

Multi-Sectoral Response to Earthquake in Karnali Province

(Plan International Nepal Response to Jajarkot and Rukum West Earthquake)

OVERVIEW OF THE CRISIS



Aerial view of Nalgad municipality, Jajarkot ©Plan International

A 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck primarily in the Jajarkot and Rukum West districts on November 3, 2023, at midnight (23:47 hours Nepal Standard Time), with 11 other districts in Karnali Province also affected to varying degrees. The disaster resulted in 154 deaths (84 females & 70 males) and 366 injuries due to collapsed houses. Initial assessments revealed significant damage, with 62,012 private houses, 626 school buildings, and 50 government buildings either destroyed or partially damaged, affecting 250,000 people¹. In the aftermath of this disaster, ensuring the basic necessities for survival became crucial for the affected population, while swift and coordinated response efforts were essential to address the urgent needs of affected communities and facilitate recovery. The Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) estimated the reconstruction needs at NPR 69 billion.

Nepal is highly vulnerable to earthquakes and hydro-meteorological hazards. Over the past decade, both government and humanitarian agencies have launched several

initiatives to reduce disaster risks and manage disasters. While response capacity has improved, efforts in preparedness and institutionalized mitigation still fall short.

In the region, various sectors of society have been actively responding to earthquake disasters, such as local communities, security forces, medical institutions, and government authorities. It is crucial to closely observe the aftermath, analyze, and document the initial response and early recovery phases. This will help inform stakeholders on how to enhance disaster risk reduction and management measures.

In the context of the earthquake that hit Karnali Province, the different community sectors listed above conducted swift search and rescue operations. Despite geographical constraints, including difficult road access and scattered settlements, the local people, elected leaders, and local-level security and medical personnel performed commendably, completing most search and rescue efforts within 24 hours.

Jajarkot Earthquake in a Glimpse

154
Deaths



70 84

366
Injury



513
Livestock damage



626
Damaged Schools



26,549
Fully damaged



35,415
Partially damaged



88
Metric ton damaged stock grain



¹ Source: UNICEF Nepal Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2 (Earthquake) - 13 November 2023

Rapid Need Assessment

On 6–7 November 2023, three days after the earthquake, Plan International Nepal conducted a Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) in Jajarkot districts (Bheri and Nalgad Municipalities) to assess the extent of damage following the disaster. Through the different consultations conducted by four Emergency Response Team (ERT) members – including key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) with provincial and local governments, children, adolescents, parents, and community members – Plan International Nepal identified the needs as follows:

Shelter

Shelter and Non-food items such as kitchen utensils and buckets, Emergency Shelter (tarpaulin, blanket, mattress), Safe and inclusive temporary shelter for girls and women, winterization items

Health

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for children and adolescent girls Health promotional activities to displaced one.

WASH

Emergency toilets in displaced areas, safe drinking water, Hygiene promotional activities, Waste management and Hygiene kits.

Food security and Livelihood:

Livelihood, Ready to Eat Food (RTEF), Nutritious food for children.

Protection and Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI)

Dignity Kits for women, Special focus needed for children, elderly, pregnant women, people with chronic illness, people with disabilities, Restoring Family Links (RFL) services (as per need)

More precisely, the RNA conducted by Plan International Nepal strongly highlighted that the disaster disproportionately affected young women and adolescents who were compelled to care for elderly and children, in addition to attending to injured family members. The makeshift shelters lacked privacy and safe spaces, posing challenges for females needing to change clothes or use sanitary pads. Pregnant women and mothers of young children faced difficulties managing household chores, while elderly family members struggled with illness and lack of care.

The RNA also highlighted that female family members predominantly occupied the shelters, engaging in household tasks like cooking and childcare, while males often engaged in work outside the home such as farming, construction, and trading. In addition, there was a significant lack of toilets, especially toilets that are accessible to persons with disabilities, exacerbating health risks. Girls, at heightened risk due to becoming orphans, and women, faced increased responsibilities such as fetching water and managing household duties traditionally performed by male family members.

PROJECT



Woman building her temporary shelter ©Plan International

In response to the crisis, Plan International Nepal collaborated closely with the Government of Nepal, provincial authorities, and local bodies. To support the government’s disaster response plan, Plan International Nepal, in partnership with Plan International Canada, initiated “Multi-Sectoral (Shelter/NFIs, WASH, Cash & Protection) Response to Earthquake in Karnali Province, Nepal”, a 6-month project funded by the Government of Canada and the Canadian Humanitarian Coalition through the Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Funding mechanism (CHAF).

The proposed six-month intervention was focused in Jajarkot and western part of Rukum districts, with a total of 10,010 targeted participants (2,961 women; 2,845 men; 2,144 girls; 2,060 boys).

Project Outcomes

1. Shelter/NFIs: Earthquake affected families are supported with transitional and temporary shelters along with life-saving shelter kits and kitchen kits
2. WASH: Affected families, especially girls and women, have access to WASH facilities including water supply and hygiene kits.
3. CVA: Affected families receive cash and voucher assistance, addressing their immediate life-saving needs through unconditional Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)
4. Protection: Affected families receive mental health and psychosocial support along with child protection services with emphasis on Gender and Social Inclusion considerations.

This project aimed to provide holistic support to earthquake-affected populations across the Jajarkot and Rukum West districts, commencing in three wards spanning three municipalities across two districts: Ward

No. 3 of Nalgad Municipality in Jajarkot district, Ward No. 1 of Bheri Municipality, and Ward No. 11 of Aathbiskot Municipality in Rukum West district, providing support through Shelter, WASH, Cash & Voucher Assistance, and Protection activities.

Immediately after the earthquake, Plan International Nepal promptly collaborated with the local NGO, SAC Nepal and coordinated with the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC). By following the DDMC's decision on 17 December 2023, the project team coordinated with the Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC) of the respective municipalities and started to work with the communities.



PARTNER OF CHOICE

SAC Nepal was selected by Plan International Nepal for the Jajarkot and Rukum West Earthquake response due to its extensive experience and proven success in supporting and implementing humanitarian and development projects. Established in 1995, SAC Nepal operates in Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces, focusing on improving the lives of disadvantaged communities.

SAC Nepal has a strong track record in disaster response, including managing earthquake relief in Nalgad and Jajarkot (2023), and providing aid during the Jajarkot diarrhea outbreak (2009), mid-west floods and landslides (2014), and the Gorkha Earthquake (2015). They have also contributed to government policies like the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP).

As an existing partner of Plan International Nepal since 2021, SAC Nepal has managed projects funded by the European Union, demonstrating their capability and reliability. Their rich experience and expertise made them the ideal partner for earthquake response in Karnali province.



PLAN INTERNATIONAL NEPAL'S RESPONSE



A young mother receiving life-saving kit ©Plan International

Based on the findings of the Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA), Plan International Nepal's emergency response through the CHAF project provided essential and tailored support to the most affected people, including female-headed households and households led by single women, girls, boys, adolescent girls, elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women.

1. Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFIs)

A total of 2,557 people (961 women, 910 men, 362 girls, 324 boys) benefitted the shelter and NFIs assistance, representing 150 households that received the shelter materials to build temporary shelter and kitchen utensils. In total, 100 transitional shelters were constructed and 125 gender and disability-inclusive latrines were installed. Finally, 200 families received winterization support to cope with the harsh winter season.

2. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

A total 4,345 people were reached (2,040 women, 1,488 men, 416 girls and 401 boys) through the provision of WASH assistance; more precisely through the distribution of hygiene kits to 200 households, the rehabilitation of 9 water schemes to ensure running water in the targeted affected areas, and the conduction 16 hygiene promotional sessions on safe drinking water and sanitation.

3. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

2,128 people (784 women, 688 men, 345 girls and 311 boys), representing 201 families, benefited from the cash and voucher assistance program to fulfill their basic needs. CVA was also used to clean up 140 unsafe damaged houses through the cash-for-work (CfW) modality.

4. Protection

1,411 participants (1,073 women, 306 men, 20 girls, 12 boys) were reached through psychosocial counselling

sessions that were age, gender and disability-inclusive, information sessions at the community level on child protection in emergencies (CPIE) and gender-based violence (GBV), the orientation for child rights committees (CRC) and women/children unit members of the respective local government for CPIE and GBV, and through the distribution of dignity kits specifically to adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women to meet their overall hygiene including the mensural health and hygiene needs and psychosocial counselling sessions.

Throughout the project, information on GBV, psychosocial support, health, and safeguarding was disseminated during and after the various distributions (life-saving shelter kits, kitchen kits hygiene kits, menstrual hygiene kits) to raise awareness and promote safety among program participants.

A total of 10,441 project participants (4,858 women; 3,392 men; 1,143 girls and 1,048 boys including 145 people with disabilities (54 women and 60 men, 16 girls, 15 boys) were supported through the CHAF project against the 10,010 targeted participants (2,961 women; 2,845 men; 2,144 girls; 2,060 boys).

Our response in Jajarkot reached 8,250 women and men, exceeding our target of 5,806. This success was due to effective program content and outreach focused on adults. However, the response reached 2,191 children, falling short of the target of 4,204.

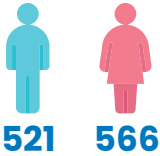
Key reasons include:

- Women were more accessible as they were predominantly in shelters handling household tasks, while men were often working outside the home, limiting their presence during our interventions.
- Additional awareness sessions were conducted at the community level, reaching more adult participants than planned.
- Additional households were able to benefit from the Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) and cash-for-work modality, thanks to savings on the budget.
- Children were often at school or public events, and the program content might not have been suitable for them.
- While the numbers of targeted participants were calculated statistically by targeting all individuals at the household level, the majority of the project activities, such as distributing relief kits, conducting awareness sessions, undertaking construction/renovation and providing MPCA, primarily targeted adults rather than children.

IMPACT



Multipurpose Cash
201 HHs



Out of these **97** are people with disabilities



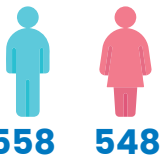
Shiladevi is standing inside her house damaged by the earthquake. ©Plan International

Shiladevi, female, Bheri Municipality, Jajarkot:

"The earthquake demolished the house we had built with a loan. We were left with nothing, sitting hungry under the open sky. But then, Plan Nepal came to our aid. Along with many other families, we received relief materials like tarpaulins, kitchen utensils, and warm clothes. Later, I also received cash assistance of 18,500 rupees, which I used for my son's kidney ailment treatment. This support during the disaster became the basis for our survival and well-being."



Winterization Kit
200 HHs



Out of these **17** are people with disabilities



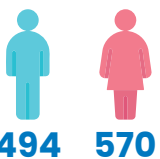
Sitali and her daughter happy to receive winterization kit. ©Plan International

Sitali, female, Bheri Municipality, Jajarkot:

"Financially, I am the poorest woman in the entire village. My days are spent caring for my disabled daughter and infant child. The only property I possess is a small, sloping piece of land. I don't even have my own house. I have been living in someone else's house with great difficulty, and the earthquake made our situation even worse. As the cold weather set in, life felt increasingly precarious; it felt like I was dying soon. It was at this time that Plan International Nepal provided warm clothes. This support has made life easier for many impoverished individuals like myself."



Hygiene Kit
200 HHs



Out of these **8** are people with disabilities



Bimala is using the temporary toilet constructed after the earthquake ©Plan International

Bimala, female, Aathbiskot Municipality, Rukum West:

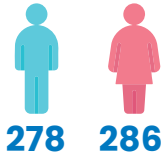
"After the earthquake destroyed our house and toilet, we were forced to resort to using the forest as our restroom for about two months. It was neither safe nor dignified. But we had no other choice. Then, with the support of Plan International Nepal, we were able to build a toilet. This support relieved us of a significant burden."

Rabin, male, Nalgad Municipality, Jajarkot :

"During disasters, everyone needs relief, but certain groups like postpartum mothers, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and children require special attention. We assisted in distributing relief materials from various organizations accordingly."



Transitional Shelter 100 HHs



Out of these 7 are people with disabilities



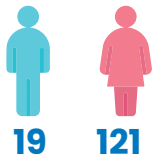
Students are looking out from newly constructed TLC. ©Plan International

***Kopila Malla, female, Member, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resource Class Management Committee, Nepal National Secondary School, Aathbiskot Municipality, Rukum West:**

“After the earthquake destroyed our school building, we were forced to teach 15 students with physical disabilities in an open field. However, Plan International Nepal built a temporary shelter for us, and we started teaching them there. This brought immense joy to those 15 students. We feel that this shelter is not just a school building, but a safe space for children’s learning and education.”



Psycho-social Counselling 140 Individuals/Events



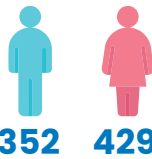
A group of young girls attending group counselling. ©Plan International

Bhumika, female, Aathbiskot Municipality, Rukum West

“After the earthquake, I lost all interest in studying and felt overwhelmed by stress. The earthquake not only destroyed houses but also created mental stress, which can lead to bigger problems. However, the psychosocial counseling provided by Plan International Nepal proved invaluable, showing me that timely support can make a difference.”



Life Saving and Kitchen Kits 150 HHs



Out of these 3 are people with disabilities



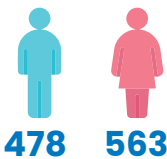
Women are receiving life-saving kit. ©Plan International

Laxman (male), Bheri Municipality, Jajarkot:

“In our village Kolchaur, 62 houses were destroyed, and 6 people lost their lives. At that time, Plan International Nepal also distributed relief according to their model, prioritizing vulnerable groups like postpartum mothers, pregnant women, and people with disabilities, children, single women, and the elderly. We created a mechanism in the village to include everyone and identify those who needed relief through it. By prioritizing and distributing relief accordingly, those who needed it most received timely support, and the distribution process became easier.”



Cash for Work Debris Clearance 140 HHs



Out of these 23 are people with disabilities



Ratnakali clearing the debris in her house. ©Plan International

Ratnakali, female, Naigaad Municipality, Jajarkot:

“I went to India to work as a laborer to avoid financial hardship. While I was on my way back home from India on November 3rd, an earthquake struck, and my house collapsed. Suddenly, I found myself without food or shelter. Thankfully, Plan International Nepal provided me with a tent, kitchen utensils, blankets, mattresses, and other essentials, along with NPR 16,000 rupees in cash for debris clearance. This support was a huge relief for me.”

*the construction of TLCs is supported by another donor

First responder: The success of the response efforts was a testament to the collaborative spirit of all involved stakeholders. Local government officials, community leaders, and project participants have voiced their satisfaction with the support provided. Mr. Yagya Nath Gautam, Head of the Disaster Management Committee of Bheri Municipality from the Jajarkot district, commended Plan International Nepal for their prompt action and efficient implementation, emphasizing the positive impact on affected communities. He stated, “Plan International Nepal swiftly completed the construction of temporary shelters, distributed safety materials and sanitation supplies, and established temporary learning centers for schools in remote areas and for vulnerable and severely affected families. Relief distribution was carried out smoothly, ensuring easy access to aid for the affected people. We found Plan International Nepal’s approach easily monitorable, and we are satisfied with their work.”

WHAT WENT WELL



*An engineer monitoring the newly built temporary shelter.
©Plan International*

Effective coordination:

There was effective coordination between government authorities, especially local governments, and international/national NGOs (I/NGOs) including NEEDS Nepal, Panchtara Yuwa Samrkhak Manch (PTYSM), Nepal Red Cross Society, Save the Children, World Vision, Habitat for Humanity, CARITAS Nepal (among others). This collaboration ensured a more organized and efficient response, minimizing duplications in relief efforts. The seamless integration of efforts allowed for a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of the affected communities.

Utilization of local resources:

Early recovery initiatives such as transitional shelters, household latrines, water point renovations, leveraged locally available resources such as wood, bamboo, mud,

and stones, as well as local labour from the affected households and communities. This approach not only accelerated the rebuilding process but also supported the local economy. Additionally, it facilitated skill transfer to community members, empowering them with valuable construction and rebuilding skills.

Integrated disaster preparedness and response plans:

We developed comprehensive disaster preparedness and response plans that incorporated early capacity-building initiatives. This included pre-positioning resources, training local responders, and establishing clear communication protocols with local authorities to ensure swift and effective responses to emergencies.

Innovative technological solutions:

We embraced innovative technological solutions to enhance transparency and efficiency in aid distribution and management. We implemented digital platforms (Laligurans application) for real-time data collection, beneficiary registration, and payment modalities, ensuring equitable access to assistance and minimizing administrative delays. See below section for Laligurans application.

Community-Centered approaches:

We adopted community-centered approaches that prioritized local participation, empowerment, and cultural sensitivity. We engaged communities in decision-making processes, leveraged local knowledge and resources, and promoted sustainable practices to foster resilience and ownership in recovery efforts.

Established feedback mechanism:

A feedback and complaint mechanism was established, actively seeking and incorporating input from the affected people into the relief efforts. This ensured that the assistance provided met the actual needs of the community. Affected individuals and project participants received accurate information about the programs and how to share feedback or complaints. They had the opportunity to express their feedback and complaints to SAC Nepal and/or Plan International Nepal at any given stage of the project through different gender and age-appropriate channels. Finally, SAC Nepal and Plan International Nepal ensured the feedback was acted upon and participants/communities were informed of the actions (further detailed below under “Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)”).

Sustainable and environmentally friendly approaches:

In our project, Plan International Nepal and its implementing partner have prioritized sustainable and environmentally friendly approaches in reconstruction and recovery efforts. Environmentally friendly design approaches were applied by using wood, rubble, bamboo, and mud in the construction of shelters and latrines. Incorporating green building practices, waste management strategies, and renewable energy solutions minimizes the ecological impact and promotes long-term resilience. The use of salvaged materials in construction activities further contributes to eco-friendly practices.

These successful aspects of the response highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts, local resource utilization, and community engagement in effectively addressing the aftermath of the earthquake and supporting the recovery and resilience of the affected populations.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Plan International Nepal has taken proactive steps to establish community engagement and feedback mechanisms as part of its disaster response initiative.

First of all, the RNA conducted by Plan International Nepal identified gaps in addressing gender-based needs in the affected areas as well as the needs of marginalized groups. To ensure those needs were met, women, girls and marginalized populations were represented in decision-making processes through community consultations throughout the project and on the different Child Right Committees. As an example, the water schemes and allocation of water taps were selected by the project participants together with local government representatives and the technical and social staff members of the project.

Throughout the project and especially during relief distributions, detailed information about the feedback mechanism was prominently displayed, and individuals were provided with Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to ensure clarity and accessibility. Multiple gender, age and disability-inclusive



A woman showing the CEA poster. ©Plan International

channels were available for project participants to share any feedback, complaints and safeguarding concerns to SAC Nepal and/or Plan International Nepal, such as toll-free numbers, emails, SMS, in-person community meetings, and feedback and complaint boxes located in specific designated areas including schools and health care institutions. The flyers were distributed in schools to sensitize the children about feedback channels and complaints boxes were kept in some schools.

As an example, through a toll-free number set up specifically for earthquake support activities, SAC Nepal and Plan International Nepal received valuable feedback from the community. Out of the 28 calls received, 12 were expressions of gratitude, indicating appreciation for the support provided. 8 calls were requests for information, showing a desire for clarity and updates. 6 calls requested direct assistance, highlighting specific needs within the community, for example, food and nutrition. Additionally, there was one report of minor dissatisfaction and one instance of major dissatisfaction, which were duly acted upon, underscoring the importance of addressing concerns promptly and effectively to improve our response efforts.

Real time data through Laligurans Application

As part of its response and recovery efforts, Plan International Nepal used innovative solution for the digital registration, attendance tracking, and payment recording as part of the Cash-for-Work (CfW) modality. Plan International Nepal collaborated with Aria Technologies to implement a reliable digital system through their CVA software, Laligurans, with a focus on assisting vulnerable women.

Aria Technologies developed customized mobile apps for social mobilizers and supervisors to register participants and track attendance using QR code-based vouchers. They also created a web admin panel for managing beneficiary data and a visual dashboard using Microsoft Power BI for real-time data visualization. Participants received cards with unique Laligurans IDs, and SAC Nepal teams were trained to use these digital tools.

Key learnings and recommendations:

- Customization: High customization was needed, especially for offline functionality, enhancing the technical team's expertise.
- Communication: Effective communication among SAC Nepal, Plan International Nepal, and Aria Technologies was vital.
- Synchronization: Synchronizing offline data took time, highlighting the need for timely data entry.
- Early Onboarding: Early onboarding of Technical Service Providers is crucial for accurate digital attendance tracking.

Finally, the project-maintained transparency in project planning, budgeting, and implementation. The participant selection process and criteria were developed in consultation with the municipalities. The project team regularly shared project progress and results with the project participants through regular meetings at the community level. Accountability charts and flex materials were displayed in designated visible public areas with information and details about the planned activities. The amount of assistance was clearly mentioned in the visibility materials and before starting the distributions.

What did not go well

Lack of local masons and carpenter training: The response project involved extensive construction activities, yet the project did not include technical training for local masons and carpenters, nor included the provision of essential working tools. This omission significantly delayed the construction of shelters and community infrastructure. Without fully trained local workers and adequate tools, progress was hindered, slowing down the overall recovery process.

Unclassified house damage assessment: Another critical issue was the absence of a detailed classification system for assessing house damage, which was under the responsibility of the government authorities, namely NDRRMA and the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC). The local government therefore encountered challenges in classifying the houses due to a lack of technical inputs and expertise. Consequently, all households in the settlement or ward were deemed eligible to receive assistance indiscriminately. This situation led to delays in targeting and selecting participants for aid distribution. The lack of a streamlined assessment process resulted in inefficiencies, impacting the timely delivery of crucial assistance to those most in need.

Lack of targeted recovery initiatives: Looking at the overall response to the Earthquake in Karnali province, the recovery efforts also failed to implement targeted initiatives such as skilled-based training (e.g. masonry, carpentry, wiring, plumbing), and livelihood support for affected families. Without these initiatives, the affected

communities risked prolonged dependency on external aid. This dependency not only undermined self-reliance but also prolonged the recovery phase, potentially slowing down overall progress.

In conclusion, addressing these shortcomings – improving local capacity building, implementing effective damage assessment protocols, and initiating targeted recovery programs – is essential for enhancing future disaster response and recovery efforts. By learning from these challenges, future projects can better support affected communities and expedite their path to recovery.

Lessons learned

1. Owner-driven approach enhances recovery: Adopting an owner-driven approach in relief and early recovery efforts proved instrumental in community empowerment and recovery. By mobilizing local resources, including human and material assets, communities took ownership during building transitional shelters, house latrines, and drinking water systems. This approach leveraged local knowledge and skills, resulting in stronger, environmentally friendly, and resilient infrastructure.
2. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) empowers affected communities: Implementing a CVA modality for assistance delivery empowered project participants to meet their immediate needs effectively. Enrolment through digital systems followed by cash payments via bank channels enabled flexibility and tailored support at household and community levels. Cash-for-work initiatives further engaged people, addressing diverse needs and empowering them to prioritize their recovery.

3. Coordination with local government minimizes duplication and enables to reach the most affected groups: Effective coordination and collaboration with local government entities were pivotal in minimizing duplication and ensuring targeted assistance. By informing and involving district and local governments through official channels, Plan International Nepal and its partners aligned project activities, targets, and budgets with local priorities. Local authorities facilitated project planning, beneficiary selection, and distribution oversight, employing a streamlined approach to reduce redundancies.

Recommendations

1. Beneficiary classification and identification cards: Implementing beneficiary classification and issuance of beneficiary cards can streamline assistance delivery, prevent duplications, and ensure aid reaches those most in need.
2. Enhanced training initiatives: Incorporate technical training programs for masons, plumbers, and carpenters into extended relief and early recovery projects. This investment can expedite rebuilding efforts and ensure construction quality.
3. Capacity enhancement for local responders: Invest in capacity building for government and community responders to enhance their disaster response and recovery management capabilities.
4. Technical supervision: Establish technical supervision at district or project bases to Sub-Engineers field operations. This oversight is crucial for maintaining construction quality, meeting technical requirements, and ensuring proper documentation.



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What we would do differently

Reflecting on past experiences often reveals opportunities for improvement. Here are key considerations for approaching future endeavors differently:

1. Enhanced beneficiary targeting and classification: Implement a more robust system for beneficiary targeting and classification. By refining criteria and methodologies, we can ensure that assistance reaches those most in need swiftly and efficiently, minimizing delays and optimizing resource allocation.
2. Early integration of capacity-building initiatives: Integrate capacity-building initiatives such as technical training programs for local masons, carpenters, and community responders early in the response phase. This proactive approach can accelerate recovery efforts by enhancing local skills and empowering communities to actively participate in reconstruction.
3. Investment in technological solutions: Further leverage technological advancements for improved data management and aid distribution. Comprehensive training and ongoing support are crucial to enable everyone to proficiently navigate the software, thereby enhancing coordination and effectiveness in relief efforts.
4. Enhanced monitoring and evaluation framework: Develop a more comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to track project progress and outcomes effectively. Regular assessments, in particular, can provide insights into program effectiveness, identify challenges early, and facilitate adaptive management strategies.



A woman receiving kitchen kit. ©Plan International

Conclusion

The response to the Jajarkot Earthquake exemplifies humanity's resilience and compassion in crisis situations. Through collective efforts and unwavering dedication, significant strides were made in mitigating suffering and fostering community resilience. Project participants' enthusiasm served as a catalyst for achieving remarkable outcomes within a short timeframe. In addition to providing essential shelter and food through the CVA modalities, initiatives like psychosocial counselling, and dignity kit distribution effectively addressed diverse needs, particularly among vulnerable groups.

Adhering to the Core Humanitarian Standards of Sphere, consensus, cooperation, and collective action guided a timely and effective response. This collaborative approach not only enhanced project efficiency but also fortified community resilience. It underscores the importance of adhering to established standards in disaster response and management, offering valuable lessons for future endeavors.

About Plan International Nepal

Plan International has been working in Nepal since 1978 to help marginalised children, families and communities access their rights to survival, protection and participation. At present, we run programmes in 23 districts, working with partners to strive for a just world where we are all equal. Nepal remains a highly patriarchal society and minority groups are especially vulnerable. Girls' and women's access to social, economic and political power is limited and they are subject to harmful social norms and practices. We tackle the root causes of the challenges and inequalities that children and young girls face. We won't stop until we are all equal.



Plan International Nepal

Country Office

Maitri Marga, Bakhundole,
Ward no. 3 Lalitpur
P.O. Box 8980, Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone: 977-1-5435580, 5435560
www.plan-international.org/nepal

West Regional Office–Surkhet

Ward no. 4, Birendranagar
Municipality Surkhet,
Karnali Province, Nepal
Phone: 977-083-523007

East Regional Office–Janakpurdham

Ward no. 4, Bishahra Chowk
Janakpurdham, Dhanusha, Nepal
Phone: 977-41-590050

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