Country Office (NCO). In this project, UNICEF China office supported Nepal Office to procure prefab materials, including WASH and electrical equipment from Chinese companies through UNICEF's procurement procedures.

Additionally, three Chinese engineers were sourced by China office and seconded for on-site supervision initially for the erection of the first few prefabs to train the local contractors as well as to ensure quality control. Throughout the year, the NCO and CCO teams were in constant coordination and communication to ensure the quality and timely arrival of materials.

One key learning has been, that partnership and collaboration with government counterparts is crucial for successful construction of prefabs. A good working relationship established between the UNICEF and the MoHP construction specialist/unit paved the way forward for dialogue and come up with solutions even when major delays and challenges were faced. UNICEF and MoHP provided mutual support to assure the quality of prefab design, site layout and validation of the quality of prefabs before handing over to district health offices and health facility operation and management committees

### Nutrition:

UNICEF emergency response for nutrition incorporated two interventions: (i) Flood Response for the 2017 floods; and ii) the small-scale interventions to address the flood response in Saptari district in 2018.

(i) As a part of monitoring progress, an assessment of the nutritional status and feeding behaviour of children, adolescent, pregnant and lactating women were measured through Standardized Monitoring and Assessment in Relief and Transition (SMART) nutrition survey in six flood affected districts (Rautahat, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Saptari, Jhapa and Siraha). The data collection of the survey started from the third week of April 2018 due to delay in getting ethical clearance from Nepal Health Research Council.

According to the finding of the SMART nutrition survey, the status of under nutrition of children under age of five at risk of all three indicators (stunting, wasting and underweight). The acceptable level of stunting is 20 per cent but the status in six districts is 30.1 per cent according to the WHO criteria. Similarly, using weight for height Z-score, the proportion of acute malnutrition (wasting) among children under 5 years of age is 19.4 per cent (severe: 5.2 per cent) and is critical as defined by WHO. Globally, acute malnutrition levels of less than 5 per cent are considered as "Acceptable"; 5 to 9 per cent as "Poor"; 10 to 14 per cent as "Serious"; and 15 per cent and more as "Critical". As per this guideline, the 6 districts in terms of incidence of wasting show that the situation ranges from "Serious" to "Critical". Regarding the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) assessment, the situation is quite different. The findings show the differences between rapid nutrition assessment after 10 days of flood emergencies i.e. last week of August 2017 was 28.3 per cent and MUAC assessment during SMART nutrition survey done in during end of nutrition in flood emergency response in March 2018 was 7.7 per cent.

UNICEF also provided the nutrition cluster coordination effectively and more than 25 nutrition cluster members participated in the cluster related meetings and events, including assessments.

(ii) The 2018 flood affected six wards of Hanumannagar Kankalini Municipality (ward no. 5, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12) and two wards of Tilathi Koiladi Rural Municipality (ward no. 4 and 5) inundating about 540 households As part of emergency response, UNICEF provided a joint sanitation, clean water and nutrition response to the affected areas. In case of nutrition, the interventions were as follows:

- screened to assess the nutrition situation of children aged 6-59 months and pregnant & lactating women
- Oriented Female Community Health Volunteers and health workers to address the nutrition issues in the affected areas
- Distributed of Multiple Micro-nutrient powder (MNP) to the children aged 6-23 months in the affected areas by FCHVs
- Treated the children aged 6-59 months with SAM

#### Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening results:

Indicators/Ward No	5	6	7	9	11	12	Total	%
MUAC screening of 6-59 Months children	52	27	46	39	34	66	264	
Normal	45	25	45	34	34	58	241	91.3
Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)	5	2	0	4	0	8	19	7.9
Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)	2	0	1	1	0	0	4	1.52
6-23 months' children taking MNP	19	11	26	33	22	32	143	
Pregnant and lactating women Screening	30	1	14	12	16	14	87	
Pregnant and lactating women (MUAC $\geq$ 230 mm) screening	12	1	7	6	14	7	47	54.0
Pregnant and lactating women (MUAC < 230 mm)	18	0	7	6	2	7	40	46.0

The female community health volunteers and health workers gave MNP (Balvita) to moderately acute malnourished children and normal children of 6-59 months.

Four newly screened severely acutely malnourished children were admitted in the OTC following the flood.

Regarding nutrition response, the following was the status of response:

- Total SAM admitted for the treatment: 39
- Cured Discharged: 28
- In treatment: 7
- Defaulter discharge: 11 (defaulter case is from distant wards who did not came for follow-up)
- Adequate ready to use therapeutic food stock present in the centre.



#### Cluster coordination:

In 2018, nine nutrition cluster meetings were jointly organized by UNICEF and MoHP. In 2018, the nutrition cluster formed five technical working groups to provide technical assistance on different aspects of nutrition programme in emergencies:

- Infant Young Child Feeding working group
- Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition working group

- Micro-nutrient working group
- Information management working group
- Monitoring and Evaluation working group

Similarly, the following documents have been revised/prepared by nutrition cluster in 2018:

- Terms of Reference of nutrition cluster
- Terms of Reference of five nutrition cluster working groups
- Revised nutrition cluster operation guideline
- Prepared/revised three contingency plans to address the issues of nutrition in flood, earthquake and cold wave emergencies
- who, what, where and when mapping for all cluster members in the event of a response
- Update the nutrition cluster roster

#### Challenges and managerial response:

- Supplementary feeding of under five children and pregnant and lactating women was also a challenge in the two municipalities affected by the small-scale flooding. UNICEF coordinated between the two local municipalities to ensure they could provide food to the affected populations, focusing on children under five, pregnant and lactating women.
- To ensure female community health volunteers were able to effectively support relief work, UNICEF provide orientations to the health workers and female community health volunteers. This prevented low and ineffective mobilization and was conducted jointly with district public health office of Saptari. In addition, UNICEF assigned one nutrition officer from the field office full time for two weeks and one non-governmental organization was mobilized for simultaneous action.

### Education

UNICEF emergency response for Education incorporated two large-scale interventions: i) Landslide and Flood Response 2017; and ii) the continuation of the response to the 2015 earthquakes. In addition, there was a small-scale response to a localized flood in the plains of the Terai region in 2018. Thus, this section will highlight UNICEF Nepal's contribution towards recovery of Nepal's Education sector from these disasters. The major bottlenecks and strategic moves UNICEF made as an Education Cluster Co-Lead will also be detailed.

#### Flood Response

The recovery of the 2017 floods was a key focus in 2018. As one of the most severe floods in recent history, it affected 253,605 students in 12 districts through destruction of education infrastructure and materials. Overall, UNICEF reached 77,044 students (53 per cent girls) from 273 flood affected schools with intervention in six districts. Out of these, 46,038 students (51 per cent girls) received education material in the form of ECD kits and Student kits in the 273 schools. In these schools, a total of 2,938 people (39 per cent female) including teachers, SMC members, Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilitators and child club members were oriented on the use of education supply materials, and emergency preparedness and management. All 77,044 students benefitted from WASH interventions in 241 schools. UNICEF, through its implementing partners, carried out repair and maintenance work to restore functionality of damaged WASH facilities in 241 schools. The promotion of hygiene and raising awareness

on emergency preparedness were carried out in 250 schools across the 53 targeted municipalities in the six districts. As a result, three schools received support through their municipality who mobilized local resources for repair and maintenance work of WASH facilities. Additionally, UNICEF's partners, through a co-financing agreement, tested the status of drinking water in 88 schools in three districts. The water quality was found to be contaminated in five schools. Concerned school authorities in the municipalities were informed and committed to take action towards water treatment work.

UNICEF, in coordination with co-lead Save the Children, supported the local government to respond to the localized flood in Saptari district by providing education supplies. During the 2018 local flood response, UNICEF helped 485 (59 per cent girls) children to resume their education.

### Response to the 2015 Nepal Earthquake

The education sector is still recovering from the devastation brought by the two powerful earthquakes in 2015. UNICEF has continued its humanitarian and emergency response work to facilitate the children of Nepal to return to a normal life and maintain their educational achievements. Under the second phase of the recovery package, UNICEF is constructing 250 TLCs in nine earthquake-affected districts. In close coordination with the National Reconstruction Authority's Central Level Project Implementation Unit and its District based counterparts District Level Project Implementation Units, UNICEF constructed 165 earthquake-resilient TLCs composed of two classrooms, 119 gender- and disability-friendly Basic Sanitation Units in 2018. The implementing partners distributed educational and recreational materials (133 ECD Kits, 208 set of Recreational Kits, and 176 School Kits), reaching a total of 7,761 students (51 per cent girls), and conducted training for teachers, School Management Committees (SMCs) and Parent Teacher Associations on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), resilience, and comprehensive school safety. This benefitted 233 (42 per cent female) teachers, 98 EDC facilitators (1 Male) and 141 (32 Female) SMC members. UNICEF has completed construction of TLCs in five districts – Bhaktapur, Nuwakot, Kavre and Ramechhap. The construction in remaining five districts – Okhaldhunga, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Sindhuli and Makwanpur will be completed in 2019 after achieving target of 250 TLCs.

The recovery work and coordination in 2018 has particularly focused on strengthening reconstruction data for decision making to ensure school needs are met. During site selection UNICEF's prioritized those schools of remote location which are receiving limited support in reconstruction. However, construction in remote locations has been challenging in terms of road access and resource mobilization. Furthermore, UNICEF has ensured a holistic approach by building teacher capacity on DRR and Resilience, as well as implementing gender sensitive WASH interventions and providing TLCs with the necessary school and teaching materials to strengthen quality of education.

### Cluster coordination

As the Education Cluster Co-lead, UNICEF, together with Save the Children, supported the government to update the National Education Contingency Plan and ensure effective emergency response mechanisms in the new Federal government structure. Coordination was also done among the cluster agencies on preparedness activities. UNICEF's advocacy contributed to emergency preparedness being institutionalized by the government and emergency funds (US\$ 700,000) being allocated for all seven provinces. As one of the key issues during the Flood in 2017, data collection and information management was further addressed in 2018. An Information Manager was deployed to support the Flood Response and overall information management of the education cluster at the Department of

Education. The work included revising damage assessment tools that were published on the Department of Education website and used by local governments. Furthermore, UNICEF advocated and coordinated to identify Emergency Education focal person in 77 districts. In line with Monsoon Contingency Plan 2018 prepared by Humanitarian Country Team and the UNICEF Contingency Plan, UNICEF Education Section prepositioned emergency education supplies targeting 21,000 children; which has further contributed the Education cluster's emergency preparedness plan.

#### Challenges and managerial solutions in emergency response:

i) Inclusion of education in national contingency planning: The impact of the 2017 flood on the education sector demonstrated the need to integrate education in national contingency planning. Up until 2018, education sector was not part of the Monsoon Contingency plan of the Humanitarian Country Team, meaning that funds for education response were not available through the Central Emergency Response Fund proposal. The size of the caseload of the 2017 flood made it necessary for UNICEF and humanitarian partners to coordinate amongst themselves for immediate response, while resources for education flood recovery were mobilized through the Education Cannot Wait fund. UNICEF Nepal and the education cluster therefore advocated for inclusion of education in the list of priority sectors in national contingency planning. Progress was made in 2017 through inclusion of education in the Joint Response Plan of the Humanitarian Country Team. The advocacy and work led to the education sector being included in the Humanitarian Country Team Monsoon Contingency Plan for 2018, which will enable the generation and allocation of resources for future responses.

ii) Information Management: Based on the lessons on information management of emergency response and recovery work, UNICEF, as education cluster co-lead continued to provide dedicated human resource for information management to the education cluster. During 2018, one Information Manager dedicated to the Earthquake recovery work was placed at the Central Level Programme Implementation Unit, to maintain information and provide analytical reports on the progress of the Earthquake 2015 reconstruction activities in the education sector. One Information Manager was designated to the Flood response and education cluster with the Department of Education.

iii) Building capacity at school and local government level on emergency preparedness and resilience in the education sector: The Government of Nepal continued the transition to federalism, streamlining responsibility of emergency preparedness and response to local levels. While the national cluster mechanism is fully operational, cluster mechanisms and standard operating procedures are yet to be established for emergency response at the local government level. During the response to the localized flood in Saptari, this contributed to confusion about the focal person/authority responsible for coordination of the response. After UNICEF's engagement with the local government, local authorities took a greater leadership role for the response, ensuring timely resumption of education for the affected children.

In the changed federal context, elected local government need enhanced technical capacity and understanding of coordination mechanism for effective response.

UNICEF as a cluster co-lead continues working with the government to advocate for stronger response coordination mechanisms at local government levels. As a development partner focal point and technical working group co-lead,



UNICEF has been an influential advocate of school safety issues in Nepal over the past years, playing a significant role towards the mainstreaming of school safety into policy and national framework. In 2018, UNICEF provided technical assistance for operationalization of the comprehensive school safety minimum package and providing guidelines for building capacity of key duty bearers of school safety, e.g. local governments and school management committees, to ensure implementation of school safety. This work will continue in 2019, strengthening resilience at school level and capacity of the local government to prepare for and respond to emergencies in the education sector.

## Child Protection

### Child Protection system strengthening:

UNICEF continued to support the government to strengthen the child protection system with the aim to protect children for violence, abuse and exploitation both in the normal and emergency settings. UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance to the Central Child Welfare Board and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to ensure that systems are in place to prevent family separation and institutionalization of children, promptly identify and reunify unaccompanied and separated children, provide psychosocial support to children and families affected by the earthquake or other emergencies, mitigate the risk of being trafficked and to provide appropriate services. UNICEF continued to ensure that a system building approach was used while designing the emergency and recovery programme.

### Case management and unaccompanied and separated children:

UNICEF partnered with the government to strengthen case management system to respond to child protection cases. The technical and financial support included revision of the existing national case management guidelines and aligning it with different international instruments and domestic policies. UNICEF continued to work together with the government and the CSOs to ensure that children were not unnecessarily separated from their families and those who were at the brink of separation receive appropriate services, mitigating the risk of separation. A total of 435 children (201 boys and 234 girls) with protection concerns gained access to child protection services which included identification and registration, assessment, care plan, implementation of the care plan, follow up and case closure based on the established case management procedures. All the above-mentioned emergency interventions substantially contributed to improve the child protection system.

### Psychosocial support to children and their families:

Psychosocial interventions and prevention and response to gender-based violence are priority interventions under the protection cluster strategic work plan. With UNICEF's effective advocacy these interventions have been included in the annual plan and budget of the Department of Women and Children ensuring sustainability of programme. In addition, 36 psychosocial centres have been established and functional in the 2015 earthquake affected districts. In collaboration with the CSOs, 608 women and children received psychosocial support.

### Anti- trafficking:

Sexual exploitation is one of the main reasons for trafficking of Nepali women and children to India and beyond. The modality is to lure Nepali girls to Indian cities for 'business opportunities' and then exploit them for cheap labour and commercial sex/entertainment sector. Given this scenario UNICEF partnered with CSOs and the Nepal Police to strengthen the boarder surveillance. During the reporting period, UNICEF's support resulted in the interception of total 368 cases (potential trafficking) at the India-Nepal border. Out of which 25 cases were registered with the Nepal police and the 343 women and girls were reintegrated with their families and communities. UNICEF facilitated CSOs-provided support to survivors of trafficking and awareness raising activities in high risk communities on prevention of trafficking. In addition, 650 government including police personnel and community members were oriented and/or trained prevention and response to trafficking.

#### Cluster coordination support:

UNICEF together with the government co-led the protection cluster including the child protection sub-cluster at the national level, and supported coordination efforts of all protection interventions. Due to the country's shift to a federal system was one of the major challenge faced by the cluster was the status of the led from Government. As part of re-structuring, the size of the Department of Women and Children was substantially reduced, and the District Women and Children Offices ceased to exist. Consequently, disruption of emergency recovery programme was a major concern.

#### WASH

In 2018, UNICEF continued to provide technical and financial assistance for WASH reconstruction activities in earthquake affected and flood affected districts. The support included both hardware and software components of WASH programming. These activities included (i) effective cluster coordination mechanism, (ii) reconstruction and rehabilitation of water supply systems, (iii) reconstruction and rehabilitation of sanitation and hygiene facilities in communities, (iv) provision of WASH facilities in school, v) capacity building on resilient WASH Programme targeting Government officials, stakeholders, and water user committee.

UNICEF Nepal WASH received funds from Global Humanitarian Thematic, Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), USAID, Global Thematic (including funds from the government of Finland), *Tetsuko Kuroyanagi* Fund and Cargill Fund in addition to UNICEF Regular resources to provide humanitarian assistance to the people affected by different type of emergencies in Nepal. With those resources, UNICEF Nepal was able to reach to 33,793 people with improved sources of drinking water through construction and rehabilitation of 97 water supply schemes. 92 water supply schemes were reconstructed in 11 earthquake affected districts benefiting 32,666 people. In addition, 27,377 children in 175 schools benefited from provision of improved water supply schemes.

To ensure sustainability through improved management, 420 user committee members and 162 plumbers were trained on management, operation and maintenance of water supply schemes. Under the flood recovery work, UNICEF supported safe drinking water to 37,394 people through recovery and rehabilitation of damaged water supply systems in the seven highly affected flood districts. Furthermore, 30,068 people and school children were reached through sanitation facilities and rehabilitation work in seven flood affected districts to support elimination

of open defecation. Additionally, 6,011 people were educated on hygienic behaviours, in the earthquake affected communities. Over 141,600 people in flood affected districts were also reached with critical hygiene behaviour messages on topics from hand washing to, menstrual hygiene, the use of toilet and water purification.

In addition, about 16,000 people (about 2,970 households) were reached with life-saving WASH response to various small and localized emergencies such as flood/ landslide, and outbreaks. Water quality tests of 88 water supply schemes reconstructed with UNICEF support were conducted to ensure safe drinking water was available. The result of the water quality test was used to trigger community for adopting treatment methods and hygiene behaviours while handling drinking water. As part of cholera prevention activities in Kathmandu valley, 4,200 water sample were also tested to generate awareness and to promote the use of safe water. Result showed that 79 per cent of the tested water was contaminated. Then after, as a part of cholera prevention, the community people were oriented on the household methods of water treatment and safe handling of water.

### Challenges and managerial response

Water safety plans were implemented in 46 water supply schemes. However, local and provincial government agencies for WASH are still in transition, with limited human resources, as such setting up provincial and municipal level water quality monitoring, surveillance, information management and response system in the current federal set up needs additional technical support from UNICEF effort. Therefore, capacity of selected 22 local governments in provincial 2 was developed on emergency preparedness and response.

### Cluster response

Capacity of selected 22 local governments in province 2 was developed on emergency preparedness and response. UNICEF continued to support the WASH Cluster as the co-lead for the national level, however, there is a need to provide additional local support. With its key role as WASH Cluster Co- lead, UNICEF continued to get itself well prepared to respond to 10,000 HHs in case of any emergency by physical prepositioning of emergency supplies, long term arrangements with local vendors, standby partnerships at National level (Contingency PCA) and also supporting cluster lead to strengthen its coordination mechanism through various activities in the WASH Cluster.

### Learning

Based on our learning from 2015, 2016 and 2017 cholera response, UNICEF-Nepal together with its partners focused on the prevention and preparedness for water borne disease outbreaks in Kathmandu valley. In 2018, the Cholera prevention activities were focused more on system strengthening of districts and municipalities on prioritizing prevention of waterborne diseases. The overall goal was to support institutionalizing public health risk reduction programmes as part of the regular local government programme.

Contributing to the knowledge management agenda of WASH Section, a paper on 'the impact of climate change on WASH services: a case from Nepal' was presented at the Water, Engineering and Development (WEDC) conference in July 2018. This paper highlighted Nepal's vulnerability climate change, water-induced disasters and hydrometeorological extreme events such as droughts, landslides and floods. Issues of reduced yield, decreasing rainfall trend, change in rainfall pattern, increasing temperature, and high vulnerability water supply and sanitation schemes to risks were looked into detail in this paper. As per users' perception, yield of water sources reduced by 40 per cent on average while analysis of secondary data revealed over 50 per cent reduction in yield. This forced

communities to resort to different adaptive mechanisms including use of alternate/additional sources (28 per cent) and introduce controlled water distribution mechanisms (21 per cent).

## Social Policy

### Building the capacity and preparedness of Nepal's social protection system for disaster response:

In partnership with UK Aid, UNICEF worked with local governments, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration and MoHA in charge of social protection and disaster response to strengthen shock-responsive social protection aimed at strengthening preparedness and capacity of the social protection system for disaster response through evidence-based policy advocacy and direct technical support. UNICEF commissioned an analysis of (i) Nepal's Social Security Allowance schemes to respond to floods and droughts; and (ii) Options for donors for transferring funds to provide humanitarian cash transfers to respond to disasters through the social protection system. Key findings were presented during a joint High-level panel and technical discussion meeting organized in collaboration with the GoN and Development Partners to share recent evidence and build consensus. The Government is currently drafting Standing Operating Procedure for use of cash in an emergency drawing upon GoN and UNICEF's experience of use of cash during Gorkha Earthquake 2015.

### South-South Collaboration:

In 2018, promoting south-south cooperation, NCO hosted a delegation from Armenia and Tajikistan to learn about Nepal's experience in implementing a large cash transfer programme to respond to the 2015 earthquakes and current efforts to support shock-responsive social protection.

### Challenges and Managerial responses:

The experience of the Emergency Cash Transfer Programme in the aftermath of 2015 earthquake has shown that regular social protection systems in Nepal can be used as an effective mechanism to respond to broader shocks as part of a broader emergency response.<sup>8</sup> However, ensuring the social protection system is ready to respond to future disasters requires strengthening and adapting the social protection system to meet the needs of vulnerable people in normal times and in times of crisis by ensuring timeliness, coverage of affected population and adequacy of support. To this end, UNICEF is supporting the government to build the preparedness and capacity of the social assistance system to respond to future shocks, including floods and droughts.

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<sup>8</sup> Merttens, F., Upadhyay, J., Kukrety, N., Karki, S. and Majeed, Z. (2017), [\*Lessons from the UNICEF Nepal Emergency Cash Transfer Programme through Social Assistance\*](#), Briefing Note, Oxford Policy Management and UNICEF Nepal.

## Communication

In 2018, UNICEF was involved in documenting the impact of the earthquake recovery work in the areas of health; education; water, sanitation and hygiene as well as flood response work in the area of nutrition. This resulted in the production of 16 communication materials including human interest stories, videos, press release and factsheets as well as over 100 social media posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. UNICEF also hosted a visit of Deputy Executive Director, Ms Fatoumata Ndiaye to earthquake-affected districts. The visit coincided with the third anniversary of the 2015 earthquakes and was used to showcase UNICEF's contribution towards the recovery of health and education sectors through the provision of 74 pre-fabricated health posts and 900 TLCs. The visit was well-covered in the local media as well as through UNICEF's internal website, ICON. In addition, UNICEF also hosted a visit for the Arora Foundation, who generously supported the construction of pre-fabricated health posts. Similarly, support was provided during the reconnaissance mission of United Kingdom National Committee for Soccer Aid, a 2019 appeal programme aired on British television.

Learning from the emergency response during the 2015 earthquakes and 2017 floods, UNICEF procured and prepositioned communication equipment and visibility materials worth more than US\$ 24,000 in 2018. These include a variety of equipment for aerial photography and videography of disaster-affected areas as well as visibility materials such as t-shirts, caps, jackets, and stickers, to ensure proper UNICEF branding and visibility during emergency response. This will help in raising awareness about the issues of children in affected areas as well as resources to support UNICEF's work. Long-term arrangements with several institutions and individuals for providing services related to graphic design, translation, printing, writing, photography and videography were established, which will facilitate the content production, especially during emergencies.

Building on the learnings from previous years, UNICEF helped enhance partner capacity related to the production of communication materials. The aim was to heighten the visibility of the needs of children as well as impact of UNICEF's work in earthquake-affected districts. This included a communication workshop for partner organization's staff to enhance their capacity: for drafting compelling human-interest stories; using smartphones to take photos; and ethical considerations while reporting on and interviewing children. Communication workshops in country office as well as field offices were held. The materials received as a result of these workshops will be used in 2019 to highlight UNICEF's work in earthquake reconstruction and recovery.

## Communication for Development [C4D]

Various communication and social mobilization interventions were implemented to reach individuals, families and communities through thematic emergency funding. These funds also enabled us to expand innovative and participatory behaviour change communication interventions through capacity building and mobilization of the adolescents and youths. It also helped us in harnessing the reach of community radios and social media to reach out to communities at scale.

UNICEF collaborated with World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) Asia-Pacific, Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal and Ujyaalo Multimedia Nepal to produce 15 episodes of 'Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction' radio drama. The objective was to increase the knowledge of listeners and influence positive behavioural change on child-centred DRR including maternal and child health through an interactive radio drama

series in the 42 districts. The partnership also aimed at strengthening the capacity of local radio stations and creating linkages among them at regional and national level; empowering radio producers to raise awareness on key issues related to the wellbeing of children, youth and their communities through trainings, knowledge exchange and mentoring. The 20-minute-long edutainment radio drama series included key messages around maternal and child health and disaster risk reduction through settings and characters that the listeners could relate to. The series was centrally produced in four most spoken languages in the country- Khas, Awadhi, Bhojpuri and Maithili and broadcasted nationally, especially in the priority 28 districts and 14 earthquake affected districts every week, reaching around six million people.

The drama was supplemented by a 10-minute local content in local languages developed by the 16 local radio partners from priority districts. 832 local radio magazine programs were produced. This helped in reinforcing the messages disseminated by the drama and brought to light local stories of community resilience and best practices. The local content was not only broadcast as a part of the radio drama but were also a part of their daily broadcast. It gave communities a platform to voice their concerns and problems and discuss matters of health and nutrition, disaster preparedness, reconstruction and rehabilitation together with the stakeholders.

An audience feedback mechanism was established within the programme to support the local partners to collect audience feedback on both the drama series and the local content. 96 per cent of the active listeners rated the content relevant to their daily life and 88 per cent of the audience who participated in a feedback survey reported taking concrete actions after listening to the programme. Similarly, 88 per cent of the listeners who indicated change in their behaviour change included promoting preparing better for disasters. 61 per cent of respondents were female.

123,000 minutes of key lifesaving short radio messages on handwashing, safe water, pneumonia prevention, nutrition during pregnancy, importance of institutional delivery, and H1N1 prevention were aired through more than 400 community radio stations across Nepal, reaching out to almost 23 per cent of the country's populations with in the age group of 15-49 years.

UNICEF partnered with the youth led organization to implement communication and social mobilization interventions to prevent water borne diseases like Acute Gastroenteritis and Cholera outbreak in seven municipalities of Kathmandu Valley. More than 23,000 community members were directly reached with hygiene promotion and cholera prevention through mascot mobilization, public announcement through loud speakers and community dialogues. Similarly, around 75,000 people were reached indirectly through mass awareness raising interventions like street drama, sanitation fairs, forum theatre and flash mob mobilization. Altogether 68 adolescents and youths expressed themselves through wall comics. Altogether, 68 short wall comic stories on hygiene, environment, sanitation and safe water were conceptualized, designed and disseminated by 33 male and 35 female participants. Furthermore, the wall comics posted in social media reached out around 138,133 people, out of which 14,892 (43 per cent) belonged to the age group of 14-25 years and were actively engaged in online discussions. Altogether 33 youth and adolescent volunteers (23 female, 1 LGBTI, 9 male) mobilized to reach out more than 2,900 community members to trigger dialogue on safe drinking water and clean environment, leading to the participation in the weekly sanitation campaigns. 35 local youth clubs, 86 women groups, 8 child clubs and schools were actively engaged in the sanitation campaign.



## Case study: Ensuring children can return to school in the aftermath of a disaster.

### Top Level Results

The 2015 earthquakes in Nepal killed more than 8,900 people, of whom approximately 33 per cent were children. Besides loss of life and injuries, the disaster also resulted in major setbacks for the education sector. More than 47,000 classrooms were damaged or destroyed completely. Complicating the issue was the fact that many public-school grounds were also being used to set up temporary shelters for families, which delayed the re-opening of schools. Altogether, this affected the education of an estimated 1,500,000 children (*Nepal Flash Appeal for Response to the Nepal Earthquake, April-July 2015*).



Students at the Kalika Basic School in Kavre District learn to cover their heads and evacuate to an open space as part of a safety drill. The training was organized to help students better identify and respond to disaster risks in their school and homes, as part of a USAID-UNICEF effort to re-establish education in earthquake-affected districts, with support from humanitarian thematic funding. © UNICEF Nepal/2019/ANiroula

It became quickly apparent these schoolchildren were in urgent need of safe and inclusive learning spaces. This included the provision of essential education materials, gender-sensitive psychosocial support, positive care and life-saving messages, and access to separate WASH facilities for girls and boys. Such interventions would help to alleviate different risks for girls and boys, such as exposure to child labour, human trafficking, child marriage, and gender-based violence.

## **Issue/Background**

The Emergency Education Response for Nepal (EERN) Phase 2 is a joint USAID-UNICEF initiative to re-establish education in nine earthquake-hit districts.<sup>9</sup> The project will build 250 TLCs in 174 schools to enable affected schools to continue running classes, as well as supporting basic sanitation work, distribution of educational supplies, orientation for teachers on using these supplies, and disaster-related recovery training packages. Thematic funds were critical in filling funding gaps in several of these components – namely, the provision of learning materials, orientations, and the recovery training – and ensuring the success of the project overall.

The educational kits came in three different categories: ECD kits, school kits and recreational kits. The sets were distributed at 174 schools as part of the project, with teachers and staff trained in using them more effectively. Based on the Disaster Risk Reduction/Comprehensive School Safety (DRR/CSS) framework, the training was also offered to different stakeholders at the school and district levels. In these sessions, teachers, parents, local government representatives and other community members were oriented on ways they could contribute to the recovery and resilience of educational activities in their areas.

## **Resources Required/Allocated**

Resources were primarily required for training support materials, the hiring of external facilitators for certain sessions and other logistics. Likewise, with the education supplies, funds were needed to cover the cost of transportation of the kits themselves, and logistics related to the orientations for teachers. The total amount allocated for these activities in the period between January and December 2018 was US\$ 1,772,335, of which USAID provided 49.28 per cent (873,377) and the remaining 50.72 per cent (US\$ 898,958) was financed using thematic funds.

## **Progress and Results**

Recovery training package –

- Nine district-level and 36 school-level teachers' trainings completed as of Dec 31 2018, with 1,094 participants
- Most participants have gone on to share their learnings with schoolchildren as part of informational sessions. This has enabled 9,719 students to learn about disaster risk reduction and response. Informational sessions will continue at the schools in 2019.
- Following the training, DRR/CSS activities have been linked with School Improvement Plans
- The Government of Nepal's Education Development and Coordination Units have taken ownership of the training programme

Educational supplies –

- 194 ECD kits, 300 school kits and 300 recreational kits distributed in 174 schools
- 150 orientations completed for 820 school-level stakeholders
- Teachers report that student enrolment and attendance have increased in targeted schools. The next day for official reporting of statistics is in April 2019, this will provide evidence to substantiate or refute these anecdotal reports.

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<sup>9</sup> Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Bhaktapur, Nuwakot, Sindhuli, Makwanpur, Okhaldhunga, Dolakha and Ramechhap



### **Criticality and value addition**

After the 2015 earthquakes, thousands of children the country were deprived of safe learning environments, affecting not just their academic performance but also rendering them more susceptible to long-term psycho-social problems. Another looming danger was the possibility of these out-of-school children becoming trapped in labour, trafficking and child marriage, among other risks.

By capitalizing on UNICEF's position as the leading agency in interventions related to child rights, the

EERN was aimed at ensuring students could return to classrooms and resume their education.



*Students attend classes in the Transitional Learning Centre at Seti Devi Panchakanya Secondary School in Sindhupalchowk District. The centre is among 250 such structures being built as part of a USAID-UNICEF effort to re-establish education in earthquake-affected districts. © UNICEF Nepal/2019/ANiroula*

### **Challenges and Lesson Learned**

The major lesson learned relates to proper planning in budget management in order to meet targets within the given grant timeline and framework. Funding gaps had become evident in the course of implementing the EERN, and without thematic funds, timely and quality delivery of the training would have been impossible. The training would have to have been reduced to a single session, reducing the effectiveness of the training. Similarly, timely provision of educational supplies to schools could not have been assured in the absence of thematic funding.

### **Moving Forward**

UNICEF's close collaboration with government bodies and partners has been key in promoting ownership over project efforts among various stakeholders on the ground and contributing to the sustainability of the interventions. The participation of local government representatives, parents and school management committees in the different trainings and orientations has helped in transferring knowledge and skills related to disaster risk reduction, better preparedness and appropriate responses to students and community members at large. The inclusion of the DRR/CSS activities in School Improvement Plans is an exceedingly encouraging step in this regard, as is the Education Development and Coordination Unit's assuming of ownership over the training programme. The distribution of educational materials and orientations at schools is expected to be completed by the end of March 2019.

## **Results Achieved from Humanitarian Thematic Funding**

This year UNICEF utilized US\$5,842,273 for humanitarian response. Of this, US\$ 3,657,003 was from the humanitarian thematic funding pool. As such, approximately 62 per cent of results captured in this report are attributable to the flexible thematic funding available. To achieve the Child Protection results US\$ 524,916 was utilized of which all but US\$ 473 were from thematic humanitarian funding. Without the thematic funding, no protection related results would have been possible in 2018.

The nutrition related results utilized US\$ 300,579 for humanitarian response. Of this, US\$ 90,269 was from the humanitarian thematic funding pool. meaning 30 per cent of the results captured in this report are due to thematic humanitarian funding.

Education related results utilized US\$ 2,648,031 for humanitarian response. Of this, US\$ 1,443,997 was from the humanitarian thematic funding pool. meaning 54 per cent of the results captured in this report are due to thematic humanitarian funding.

Health related results utilized US\$ 189,195 for humanitarian response. Of this, US\$ 112,995 was from the humanitarian thematic funding pool. meaning 59 per cent of the results captured in this report are due to thematic humanitarian funding.

WASH related results utilized US\$ 2,179,549 for humanitarian response. Of this, US\$ 1,485,251 was from the humanitarian thematic funding pool. meaning 68 per cent of the results captured in this report are due to thematic humanitarian funding.

The high level of humanitarian thematic funding received by UNICEF Nepal relative to the low level of funding received from other sources in 2018 highlights the strategic importance of the thematic humanitarian funding pool. The funding enabled UNICEF to respond equitably to the emerging needs of children exposed to emergencies. If the humanitarian thematic funding pool wasn't available, UNICEF would not have been able to deliver the majority results captured in this report.

## **Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation**

In response to the 2017 floods, UNICEF and the wider UN community in the Nepal collaboratively developed a joint flood response plan and successfully mobilized resources for humanitarian and emergency response. These were mobilised via the Central Emergency Response Fund and other local donors. As education cluster co-lead, UNICEF also mobilised US\$ 1.8 Million to respond to the floods, the results are being delivered collaboratively with UNICEF and other development partners in the cluster. Both the CERF funding and the US\$ 1.8 million mobilized from Education Cannot Wait ended in 2018. However, UNICEF continually monitored and provided situation reports on the floods and the level of damage caused to humanitarian actors.

UNICEF carries out regular monitoring through third parties, government and civil society partners and through its own internal systems and field offices. The monitoring has enabled UNICEF to position itself strategically to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs of Nepal's children by distributing pre-positioned health, nutrition and other

emergency supplies. The schedule for each varies per the needs and experience of UNICEF. In 2018, prepositioned supplies utilized in the 2017 flood response were restored on an as needed basis.

## Financial Analysis

UNICEF Nepal had no Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) or national level emergency in 2018. However, ongoing recovery and resilience work from the 2015 earthquakes and the 2017 floods was still taking place. As such, there were no immediate funding gaps from 2018. The 2015 earthquake response was 111 per cent funded with the results being achieved effectively and efficiently. The flood HAC appeal in 2017 received only 28.7 per cent funding, resulting in UNICEF having to economize on the delivery of support to the communities in need. This did not result in a loss of quality but did negatively impact the comprehensiveness of the packages that could be delivered. For example, social protection component of the HAC received no funding from donors. As such that component was not implemented. The total humanitarian funding from non-thematic humanitarian donors in 2018 was just under US\$ 2.3 million. From the humanitarian funding pool, it was just over US\$ 3.6 million. As such, the over 60 per cent of funding came from the humanitarian thematic funding pool, meaning approximately 60 per cent of the results captured throughout the report are directly attributable to the generous contributions of the thematic funders. Had additional finances been available for the 2017 HAC greater levels of cost efficiency could have been sought with no additional time being spent on ultimately only partially successful resource mobilization efforts.

**Table 1: Funding status against the appeal by sector**

Sector	Requirements	Funds Available Against Appeal as of 31 December 2018*		% Funding Gap
		Funds Received in 2018	Carry-Over	
Health and Nutrition	NA		489,776	NA
Education	NA		2,648,031	NA
Water and Environmental Sanitation	NA	67,170	2,179,550	NA
Child Protection	NA		524,916	NA
Emergency /Disaster Risk Reduction	NA	455,480		NA
Coordination and Support Services	NA			NA
<b>Total</b>		<b>522,650</b>	<b>5,842,273</b>	

Table 2: Funding received and available by donor and funding type

Table 2 - Funding Received and Available by 31 December 2018 by Donor and Funding type (in USD)		
Donor Name/Type of funding	Programme Budget Allotment reference	Overall Amount*
<b>I. Humanitarian funds received in 2018</b>		
<b>a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		
Thematic Humanitarian - See details in Table 3	SM/18/9910	171,352
<b>b) Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM180473	317,274
<b>Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		<b>317,274</b>
<b>c) Pooled Funding</b>		
<b>(i) CERF Grants</b>		
<b>(ii) Other Pooled funds</b> - including Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), Humanitarian Response Funds, Emergency Response Funds, UN Trust Fund for Human Security, Country-based Pooled Funds etc.		
<b>d) Other types of humanitarian funds</b>		
NA		
<b>Total humanitarian funds received in 2018 (a+b+c+d)</b>		<b>488,626</b>
<b>II. Carry-over of humanitarian funds available in 2018</b>		
<b>e) Carry over Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		
Thematic Humanitarian Funds	SM/14/9910	<b>3,657,004</b>
<b>f) Carry-over of non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		
USA USAID United States Agency for International Development	SM150297	1,432,698
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM160388	380,498
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	SM170453	207,929
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	SM170425	85,136
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	SM170424	76,200
FRANCE	SM170407	1,908

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	SM170422	427
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	SM170423	473
<b>Total carry-over non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		<b>2,185,269</b>
<b>Total carry-over humanitarian funds (e + f)</b>		<b>5,842,273</b>
<b>III. Other sources</b>		
<b>Total other resources</b>		

Table 3: Thematic Humanitarian contributions received in 2018

<b>Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2018 (in USD): Donor</b>	<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>Programmable Amount (in USD)</b>	<b>Total Contribution Amount (in USD)</b>
German Committee for UNICEF	SM1899100155	128,739	135,176
Polish National Committee for UNICEF	SM1899100149	13,132	13,789
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM1899100380	21,721	22,807
Australian Committee for UNICEF	SM1899100200	4,079	4,283
Romania	SM1899100217	3,681	3,938
<b>Total</b>		<b>171,352</b>	<b>179,994</b>

## **Future Work Plan**

UNICEF Nepal is now scaling down its emergency response work and transitioning towards resilience building and disaster risk reduction across all areas. In light of the devastating earthquakes of 2015 and the floods of 2017, the current move represents a consolidation of capacity build. Nepal's recent shift to a Federal state of governance present a huge opportunity to realize this consolidation, with newly held legislative, budgetary and judicial powers being held at the provincial and local government bodies. To support this process, UNICEF Nepal recently completed a cross sectoral proposal which focuses on DRR and will now actively seek donors and partnerships to secure funding to support this agenda.

## **Expression of Thanks**

Recognizing contributions from resource partners is very important to ensure crucial support and commitment. Highlight that the flexibility of Thematic Funding support (OR+) have contributed to the results against the programme area targets.

## **Donor Feedback Forms**

- [English version](#)
- [French version](#)

## **Human Interest Stories:**

UNICEF and its partners have worked together over 2018 to create the change in communities across Nepal that is captured in this report. To do so has meant changing countless people's lives for the better. To better represent this, UNICEF periodically releases human interest stories that captures the human side of our work, these include pictures, videos and newspaper articles.

A selection of these from 2018 can be found here:

<https://www.unicef.org/nepal/stories/infrastructure-paves-way-quality-education>

<https://www.unicef.org/nepal/stories/spreading-light-her-brilliant-teaching-methods>

<https://www.unicef.org/nepal/stories/landslide-and-earthquake>

<https://www.unicef.org/nepal/stories/dalchoki-residents-now-have-brand-new-health-post-providing-lifesaving-services>