



100 DAYS ON

Operational update on disaster response activity in Nepal following the 2015 earthquakes



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 25 April 2015, a magnitude-7.8 earthquake struck Nepal with the epicenter in Lamjung district, about 80 kilometers northwest of the capital Kathmandu. This was followed by another magnitude-7.4 earthquake that hit Dolakha district near Mount Everest on 12 May. Aftershocks continue. According to the government of Nepal, more than 8,800 people were killed, over 604,900 homes were destroyed and around 290,000 were damaged. The Nepal government declared a state of emergency and requested international aid.

Habitat for Humanity is responding to the earthquakes in cooperation with the Nepal government and coordinated through the Shelter Cluster's network of relevant humanitarian agency partners. Habitat for Humanity aims to support disaster-affected families through rubble removal, temporary shelter kit distribution, detailed safety assessments of houses, and permanent home construction. Shelter is one of the most urgently needed forms of assistance with the ongoing monsoon season, along with medical care, food and water.

The earthquake response forms part of Habitat for Humanity's wider work in Nepal and involves close collaboration with an extensive network of partners to achieve a common goal where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat for Humanity has been operating in Nepal for the past 18 years. Present in 35 of the 75 districts of the country, Habitat for Humanity has helped approximately 60,000 families to secure a decent home.





Following the April and May earthquakes, Habitat for Humanity has helped affected families through various programs.

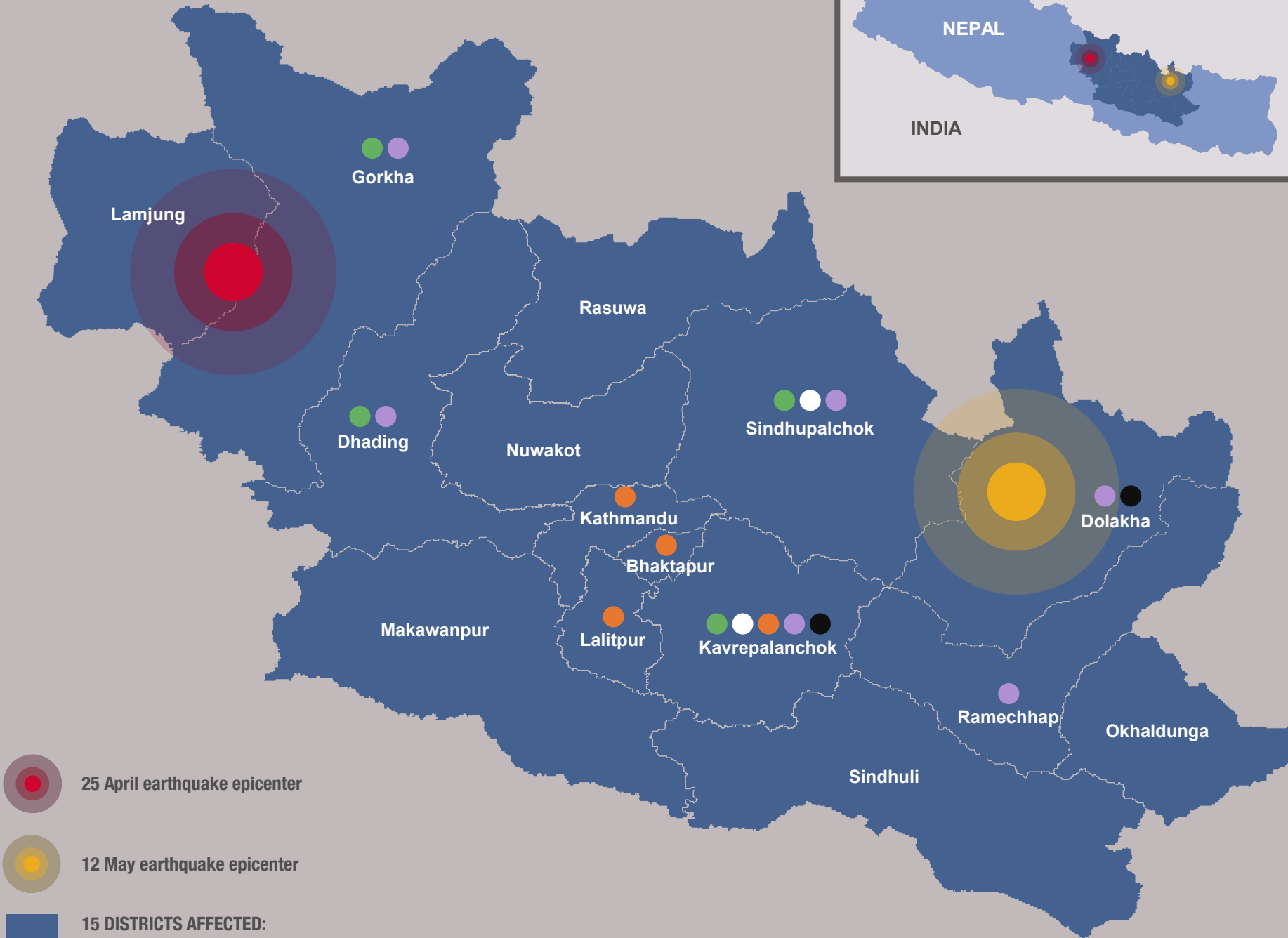
Humanitarian work:

- Forty families in three districts have benefitted from rubble removal by local volunteer teams. Rubble removal work will continue as part of the permanent home construction program in the recovery work phase and be community-led.
- Five thousand temporary shelter kits will be distributed by the end of August. More than 2,300 have been given out in four districts to date.
- Twenty thousand water backpacks have been distributed in seven districts, involving more than 60 volunteers.
- Seventy-two surveyors will conduct safety assessments of 15,000 houses. Evaluations of more than 3,400 houses have already been completed by forty surveyors.
- More than 840 local volunteers have supported Habitat for Humanity's work to date.

These activities are fully funded.

Program activities	Number of families / people	District
Temporary shelter kits (includes demonstration shelters)	2,300 / 11,500	Dhading, Gorkha, Kavrepalanchok, Sindhupalchok
Rubble removal	40 / 200	Kavrepalanchok, Kathmandu, Lalitpur
Water backpacks	20,000 / 100,000	Bhaktapur, Dhading, Dolakha, Gorkha, Kavrepalanchok, Ramechhap, Sindhupalchok
Safety assessments	3,400 / 17,000	Dolakha, Kavrepalanchok
	Total: 25,740 / 128,700	

Habitat for Humanity's response to the Nepal earthquakes



25 April earthquake epicenter

12 May earthquake epicenter

15 DISTRICTS AFFECTED:
 Bhaktapur, Dhading, Dolakha, Gorkha, Kavrepalanchok, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Lamjung, Makawanpur, Nuwakot, Okhaldunga, Ramechhap, Rasuwa, Sindhuli, Sindhupalchok

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



Temporary shelter kit distribution



Demonstration temporary shelters



Rubble removal



Water backpack distribution



Safety assessments of homes

Habitat for Humanity is working with partners and the affected communities to rebuild homes and hope.

Recovery work:

- Forty-five demonstration permanent homes will be built by Habitat for Humanity. Through such constructions, Habitat provides hands-on training for partners and communities with guidance on using appropriate and affordable materials, and the step-by-step process to building an earthquake-resilient house. Thus, Habitat for Humanity will be able to impart its technical expertise to others and multiply support to greater numbers of families.

- A hundred permanent homes will be built by Habitat for Humanity in one location as an example of complete community revitalization. In addition to building homes, Habitat for Humanity will liaise with others to provide infrastructure and basic services.

Habitat for Humanity will share its experience of working with partners – government, private companies, microfinance institutions or community savings groups – and details of the resources and materials needed in order to deliver the project. The community will serve as a case study, so other organizations can replicate the project in different locations, scaling up operations and thereby supporting more families.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the first of these 100 permanent homes took place in early July.

- Technical assistance will be provided to support thousands more families to build their own homes. Habitat for Humanity will recruit and train teams to ensure quality and earthquake-resilience. This work is expected to take place over the next 3-5 years.

Habitat for Humanity is continuously looking for new opportunities to support those affected by the Nepal earthquakes, and regularly refining its long-term strategy in order to effectively respond to changing needs in-country.

The targets and program activities listed here are correct as of 31 July 2015.

New program activities continue to be identified and scoped.

Looking ahead

Recovery from a disaster takes time and Habitat for Humanity's work in the early stages is key to families regaining a sense of normalcy. Using materials from temporary shelter kits distributed by Habitat for Humanity, families have built temporary shelters which provide better protection from the elements and storage space for food and scarce possessions. Materials from the temporary shelters can also be re-used to build permanent homes.

The Nepal government will be implementing a rehabilitation and reconstruction plan to ensure the building of cost-effective and earthquake-resistant structures with the use of local materials and resources. In view of the great need, Habitat for Humanity aims to build capacity to support families accessing financial resources, in the form of anticipated grants and soft loans, with construction technical assistance and construction skill training. Loans and grants could come from a range of sources, such as government or local and international financial institutions.



Sanila Danuwar, with her daughter Speniya, added homely touches to her temporary shelter in Pipaltar village, Kavre district. She was among the recipients of the temporary shelter kits that Habitat for Humanity distributed on 26 May 2015.

Peace of mind

When Sanila Danuwar, 27, first received the temporary shelter built by Habitat for Humanity in late May 2015, it was a simple structure made of corrugated tin sheets, wires and rods. When a Habitat for Humanity team visited Sanila and her family a week later, the shelter had been upgraded with 'walls' made of tin sheets and bamboo salvaged from the family's earthquake-affected house. Inside their shelter, Sanila, her husband and their three-year-old daughter are protected from the rain.

Sanila's father-in-law had been sleeping out in the open after the 25 April earthquake, and he fell ill following a strong storm which later hit Pipaltar village, Kavrepalanchok district. A few days after Sanila's family received the temporary shelter, her father-in-law died in hospital, having been diagnosed with severe pneumonia.

Although she feels sad over the death of her father-in-law, Sanila is thankful for the shelter. Compared to when she was living in a tent, she is able to sleep better now, in a bed with a mosquito net. She has resumed working in the field, harvesting her tomatoes.

"Now I am not worried that a strong wind might blow my home away," she said. Sanila and her family can focus on eventually building a permanent home.



Ranuki Danuwar (center), with her husband Kansa (left) and son Simiraj (right), at the groundbreaking for the construction of their new home in Pipaltar village, Kavre district, the first of permanent houses that Habitat will build as part of the earthquake response.

Build back better

Ranuki Danuwar's biggest fear after experiencing the magnitude-7.8 earthquake on 25 April was that more earthquakes would hit Nepal. "My husband was able to return to work a week after the earthquake. I could not farm for a month – I was too worried that more earthquakes would happen. I only returned to farming because my husband said, 'Earthquakes will happen, but life has to go on.' "

Her fears stem partly from seeing all the destruction that the earthquake has wrought on her village in Pipaltar, Kavrepalanchok district. Most of the houses in her community had been either destroyed or damaged, and everyone in her neighborhood had to live in tents. Her family had to share a tarpaulin with two other families in the first few days after the quake.

Ranuki considers it a blessing that Habitat for Humanity provided all 93 families in her village with temporary shelter kits on 26 May. Under the guidance of her eldest son, Simiraj, 27, community members helped build temporary shelters to protect each family and their store of food from the elements. According to Ranuki, people from neighboring villages visited Pipaltar because they were curious about the temporary shelters and wanted to see how they were built.

On 8 July, Ranuki, 45, and her husband Kansa, 47, broke ground for the construction of their new home, the first of the permanent homes that Habitat for Humanity will build as part of the earthquake response. About 30 people, including staff, volunteers, and some community members who would be receiving permanent homes, witnessed the milestone.

"I'm very happy that we have shelter using materials from the temporary shelter kit that Habitat for Humanity provided," she said. "I'm even happier now, knowing that permanent houses will be built for families in my community."

For Ranuki, her experience of the earthquake has taught her one thing: "I realized that earthquakes don't kill people. What kills people are the poorly-made structures that they built."

Like other villagers in Pipaltar, she learned that houses should not be built on a slope, and that the construction of multi-story brick houses should also be avoided. Pointing to her own two-story brick house that was damaged in the earthquake, Ranuki said: "We spent so much money building that house, and now it sits useless."

She urged: "We need to tell more people, even outside of Nepal, that our focus should be on building earthquake-resilient houses."

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Asia-Pacific office
3rd floor, 111 Paseo Condo Building Tower 1,
111 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1229, the Philippines
habitat.org/asiapacific