



**American  
Red Cross**

## Nepal Earthquake

Two-Year Update | May 2017

### Message from the President and CEO

When I journeyed to Nepal shortly after the 2015 earthquake, I witnessed heartbreaking devastation. Thousands of lives were lost; entire villages were leveled, and survivors faced an uncertain future. At the same time, the warmth and determination of the people I met filled me with hope. Two years later, the American Red Cross and our partners in the global Red Cross network continue to assist the people of Nepal as they recover and rebuild—thanks to a remarkable outpouring of support from compassionate donors.

From providing emergency relief and shelter supplies in the quake's chaotic aftermath to funding initiatives like direct financial assistance for families, water and sanitation improvements, job skills training to help restore livelihoods, and lifesaving public health education, this generosity has made a tremendous difference for earthquake survivors. Much remains to be done. But my faith in the courageous people of Nepal and the vital work of the American Red Cross and our partners is stronger than ever. Thank you for standing with us.

Gail McGovern

## American Red Cross Supports Relief and Recovery Following Devastating Quake

More than 8,800 lives were lost. More than 800,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. The 2015 Nepal earthquake's effects were far-reaching and devastating, including collapsed schools, compromised water systems and lost livelihoods for survivors.

On the heels of the massive earthquake and terrifying aftershocks, thousands of volunteers from the Nepal Red Cross and the global Red Cross network quickly delivered lifesaving support and supplies to people coping with overwhelming losses.

American Red Cross teams contributed to this massive effort, which also included reconnecting families with

missing loved ones and distributing cash grants to assist tens of thousands of families with their most urgent needs—helping them survive in the difficult days, weeks and months ahead.

As the slow process of recovery began, the American Red Cross provided masonry training to help families earn income and rebuild using safer construction techniques. We also worked to restore and improve access to water and sanitation in earthquake-impacted villages, and we educated families about the threat of measles and rubella. Alongside local Red Cross volunteers and other partners, we are mobilizing communities to vaccinate millions of children.

Above: Dil Maya Tamang, with her son Soman, picks peas in the terraced fields of Kaule, Nepal. The Red Cross helped restore and improve Kaule's water supply following the quake, enabling residents to grow food for their families and to sell at market. Photo: Brad Zerivitz/American Red Cross

## Two Years Later: Recovery Shows Considerable Progress

The Nepal government finalized its shelter and rebuilding guidelines over the past year, so the American Red Cross has transitioned from masonry training to helping fund reconstruction. As part of this effort, we are funding Build Change—a recovery partner that specializes in empowering families and communities to rebuild safer homes and schools following disasters. These Red Cross-funded architects and engineers are helping ensure that reconstruction is done safely and meets government guidelines.

The American Red Cross is helping to fund home reconstructions in the hard-hit districts of Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Makwanpur. Homeowners receive funds from the Red Cross that they can use for materials and/or to pay local laborers—including certified masons that the American Red Cross helped train—thus supporting economic recovery in their communities.

Along with destroyed homes, the earthquake also had a devastating impact on water and irrigation systems in many communities. In partnership with the Red Cross societies of Nepal, Spain and Canada, the American Red Cross is supporting reconstruction and improved access for this vital infrastructure.

The Red Cross is funding design and materials—as well as providing technical assistance—for new irrigation systems, while local residents donate labor or are hired to do construction. This helps ensure a water supply to sustain agriculture, not only for families' own subsistence needs, but also to sell at market and generate sorely-needed income.

Finally, the American Red Cross continues working to improve public health for affected residents. Red Cross volunteers are spreading the word about government-run immunization programs to ensure that every child under the age of two gets vital immunizations. These local volunteers go door-to-door, sharing health and nutrition information with thousands of families.

We've also provided lifesaving medical equipment to health clinics—such as oxygen concentrators and incubators for birthing centers. At one center in the hard-hit rural community of Chaturale, the American Red Cross donated 36 pieces of equipment.

“Our goal is for women to give birth in a medical facility, rather than at home,” said Gyani Pathak, a nurse midwife at the birthing center. “This equipment boosts the confidence of expectant mothers and gives peace of mind to health workers, who know they can handle complicated births now.”

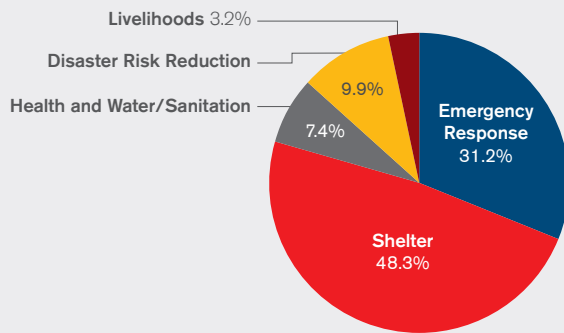
None of this critical ongoing work—nor the emergency relief and recovery efforts that preceded it—would be possible without contributions from our dedicated supporters. Thanks to their generosity, the American Red Cross has raised \$44 million to help families and individuals in Nepal. As of April 25, 2017, we have spent or have commitments to spend \$43.8 million to assist people impacted by the disaster. As the people of Nepal continue to rebuild, remaining funds will be used to support the ongoing recovery and disaster preparedness needs of affected communities.



Red Cross-supplied medical equipment keeps women and babies safe at a birthing center in Chaturale, Nepal. Nurse midwife Gyani Pathak and her colleagues are grateful for the 36 pieces of equipment—two of which saved a baby's life just a week after installation. Photo: Brad Zerivitz/American Red Cross

### American Red Cross Nepal Earthquake Response

Expenses and Commitments\* as of April 25, 2017: U.S. \$43.8M (of \$44M raised)



\*These costs include the logistics, staff and technology expenses that make our services possible. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs.

**Emergency Response:** Includes relief items such as food and blankets, unrestricted cash grants and deploying disaster specialists.

**Shelter:** Includes funding, materials and expertise to help affected families repair or rebuild safer homes.

**Health and Water/Sanitation:** Includes repair and construction of water/sanitation infrastructure in field and schools, as well as working with communities to support basic hygiene, health and first aid activities.

**Disaster Risk Reduction:** Includes disaster and evacuation planning with improved maps and early warning capabilities as well as identifying and mitigating potential hazards.

**Livelihoods:** Includes assistance to help restore families' sources of income that were lost in the earthquake.

## Catching Up with Sarishma and Rianna Gurung

One year ago, we spoke with Sarishma Gurung, who was in labor with her daughter, Rianna, when the earthquake struck. She and other residents of the devastated village of Champani were grateful for assistance that had helped them through the disaster's aftermath, but were still struggling to get back on their feet. The water supply had been reduced to a trickle by the earthquake, but Sarishma and the other villagers were hopeful that a planned new water tank would bring improvements.

Now that an 8,000-liter water tank has been installed with help from the American Red Cross, life is better in Champani. Families can gather water from 13 taps located throughout the hilly village.

"We used to walk to the stream for water, but having these taps closer to home makes things much easier," said Sarishma. She uses water from a nearby tap to tend her crops and to care for her bull (which plows the field) and goats (which she raises and sells for income). Other neighbors are grateful for the water because they don't have to carry heavy buckets of water long distances to cook, clean, bathe and mix cement for home reconstruction.

Sarishma is raising Rianna amidst the now familiar sounds of recovery: hammers hitting nails into wood, running water and newly-purchased roosters crowing. To keep families like Sarishma's healthy, the American Red Cross also supports local volunteers to go door-to-door, ensuring that children's immunizations are up-to-date and speaking to parents about

the importance of vaccines. Rianna has been receiving her routine vaccinations, like measles, polio, and diphtheria, and Sarishma says the visits are a good reminder for her family.



Two-year old Rianna and her mother, Sarishma Gurung, live in Champani—a village that lost every home to the 2015 earthquake. Photo: Brad Zerivitz/American Red Cross

## Red Cross Reconstruction Assistance Brings Peace of Mind

Tarchin Tamang, a father in Nepal, is reconstructing his home nearly two years after the earthquake. But rebuilding a home isn't easy or quick in a quake's immediate aftermath.



Above: Tarchin Tamang (left) and his son, Prakash Tamang, are in the midst of rebuilding their home in Bhalche, Nepal—with help from the Red Cross. Photo: Brad Zerivitz/American Red Cross

“The earthquake took my mind,” he said. “The first year after an earthquake, you are living in a state of confusion. At that time, you can't build on the land because it is not stable and because of the aftershocks. After the initial trauma, our family started evaluating what we should do about a home.”

With government guidance in place, the family used funds received from the Red Cross to buy materials. “We weren't sure what we could afford, but the amount of money we received to rebuild gave me confidence,” Tarchin said.

Tarchin, his son, Prakash, and daughter, Anusha, are proud to contribute sweat equity to their new home. They make measurements, install rebar and lay bricks with help from a Red Cross-trained certified mason and Red Cross-funded engineers from our technical partner, Build Change. The engineers visit build sites a minimum of 15 times to provide technical advice and ensure quality.

The family is hopeful, but also knows that another earthquake could strike at any time. “Our old house was unsafe, but this one has a good foundation and other elements—like rebar—that should keep us safe. We are taking a lot of care while building this house to make sure we are safe in the future. We're being extra careful because we know it's ours.”

## New Irrigation System Means More Food to Grow and Sell

Dil Maya Tamang (cover photo) knows a ripe pea pod when she sees one. This week alone, she's picked 90 kilos of peas in the terraced fields near her house in Kaule. Each time, she carries her son, Soman, on her back. At fifteen months old, he's a live wire.

Dil Maya's family has been working this land for at least three generations. Water has always been scarce in spring, but the 2015 earthquake made it worse. Shifting land and inconsistent water made it difficult for people to grow enough food to sustain their livelihoods.

“Without water, we can't farm. We can't live,” said one of Dil Maya's neighbors, Phul Maya Tamang.

This spring, water has returned to their fields, thanks to the Red Cross. To help restore food security and lost income, we supplied materials and trained residents to construct an irrigation system, providing community members with the knowhow to maintain the system into the future.

The increased water flow means farmers can grow basic food (like corn and potatoes) for their families and more profitable crops (like peas) to sell at the market. Seemingly

small gains can make a dramatic difference in the lives of these farmers. “The mustard greens are a bit taller this year,” noted Luk Maya, a Buddhist nun and nearby farmer.

The American Red Cross responds to disasters around the world by mobilizing cash support, pre-positioning relief supplies, deploying disaster response experts and in some cases, implementing recovery and preparedness programs. The remarkable generosity of our supporters—individuals, corporations and foundations—drives our ability to provide relief and assist our partners in the global Red Cross network. We are grateful for your trust.

*Thank you!*