



NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

WINTERIZATION PROGRAM REPORT



Save the Children

Save the Children is the world's leading independent children's rights organization, with members in over 30 countries and programs in more than 120 countries. Save the Children fights for children's rights and delivers lasting improvements to children's lives in Nepal and around the world.

Caption: Winterization kits being dropped off in Gumba, Sindhupalchowk. 356 families received these kits in the remote region.

Credit: Save the Children

Save the Children

Nepal Country Office

GPO Box 3394

Airport Gate Area, Sambhu Marg

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977-1-4468130/4464803

Fax: +977-1-4468132

post.nepal@savethechildren.org

www.nepal.savethechildren.net

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On Saturday April 25th 2015, a powerful earthquake of magnitude 7.8 on the Richter Scale hit Nepal, the biggest earthquake in Nepal in 80 years. Less than three weeks later, a large aftershock with a magnitude of 7.3 struck on Tuesday May 12th. In total, the two earthquakes combined killed nearly

9,000 people and injured nearly 22,000. Save the Children immediately launched an emergency response to support the most affected children and families by responding to the needs of families in the areas of: education, health, child protection, livelihood, shelter, food security, non-food items (NFI)

and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). To date, Save the Children's earthquake response has reached 582,902 individuals since last April, 350,795 of whom are children.



Winterization activities for earthquake affected families

Nepal is known for its beauty, diversity in terrain and harsh winters in the high altitude regions. After the 2015 earthquakes, this past winter was expected to cause additional challenges to recovering communities in high altitude districts. With the majority of the houses destroyed and families still living in temporary shelters, the falling temperatures made life even more

difficult. Conditions were made worse by the recent political unrest and the border blockade, which cut off critical supplies of fuel, medicine and daily amenities. Save the Children's Shelter, Education and Child Protection team undertook the challenge of providing essential winter supplies to earthquake-affected families, children and in Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) so children could return to school and have some normalcy in their lives. The Shelter team focused on three approaches:

distribution of cash vouchers, gift in kind in the form of winter kits and cash grant support, while the Education and Child Protection teams distributed materials to winterize learning and child friendly spaces (CFS).

The urgent winter distribution from our teams reached more than 120,000 people in total.



Winterization kits for children and their families

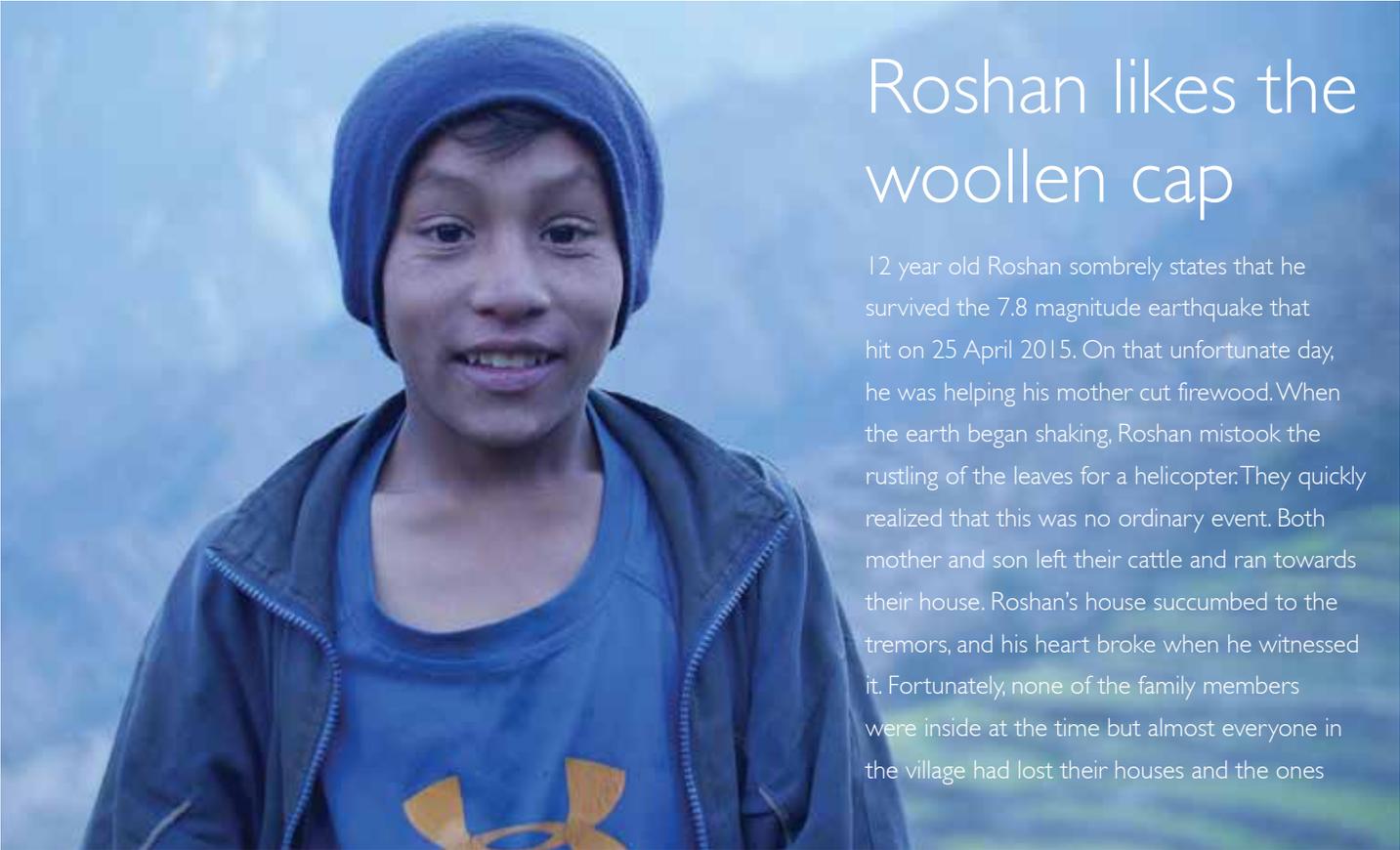
Save the Children's Shelter team and our local NGO partners reached 15,480 households in remote communities, responding to their immediate requirements for the winter months. Winter kits and cash vouchers were distributed to 19 Village Development Committees (VDCs - the Nepal equivalent to counties) of

Sindhupalchowk, Dhading, Gorkha and Dolakha, the most earthquake-affected districts. Winterization kits were also distributed in two Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps located in Nuwakot.

In concert with the local government's District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRC), Save the Children selected beneficiaries living in remote mountain areas with little access via roads or to local

markets to purchase winter items. Through consultations with these communities, Save the Children identified their needs and preferences enabling them to create a winterization kit to meet these needs: a bag filled with warm clothes for adults and children, insulation for homes, and other winter essentials for kids, such as blankets, hats, mittens, etc.

Our logistics team ensured that the large volume of goods – 120 tons worth - was delivered safely and effectively to hard-to-reach locations, many of which were above 2,500m. Goods were carried by truck, by porters and even by helicopter. 18 rounds of distribution via helicopter to the most remote parts of Sindhupalchowk and Dhading districts took place from December 2015, in close coordination with the UN and private sector carriers.



Roshan likes the woollen cap

12 year old Roshan sombrely states that he survived the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that hit on 25 April 2015. On that unfortunate day, he was helping his mother cut firewood. When the earth began shaking, Roshan mistook the rustling of the leaves for a helicopter. They quickly realized that this was no ordinary event. Both mother and son left their cattle and ran towards their house. Roshan's house succumbed to the tremors, and his heart broke when he witnessed it. Fortunately, none of the family members were inside at the time but almost everyone in the village had lost their houses and the ones



standing were not safe to take refuge. A month after the earthquake, Roshan's family made a temporary shelter: Held together by patches of plastic/tarpaulin pieces and old CGI sheets, the temporary shelter is not enough to protect the 20 members (four families with five children members) from the harsh winter. Cold air seeps through the cracks and dew retains the coldness inside. When the temperature drops during nighttime, Roshan feels chilled to the bone – he does not have enough blankets to keep him warm.

At the peak of winter, the village receives almost 3 feet high snowfall, making it hard for Roshan to attend school – which is a half an hour walk. Roshan aims to be a teacher in the future and loves being back in school. Although he puts on a brave face, he nervously admits that the memories of 25 April still frighten him.

Roshan's VDC Sertung rests at an elevation of 1,640 metres and can only be reached on foot. Vehicle access is only possible up to Darkha VDC, and from then on, it

takes another 12 hours of walking. Save the Children used helicopter drops to send winter kits to 1,106 households, reaching 5,403 beneficiaries (1,850 children beneficiaries) during the last week of December. The winter kits included – 2 blankets, 2 tarpaulins, rope, tie wire; adult and child sized cap, scarf and socks; child sized sleeping bags for children less than 5 years of age; and foam padding for insulation. Roshan's says, "The woollen cap is great!"



Facing winter as a new mother

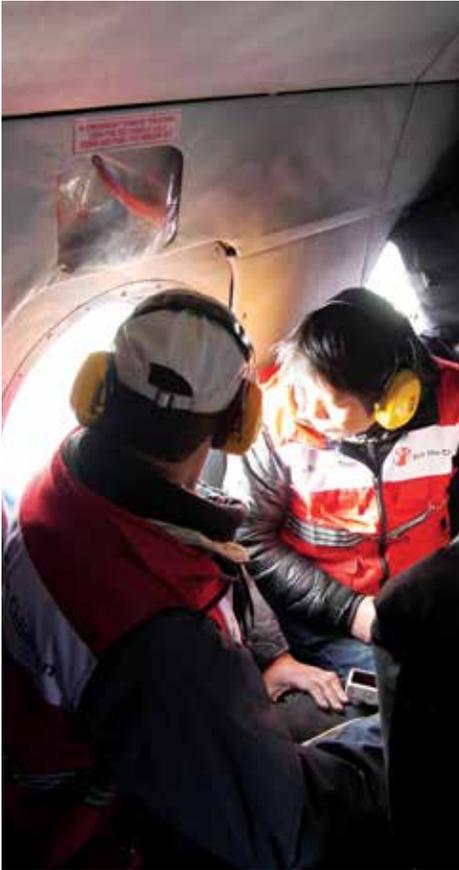
Twenty five year old Dhanmai was almost killed by a landslide, induced by the 7.9 magnitude earthquake of 25 April 2015, in Temwathan, Sindhupalchowk, along with her children. A resident of Gumba Village Development Committee (VDC), Dhanmai, who was then five months pregnant and says she did not think she would make it this far.



Pregnant at the time of the disaster, a destroyed house, fear of another earthquake, the rainy season and approaching winter was causing her a lot of anxiety. Dhanmai was closer to her delivery date with every month passing by. In August 2015, she gave birth to a little baby boy, Ningma, in a goat shed.

Gumba VDC sits 8,562 feet above sea level. With temperatures dipping below zero degrees and forthcoming snowfall, Dhanmai was concerned about keeping four-month old Ningma warm. She shared that at night, it would get extremely cold and dew drops would seep through the Corrugated Galvanized Iron (CGI) sheets on the roof. When snow falls, the village would be

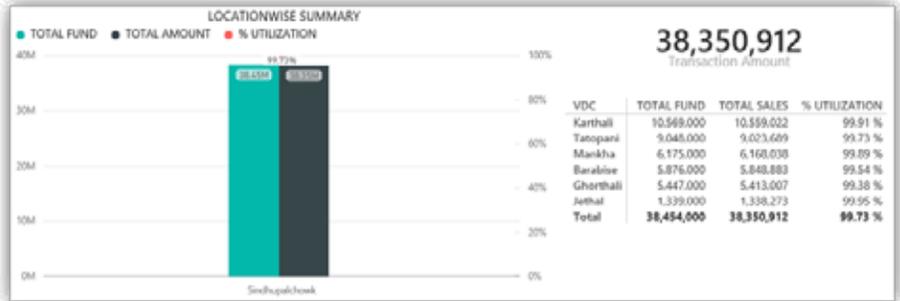
covered with around two feet of snow and it would be difficult to keep her children warm. As part of Save the Children's winterization program, Dhanmai received a winterization kit brought by helicopter. "I was in great need for the blankets to keep my children warm. With the new blankets, I knew we would be much warmer," says Dhanmai.



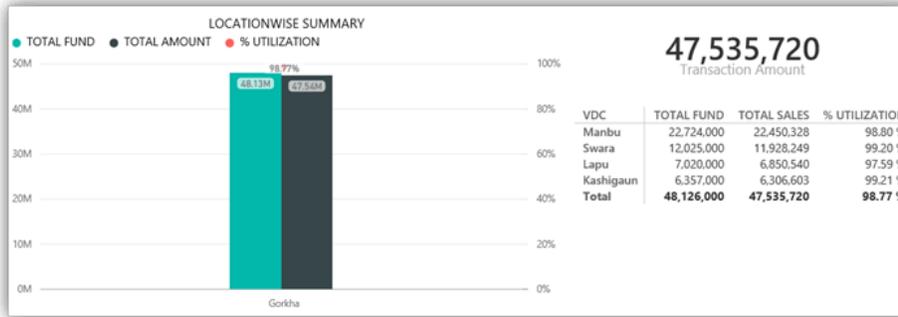
Cash vouchers to buy essential winter materials

For those families living in villages with access to markets and roads, Save the Children worked together with the DDRC and VDC to distribute cash vouchers. Communities' needs were identified through assessments and market surveys carried out to identify possible suppliers. A unique Android phone application was developed to carry out the transactions

between traders and customers. Cash vouchers of NPR 13,000 (Approx. USD \$130) with 10 secret PIN numbers were distributed to families who came down to the market area to redeem their vouchers. The families visited the market to buy winter materials such as clothes, insulation materials, thermos, solar lamps or materials to seal their roof. Once they negotiated the price, they gave the PIN number to the shopkeeper, who was then paid through



Sindhupalchowk - Final figures for the Cash Voucher Program (in Nepali Rupees):



Gorkha -Final figures for the Cash Voucher Program (in Nepali Rupees)

the e-banking system. The cash voucher system gave children and their families an opportunity to shop for winter items of their choice and which met their individual needs.

The earthquakes several impacted local markets, causing a slowdown in the local economy. The cash voucher system also helped revitalize the local markets

through the exchange of vouchers and the steady flow of customers.

Cash grants to buy essential winter materials

Communities which had markets nearby were given cash grants in order to buy materials for winter. The cash grant could be used to buy clothes,

solar lamps, insulation material for roofing, among other winter commodities. The cash grant approach also revitalized local markets.

Along with winterization kits, cash vouchers and grants, Save the Children distributed information pamphlets on the personal insulation materials, insulation of shelters and 'how to use cash vouchers'.





Saily buys warm clothes for her children

As a mother of two young children, Saily, 40, says that the first few days after the earthquake were extremely hard. They huddled underneath the makeshift shelter that was being used for cattle and invited neighbors who lost everything inside to take cover. The shelter was not strong enough to withstand the strong rains that followed, while the subsequent aftershocks left her children feeling even more scared. Saily had to constantly make sure that her children were safe from the debris. They stayed there for more than a week while slowly building a temporary shelter.

Currently, the family lives underneath a temporary shelter made out of Corrugated Iron (CGI) sheets, but it was not enough to protect them when the temperature hit below zero degrees. Therefore, Saily planned to use the cash voucher to buy warm and

thick clothes for her children.

Two days after the distribution, Saily walked almost 2.5 hours to reach Arkhet market. She used the entire voucher to buy more than four pairs of trousers and sweaters for her son and daughter.

Lapu VDC rests at an elevation of 1,700 meters and there is no vehicular access to the village due to undeveloped roads. Getting there requires a 6-7 hour walk from Soti Bazaar at Arkhet.

Save the Children distributed cash vouchers worth NRs. 13,000 (USD \$130) to 530 of the hardest hit households in Lapu VDC. Beneficiaries redeemed these cash vouchers in the nearest local market, Arkhet, to buy winter essentials such as warm clothes and CGI sheets.

Winterization of temporary learning centers (TLCs)

Save the Children's Education team and local NGO partners were also working hard to prepare TLCs for the winter. In total, Save the Children and other education actors constructed 3,426 TLCs providing 342,900 children a safe space in which to learn. The design of the TLCs was initially prepared by the Government of Nepal in the summer of 2015, with the help of humanitarian agencies. The scale of the emergency was so large that the main priority was to build TLCs quickly. Therefore, TLCs were initially designed to be temporary structures to provide immediate shelter and to allow students to return to school as quickly as possible. Many TLCs were made with bamboo and

corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheet roofs. However, after the bamboo seasoned and retracted, the TLC's bamboo walls were no longer airtight, leaving the rooms very cold. Save the Children recognized the need to protect children from the impacts of the winter season and helped insulate more than 450 TLCs, allowing more than 100,000 students to continue studying during the cold winter months.

Save the Children identified and prioritized which TLCs were winterized based on criteria that included:

- o Permeable walls/roofs (e.g. wind blows through the walls, rain falls through the roof)
- o Un-insulated floors
- o Un-insulated walls
- o No resources to do winterization on its own



Winter Protection for Child Protection

During the winter season, Save the Children's Child Protection in Emergencies program and local NGO partners distributed 1,010 winter kits to pre-identified children in need in Rasuwa and Nuwakot Districts, with generous support from Italy. The kits were meant to protect children from the cold and common winter illnesses. The kits included a thermos, jacket, blanket, sleeping bag, socks and sanitary items.

Winter kits	Girls	Boys
3 to 5 Years old	215	229
6 to 10 Years old	293	273





Through generous support from the UK Department for International Development (DfID), the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO), USAID's Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Cummins Foundation, Bezos Foundation, Ford Foundation, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Republic of Korea, the People of Hong Kong and a private Italian donor, Save the Children and partners in Nepal were able to carry out this important winterization work in December 2015 and January 2016.



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