7.8 magnitude April 25

7.3 magnitude May 12

Districts LWR Worked In

VDCs LWR Worked In
ROAD TO RECOVERY – ONE YEAR AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

On April 25, 2015, a powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal with the epicenter near the border between Gorkha and Lamjung districts, about 48 miles (77 kilometers) northwest of Kathmandu. The quake caused landslides and avalanches, including the most deadly avalanche ever recorded to hit Mount Everest. The most severely affected areas included small rural communities near the epicenter. A second earthquake, at 7.3 magnitude, struck on May 12, 2015, its epicenter about 47 miles (76 kilometers) northeast of Kathmandu, near the Chinese border, resulting in significant aftershocks as well as further casualties and damage.

Immediately after the April 25 earthquake, the government of Nepal declared a state of emergency and requested international humanitarian aid for the affected areas. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) was already working in Nepal with existing development programs close to the epicenter, and we mobilized our emergency response within the first 24 hours after the first earthquake hit. LWR Nepal staff, in cooperation with our local partner COPPADES, began by assessing the needs of the people affected by the earthquake and attending response coordination meetings with the Government of Nepal, the United Nations and other international and local humanitarian organizations, such as the Nepal Red Cross Society. From May to July, LWR distributed food packs, Quilts, Personal Care Kits, water filtration units, tarpaulins and corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets to affected families most in need.

From June to September, the torrential rains of the monsoon season precipitated more deadly landslides. Working in remote mountain communities throughout the monsoon, LWR began implementing our early recovery and livelihood activities, including cash-for-work (CFW), seed and livestock distributions, and improved agriculture and livestock skills trainings.

After the rains passed, internal challenges arose. A 4-month-long blockade of the India-Nepal border, delay of the Government of Nepal’s National Reconstruction Authority’s (NRA) start, and the onset of winter hindered recovery efforts and threatened the health and safety of millions without permanent shelter. One year after the earthquake, the Government of Nepal and the international humanitarian community, including LWR, are now poised to begin supporting the reconstruction of permanent shelter.

BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.8 &amp; 7.3 magnitude earthquakes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 MILLION+ people affected</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,891 people reported dead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000+ people injured</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>605,254 houses totally destroyed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>288,255 houses damaged</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In response to the conditions in Nepal, LWR has thus far committed close to $2.5 million for a year and a half to meet the immediate relief and long-term recovery needs of five earthquake-affected VDCs in Lamjung and one in Gorkha, reaching more than 23,000 people in total. LWR will continue to actively fundraise in order to extend our reach in four of these five communities as they transition from emergency relief to early recovery and long-term rehabilitation.

Since the April 25 earthquake, LWR has been implementing projects to address food security, non-food items (NFI), and material resources (MR), shelter, early recovery and livelihoods, and quality and accountability (Q&A). We are informed by needs assessments, coordination with other humanitarian actors, and input from local partners, local government officials and the affected people themselves.

**THE FIRST YEAR – LWR’S RESPONSE**

- First earthquake strikes Nepal
- LWR headquarters and regional staff deploy to support the response
- LWR and COPPADES staff conduct rapid needs assessments in Lamjung and Gorkha
- LWR coordinates response with local government and other INGOs/NGOs

**APRIL 2015**

- LWR distributes 2,914 food packs, each sufficient for 15 days of consumption for a family of five; 9,240 Quilts; 1,000 Personal Care Kits; tarpaulins to provide temporary shelter for 4,699 households; and 100 water filtration units for schools
- Second earthquake strikes Nepal
- LWR trains local partner, COPPADES, staff on quality and accountability during emergencies
- LWR releases the Earthquake Response Interim Strategy document

**MAY 2015**

- LWR begins working with new local partner, SSICDC, on temporary shelter in Gorkha District
- LWR provides CGI sheets to 1,708 households and cash transfers to 577 households for the construction of temporary shelter
- Monsoon season begins

**JUNE 2015**

- LWR begins distribution of soybean seeds to support early recovery of agricultural livelihoods and food security
- LWR completes a post-distribution satisfaction survey on its relief items
- LWR continues the local procurement and distribution of CGI sheets
- LWR forms 12 farmers groups in Lamjung District in preparation for livelihood recovery work to take place after the monsoon season ends

**JULY 2015**

- LWR begins Cash-for-Work activities
- LWR trains additional partner staff on quality and accountability
- LWR assists partners in implementing feedback mechanisms for projects in every targeted VDC
- LWR forms additional farmers groups in Lamjung, now totaling 27, as well as in Gorkha, totaling 9, in preparation for livelihood recovery activities

**AUGUST 2015**

- LWR begins working with new local partner, SSICDC, on temporary shelter in Gorkha District
- LWR provides CGI sheets to 1,708 households and cash transfers to 577 households for the construction of temporary shelter
- Monsoon season begins

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

- LWR begins Cash-for-Work activities
- LWR trains additional partner staff on quality and accountability
- LWR assists partners in implementing feedback mechanisms for projects in every targeted VDC
- LWR forms additional farmers groups in Lamjung, now totaling 27, as well as in Gorkha, totaling 9, in preparation for livelihood recovery activities

**OCTOBER 2015**

- LWR begins working with new local partner, SSICDC, on temporary shelter in Gorkha District
- LWR provides CGI sheets to 1,708 households and cash transfers to 577 households for the construction of temporary shelter
- Monsoon season ends
- India begins unofficial blockade of Nepal border
- LWR trains COPPADES and SSICDC staff on the participatory tools to use when gauging the community’s ability to transition into early livelihood recovery

**A VDC, or Village Development Committee, is the village or municipal level of government administration in Nepal. A district is made up of several VDCs, and each VDC has several wards**
LWR EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION

FOOD PACKS
2,914 HOUSEHOLDS

QUILTS
9,240 QUILTS

KITS
1,000 KITS

WATER FILTRATION UNITS
100 UNITS

CASH TRANSFER
577 HOUSEHOLDS

TARPULINS
4,699 TARPS

CGI SHEETS
1,708 HOUSEHOLDS

SEEDS
2,963 HOUSEHOLDS

- LWR continues cash-for-work activities
- LWR provides agriculture seeds, tools, and other inputs
- LWR continues trainings on improved agriculture and livestock techniques
- The trainings on the construction of earthquake resilient houses continues

DECEMBER 2015

- LWR begins training masons in affected communities on the construction of earthquake resilient houses

JANUARY 2016

- LWR provides agriculture seeds, tools, and other inputs as well as livestock
- LWR conducts trainings on community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR)
- LWR supports the preparation of community and VDC-level DRR plans

FEBRUARY 2016

- LWR continues trainings on improved agriculture and livestock techniques
- LWR continues cash-for-work activities
- LWR provides agriculture seeds, tools, and other inputs as well as livestock
- The trainings on the construction of earthquake resilient houses continues

MARCH 2016

- LWR continues cash-for-work activities
- LWR provides agriculture seeds, tools, and other inputs
- The trainings on the construction of earthquake resilient houses continues
- LWR continues to support the preparation of community and VDC-level DRR plans

APRIL 2016

- LWR begins training farmers on how to map and access potential markets
- LWR provides agriculture seeds, tools, and other inputs as well as livestock
- LWR continues to support the preparation of community and VDC-level DRR plans

- LWR planned to begin our support of permanent shelter reconstruction in November. However, the delayed start of the Government of Nepal’s National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) forced LWR to put these activities on hold until further guidance from the Government on INGO/NGO’s permanent shelter support was received. LWR expects to begin our permanent shelter support, in collaboration with the government, in April.

- Given the severe extent to which main access roads, community buildings, and irrigation systems were damaged, LWR decided to continue cash-for-work activities in these areas at the communities’ request.
On September 20, 2015, Nepal adopted a new constitution, which was eight years in the making. Though many Nepalese lauded it as a milestone in their new democracy, some members of the Madhesi and Janajati ethnic minorities were angered over several provisions, which, they said, would lead to their political and socioeconomic underrepresentation in the country. These groups began protesting in August along the India-Nepal border, demanding the constitution be amended.

On September 23, 2015, trucks carrying essential trade goods from India were prevented from entering Nepal. It was reported widely in Nepalese media that India had closed the border in support of the protesting Madhesis, with whom they share ethnic and cultural ties. The Government of India officially denies this claim. Regardless of who initiated the blockade, the fact remains that little to no goods from India travelled north of the border for four months.

Since Nepal imports nearly all of its fuel from India and has little room for in-country storage, their fuel stocks quickly depleted during the first weeks of the blockade, forcing schools and businesses closed and most vehicles off the streets. Other imported necessities, like cooking gas, medicines, and food staples, were in short supply, and the prices of what was available in the markets sky-rocketed.

The blockade, which dragged on from the end of September to early February, also severely crippled the recovery of those affected by the earthquakes at a crucial moment, when the winter weather was beginning. Government and aid agencies had little fuel for their vehicles to reach remote communities in need. Many affected families, who were already food insecure, were not able to reach markets, and even if they could, most things were unaffordable. Construction materials needed for rebuilding shelters were scarce and expensive. LWR was forced to postpone some of our recovery activities, such as trainings on the construction of earthquake resistant houses, because of the unavailability of supplies. LWR continued to carry out whatever activities were possible under the blockade’s conditions and began to resume our full programming as soon as the blockade ended in February.

INDIA-NEPAL BORDER BLOCKADE
MR. RAM CHANDRA DAWADI is a 54-year-old father of five who lives in Bichaur VDC, Ward 3, in Lamjung District. In the April 25 earthquake, the Dawadis' home was completely destroyed, along with their food supply, much of their livestock and their peace of mind. Mr. Dawadi says the disaster has placed heavy financial and psychological burdens on his family, which was already struggling to send one of their daughters, who is disabled, to school. They feared they would continue to be homeless and hungry throughout the monsoon season, but LWR ensured that this would not be the case for them nor for many others in Bichaur.

SUKMAYA BISHWAKARMA is a 40-year-old Dalit mother of three who lives in Jaubari VDC, Ward 2, in Gorkha District. With the death of her husband 13 years ago and her own long-term illness, Sukmaya's life before the April 25 earthquake was already difficult. She was able to survive day-to-day with the small amount her son was able to send her from working as a laborer in India as well as the odd jobs she took on other farms. The earthquake only made Sukmaya's situation worse as it did for many rural families in the mountains of Gorkha and Lamjung.

Sukmaya and her family survived the earthquakes, but lost their home, possessions and livestock. LWR's needs assessment team identified Sukmaya as one of the most in need in her community and prioritized her on our relief material distribution list. She received a food pack, seeds and livestock to help her improve her short and long-term food security as well as her ability to earn income. She also received tarpaulins and CGI sheets for temporary shelter. Her younger son and other members of her community helped to build the temporary home she now lives in with her father-in-law and children.

The Dawadis received a 15-day food pack and a large LWR Quilt to ward off hunger and cold. They were also given a tarpaulin and corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets to shelter themselves from the monsoon rains. In addition, the Dawadis participated in LWR's soybean seed distribution and Cash-for-Work programs to improve their food security. Mr. Dawadi says he hopes to rebuild his home and recover his livelihood raising goats with LWR’s continued support over the next year.

5 The term Dalit refers to the oppressed, formerly known as “untouchable,” caste in South Asian societies. Dalits continue to face socio-economic marginalization to this day.
In Lamjung District, where LWR has been working on climate smart agriculture and natural resource management projects with COPPADES for the past five years, food insecurity is a chronic challenge. In neighboring Gorkha District, the situation is not much better. Both districts have significantly limited access to food that meets their nutritional needs as well as their preferences. The earthquakes only exacerbated their food insecurity.

The earthquakes struck at a particularly sensitive point in the agricultural cycle of Nepal, after the harvest of maize but just before the normal time for planting rice. As a result, farmers who had stored their maize harvest or had seeds purchased and prepared for planting lost much of their assets if their buildings collapsed. To further compound the issue, landslides and inaccessibility to remote areas meant that food stocks were quickly in short supply.

LWR reached 2,914 households with locally purchased food packs designed to feed a family of five for 15 days. The packs adhered to Sphere standards on nutrition, providing:

- 600 grams of rice per person per day
- 75 grams of pulses per person per day
- 35 ml of cooking oil per person per day
- 10 grams of salt per person per day
- 25 grams of sugar per person per day

LWR also provided soybean seeds to farmers in Lamjung and Gorkha for planting before the worst of the monsoon rains came in July. Soybeans were chosen particularly for their nutritional value and the farmers’ familiarity with their cultivation. Potato seeds were also distributed. Our local partner has reported that the potatoes have grown exceptionally well and are helping to meet intermediate food needs.

PROJECT DATES:

PROJECT AREAS:
Bhalakharka, Bichaur, Chakratirtha, Dudhpokhari and Kolki in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District

PEOPLE REACHED TO DATE:
14,570 people (2,914 households)

FOOD SECURITY

6 “The Sphere Handbook is the most widely known and recognized set of common principles and universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance.” The Sphere Project. sphereproject.org
LWR implemented cash-for-work (CFW) activities in Lamjung and Gorkha districts to help families earn much-needed cash for additional food and other short-term spending priorities. Participants could work on projects (up to 10 days total), including the clearing of debris from main roads, schools and irrigation canals, which in turn improved access to these remote VDCs, allowed children to return to the classroom sooner and contributed to the early recovery of agricultural livelihoods.

LWR formulated the CFW projects in four targeted VDCs according to the government of Nepal’s CFW guidelines. Participants were paid NPR 450 (USD 4.22) in Gorkha District and 500 (USD 4.69) in Lamjung District per person per day, and cash distributions were made weekly.7

Each VDC formed a CFW management committee from among its local residents, encouraging local ownership of the projects and ensuring the participation of those who are the most vulnerable or marginalized. With assistance from LWR, our partners and the CFW management committees, women, who were occupied with child-rearing and household duties, were enabled to participate in CFW activities as well.

Over the duration of 10 days of CFW activities, some participants earned as much as NPR 5,000 (USD 46.91). To date, members of 431 households have taken advantage of these CFW opportunities. Initial satisfaction interviews indicate that participants used the cash they earned to supplement their families’ food supply, purchase additional shelter repair materials, pay for their children’s school fees and recover lost farming tools and inputs, such as seeds and fertilizer.

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7 Each fiscal year, the government of Nepal’s Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, in consultation with district officers and aid agencies, sets fixed wage rates for unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled labor in each district. These rates can vary district to district. LWR adhered to Lamjung District’s and Gorkha District’s wage rates for our CFW payments.
With many of their personal belongings lost in the rubble, families indicated they needed blankets for warmth as well as personal hygiene items. In coordination with the United Nations, LWR shipped Quilts, Personal Care Kits and water filtration units from LWR’s prepositioned stock at the UNHRD warehouse in Dubai. These shipments arrived in Nepal on May 11, and distributions to the local government — designated families took place over a week in Kathmandu Valley and Lamjung and Gorkha districts. **8,659 families received at least one LWR Quilt.**

Caring individuals, churches and other community groups across the U.S. handmade and assembled the Quilts and Kits. Each Personal Care Kit was packed with a bath towel, toothbrush, comb, nail clippers and bars of soap. **A total of 1,000 kits were distributed to those most in need.**

**100 of LWR’s water filtration units were installed in local schools** that either lost or never had access to safe drinking water. Each filtration unit can supply clean water to **more than 1,000 people.**

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**NON-FOOD ITEMS & MATERIAL RESOURCES**

**PROJECT DATES:**

**PROJECT AREAS:**
Bhalakharka, Bichaur, Chakratirtha, Dudhpokhari and Kolki in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District; Kathmandu Valley

**PEOPLE REACHED TO DATE:**
17,318 people (8,659 households)

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8 Lutheran World Federation distributed LWR’s NFIs/MR in Kathmandu Valley.
The earthquakes in Nepal decimated the country’s housing and infrastructure, completely destroying more than 600,000 homes and leaving many more partially damaged or structurally weak. In addition, the frequency of aftershocks left those families whose homes were still standing with a psychological strain, living in constant fear that their home might not survive the next shock. For weeks and even months, many pitched tents and slept outside, awaiting external validation that their home was safe to live in. Those whose home collapsed began the arduous process of picking through the rubble in an attempt to salvage building materials, seeds or just-harvested stores of maize, and personal effects.

In LWR’s targeted districts, the earthquakes and aftershocks rendered approximately 96 percent of homes uninhabitable. With little more than a month before the onset of the monsoon season, LWR quickly mobilized with our local partner COPPADES to meet the communities’ immediate need for emergency and temporary shelter. In early May, LWR locally purchased and distributed 4,699 tarpaulins to 3,816 households. LWR also provided other necessary construction materials and tools, such as rope, tie wires, nails, handsaws, shovels, pliers and claw hammers. For those families who wished to purchase their own shelter repair materials, LWR offered cash transfers of NPR 15,000 (USD 141). To date, LWR has provided cash transfers to 577 households. In addition to these materials, LWR and COPPADES staff trained households on how to construct safe emergency shelter.

SHELTER

PROJECT DATES:
PROJECT AREAS:
Bhalakharka, Bichaur, Chakratirtha, Dudhpokhari and Kolki in Lamjung District; Jaubari in Gorkha District
PEOPLE REACHED TO DATE:
19,080 people (3,816 households)

Despite the poor condition of roads and limited local stock, LWR distributed two bundles each of corrugated galvanized iron sheeting (CGI sheets) to 1,708 households between June and early August to enable construction of more-protective temporary shelter. Where the roads were impassible, the CGI sheets had to be manually carried up to an hour, mostly uphill, to reach these remote communities as quickly as possible.

After the monsoon season came to an end in September, LWR began supporting households as they transitioned from temporary to permanent shelter. Following guidance from the government of Nepal and Shelter Cluster, LWR is providing ongoing training on safe building practices for local masons and community members to construct earthquake-resistant homes using local and appropriate materials. So far, 271 people have been trained in earthquake resistant masonry.

**NEPAL’S NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY**

In September, the Nepalese Parliament failed to pass legislation that would continue the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), the official agency responsible for coordinating the country’s shelter response. The bill to reinstate the NRA was delayed in Parliament for nearly four months, finally passing in December. The NRA officially launched the government’s reconstruction program in January 2016. However, it is unlikely that actual disbursement of funds and construction will start before the one-year anniversary of the April 25 earthquake. Unable to move forward without the NRA, INGOs, including LWR, could not start supporting permanent shelter efforts before the winter. Because of this delay, approximately 400,000 people struggled through five months of cold weather without adequate shelter. Now that the NRA is functional, LWR is prepared to begin our permanent shelter support in the month of April to reach as many families as possible before the next monsoon season starts.
According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), two-thirds of Nepal’s population derives their livelihood from agriculture. For many of Nepal’s farmers, the earthquakes took a significant toll on their main source of income in addition to destroying their homes. In anticipation of launching livelihood recovery programming after the monsoon season had passed, LWR assisted VDCs in forming or reforming farmers groups that would provide sustainable, local leadership for the implementation of improved agricultural methods, technology and marketing strategies in their communities. In September, these farmers groups surveyed their communities’ preferences for types of seeds. Based on the feedback, LWR began distributing cauliflower, cabbage, radish, pea, onion, bean, carrot, tomato and green vegetable seeds to farmers for the November planting season. To date, 2,963 households have received seeds.

The communities also expressed an eagerness to learn new agricultural techniques as soon as possible, so LWR began conducting our planned farmer trainings earlier than originally scheduled. So far, a total of 159 farmers (both men and women) have been trained in improved agricultural production. In addition, LWR has provided livestock, such as goats, and training in animal husbandry to 118 households with little land for farming.

In October, LWR confirmed that that project participants were ready to transition from emergency relief to early recovery, the next stage of program. Early recovery programming focuses on livelihood resiliency and disaster risk reduction. Since Nepal is prone to natural disasters (ranging from earthquakes to floods) empowering communities to be prepared and resilient to the next disaster is a paramount goal of LWR. To date, LWR has trained 114 people in disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities, which include identifying potential risks and building community-based response capacities, and is supporting the development of community and VDC-level DRR plans for implementation when the disaster strikes.

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QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

To ensure that relief and recovery efforts are of high quality and accountable to project participants, LWR employs a rigorous monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework in all of our projects. LWR made sure our new Nepal staff as well as our partners’ staffs were thoroughly trained on our M&E tools and procedures before beginning to implement the long-term projects.

In May 2015, August 2015 and March 2016, LWR held trainings on quality and accountability (Q&A) in emergency response for our local implementing partners, COPPADES and SSICDC. Staff from other INGO’s, such as Save the Children and Caritas Nepal, also participated in some of the trainings. For many on the partners’ staff, this was their first experience responding to a large-scale natural disaster in Nepal and they had not received such training before.

The comprehensive training sessions addressed:
- Sphere Minimum Standards
- Protection Principles
- Core Humanitarian Standard
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
- Food security and nutrition
- Shelter, settlement and non-food items
- Complaints response mechanisms (CRM)

At the end of September, LWR trained our new Nepal staff and our partners’ staff on how to conduct a readiness assessment and facilitate participatory rapid assessment (PRA) activities, such as social mapping and focus groups, which measure the level of families’ need and readiness to transition from emergency relief to longer-term recovery and livelihood rehabilitation. We also showed them how to conduct satisfaction surveys and after-action reviews. The information gathered and discussed through these processes helps staff reflect on what went well and lessons learned for future emergency responses. Five of the trained staff then conducted a readiness assessment and satisfaction survey with PRA activities in October.

ENSURING QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

To date, LWR has conducted six social audits with project participants, local government officials, and other stakeholders to ask for their direct input on how the projects are going and if there are any problems to address. LWR has also installed a complaint response mechanism box in Bichaur, Dudhpokhari, Kolki and Jaubari VDCs to allow any community members to anonymously give feedback to LWR. LWR strives to address Q&A issues raised through these mechanisms as efficiently and transparently as possible in order to best meet the needs of the communities with which we work.

LWR conducted the August and March training in collaboration with Community World Service Asia.
LWR has worked hard to overcome challenges in the response and recovery process thus far to best meet the needs of people affected by the earthquakes in Nepal. We have also identified a number of opportunities and achievements that have led to a more effective and robust response to date.

**CHALLENGES**

- **Limited supply of shelter materials:**
  The supply of shelter repair materials in local markets was quickly depleted after the earthquakes. By working closely with our local partner, however, LWR was able to procure and transport needed materials to affected populations within two weeks of the first earthquake.

- **Remote locations and complicated transportation:**
  Impassible mountain roads restricted vehicle access and complicated transportation of relief items to LWR’s targeted VDCs. LWR took all means necessary to reach the communities as quickly as possible, including hiring tractors and manually carrying relief items.

- **The delay of the NRA and the India-Nepal border blockade** posed significant challenges to the continuity and timeliness of LWR’s response, especially in regards to longer-term shelter and livelihoods support. Under these conditions, LWR continued to carry out what activities it could, like livelihoods skills training and DRR training. Now that the NRA is moving forward and the blockade is over, LWR has resumed our scheduled activities.

- **Needs in earthquake-affected communities far exceed available funding:**
  While LWR was able to meet the emergency food and shelter needs of our targeted communities, some of the early recovery activities have been scaled back due to limited funding. In seeking to provide a more holistic response to myriad needs at each household, LWR is providing a reduced number of families with more complete support. We are, however, still actively fundraising to restore and expand our early recovery programming in the coming year.

**OPPORTUNITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS**

- **LWR was already present and working in Nepal:**
  Because LWR was already working in Nepal with our local partner COPPADES at the time of the earthquakes, we were well positioned to immediately engage and coordinate our emergency response with the government of Nepal and local government committees. This coordination allowed LWR to reach those most in need faster and with official support. It also served to prevent aid duplication and identify gaps in coverage.

- **LWR’s cash-for-work activities in Kolki cleared the blocked main road quickly**, allowing government aid to reach more of the remote VDCs.

- **LWR accompanied many partners to help improve overall response:**
  For many of LWR’s local partner staff, the earthquakes in Nepal were their first experience responding to a natural disaster of this magnitude. LWR accompanied our partners in building organizational capacity in emergency response and quality and accountability.

- **LWR received recognition from the Government of Nepal’s District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC)** for our emergency response work in Gorkha and Lamjung.
Some of the hardest-hit VDCs near the earthquakes’ epicenters were also some of the hardest to reach, deeply embedded in the mountains of Lamjung and Gorkha. With no paved road access, these VDCs faced a significant risk of not receiving the emergency food, shelter and other relief items as quickly as they needed it.

After consulting with the local governments’ District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs), LWR committed to serving some of the most remote earthquake-affected VDCs in Lamjung and Gorkha as part of our efforts. Due to the poor condition of roads to these VDCs, relief items, including CGI sheets, were often hauled in with tractors or manually carried across the mountainous, muddy terrain in order to reach these communities as soon as possible.

Some other earthquake-affected VDCs were more accessible, but in keeping to our commitment to serve rural and marginalized communities, LWR chose to literally go the extra mile to reach those in need.
LWR’s response to the earthquakes in Nepal would not be possible without the support of individual donors and funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the ACT Alliance, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Thrivent Financial, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Henry Schein Cares Foundation. We thank our donors for their gifts and trust in LWR to make a difference in the lives of those affected by the earthquakes.

For more information about LWR’s response in Nepal, please visit: programs.lwr.org/asia/nepal. You can also follow the conversation about our response on LWR’s blog (blog.lwr.org), Facebook (facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief) and Twitter (twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief).

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<sup>12</sup> Total figures might double-count participants who benefit from multiple activities, though steps were taken to avoid this when possible. These figures represent the total number of people targeted by each intervention.