



Nepal

Resilience

2013/14

Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and enhancing response capability

The overall objective of the project was to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability in local communities and institutions, by supporting strategies that enable better preparation for, mitigation and response to natural disasters. This project was implemented by Oxfam in partnership with Integrated Development Society (IDeS), a local organisation. Community-level activities were carried out across 10 communities in Alital and Jogbudha village development committee areas in the Dadeldhura District, western Nepal. The communities are spread across three river basins, the Rangun, Puntara and Sadani, which are particularly vulnerable to flash flooding. The evaluation assessed the impact of the activities from two of the four project's components: increasing the capacity of target communities to prepare for and respond to disasters; and establishing a community-based early-warning system.

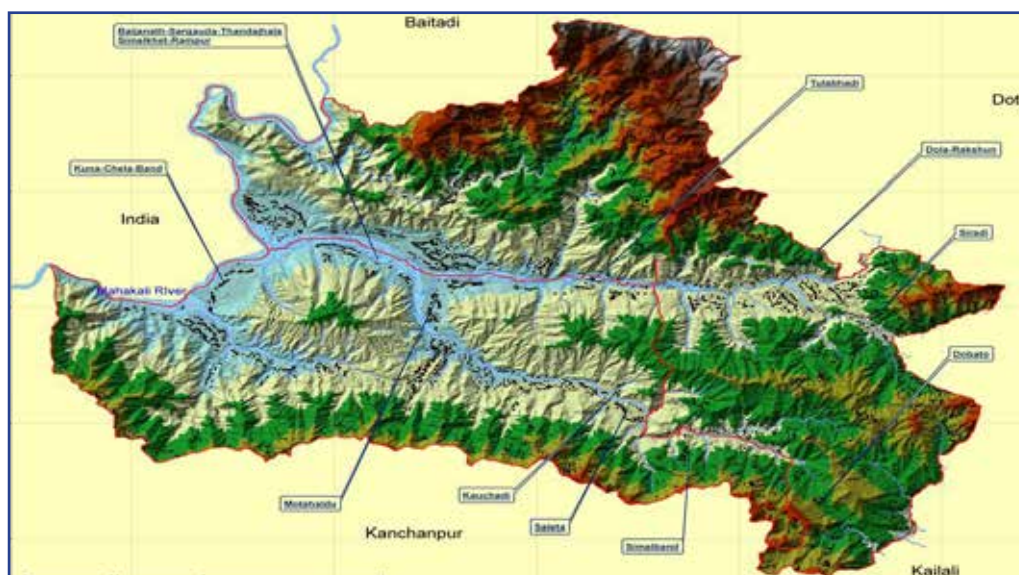


Diagram above shows situation of the 10 communities involved in the project

Project date: April 2011 - March 2013

Evaluation: September 2013

Publication: November 2014

Evaluation Method

Data from interviews with households supported by the project, and households from nearby communities where the project had not been implemented were analysed using propensity-score matching and multivariate regression. For details on evaluation design, see the 'How are effectiveness reviews carried out?' document, and the full report for how these designs were tailored by individual reviews.

Results

Project outcome	Evidence of positive impact	Commentary
Livelihood viability	YES	Evidence of substantial positive impact on the receipt of early-warning information, and some impact also on livelihood diversification and dietary diversity.
Innovation potential	YES	Evidence of increased awareness of climate change and adoption of innovative practices among households in project communities (though apparently also less access to credit).
Access to contingency resources and support	YES	Evidence of greater participation in community groups, higher savings, and more positive perceptions of social networks and local government to support in times of crisis.
Integrity of the natural and built environment	NO	Households in project communities reported taking more action to protect crops and assets from flood in September 2012, but also reported greater losses at that time, as well as worse soil quality.
Social and institutional capability	YES	Large positive impacts across a range of indicators of awareness of and participation in disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities.
Increase in asset ownership and material well-being	NO	No indication of a difference between project and comparison sites in the loss of assets during the flood of September 2012, nor in indicators of household wealth overall.

Results apply to the population of the 10 communities where the activities of components 1 and 2 of the project were implemented. No evaluation was made of components 3 and 4 of the project.

Going forward

Learning as a result of the review will be shared and discussed amongst the Oxfam in Nepal team, and with partners and district authorities. Learning will also be incorporated into the design of a new 5 year programme and the Oxfam in Nepal country strategy for 2014-2019. The resilience framework will be adopted in designing new projects, outcomes and indicators to support effective monitoring and evaluation.

Oxfam in Nepal will continue to strengthen and build on advocacy successes of the project by continuing to develop strong sustainable networks at national and district level. These will press for government budgetary investment, better disaster preparations as well as quality services for IDPs. Implementation of the Local Disaster Risk Management Planning Guidelines in community based disaster risk management programmes will be progressed. The team will also explore possible interventions on deforestation activities through ongoing food security projects.

Strengthening mitigation measures will be explored alongside community-level preparedness and mitigation activities, such as the introduction of new more drought resistant or quicker maturing crop varieties. A better understanding of how to protect assets is hoped to be developed. The impact on livelihood diversification and dietary diversity also needs to be strengthened in upcoming projects.

Photo credit: Binod Ghimire/Oxfam