



Nepal

Humanitarian

2015/16

Response to the 2015 earthquake

On the 25th April 2015, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal at 11:56 local time, creating large-scale damage and many casualties. The epicentre was in the district of Gorkha with other districts and the Kathmandu valley also being affected. The initial quake was followed by a later of one of the magnitude of 6.8. Oxfam has been working in Nepal for several decades so was well placed to respond to the crisis. As the earthquake had been predicted, there were already preparedness measures in place as well as contingency stock. However, access especially to rural communities was difficult and difficulties with transport were further exacerbated by the fuel crisis. There were also concerns as the monsoon season was due to start in the months following on from the earthquake. Oxfam launched a response almost immediately and an international team was mobilised to support local capacity. Oxfam responded with water, sanitation and hygiene promotion as well as cash grants, and livelihoods support. As there was widespread destruction of homes, shelter kits were considered to be an essential part of the programme. A hotline for receiving complaints and feedback from the affected population was set up and some changes were made according to the feedback received. Gender and protection issues were considered early on in the response with dedicated staff to support.

Evaluation design

The programme was evaluated using the Humanitarian Indicator Tool (HIT), a methodology designed to estimate the degree to which the programme meets recognised quality standards. The tool has 15 quality standards each with defined benchmarks, which allow evaluators to assess and score whether the standard was 'met', 'almost met', 'partially met' or 'not met'. The score is weighted and scored with a rating out of 6 for the first three standards due to their relative importance. The other standards are given a rating out of 3. The HIT is carried out as a desk study by an external evaluator using documented evidence that then generates a score against each standard and a cumulative total. 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.

Response date: April - December 2015

Evaluation: January 2016

Publication: April 2017

Results

Quality standard evaluated	Level of achievement	Rating					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Timeliness: Rapid appraisal of facts within 24 hours, plans and scale-up or start-up commenced within three days	Fully met	0					
2. Coverage uses 10% of affected population as a planned figure	Almost met			3			
3. Technical aspects of programme measured against Sphere standards	Partially met				4		
			1		2		3
4. MEAL strategy and plan in place and being implemented using appropriate indicators	Almost met				2		
5. Feedback/complaints system in place and functioning and documented evidence of consultation and participation leading to a programme relevant to context and needs	Almost met				2		
6. Partner relationships defined, capacity assessed and partners fully engaged in all stages of programme cycle	Partially met		1				
7. Programme is considered a safe programme	Almost met				2		
8. Programme (including advocacy) addresses gender equity and specific concerns and needs of women, girls, men and boys	Almost met				2		
9. Programme (including advocacy) addresses specific concerns and needs of vulnerable groups	Partially met		1				
10. Evidence that preparedness measures were in place and effectively actioned	Almost met				2		
11. Programme has an advocacy/campaigns strategy based on evidence from the field	Almost met				2		
12. Evidence of appropriate staff capacity to ensure quality programming	Fully met						3
13. Resilience	Half met			1.5			
14. Programme is coordinated with and complementary to the response of other humanitarian actors	Almost met				2		
15. Resources are managed and used responsibly for their intended purpose	Almost met				2		
Final Rating		34.5 / 54					
Percentage Equivalent		64%					

The first three standards are weighted and scored out of 6 due to their relative importance. The other standards are scored out of 3.

Going forward

The earthquake response programme is a three year programme that has now moved towards recovery and rehabilitation. Implementation will be increasingly through national organisations and therefore, partner capacity assessment and capacity building is a key part of the future programme. Capacity building plans will be reviewed and developed to enhance both Oxfam's and Partners' staff understanding on the different technical areas including the relevant national/international, Oxfam Standards and Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS). As cash transfers were deemed to be slow, a series of workshops have been held and the livelihoods strategy will be reviewed in order to speed up the cash transfer interventions focusing more on bringing innovation and expertise in transfer modalities. Stock piling in districts and contingency planning will also be done as a precaution in case of future shocks.

Photo credit: Pablo Tosco/Oxfam