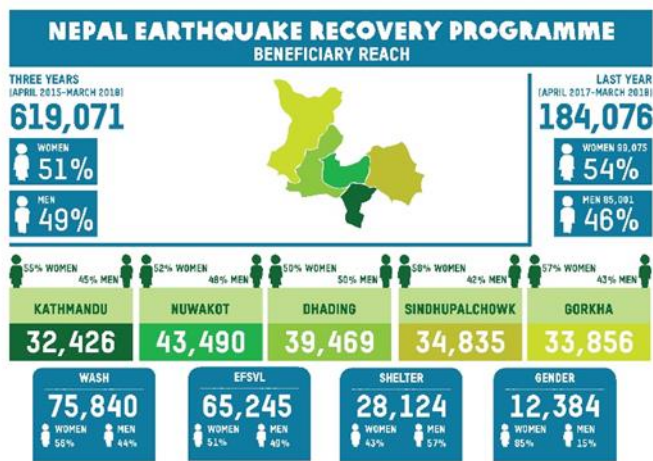




OXFAM

INTEGRATED SETTLEMENT APPROACH FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE

Oxfam has been working in Nepal for over 30 years and continues to work in four inter-connected programmes – 1. Humanitarian, Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation; 2. Gender & Social Justice; 3. Food and Economic Justice and 4. Water Sanitation & Hygiene and Water Governance. Oxfam's vision for Nepal is "a just society without poverty, in which all women and men live a life of dignity, enjoy their rights and assume their responsibilities as active citizens of Nepal". We work in close coordination with national and local government in 21 districts of Nepal, our programmes are implemented together with 47 partner organizations. The goal of the Humanitarian, Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation programme is: **"Saving lives now and in the future with enhanced resilience for vulnerable women and men at risk of, or coping with, disasters and impacts of climate change"**. Since the onset of the devastating Earthquake in 2015, Oxfam has been supporting affected families in emergency response and recovery. Rebuilding houses along with creating livelihood improvement, access to water and sanitation, gender, social inclusion and protection of vulnerable people has been a priority. The figure below demonstrates the total reach from our earthquake response program from April 2015 to March 2018.



As a part of this program, Oxfam is currently engaged in supporting 500 most vulnerable and displaced families with integrated housing in different sites of Sindupalchow and Nuwakot districts. The intervention focuses on earthquake-affected population displaced from their original habitat, due to the alarming risk of geo-hazards in their land. We aim to support the most vulnerable families to build back better, improve their livelihood and facilities, reduce disaster risk, optimize local resources, building social capital and promoting environmentally friendly practices in post-disaster recovery. Following components are integral parts of our integrated re-settlement approach for displaced people.



Addressing poverty and vulnerability

As per the survey conducted by Durable Solution Project, approximately 3500 earthquake-affected households need to be relocated due to risks of geo-hazard. The vulnerability of the impacted population has increased due to their separation from their land, social institutions, natural resources, and previous sources of livelihood, income, and protection. This also increased the risks of a range of protection issues, such as human trafficking, SGBV, and early marriage, which will have long-term negative impact on displaced people. Thus, this support from Oxfam with earthquake-resistant buildings in integrated settlement solves the major problem of homelessness and will help them to restart their lives in a safe manner with means of livelihood that ultimately will reduce vulnerability and poverty.



Collaboration with National Reconstruction Authority, Government & Major Stakeholders

Oxfam Nepal has been aligning its reconstruction and recovery work with the national priorities. It has been closely collaborating with NRA, District Disaster Response Committees, Local Government, Civil Society and communities during project formulation and implementation. All projects under response, recovery, and reconstruction have been approved by NRA. The relocation sites have been selected following "Procedures for relocation and rehabilitation of hazard-prone settlements 2073" guidelines and the settlement development is based on "Integrated Settlement Development Procedure". Oxfam is part of the Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform (HRRP) and is the main

supporter of the common feedback programme. It has been successful in supporting the government to adopt new policies and guidelines for the displaced population.

Community Engagement and Empowerment

Oxfam has placed community engagement and their empowerment at the center of its integrated settlement work. Construction work requires a huge volume of building materials, but at the same time transportation of materials became a daunting issue due to difficult terrain in hilly rural areas. Thus, Oxfam supported Compact Stabilized Earthen Brick (CSEB) production by engaging local communities and promoting local entrepreneurship. Oxfam provided financial support to purchase the machine, together with technology transfer and capacity building and this became a viable package for the vulnerable communities to generate income and support families with decent work. The entire housing construction process was community-led, for which an integrated settlement development committee was formed by engaging household members. This is also a good example of the owner-driven approach members of the family are engaged in integrated settlement development.



Build Back Better with Earthquake Resistance Buildings

Integrated settlements comprises that all building units use earthquake resistance building technology. The design of integrated settlements has been approved by the National Reconstruction Authority. Throughout the entire process of recovery and reconstruction, Oxfam has provided community awareness, technical assistance and supported in human resource development on earthquake resistant building technology. Unlike the past construction practices without ties and box effect, the opted technology is strong and stable. This has boosted the psychology of affected communities and promoted build back better.

Gender and Social Inclusion

Through gender analysis, Oxfam has been prioritizing the need of marginalized, vulnerable and the displaced populations in each integrated settlement site. Oxfam's support focuses on engaging women in income generating activities and empowering them, which ranges from promoting women-led

small enterprises, vegetable farming and technology transfer support this are ways to consolidate a secure livelihood. The approach also includes sensitization and awareness on gender and protection issues.

Environment-Friendly Intervention

Compact Stabilized Earthen Brick is one of the major construction materials used in the integrated settlements. Aforementioned, the bricks are locally produced and as opposed to kiln produced bricks, CSEB offers a promising and viable solution that reduces the impacts of climate change. CSEB has been cured naturally in 21 days and it does not require artificial burning. This helps to save firewood and coal and also prevents air pollution. Clay is the major raw materials and it is easily available in near vicinity of the community. Since the large bulk of construction material is locally produced, it saves fuel, protects the environment and saves people from a number of respiratory diseases.



Holistic Planning Approach

Development of integrated settlements is based on a holistic planning approach as it encompasses construction of permanent houses combined with WaSH facilities and livelihood. Unlike individual building construction practices, in sparse patterns in rural areas, this approach has brought communities together, boosting their social capital and community ownership. These planned ventures in dense settlements have also reduced the infrastructure and services costs, optimizing the resources. Promotion of green technology, livelihood opportunities, community engagement, and social harmony are the key drivers of sustainability of the settlements.

Leveraging Government Resources and other agencies

Oxfam has supported the vulnerable and displaced population with housing units. National Reconstruction Authority has the provision to support integrated settlements for infrastructure development. An initiation of preparing Detail Project Report for infrastructure development in the settlements has already started and this will leverage fund from different agencies including central and local government.



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