

2016



# Nepal Earthquake Response Report

One Year and Beyond



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# INTRODUCTION

## ALLEVIATE IMMEDIATE HUMAN SUFFERING

The 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal on 25 April 2015 devastated the country, affecting more than 8 million people<sup>1</sup> by causing widespread displacement and destruction of homes, infrastructure, and services. In the earthquake and a strong 7.3-magnitude aftershock on 12 May, 8,891 people were killed<sup>2</sup>, and the total financial loss is estimated to be more than US\$7 billion.<sup>3</sup>

Already on the ground, World Vision responded quickly by distributing food and basic relief supplies as well as assistance with emergency shelter; health and nutrition; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); child protection; and education.

In the past 12 months, there has been significant progress in the earthquake recovery. World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response has provided 386,984 people with emergency relief in some of the worst-affected districts, focusing particularly on the most vulnerable: women, children and minority groups.

To meet the most urgent needs in the immediate aftermath, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response provided 1,600 families with emergency food kits, and more than 112,000 people received water purification tablets.

With substantial damage to water supplies, toilets and other WASH infrastructure, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response built or repaired 2,828 toilets and constructed 91 water systems.

The shelter and household non-food items sector was the worst affected sector, with the earthquake destroying and badly damaging housing and personal belongings. To meet the needs of vulnerable families, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response provided thousands of households with materials for makeshift shelters, including tarpaulins, tents or corrugated iron sheeting, and toolkits. Families also received kitchen kits, sleeping mats, solar lamps and warm winter clothing.

The nation's public health system was significantly affected by the earthquake and aftershocks. World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response repaired two health posts so that more than 13,000 people could access health care again, and medical supplies were given to five health posts serving 60,000 people.

When a natural disaster occurs, children are among the most vulnerable. To ensure that children could be supported after the earthquake and aftershocks, 35 Child-



<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), *Nepal Earthquake Situation Report*, 27 April 2015.

<sup>2</sup> UNOCHA, *Nepal Earthquake Humanitarian Response Report* (April to September 2015).

<sup>3</sup> Government of Nepal, *Post Disaster Needs Assessment*, July 2015.



Friendly Spaces (CFS) were set up. Schools were still closed months after the quake, so World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response established Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs), where more than 8,000 students resumed learning and returned to a regular routine.

In one year, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response reached vulnerable people in the earthquake-affected districts of Sindhupalchowk, Gorkha, Sindhuli, Dolakha, Dhading, Nuwakot, Lamjung and the Kathmandu Valley. In the recovery phase, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response is focusing its efforts in Sindhupalchowk, Gorkha, Dolakha, Dhading and Nuwakot districts, which have been identified as the most affected and in need of critical support if they are to recover.

## FROM EMERGENCY TO RECOVERY

In the emergency phase of the Nepal Earthquake Response, the strategic focus was to alleviate immediate human suffering caused by the massive earthquake. This objective was achieved through the distribution of essential emergency items and the establishment of safe spaces like Women, Adolescent and Young Child Spaces (WAYCS) and CFS for quake-affected communities.

The response moved into the recovery phase in October 2015, with the goal of building resilience and restoring safety for earthquake-affected children and their communities. Alongside communities, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response is meeting emergency needs, restoring services to a higher standard, and empowering



people with skills and opportunities to sustain themselves. World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response is prioritising the most vulnerable and fostering social inclusion and gender equity in community interactions for long-term change. World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response's programmes will seek to increase communities' abilities to adapt to change and absorb future shocks.

Nepal Earthquake Response has five principles guiding our interventions to ensure that our response is appropriate, effective and efficient in the context of Nepal. In alignment with humanitarian principles, Nepal Earthquake Response's strategy is **needs driven**. Nepal Earthquake Response reviews plans and adjusts project design according to the context, advised through community assessment, monitoring and accountability mechanisms. Considering the patriarchal and hierarchical social context, Nepal Earthquake Response mainstreams **gender equality and social inclusion** in our programmes to ensure the needs of the marginalised and most vulnerable are not overlooked. Nepal Earthquake Response is **operations focused**, which means all functions aim to support effective implementation that benefits the affected communities. To strengthen the resilience of communities, Nepal Earthquake Response adapts *build back*

*better* methodologies, which means we strive to implement activities that produce a stronger post-quake community. This includes not only building more disaster-resilient infrastructure in the community, but also passing on skills and knowledge that contribute to individuals' capacity to improve their communities in the future. Nepal Earthquake Response also endeavours to build and maintain **strong partnerships** with all stakeholders, including but not limited to communities, local authorities, local partner organisations and other humanitarian agencies.

Response operations aiming to reach earthquake-affected people across Nepal faced a number of challenges. The monsoon season brought heavy rains, which exacerbated the need for shelter assistance, particularly for the thousands who lost their homes in the earthquake. Nepal's mountainous landscape made it difficult to reach remote communities with the relief they desperately needed. Later in the year, the informal border closure with India cut off the main supply of fuel for vehicles, cooking and manufacturing, and delayed relief materials in reaching Nepal. Despite these hurdles, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response was still able to assist thousands of vulnerable families with essentials such as food, water and shelter items, and access to health services and education.

# SHELTER and NON-FOOD ITEMS



**30,588**  
TARPAULINS WITH ROPE

17,282  
FAMILIES  
76,470  
INDIVIDUALS

13,600  
FAMILIES  
68,025  
INDIVIDUALS

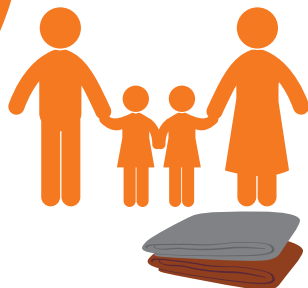
**13,600**  
BLANKETS &  
SLEEPING MATS



**189,848**  
CORRUGATED  
IRON SHEETS

11,738  
FAMILIES  
58,690  
INDIVIDUALS

5,077  
FAMILIES  
25,385  
INDIVIDUALS



**5,077**  
WINTER KITS FOR FAMILY



2,551  
INFANTS

**2,551**  
WINTER KITS FOR INFANTS



# SHELTER and NON-FOOD ITEMS

*Objective: Provide support for safe and culturally appropriate shelter and non-food items.*

The earthquake and subsequent aftershocks destroyed more than 605,254 houses and damaged an extra 288,255,<sup>4</sup> making hundreds of thousands of families homeless, and exposing them – especially children – to greater vulnerability and insecurity. Shelter across the affected districts suffered an estimated US\$3.5 billion in damage and loss.<sup>5</sup>

In response to such widespread destruction, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response provided emergency shelter kits – tarpaulins and ropes, corrugated iron sheeting, or tents for families and household essentials, including blankets, mattresses, solar lamps and kitchen kits. World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response's initial response prioritised areas where more than 85 per cent of houses were destroyed or suffered major damage.<sup>6</sup>

As the cold months approached, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response provided families with jackets, blankets, socks, hats, shawls and baby winter kits. During the monsoon season, shelter materials and warm items enabled families to have a basic level of protection from the elements, as well as privacy.

Moving forward, reconstruction of houses is the top need of communities affected by the earthquake. World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response's long-term shelter assistance will include repairing, retrofitting or reconstructing affected houses as part of a community-based project. With technical assistance and training with community members on disaster-resistant construction, schools, health centres, meeting areas, markets and water sources will be repaired or constructed. Master masons, community builders and home owners will be trained in *build back safer* techniques, working towards empowered and skilled self-recovery.

“ I was worried about my newborn's health after the devastating earthquake because the makeshift tents could not withstand strong winds, rainfall and scorching heat. But after receiving CGI sheets, I was relieved because my newborn's health could be secured.”

Malati, 27 years



<sup>4</sup> UNOCHA, *Nepal Earthquake Humanitarian Response Report* (April to September 2015).

<sup>5</sup> Government of Nepal, *Post Disaster Needs Assessment*, 2015.

<sup>6</sup> World Vision, *Nepal Earthquake Response Baseline Report*, 2015.

# HEALTH



2,920  
FAMILIES  
13,146  
INDIVIDUALS



12,112  
FAMILIES  
60,560  
INDIVIDUALS

**2** HEALTH  
INSTITUTIONS REPAIRED

**5** MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO  
VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE HEALTH POSTS

**1,064**  
BABY HYGIENE KITS



1,064  
INFANTS

3,105  
INDIVIDUALS



**36**  
WOMEN, ADOLESCENT,  
YOUTH AND CHILDREN SPACES



# HEALTH

*Objective: To improve families' health and nutrition outcomes and to ensure access to primary health-care services.*

The earthquake injured over 22,000 people,<sup>7</sup> and with more than 1,200 health facilities damaged or destroyed, Nepal's health facilities were overwhelmed. This has had a particularly severe impact on vulnerable populations in remote areas.

In the months after the earthquake, an estimated 185,000 pregnant or nursing women in 14 districts were considered at risk of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies requiring sustained nutrition support.<sup>8</sup>

To assist health services to resume and to improve access to basic health care for affected communities, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response distributed tents and medical supplies to health posts and trained health volunteers. Community health workers (formally organized by the Government of Nepal as Female Community Health Volunteers) were trained to provide health care to families living in some of the most remote communities.

Pregnant and new mothers received clean delivery and baby kits and were able to access dedicated spaces to

receive support to care for their infants. WAYCS were established in communities where female community health volunteers conducted training and provided counselling.

A year after the earthquake, 765 health facilities need to be reconstructed and supplied with resources<sup>9</sup> to provide essential health-care services, including immunisations, communicable disease management, and rehabilitation of patients injured in the disaster.

In the coming months, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response will focus on the repair and reconstruction of health posts in coordination with the government. World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response will provide the equipment needed and train health workers and community volunteers so that earthquake-affected communities are able to access primary health-care services. In conjunction with health infrastructure, community awareness of communicable diseases, the importance of ante- and postnatal care, safe delivery and nutrition will be prioritised to help reduce the risk of illness and disease.



“With the monsoons and winter coming, the blankets are going to be very useful for my baby because I need to keep him warm and clean. This will be his first winter and I hope he doesn't get sick much. And once he gets bigger, I'll make lito to feed him so he can be fit and healthy.”

Sharmila, first-time mom and WAYCS participant



7 UNICEF, *Nepal Earthquake Humanitarian Situation Report*, 25 July 2015.

8 Nutrition Nepal Earthquake Cluster Brief, June 2015.

9 UNOCHA, *Nepal Earthquake Humanitarian Response Report*, Sept 2015.



# WATER, SANITATION and HYGIENE

14,443  
FAMILIES  
72,215  
INDIVIDUALS



**14,443** HYGIENE KITS



22,492  
FAMILIES  
112,460  
INDIVIDUALS

**22,492**  
CLEAN WATER KITS

2,828  
FAMILIES  
14,140  
INDIVIDUALS



**2,828**  
CONSTRUCTION/  
REPAIR OF TOILETS



3,919  
FAMILIES  
19,595  
INDIVIDUALS

**91**  
WATER SYSTEM  
CONSTRUCTIONS



**252**  
WASH VOLUNTEERS MOBILISED  
FOR HYGIENE PROMOTION

13,523  
FAMILIES  
67,615  
INDIVIDUALS

# WATER, SANITATION and HYGIENE

*Objective: To provide support to improve WASH facilities, access to clean water and reduce cases of waterborne diseases.*

In the aftermath of the earthquake, up to 4.2 million people did not have access to clean water, basic hygiene supplies or sanitation facilities.<sup>10</sup> More than 1,500 water supply systems suffered major damage and a further 3,663 were partially damaged; 220,000 toilets were partially or completely destroyed.<sup>11</sup>

The disruption in water supply had a disproportionately negative effect on women and girls, who are traditionally responsible for managing 75 per cent of household water.<sup>12</sup> In some of the affected areas, the time taken to fetch water increased by up to three hours. The destruction of toilets, lack of water, and poor living conditions hampered the privacy of women and girls, affecting personal hygiene and having a broader effect on the health and well-being of the community.

In response to the widespread need, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response renovated and constructed 91 water systems, giving almost 20,000 people access to safe drinking water. World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response worked with earthquake-affected populations and local committees to promote the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach and reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases. In addition,

World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response constructed village and household latrines and distributed thousands of water and sanitation kits to households. Through the training of volunteers, almost 13,523 families were reached with hygiene messages to help prevent outbreaks of illnesses.

One year after the earthquake, 500,000 people still need WASH assistance. Access to regular water supply and drainage remains a significant issue for families living in affected areas. More than 47 per cent of households have no access to potable water or sanitation facilities, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases.<sup>13</sup>

World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response plans to build and repair thousands of household toilets in some of the worst-affected areas, while continuing to restore and construct community water systems so that families have access to sufficient clean water. Functioning latrines, along with the promotion of positive hygiene practices, will help to improve the water and sanitation status of communities and reduce the outbreak of illness.

“We were having a tough time with health and hygiene until World Vision delivered hygiene kits and materials to rebuild our toilet that was damaged by the earthquake.”

Arun Tamang (16)



<sup>10</sup> UNOCHA, *Nepal Earthquake Humanitarian Response Report*, Sept 2015.

<sup>11</sup> Government of Nepal, 2015.

<sup>12</sup> Government of Nepal, *Post Disaster Needs Assessment*, July 2015.

<sup>13</sup> World Vision, *Nepal Earthquake Response Baseline Report*, 2015.



# LIVELIHOOD and FOOD SECURITY

*Objective: To provide support to restore families' livelihoods and prepare them to manage future disasters better.*

The earthquake destroyed significant public and private infrastructure, affecting people's livelihoods, access to basic services, and ability to support themselves and their children in the immediate future. Across the country, personal income amounting to more than US\$170 million was lost, substantially affecting households and having serious implications for poverty levels in the country.<sup>14</sup>

The earthquake adversely affected reliable access to food, particularly in remote mountain areas, where close to 70 per cent of households had poor or borderline food consumption.<sup>15</sup>

In the immediate aftermath, access to food was a high priority. World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response provided food kits and distributed cash to vulnerable families through a cash-for-

<sup>14</sup> Government of Nepal, 2015.

<sup>15</sup> Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP), United Nations World Food Programme, and the Nepal Food Security Cluster, A report on the food security impact of the 2015 earthquake, May 2015.

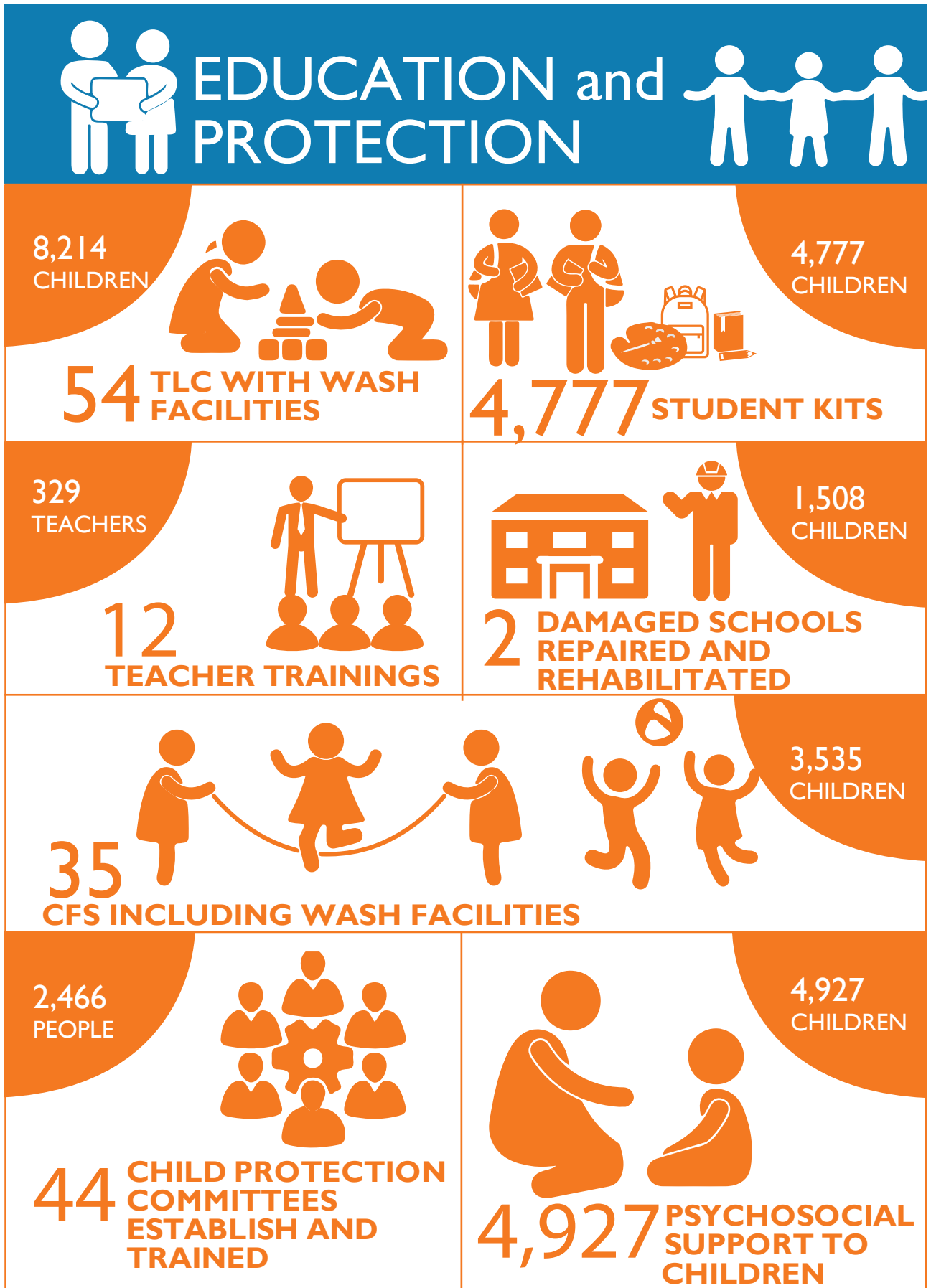




work initiative. Individuals received cash for clearing debris from collapsed buildings, cleaning up waterways, and helping level damaged agricultural land, enabling them to purchase food and other essential items.

The earthquake destroyed crop fields, storage facilities and agricultural tools. This meant that many households dependent on growing produce for income needed assistance in restoring their livelihoods.

Moving forward, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response will focus on improving household income and food accessibility for households by rehabilitating irrigation systems and providing seed and livestock to small-scale farmers. Combined with vocational training, facilitating savings groups and building the capacity of local institutions, stimulating production will increase the economic resilience of communities in the face of future disasters.





# EDUCATION and CHILD PROTECTION

*Objective: To improve children's access to safe and relevant learning opportunities, and provide for their protection and psychosocial well-being.*

The education of an estimated 1.5 million children was adversely affected, with 36,000 classrooms completely destroyed and 17,000 more damaged.<sup>16</sup> The effect of the earthquake on children was immense, with more than 950,000 left in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.<sup>17</sup> The loss of homes, closure of schools and the number of aftershocks had a significant impact on children, increasing their feelings of insecurity, fear and anxiety.

In the immediate aftermath, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response established 35 CFS where children had a secure area to play, learn and be supported. The nurturing environment facilitated educational and psychosocial support, strengthening children's resilience and coping mechanisms, while helping to restore a sense of normality and inclusion.

World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response also constructed 54 TLCs, complete with water and sanitation facilities, to provide children and teachers with a safe learning and teaching environment. The centres were built with corrugated iron roofing to provide increased protection against the elements. Teachers were trained in child-friendly learning and psychosocial support, and centres were given learning materials.

One year after the earthquake, approximately 166,000 children still don't have access to permanent classrooms.<sup>18</sup> Most students are forced to learn in crowded and unsafe classrooms, adversely affecting the quality of education and increasing the rate of student dropout. It is now critical that schools are constructed and repaired to meet the need of communities and that the buildings, including TLCs, are equipped to withstand the monsoon season.

To improve the access and quality of education, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response will adopt a holistic approach to early and longer-term safe school recovery. With *build back safer* principles in mind, safe learning facilities, school disaster management, risk reduction, and resilience education will be the foundation of the rehabilitation of education in Nepal. The training of teachers in disaster management and psychosocial support will complement the construction, repair and retrofitting of schools and other learning facilities.

World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response will establish referral mechanisms and provide training in child protection to educate and empower communities to better care for and protect children.



“ At the CFS we sang songs, danced, sang the national anthem, then we wrote about how the earthquake struck, experience during earthquake, favourite games. I feel happy to come to CFS, now we have been able to learn something.”

Alina 10 years, CFS participant in Bhaktapur



<sup>16</sup> UNOCHA, *Nepal Earthquake Humanitarian Response Report*, Sept 2015.

<sup>17</sup> UNICEF, 2015.

<sup>18</sup> UNOCHA, *Nepal Earthquake Humanitarian Response Report*, Sept 2015.

# CONCLUSION

In 12 months, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response has been able to reach some of the worst of the earthquake-affected population in Nepal with a multi-sector relief and recovery response. Despite significant progress, there is still substantial need, particularly in the rehabilitation of livelihoods, as well as education, health and WASH infrastructure.

In the coming year, World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response will be

implementing more programmes to restore the livelihoods of vulnerable families and communities, and constructing and repairing schools, health posts, houses and WASH facilities. In the process, the ownership and empowerment of communities continue to be paramount, and World Vision Nepal Earthquake Response will have a strong focus on disaster risk reduction and promoting gender equity and social inclusion.

## Community Voice

91% of beneficiaries satisfied with beneficiary selection criteria

99% of beneficiaries satisfied with amount of cash assistance

96% beneficiaries satisfied with timeliness of distribution

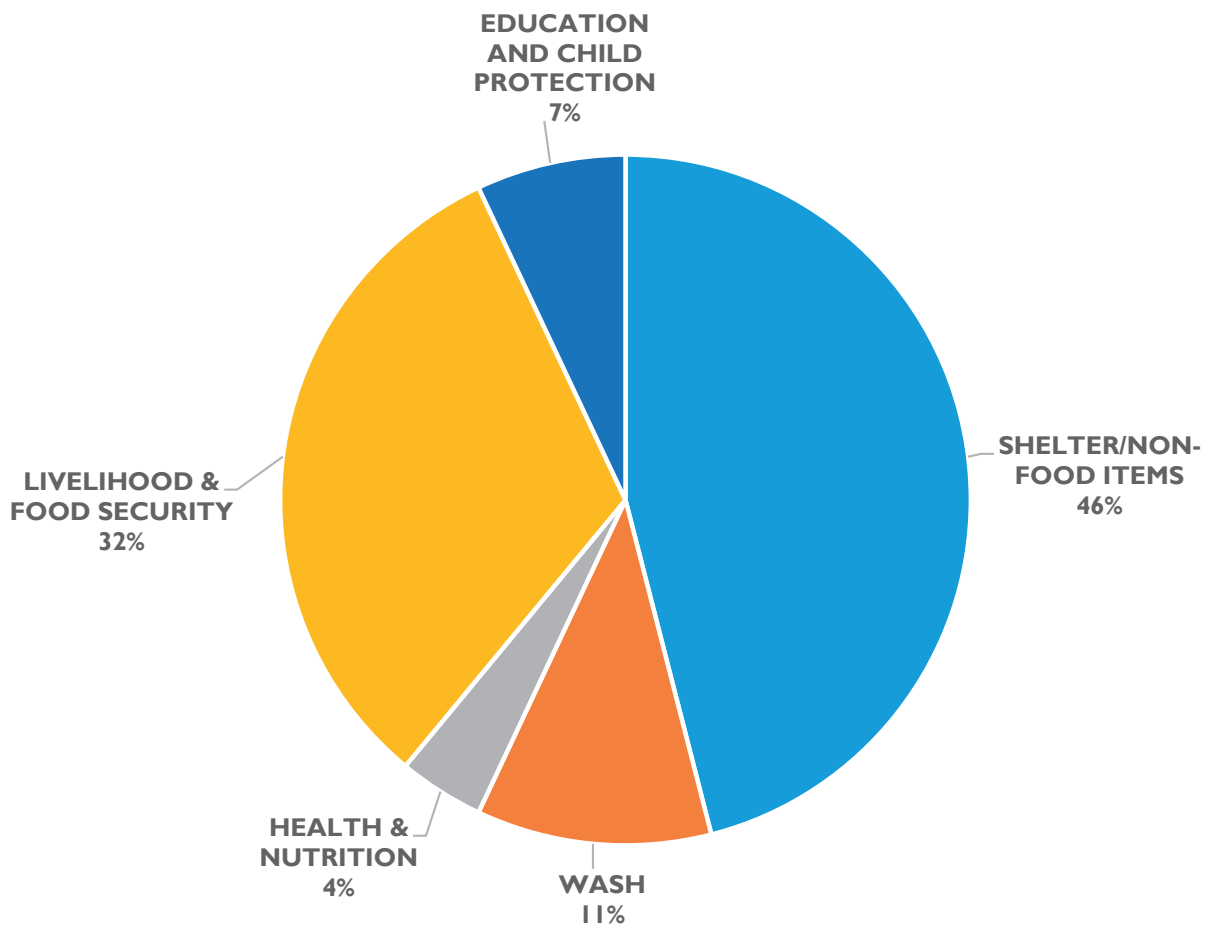
99% of beneficiaries used cash assistance to purchase priority needs

48% of beneficiaries used the cash assistance to purchase food

# FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

## TOTAL EXPENSES: US\$16.9 MILLION

Expenses Distribution per Sector  
(April 2015 – Feb 2016)



**Note:** Includes only the direct project cost.



World Vision is a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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