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In partnership with



दुकी रंग सुनकोशी
विद्यालय

Nepal Earthquake Response Project Report

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Acronyms

CBDRR	Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction
CCS	Child Centered Space
CRM	Community Resiliency Model
DDRC	District Disaster Reduction Committee
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EiE	Education in Emergency
IG	Income Generation
NCED	National Center for Education Development
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
TLS	Temporary Learning Space
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VCPC	Village Child Protection Committee
VDRMC	Village Disaster Risk Management Committee
VDC	Village Development Committee

Introduction

Worst in 80 years

On 25 April, 2015, a powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 struck Nepal with its epicenter 50 miles (80 km) north-west of the capital Kathmandu. Another strong aftershock with magnitude of 7.3 followed on 12 May, 2015, this time with epicenter 47 miles north-east of Kathmandu. Out of the 31 districts affected, the 14 districts in the Western and Central Region experienced severe damage to infrastructure, houses, schools and roads. The casualties reached almost 9,000, and 22,300 were injured¹. Out of the affected population of 2.8 million in these 14 districts, 1.1 million (40%) were children². The earthquake destroyed 605,254 houses and damaged 288,255 houses³. Over 35,000 classrooms were rendered unsafe for use⁴. Sindhupalchowk District was one of the most severely affected, where 3,570 died and thousands were injured⁵.

Responding to Immediate Needs

Immediately after the earthquake, ChildFund staff were in the field to assess the damage and needs of the communities. From Kathmandu, relief goods were prepared and logistics arranged for Sindhupalchowk District. On 1 May, 6 days after the earthquake, our Emergency Response Team started distributing food and temporary shelter materials. Within 6 weeks, 3,227 households were assisted through 4 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in Sindhupalchowk District.

While initial relief goods were being distributed, various assessments were done to plan for successive activities to respond to children's and communities' needs. Child Centered Spaces (CCSs) were set up in May and June to provide safe places to gather, play and receive trauma support. This intervention was crucial for child protection in a period where no schools had yet opened and people remained in temporary shelters experiencing a series of aftershocks.

After immediate needs were met, ChildFund began working to normalize children's lives by supporting schools to resume functioning. Over the next 5 months (June to October), Temporary Learning Spaces (TLSs) were constructed and school water and toilet facilities were repaired. Educational materials for teachers and children were provided to encourage children to go back to school. In December, to cope with cold winter weather, classrooms were insulated and warm clothes were provided for learners.

In addition to the facilities and material assistance, a series of capacity building sessions were conducted for teachers and community leaders on topics of Disaster Risk Reduction, Education in Emergencies, Psychosocial Counseling, and Child Protection. A Child Protection assessment was conducted with teachers and community leaders to review the mechanisms and standards in localities and establish a monitoring and referral system.

1. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

2. Nepal Earthquake-Humanitarian Situation Report-Three months review-25 July 2015

3. Nepal Earthquake 2015: Post Disaster Recovery Framework- 2016-2020

4. A Year On Nepal Earthquakes: Education Continues In Affected Districts But Children Still Need Safe And Stable Learning Environment (UNICEF NEPAL)

5. Government of Nepal, Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Portal

Relief to Rehabilitation

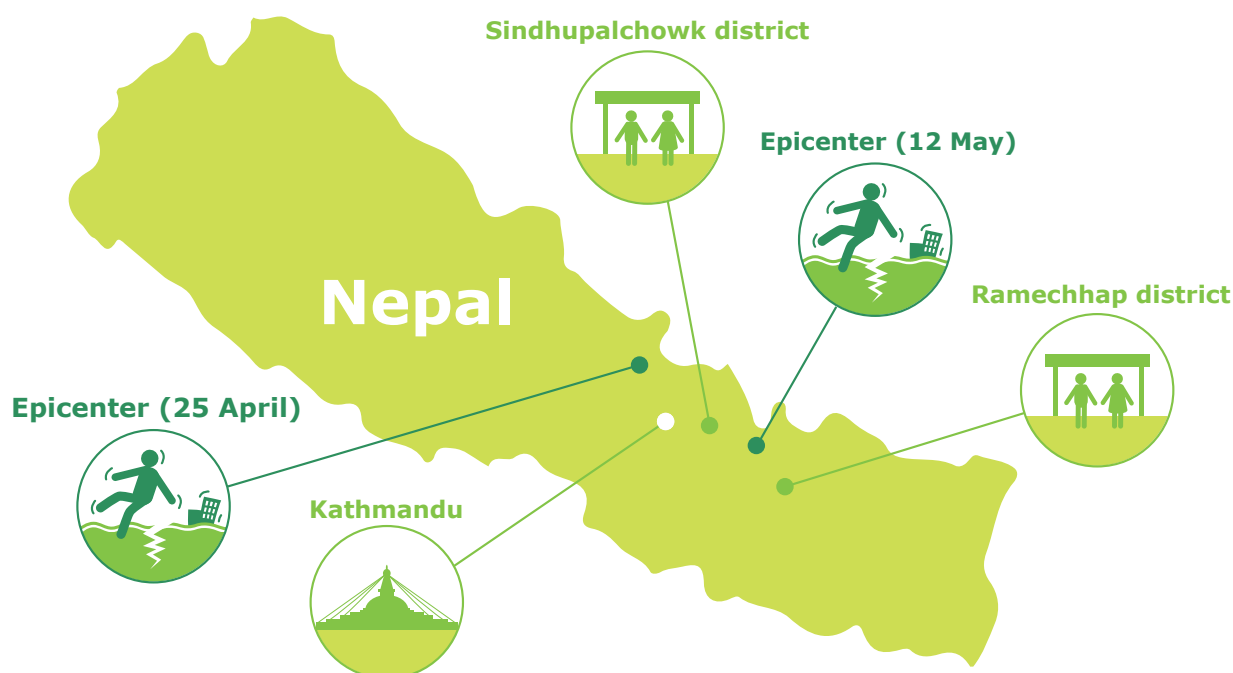
After a year of response activities, rehabilitation towards permanent recovery started. The renovation and reconstruction of earthquake-resistant school buildings started in June 2016 in consultation with teachers and community leaders. Toilets and water facilities in schools were constructed as well. For the lower grades, classrooms were carpeted, with low tables and cushions to make them more child-friendly and culturally appropriate.

Construction was closely coordinated with the District Education Office to avoid duplication of services and to meet government school requirements. ChildFund opted to make the classrooms structures stronger than government standards to ensure safety in the event of future aftershocks or earthquakes. This was necessary to achieve the aim to "Build Back Better" in our emergency response.

In Sindhupalchowk and Ramechhap, a total of 14 schools were provided new and renovated classrooms for 1,863 students. In our two and half year response operation, over 3,000 households with about 13,000 persons and 46 schools with 5,337 students were reached in the two target districts.

The Response Project was implemented with 3 local partner NGOs in 2 districts in close coordination with District Disaster Reduction Committees (DDRC). ChildFund was assigned to Pangretar, Dhuskun, Tauthali and Petku to conduct relief operations in the areas of Food, Education, Child Protection, WASH, Non-food items and Livelihood programming. Community participation assured orderly distribution and proper monitoring of construction, which added to our program accountability. At national level, ChildFund worked in coordination with government and the UN for quality response and to avoid duplication of services.

ChildFund Nepal Earthquake Response



Food

Ensuring the right to adequate food

ChildFund's initial response started with food distribution to 3,227 households (an estimated 12,364 individuals) in Sindhupalchowk District, where 3,570 deaths had been reported. The localities of Dhuskun, Pangretar, Petku, and Tauthali had been areas of ChildFund operation since 2013.

Distribution was conducted in 2 phases between May






and June 2015. ChildFund provided a food basket for each household containing 30 kilograms of rice, 4 kilograms of lentils (dal), 1 kilogram salt and 2 liters of cooking oil. Distribution points at Pangretar (862 meter above sea level) and Tauthali (1,928 meter), were strategically selected with community representatives and partner NGOs, so that people in remote areas could have access.

”

Food from ChildFund, together with the salvaged food from our collapsed house, kept us alive for two or three month.”

Nilmura, 32 years old mother, Dhuskun



Food			
3,227 Families	 Rice	 Dal (Beans)	
	134,154 kg	17,576 kg	
12,364 Individuals	 Salt	 Oil	
	6,339 kg	6,454 kg	



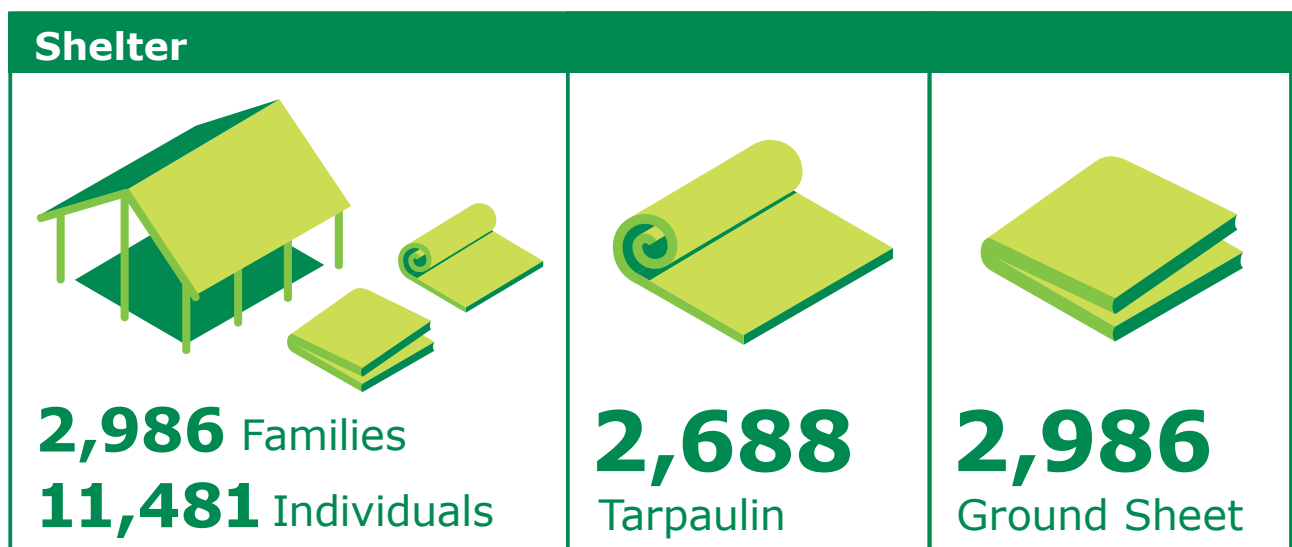
1 May food distribution in Pangretar VDC was met by long line of awaited people with emotional encounter. ChildFund was the first aid agency to provide support in the area.

Shelter

Providing immediate protection from heat and rain

Because of continuing aftershocks and another strong earthquake on 12 May 2015, most people remained outdoors. Procurement of shelter materials was delayed due to scarce supplies and the demand from many agencies. However, ChildFund was able

to distribute shelter materials alongside its second food distribution from 22 May to 13 June, just before the rainy season. Tarpaulins (12 x 18m) were distributed to 2,688 households and ground sheets (10m) to 2,986 households.



An elderly man carrying a tarpaulin and a sack of rice back to his family.

Child Protection

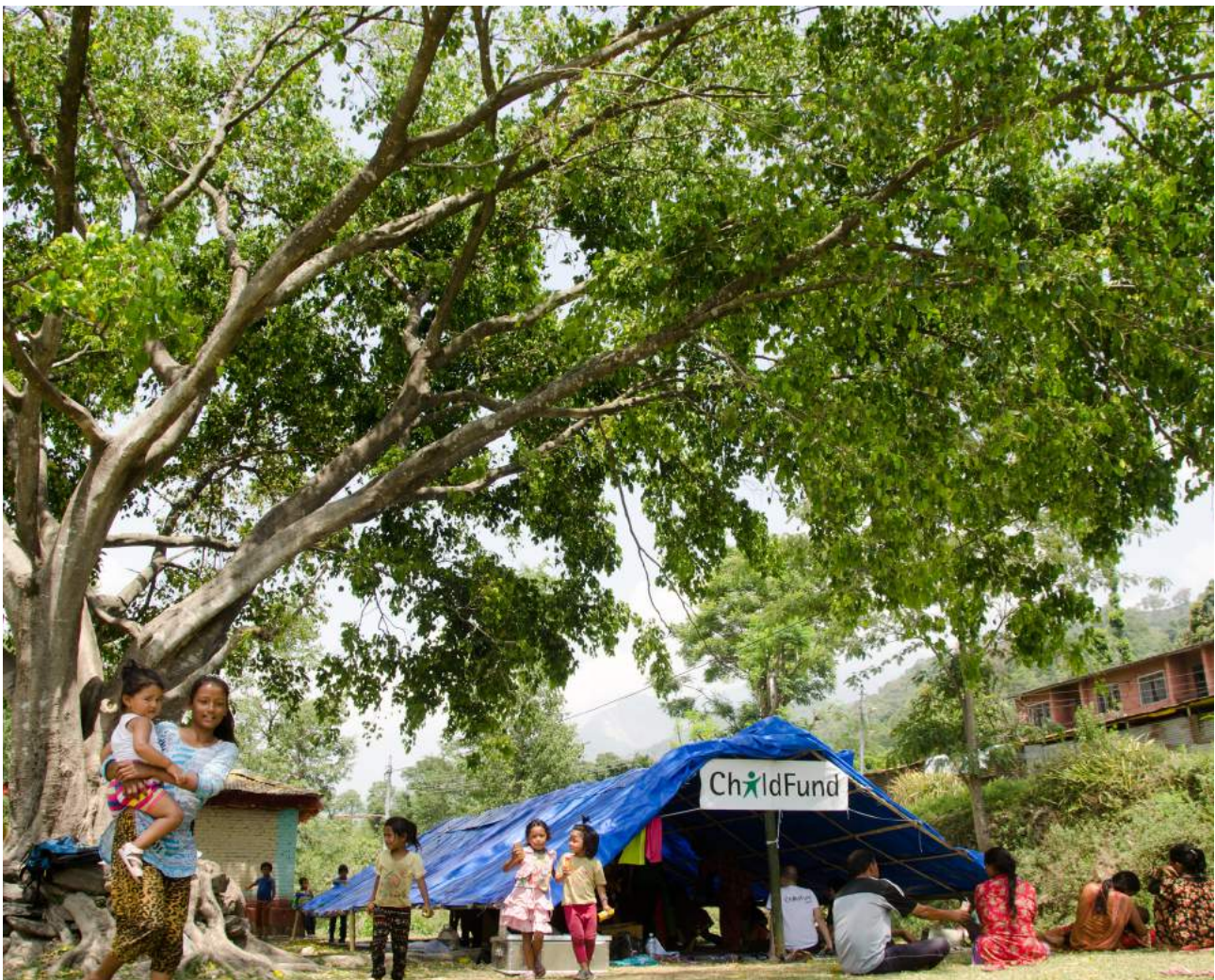
Leave no child behind

Child Centered Space (CCS)




Within a few weeks after the earthquake, while children's trauma was still acute and families were still in temporary shelters, 21 Child Centered Spaces (CCSs) were established in 2 districts of Ramechhap and Sindhupalchowk. About 85 volunteer youth and teachers were trained to operate these CCSs before schools resumed classes. The CCSs operated for between 5 and 13 days, depending on location. The average number of children participating reached 1,603, with the highest attendance reaching nearly 2,000.

Mothers who were busy attending to family needs felt safer knowing children were in CCSs with trained teachers and volunteers. Various psychosocial activities like songs, dances, story-telling, and puppet shows were conducted, and biscuits and juice were provided. CCS facilitators were able to observe and identify children with symptoms of distress. Staff provided psychosocial support and counseling to these children through home visits.

Participation enabled children to transition back to regular school despite the fact they were living in unfamiliar temporary shelters.



First Child Centered Space set up.

Child Protection			
Child Centered Spaces 		21 Established 1,603 Children participated 85 Volunteers	
School-in-a-Box kits 180	Recreation Kit 60	School Kits  46 Schools 5,337 Students	Dignity Kits  851 Girls
Early Childhood Development Kits 96	Book Bags 93		
Training Participants		Psychosocial Counseling	23
		Child Protection	88

”

The earthquake scared me a lot. I felt it was the end of the world. In CCS, Teacher asked me to talk about what I felt, and this made me feel no longer like I was alone. I had a good time dancing and singing.”

Agreja, 11 years old, Dhuskun



Provision of Dignity Kit for Girls

Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable during disasters as they have to use open spaces for bathing and toilet. To address their need for hygiene, ChildFund provided dignity kits to 851 girls of grade 6 to 10 in 12 schools of 2 assisted districts

in December. Each kit contained tooth brush, tooth paste, bath soap, a towel, laundry soap, shampoo, disinfectant liquid, a hand torch, nail cutters, combs, re-usable sanitary napkins, and underwear, all packed in a handy bag.



Children curiously checking out their Dignity Kit

Capacity Building for Child Protection

Various trainings for teachers and community leaders were conducted in two districts for ensuring protection of children.

1. Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) Training

4-day trainings were conducted for 85 representatives from Ward Citizen Forum (WCF), Village Disaster Risk Management Committees (VDRMCs), and other community leaders, from November to December 2015. The basic concept of disaster risk reduction and its impact on children, families and communities were discussed. DRR action plans for their wards were finalized on the last day of each training.

2. Child Protection Training

A 2.5-day Child Protection Training was conducted for 88 teachers, members of Village Child Protection Committees (VCPC) and the Ward Citizen Forum (WCF) from September to December 2015. With the review of existing child protection mechanisms at district and national levels, participants learned how to coordinate with government to raise and manage child protection issues.

3. Assessment on Child Protection:

Assessments on child protection issues were conducted in 2 districts through an external consultant in December 2015. The recommendation from assessment reports was to strengthen and implement local child protection mechanism and standards, establish a child protection monitoring and referral system, enhance local capacity on child protection, promote children's participation, and raise awareness on child protection issues.

Education

Safeguarding the right to education

Temporary Resumption of School

Even as most school buildings had totally or partially collapsed in Sindhupalchowk and Ramechhap Districts, the Department of Education declared that all classes would resume by 31 May 2015. From June to October, ChildFund constructed a total of 60 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLSs) with 120 classrooms in 32 schools in 2 districts, which accommodated 2,401 students. About 44 were completed before the monsoon season started. ChildFund also provided educational materials, uniforms, sweaters for winter and equipment for schools.

1) In coordination with UNICEF, 180 School-in-a-Box kits, 96 Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits, 60 Recreational Kits, and 93 Book Bags were also distributed to 46 schools, benefitting about 5,337 students.

2) 344 Teacher Supply Kits were provided in 45 schools in August. Each included a file bag, a schedule notebook, graph paper, chart paper, a punch machine, a stapler, glue sticks and a masking tape.

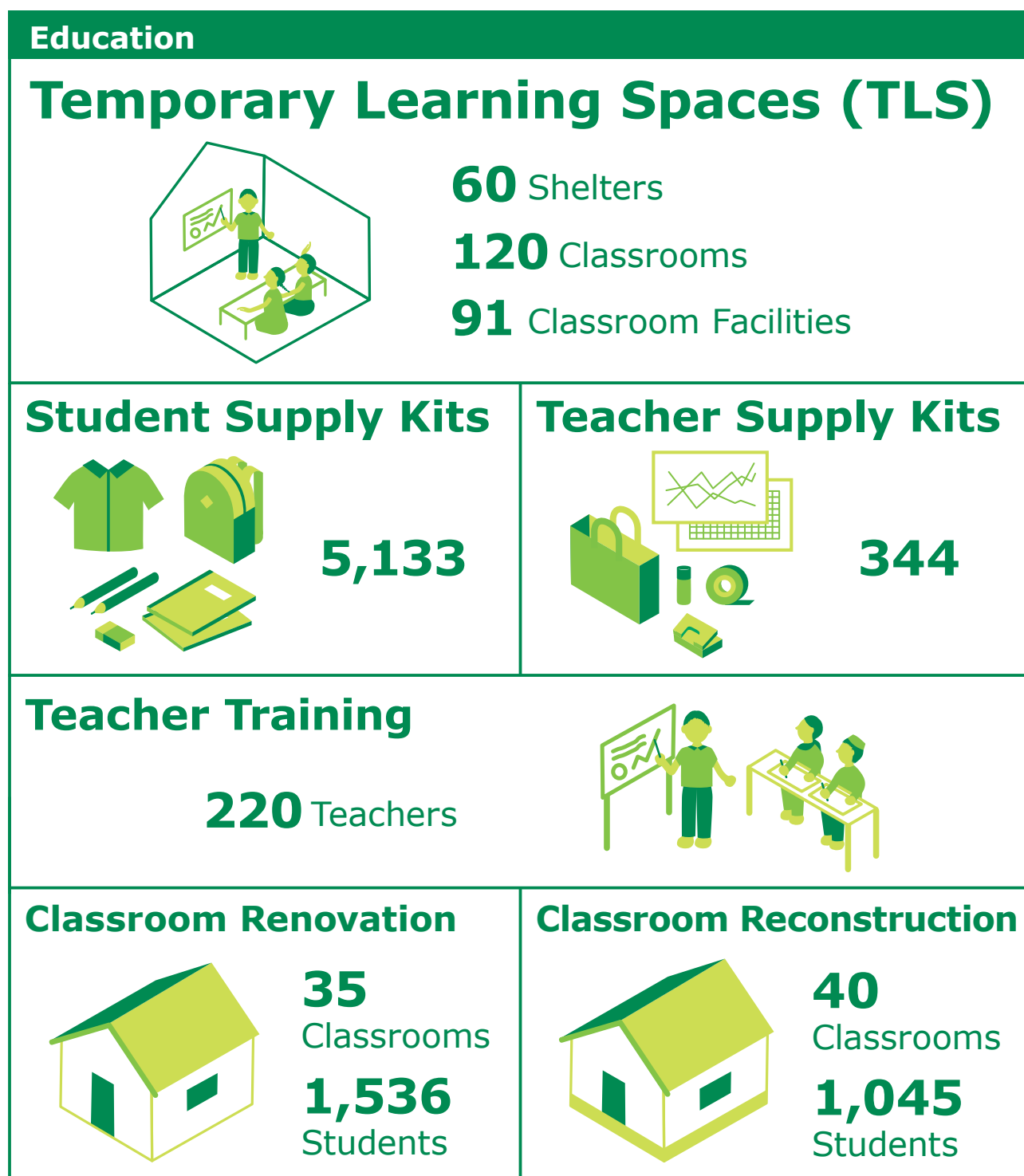
3) Students Supply Kit (stationery, school bag, uniform) were distributed to 5,133 students of 45 schools of 2 districts.

4) 5,101 children received sweaters for school in December 2015 to February 2016.

5) Classroom Management and other equipment, tables, cushions, shoe racks, carpet, and groundsheets were provided to 91 classrooms in 17 schools of Sindhupalchowk District. To store student records, 32 filing cabinets for teachers were provided as well. 3 microscopes were provided to 2 schools in Tauthali.

TLS provided immediate relief for children back to school.





Capacity Building for Teachers in Disaster Situation

To cope with children's needs in the post-disaster situation, the following trainings were conducted for teachers.

1. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Education in Emergency (EiE) and Psychosocial Support

A series of 2-day trainings was conducted from August to September 2015 for 220 teachers of 45 schools. Each teacher was provided with post-

disaster teaching materials produced by the National Center for Education Development (NCED).

2. Psychosocial Counseling

A 3-day training was organized in December 2015 for 23 teachers in Sindhupalchowk District to support children with basic behavioral issues and identify students with severe psychological trauma for professional counseling.

Reconstruction of Schools

With government approval of school renovation and reconstruction on 7 June, 2016, ChildFund developed a construction plan and implementing guidelines for partner NGOs, schools and communities. Consultations were conducted with District Education Offices and School Management Committees to ensure proper construction and to promote ownership of schools by communities.

Within the construction plan, new toilets, water facilities and classroom equipment were required by

the government to ensure the proper educational environment.

By September 2017, 35 classrooms were renovated and 40 were constructed in 14 schools in 2 districts. Carpet and low tables with cushions were provided for the lower grades while desks and benches were installed in classrooms of higher grades. All classrooms were provided with bookshelves, shoe racks, whiteboards and doormats. 1,863 students in 14 schools can now study in well-equipped and earthquake-resistant classrooms.



Monitoring school construction process with Head Teacher of school



Inauguration at completed school building



Completed classroom with shelves and study table

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Ensuring safe water and hygiene for children


To meet immediate needs for safe water and hygiene, 11 water facilities were repaired and 5 toilets constructed in 4 schools in Sindhupalchowk District, together with the Temporary Learning Spaces construction.

Seventeen permanent, child-friendly water facilities were constructed in 14 schools and 58 toilet rooms in 13 schools in 2016–2017, together with renovation and construction of school buildings.



Child-friendly taps set at varying heights to accommodate different ages.

Children enjoy clean water in Dhuskun. This facility benefitted 112 children in the school. On the school wall, it is written, "Soap and water for the habit of washing hands".

WASH		
	Toilet	Drinking Water
Temporary	4 schools	11 schools
Permanent	58 toilet rooms 1,742 students	62 water taps 2,235 students

Livelihoods

Supporting families to help themselves

The objective of the income generation (IG) support programme was to help families support the holistic development of their children. The project provided 102 goats (5 per family) and other support services to 20 poor families (in 2 groups of 10 each) in Tauthali, Sindhupalchowk.

All these families had some land, but the products

from the land were hardly enough to cover their basic needs even for 3 months. Two members from each family attended a 5-day training on goat raising and shed construction in October 2015. The distribution of goats and support for construction of shed was completed by middle of November 2015. A second batch of 10 families was supported in December 2016.



They received goats as income generation support.

Capacity Building

Preparing staff to First Do No Harm

To ensure the proper implementation of projects, staff of ChildFund in Nepal and partner NGOs received the following training.

1. Community Resiliency Model (CRM)

This training imparted skills to help restore balance in body, mind and spirit, and to understand common reactions resulting from trauma and stress. It helped staff who themselves had been affected by the earthquake to cope, and the skills acquired were then applied in sessions with children, community people and fellow staff.

2. Essentials of Humanitarian Practice & Project Management in Emergencies

This training provided an introduction to disaster management.

3. Organizational Safety and Security

Orientation was given on safety and security policies and procedures for maintaining a safe working environment for staff. It also reinforced the idea that staff at all levels have the responsibility and authority to address deficiencies in security procedures.

Group discussion



Conclusion

Towards the Resilient Community

ChildFund prioritizes Child Protection in an Emergency. All activities within our emergency response related, directly or indirectly, to child protection and child rights. Child friendly classroom management, construction of child friendly water taps, separate toilets for girls, and training on child protection and child friendly teaching techniques are some clearly visible examples. Promotion of child clubs and encouraging their participation in matters concerning children contributed as well.

As we delivered timely and quality humanitarian response focusing on children, ChildFund ensured Disaster Risk Reduction activities were included to start the process of returning to community development in the reconstruction phase. ChildFund's "Build Back Better" approach means not only creating stronger school facilities, but also a strengthened school management system and child protective community system. The preparation of a School Safety Plan ensured that the schools will now be guided in their disaster preparedness and mitigation activities.

Summary of Findings: Final Evaluation

ChildFund conducted an external evaluation at project end as a means of improving its future assistance efforts. As a global organization, we are committed to learning from this experience to support children in communities walking the path from recovery to resilience.

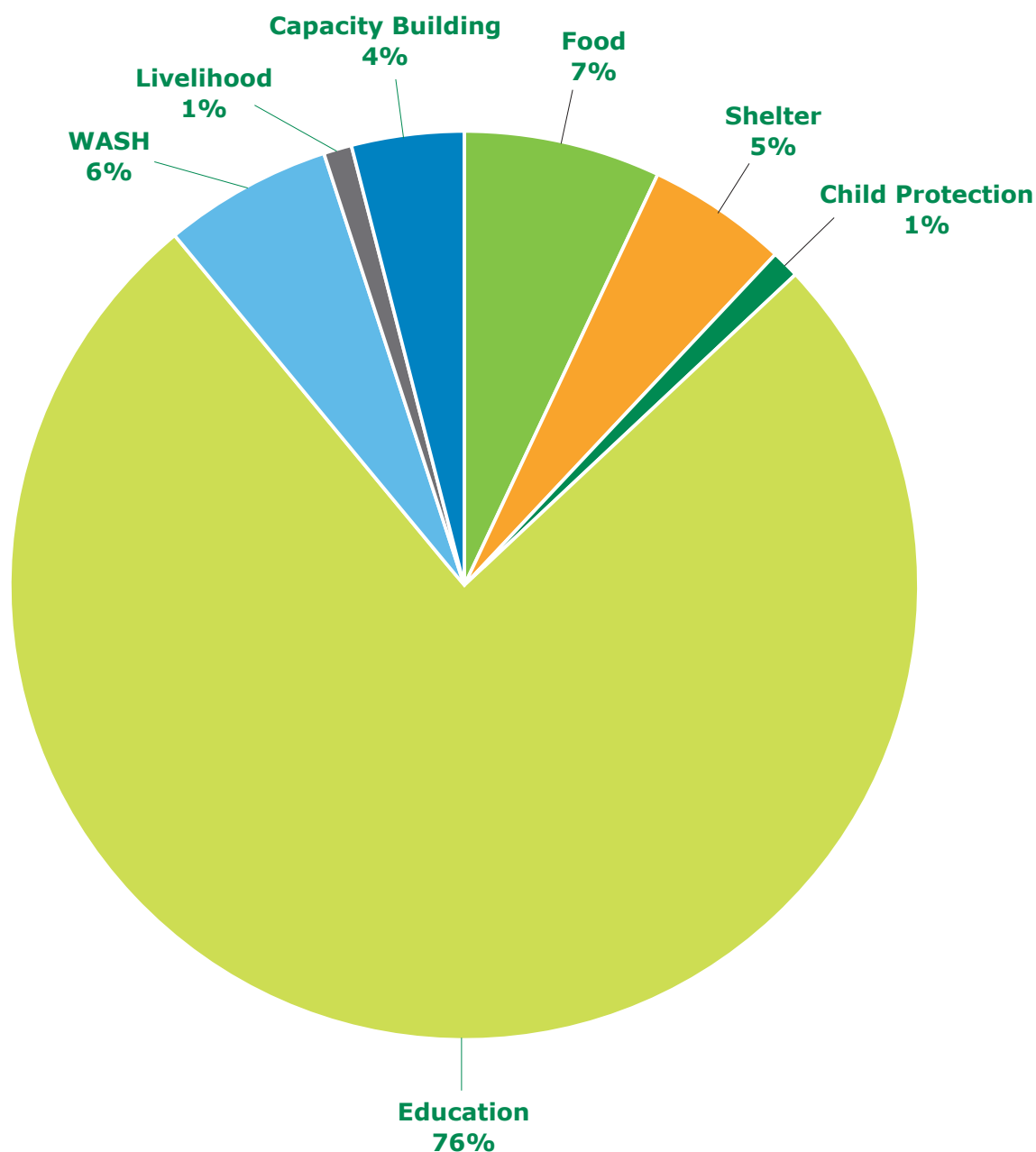
The evaluation shows that interventions have been highly relevant and appropriate and have achieved the following objectives with reasonable efficiency:

- *Immediate lifesaving through timely distribution of high quality food and shelter materials*
- *The medium-term recovery and rehabilitation of services through creation and use of appropriate and well-facilitated child centered spaces, timely construction of high quality temporary learning spaces with drinking water and toilet facilities and distribution of teaching and learning materials, and uniforms and dignity kits for adolescent girls*
- *The long-term reconstruction needs of the target areas through construction of earthquake-resilient school buildings with false ceilings (to protect from sound pollution and to insulate heat), child-friendly toilets, water taps and classrooms. Library and office facilities are provided in some schools.*

All this was possible through the persistence, devotion, openness to learning and flexibility of ChildFund as well as partner NGO staff and other stakeholders, in spite of the fact that ChildFund Nepal had no previous experience of emergency response at such scale. This would not have been possible with a typical jobholder mindset.

Financial Outlook

Expenses Distribution per Sector
(April 2015 – September 2017)



Above percentages show distribution of direct project cost.

Acknowledgements

The 2015 Nepal earthquake was a traumatic experience not only for the people in our supported areas, but also for ChildFund Nepal Office staff and its partner NGOs, who themselves lost homes and family members and friends. The response operation was difficult from the beginning with few experienced staff in emergency recovery, and a chaotic situation in Kathmandu, where many shops were closed, demand for supplies was high, and prices were erratic.

Despite these difficulties, ChildFund and its partners managed to deliver supplies and services to the neediest populations in the worst-affected remote areas, especially children and women.

Primary thanks goes to the partner NGOs who carried out such difficult work when they themselves were suffering from trauma and loss:

Gramin Mahila Srijansil Pariwar (GMSP)



Ramechhap Business & Professional Women (RBPW)



Tuki Association Sunkoshi (TUKI)



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We thank the member agencies of ChildFund Alliance for sending staff with special skills for the emergency operation.

Special thanks goes to UNICEF, which provided children's kits for the Child Centered Spaces and schools.

Last, but not least, our sincere gratitude goes to the individual donors from all over the world, who contributed to the project through various organizations. We did our best to bring your goodwill to the people of Nepal, especially the children and families who suffered the most.



ChildFund Alliance is a global network of 11 child-focused development organizations working to create opportunities for children and youth, their families and communities.

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