

WHAT'S UP?

NEWSLETTER, OXFAM IN NEPAL



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Photo by Oxfam in Nepal

RESPONDING TO MONSOON CATASTROPHE

Nepal faced a severe incessant rainfall affecting 32 districts with floods and landslides. As per the information by Ministry of Home Affairs, around 385,000 people were affected. More than 13,000 households were reported displaced, 117 people lost their lives, 38 people missing and 80 people were injured.

Oxfam in Nepal with support from partner organization started its response immediately in Rautahat and Sarlahi, two of the severely affected districts. Building on Oxfam's Humanitarian commitment, this response is being delivered ensuring four major components, Shelter, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), (Emergency Food Security Vulnerable Livelihood (EFSVL) and Gender and Protection. Ready to eat food items such as bitten rice, noodles and dry foods were immediately distributed to 450 households in Rautahat with support from Oxfam's partner organization Rural Development Centre (RDC). Various relief items were gradually distributed in Rautahat and Sarlahi, amongst which included 1,410 food baskets, 900 hygiene kits, 887 tarpaulins, 900 buckets and 900 mugs.

Oxfam's Nepal monsoon response has been divided into three phases; During the first phase, rubber boats and

trained task force were mobilized for life search and rescue, and ready to eat food items were distributed from the emergency fund already allocated to the Oxfam's partner. Progressively, Oxfam took the role of District Lead Support Agency and facilitated coordination amongst humanitarian agencies with District Disaster Management Committee to follow 'One Door Policy' benefitting maximum number of affected community people in Rautahat. Oxfam supported WASH cluster as co-lead in reporting to the national cluster. Similarly, Integrated Rapid Assessment (IRA) is being carried out and early recovery intervention will be designed based on the assessment.

Oxfam aims to ensure transparency, accountability, post distribution monitoring and multi stakeholder feedback and administer complain mechanisms while reaching 18,000 households in the period of 12 months.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the team members involved in this response for working whole heartedly to support affected communities.

Bimala Chapagain
Interim Country Director

ANNUAL LEARNING FORUM OF TROSA

An Annual Learning Forum of Trans-boundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA) regional project took place in New Delhi, India between 21 – 23 August 2019. The three-day learning forum brought together water experts, TROSA partners, local stakeholders, community members, private sectors, researcher, academia, civil society organizations and media for active engagement in learning and discussions on ways to further strengthen inclusive water governance policies

and practices at various levels. The forum incorporated key learnings and innovative ways of working to address water governance issues through regional cooperation.

Jyoti B.C., a member of Ramanuj Women Empowerment Centre from Kanchanpur district was also present during the forum where she shared her experiences of working on issues of women and water governance.



Photo by Oxfam in Nepal

IMPACT AT SCALE ACCELERATOR BOOTCAMP

Two concepts: 'Soil to Sale' by Swikriti Sharma and 'Let her voice be heard' by Kirti Thapa and Bipana Dhimal were selected from Nepal for the Oxfam in Asia Impact at Scale Accelerator program 2019. The Impact at Scale Accelerator is an annual eight-month coaching program at Oxfam designed to identify, nurture, and scale-up the most innovative poverty reducing initiatives in the Asia region. Apart from Nepal, other four initiatives were also selected from Indonesia, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

Following the selection, six teams of Oxfam and partners from Nepal, Indonesia, Vietnam and Sri Lanka participated in four-day intensive bootcamp in Bangkok to further develop their innovative solutions. The bootcamp focused on understanding the problem, the system and the stakeholders and further developing and refining the initiatives focusing on scaling. All respective teams presented their scaling strategies and developed their business model. After a competitive pitching to the panel on Day 4, both the team from Nepal secured 6000 Euro



Photo by Oxfam in Nepal

each for their respective concept. The team will be implementing their concepts from August to February 2019 this year.

SOIL TO SALE - A farmer-led AgriCenter in Nepal that provides production & market solutions for chemical-free vegetables.

LET HER VOICE BE HEARD - An online space for elected women leaders to speak out in Nepal.

CPAC MEETING HELD

Central Project Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting was held at Social Welfare Council (SWC) to update and present the progress and updates on Oxfam in Nepal's Sustainable Development Programme and Nepal Earthquake Reconstruction Programme amongst SWC members. General overview of Oxfam in Nepal, programme activities together with target versus achievements of both the programmes were presented in the meeting followed by progress update and plan. Valuable feedback and suggestions were received from CPAC members for Oxfam's upcoming Country Strategy and overall performance. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Bimala Chapagian, Interim Country Director from Oxfam in Nepal and Mr. Rajendra Kumar Paudel, Member Secretary, Social Welfare Council.



Photo by Puspa Thapa/Oxfam in Nepal

ACCESS TO REMITTANCE SERVICE AT THE COMMUNITY



Photo by Gopal Bhat

Sharmali Saving Credit Cooperative situated 91 kms far from district headquarter under Shivnath rural municipality of Baitadi district is located at the bank of Mahakali river. More than 3,225 community people from this area are out of the country working in India. While returning home, these India-bound workers brought along with them their hard-earned cash with themselves. There were instances of these people being robbed, attacked or thrashed on their way home, giving up all their goods and cash.

On the other hand, migrant workers sending money through formal channels also faced hardships

of walking long distance to reach the district headquarter or border for receiving the remittance.

When such incidents increased at the community, the cooperative adopted safer remittance service with support from Oxfam. The cooperative is providing services to the 2,987 households directly and 678 households indirectly. During this 8 months' period, the cooperative succeeded to collect Nepali Rupees 11,797,308 from the remittance. Along with the remittance services, cooperative is also providing utility payment services at the local level.

BEES FOR NEPAL

Oxfam has launched a first ever Crowdfunding campaign to fund a beekeeping social enterprise in Nepal. It provides local farmers with a sustainable, long term income and helps them to beat poverty for good. A new beekeeping business yields a profit within its first year and only requires a small amount of land and initial investment. The aim is to raise £60,000.

This project will help women who are increasingly becoming responsible for farms in Nepal, as their husbands migrate to work overseas. Beekeeping provides a stable income with a small-time investment and can be done close to home. Oxfam is working closely with women's groups, enterprise and credit cooperatives to increase opportunities for women. Overall, the project aims to, a) provide small-scale farmers with modern, more efficient beehives and beekeeping equipment, b) train farmers to increase the quality of the honey they produce and to increase their yields and c) sell honey to more formal domestic markets and supermarkets, ensuring a stable price is always paid.

To know more about the #BeesforNepal fundraising campaign, click [here](#).



Photo by Oxfam in Nepal

HANDOVER OF HOUSES IN NUWAKOT



Photo by Oxfam in Nepal

Under Nepal Earthquake Recovery Program in Nuwakot, Oxfam is supporting in construction of 238 houses. Out of which, 167 houses construction work completed in July 2019. In the month of July 2019, 55 houses of two housing sites were handed over to beneficiaries in the presence of Gaunpalika and Nagarpalika. The land was identified by National Reconstruction Authority for IDPs of Rasuwa-Dandagaun and Bhalchet of Nuwakot in Shantibazar of Kispang Gaunpalika and Jafati of Bidur Nagarpalika, respectively.

Oxfam supported for integrated settlements of IDPs in Jafati, where construction work started in the month of January and completed 18 houses in the month of Jun. Community people were supported with coop and 30 chickens, compost bin, and training on kitchen gardening. To protect freshly levelled land from land slide and soil erosion, mitigation work was carried out. Similarly, REFLECT classes were also organized during program period in the community. All 18 houses were provided with house taps for drinking water supply which also benefitted 43 houses of host community. Deep bore water supply system was jointly implemented with Nagarpalika where Oxfam and partner Sahayata Samajik Sanstha contributed in distribution part of the system. Community members are happy to be living in newly built earthquake resilient houses which was implemented in integrated approach.

SECOND CAT WORKSHOP ON CREATING SPACES PROJECT CONDUCTED



Photo by Astha Rijal/Oxfam in Nepal

Second Capacity Assessment Tool (CAT) workshop was carried out for Creating Spaces project with partner Rural Development Center (RDC) in Rautahat from 18 to 20 August and with Everest

Club (EC) in Dailekh from 24 to 26 August.

The objective of this exercise was to assess the capacity of partners to work on preventing, responding and addressing VAWGs issues in their respective programmes. Additionally, the CAT assessment also reviewed the action plans that were developed from the first CAT assessment conducted in 2017. A total of 12 and 20 participants along with executive board members of RDC and EC actively participated in the assessment in Rautahat and Dailekh, respectively. The workshop also developed an action plan based on the assessment for further improvement of their capacity to address and response VAWGs programmes more effectively.

DEEP BOREHOLE FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER IN RAUTAHAT AND SARLAHI

Safe Water project of Oxfam in Nepal has a target to provide safe drinking water to 1,936 households of two marginalised communities affected with arsenic water by building a robust hybrid system (deep boring with overhead tank). Bhimeshwar in Sarlahi and Bhimeshwar- Rastriya Joint Venture are supporting with constructions of deep bore hole and RCC overhead tank. The construction of deep bore hole with the target of 200m in Fatuwa Mahespur, Rautahat and 175m in Pidari, Sarlahi is ongoing. Till date, the drilling has reached 198m in Fatuwa and 114m in Pidari. Water and Sanitation Users' Committee and partners are monitoring the construction work regularly.



Photo by Oxfam in Nepal

Quick links to new publications in Oxfam in Nepal's website:

- [Annual Report 2018/2019](#)
- [River Sand Mining Guideline for ensuring environmentally sustainable and socially responsible mining in transboundary Mahakali river](#)
- [Enabling Business Innovation in Nepal's Sanitation System](#)
- [Water Supply Systems in Nepal: How to build better, more sustainable services](#)



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FEEDBACK?

Do you have programme updates, stories, pictures, videos to share? Or, any important questions on the newsletter?

Please contact: **Sofila Vaidya, Media and Communication Officer** at svaidya@oxfam.org.uk

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