



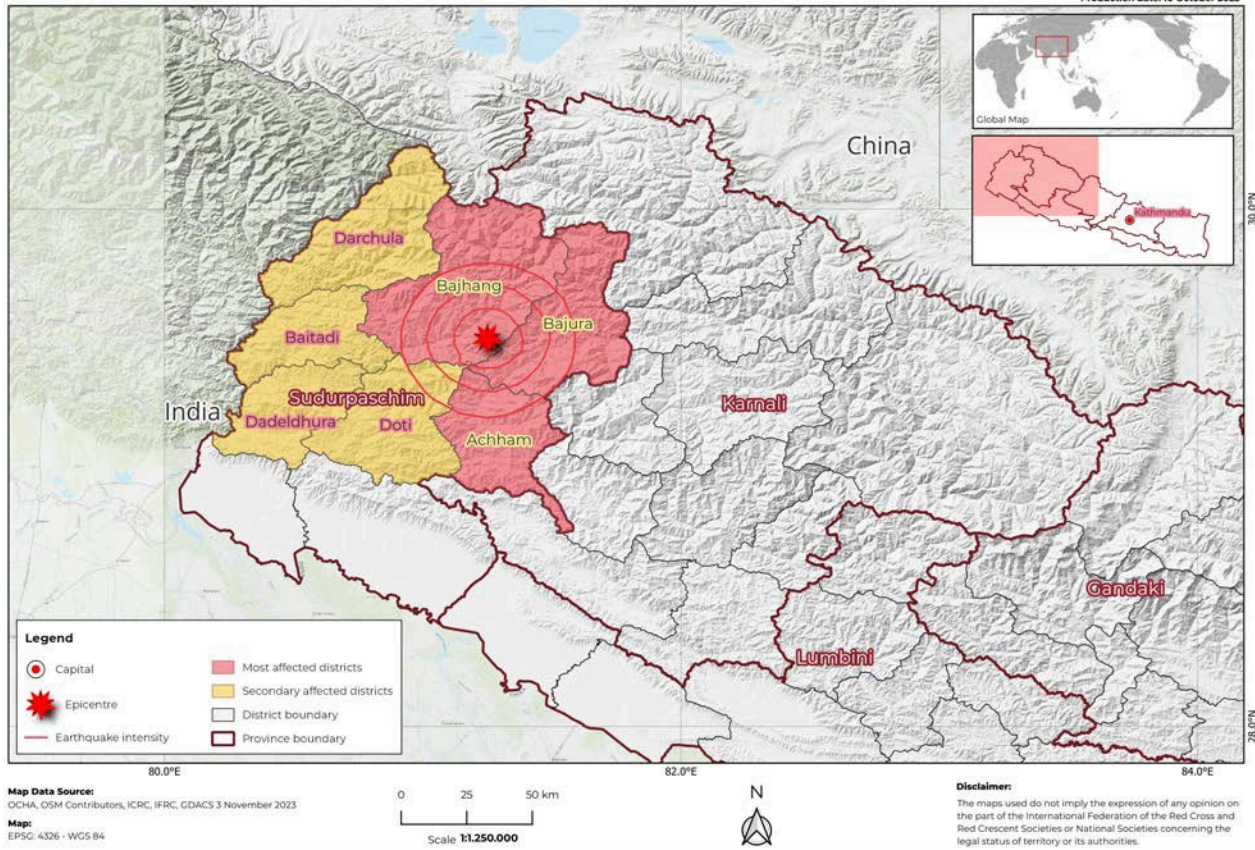
Newly constructed transitional shelter with toilet in one of the affected districts. (Photo: NRCS)

Appeal: MDRNP015	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 172,176	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Earthquake
Glide Number: EQ-2023-000182-NPL	People Affected: 36,250 people	People Targeted: 7,500 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 12-10-2023	Operational End Date: 30-04-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Targeted Areas: Sudurpashchim			

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Description of the Event

+ IFRC DREF - Nepal Earthquake October 2023



Map highlighting the targeted areas of the operation. (Map: IM/IFRC)

Date of event

09-10-2023

What happened, where and when?

A magnitude 5.3 earthquake struck far western Nepal on 3 October 2023 at 14:40, followed by strong aftershocks occurring at regular intervals throughout the day, heightening fear among local residents. The epicentre of the earthquake was in Bajhang district of Sudurpaschim Province, with tremors felt in six neighbouring districts: Bajura, Achham, Doti, Baitadi, Darchula, and Dadeldhura. The continuous aftershocks compelled people to leave their homes and take shelter in open spaces.

On 7 October, an aftershock measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale further intensified the fear among the affected population. As of 30 April 2024, reports indicated that 36,250 people from 7,250 families were impacted, with 1,567 houses fully destroyed and 5,601 houses partially damaged.

The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) deployed Emergency Response Team (ERT) members to the affected districts immediately after the earthquake to collect data and support response efforts.



NRCS staff and volunteers continuously providing support to affected households of Bajhang and Bajura districts (Photo: NRCS)

Scope and Scale

The earthquake and its aftershocks caused extensive damage to individual houses, schools, and institutional buildings, resulting in 23 injuries and one fatality. Bajura district experienced the most significant impact, followed by Bajhang and Achham districts. Due to the remoteness of the affected areas, a comprehensive understanding of the earthquake's impact emerged only a few days after the event, as initial rapid assessment (IRA) data—led by the NRCS in close coordination with authorities at all levels—began to be published.

Reports indicated that during the initial weeks and months following the disaster, most affected households were forced to live in open areas due to the destruction of their homes and the ongoing fear of aftershocks. In response, NRCS provided critical assistance, including the distribution of non-food relief items and household supplies, cash support for transitional shelter construction, WASH support, and multi-purpose cash assistance. These interventions prioritized the most affected and vulnerable populations, ensuring they received support before the peak of the harsh winter, which occurred around the end of January 2024.

Local reports highlighted urgent needs in the areas of shelter, basic food supplies, psychosocial support for children and adolescents, protection measures in temporary shelters, WASH, and hygiene.

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	-

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC Country Delegation supported NRCS to formulate the overall response strategy where all in-country IFRC members (American RC, British RC, Danish RC and Swiss RC) were invited to contribute. Four intensive coordination meetings were held where an overall plan and budget was agreed with key roles and responsibilities (IFRC mostly focused on procurement and CEA while American RC, British RC, Danish RC and Swiss RC supported MPC, transitional shelter and MHPSS under a shared engagement modality). Based on the overall plan, the IFRC team supported NRCS to prepare the DREF application. Additionally, IFRC Country Delegation supported NRCS to produce situation reports and finalize three field reports in the GO Platform.</p> <p>The IFRC Country Delegation supported the NRCS in formulating the overall response strategy, inviting all in-country IFRC members—American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, and Swiss Red Cross—to contribute. Four intensive coordination meetings were conducted, resulting in an agreed overall plan and budget, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. Under this arrangement, IFRC primarily focused on procurement and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), while the American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, and Swiss Red Cross took on shared responsibilities for multi-purpose cash (MPC), transitional shelter, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).</p> <p>In line with the agreed plan, the IFRC team supported NRCS in preparing the DREF application. Additionally, the IFRC Country Delegation assisted NRCS in producing situation reports and finalizing three field reports on the GO Platform.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>The IFRC/American Red Cross team in Nepal has been supporting a disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiative in the area for the past three years and has actively contributed to initial response efforts. The team activated its Quick Action Fund to address the immediate needs of affected populations. Additionally, the IFRC/British Red Cross, IFRC/Danish Red Cross, and IFRC/Swiss Red Cross provided financial support for the response through their dedicated emergency funding tools. The Danish Red Cross also offered technical assistance in the area of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

N/A

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>On Thursday, 5 October 2023, a meeting was held in the Prime Minister's Office with the Council of Ministers, chaired by the Prime Minister. During the meeting, the Prime Minister directed the coordination of all three levels of government to develop a unified programme for providing relief, reconstruction, and rehabilitation to the earthquake-affected population. In November 2023, the Prime Minister, along with members of his cabinet and the Chief of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), visited Bajhang District to inspect the earthquake damage firsthand.</p> <p>At the local and provincial levels, authorities conducted regular meetings to coordinate response efforts, with active participation from the NRCS. The NDRRMA also developed guidelines for transitional shelter support for displaced families. The Government allocated funds for a conditional cash grant to support the construction of transitional</p>



shelters for 3,444 families, of which 249 families were supported by the Red Cross.

Additionally, the Government of Nepal deployed security forces—including the Nepal Army, Armed Police Force, and Nepal Police—to the affected areas. These forces played a significant role in conducting search and evacuation operations, demolishing damaged houses, and clearing debris.

UN or other actors

Through-out the reporting period, the UNHCT mechanism remained active and coordinating with various clusters. UNFPA provided dignity kits, kishori kits, reproductive health kits and solar lamps in the affected communities through NRCS.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The IFRC co-chairs the Shelter Cluster in coordination with the NRCS, ensuring that coordination with the Shelter Cluster is well-established and ongoing. Under the country’s cluster system, the Shelter Cluster is led by the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) under the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD). On 4 October 2023, NRCS organized a virtual meeting to build a common understanding of the shelter strategy and to prevent duplication of activities among various shelter actors.

The IFRC Country Delegation also engaged with the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, sharing two situation reports/bulletins with the broader humanitarian community in the country. Additionally, NRCS, in collaboration with IFRC, coordinated with several line agencies of the Ministry of Home Affairs, including the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA). NRCS also maintained coordination with government agencies at provincial and local levels to ensure effective relief support in the affected areas.

Needs (Gaps) Identified

Shelter Housing And Settlements

According to NRCS data, the earthquake destroyed 1,577 houses and partially damaged 5,621 houses across seven districts. Due to the extensive damage and ongoing aftershocks, many affected families were forced to remain outside their homes, even during the harsh winter. This created an urgent need to address basic, safe, and inclusive shelter and settlement needs through temporary and transitional shelters. Immediate provision of tarpaulins, blankets, mattresses, and other essential household items, including warm clothing, was critical for families living outdoors.

Transitional shelters were particularly needed for families whose homes were completely destroyed. These shelters were essential to ensure the safety and protection of vulnerable groups, including children, pregnant and lactating women, individuals with disabilities, elderly persons, and those with chronic illnesses. Beyond providing physical safety, transitional shelters also enhanced dignity and protection for affected individuals.

Awareness and dissemination of safe shelter construction practices were also necessary to support communities in rebuilding more resiliently. Based on assessment data and prior experiences, 21 per cent of the total shelter needs among affected households were prioritized. This prioritization was guided by vulnerability criteria, targeting both fully and partially damaged houses.

Health

The affected districts are located in high-altitude areas, nearly at the snow line in the northwestern part of the country. The displaced population was forced to stay in emergency shelters made of tarpaulins, which offered inadequate protection from the extreme cold and posed a high risk of communicable diseases. The assessment highlighted the need for health awareness activities to educate the affected communities on preventive measures to protect against various types of diseases.

These districts were already vulnerable, with low immunization coverage, poor maternal and child health indicators, and a high prevalence of malnutrition among children under five. Immunization coverage in Achham, Bajhang, and Bajura was reported at 90 per cent, 89 per cent, and 76 per cent, respectively (DoHS Annual Report 2077/2078).

Given these challenges, pregnant women among the affected population required immediate access to healthcare services. Additionally, to mitigate the prolonged effects of the earthquake, especially for children and adolescent females, mental health and psychosocial support interventions were essential.



The close quarters in which displaced families were living, combined with limited WASH facilities, increased the risk of communicable diseases, the majority of which were waterborne. Health referrals were also necessary for individuals who suffered injuries due to aftershocks. The health needs of displaced families were consistent across households, regardless of whether they were partially or fully damaged. The gaps in access to healthcare services—particularly for people with chronic conditions, children under five, and pregnant or lactating mothers—were equally significant for all affected households.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The IRA reports from NRCS indicated that WASH facilities and services were either damaged or rendered dysfunctional, directly impacting the health of household members, particularly those most vulnerable to unhygienic practices and waterborne diseases. Although the country has made significant progress in recent years regarding access to water and sanitation, remote areas, such as those affected by this disaster, continue to lag behind. In this case, the earthquake severely compromised WASH infrastructure and services for families across seven districts.

The reports also highlighted that all displaced families were living in temporary shelters with limited access to safe water, user-friendly sanitation facilities, and hygiene services, including menstrual hygiene management. If not addressed promptly, these gaps posed increased health-related risks. To meet the minimum WASH needs in emergencies, it was essential to support the construction and installation of safe water supply facilities, user-friendly latrines with handwashing facilities, and menstrual hygiene management facilities. Additionally, hygiene promotion activities needed to be conducted across the affected areas to mitigate health risks.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

According to the situation reports, the affected population faced increased protection needs, including safe shelters for women and children, psychosocial support for children and adolescents, and assistive devices for persons with disabilities. People displaced from their residences were forced to remain in open spaces. In general, the disaster heightened the vulnerability of already vulnerable groups in the community. In these public areas, where people were in close proximity, there was an immediate need to provide MHPSS and raise awareness on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention, as well as promote referral pathways for the affected population, particularly women and children.

Additionally, with a large number of households displaced and affected, special care and attention were needed for children, vulnerable women (pregnant and lactating), people with disabilities, those with chronic illnesses, and the elderly, considering their specific vulnerabilities.

According to the data, more than half of the affected population, including women and adolescent girls, were staying in open spaces in tents during the initial period after the earthquake. Therefore, there was an urgent need to ensure menstrual hygiene and dignity for women and children through the distribution of dignity kits.



Community Engagement And Accountability

When engaging with communities, it was essential not only to disseminate information but also for response teams to take the time to listen to the needs and concerns of affected communities, particularly those who are most marginalized and least likely to have a public voice. Lessons learned from similar operations in 2022 clearly highlighted the need to strengthen the CEA mechanisms within NRCS, particularly at the district level in the affected areas. This was also identified as one of the priorities for this operation in the assessment.

A process must be in place to ensure that information from communities is not only heard but also acted upon. This requires mechanisms that listen to and respond to those voices. During the disaster, the focus was on a participatory response approach, supporting the community in identifying needs, selecting beneficiaries, and planning the implementation of interventions.



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of the NRCS response operation, with support from the IFRC-wide network, was to address the immediate needs of an estimated 7,500 people, representing 21 per cent of those affected by the earthquake, focusing on the three most impacted districts: Achham, Bajhang, and Bajura. As part of the IFRC-wide support, the goal of the DREF operation was to assist affected families with emergency shelter items, risk communication, community engagement and accountability, as well as protection interventions, for an initial period of six months.

The Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA) conducted within 24-72 hours reported significant damage, primarily in Achham, Bajhang, and Bajura districts. As a result, the DREF request was launched by the IFRC Country team and approved. However, the detailed assessment report revealed that very few households in Achham were affected, with support already provided by local authorities. Therefore, Achham was excluded from the DREF support, and the allocated budget for Achham was redirected to support activities in Bajhang and Bajura districts.

Operation strategy rationale

OVERALL APPROACH

NRCS developed an overall response strategy with the support of the IFRC Network in-country, leveraging available local capacities and funds while learning from the 2022 earthquake response intervention. The operation consisted of four major components:

1. Emergency Shelter and Kit Distribution: District chapters supported 1,500 families with emergency shelter items (tarpaulins, blankets, mattresses, and ropes), dignity kits, and hygiene kits, all of which were replenished through the DREF operation.
 2. Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance: 600 of the most vulnerable families received multi-purpose cash, funded by the IFRC Network (American Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, and Swiss Red Cross).
 3. Transitional Shelter Support: 249 highly vulnerable families, whose houses were fully destroyed, received transitional shelter assistance, including toilets and water tanks, through cash assistance, supported by IFRC Network (British, Danish, and Swiss Red Cross).
 4. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS): The IFRC/Danish Red Cross supported MHPSS and referral services.
- Throughout these components, the DREF operation integrated Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and quality programming through post-distribution monitoring (PDM) and review processes.

SECTOR-WISE APPROACHES

1. Shelter, Housing, and Settlements:

The emergency shelter strategy was based on the level of damage to houses. Households with fully destroyed homes were provided with two blankets, two tarpaulins, and two mattresses. Households with partially destroyed homes received one blanket and two tarpaulins. However, distribution methods varied due to the urgent needs of the affected population, making it difficult to provide complete standard kits to all households. To adhere to the "No Regret" principle, distributions were carried out promptly to meet immediate needs. Additional blankets and mattresses were also distributed due to the cold weather and the fact that people were living under tarpaulins.

Beyond emergency shelter, 249 highly vulnerable households, with fully destroyed homes, were supported in building transitional shelters in line with SPHERE standards, incorporating technical lessons learned from the 2022 experience. The design of the transitional shelters was based on the Doti earthquake response in 2022, and the shelter support was delivered through cash and voucher assistance (CVA). Emergency shelter items were supported by the IFRC DREF, while transitional shelter assistance was supported by IFRC/British, Danish, and Swiss Red Cross.

2. Health:

Health activities primarily aimed to limit and prevent disease outbreaks post-earthquake. According to the Nepal Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) 2016 and the Nepal Health Facility Survey (NFHS) 2021, the affected districts have poor health indicators and limited skilled healthcare personnel. The response included the mobilization of volunteers for health promotion and disease prevention activities, in collaboration with Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), to provide home-based health promotion services, including MHPSS. Health actions targeted vulnerable groups, particularly pregnant mothers and people with underlying health conditions, requiring emergency referrals, pre-hospital care, and other services. Health promotion activities were supported by the IFRC DREF, and MHPSS was supported by the IFRC/Danish Red Cross.



3. Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH):

The most affected 249 households were supported in constructing toilets, handwashing stations, and water storage tanks through CVA, supported by the IFRC/American Red Cross, IFRC/British Red Cross, and IFRC/Danish Red Cross. Hygiene promotion activities were also conducted in the affected areas, supported by the IFRC DREF.

4. Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI):

The PGI sector's primary objective was to ensure that shelter, CVA, and WASH interventions targeted the most vulnerable households, particularly people with disabilities, pregnant/lactating women, infants, and the elderly. PGI considerations were integrated into assessments, including the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data (SADD), analysis of who was reached and who was missed, and regular reporting on protection issues such as child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) risks, and safety concerns.

A total of 200 women and adolescent girls from fully and partially destroyed houses, who had been forced to stay in open spaces for extended periods, received dignity kits. NRCS's Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) department provided technical support to sector leads and district chapters, ensuring that minimum PGI standards in emergency programming, as published by IFRC and endorsed by NRCS, were applied throughout the planning and implementation of response activities.

The operation also provided transportation support for identified referral cases, funded by the IFRC/Danish Red Cross. Additionally, assistive devices were provided to people with disabilities from 250 fully affected households, based on the disability identity cards issued by local authorities. Staff and volunteers signed anti-harassment and child protection codes of conduct before deployment, and a child protection analysis was conducted at the onset of the operation.

5. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):

Key messages were shared based on the context, communication channels, timing, location, and audience. Both targeted and non-targeted communities were given the opportunity to ask questions, voice complaints, and request inclusion in distributions and other activities. District chapters and sub-chapters were readily available to listen to and address community concerns. NRCS maintained registers at the district chapter and headquarters levels to ensure proper documentation of feedback and responses.

All activities were carried out with the knowledge of local authorities and with the community's consent, ensuring transparency and accountability according to relevant national society guidelines. The Humanitarian Values and Communication Department of NRCS was responsible for managing the feedback/queries/complaints received through feedback mechanisms, including the Kobo feedback collection form, hotline 1130, and social media, integrated with PMER-IM.

The CEA approach helped prevent and address misinformation and rumors, particularly regarding the distribution of relief items and cash assistance, by developing appropriate feedback systems.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

NRCS covered 21 per cent of estimated affected population, which corresponded to its overall capacity in the country as well as the support from other actors, including Government at all levels as well as humanitarian actors who were initiating early interventions. Targeting criteria were developed and executed in a participatory way in coordination with the local public authority. NRCS ensured that the relief efforts aligned with government standards and the actual needs of the affected population. NRCS also applied gender and diversity sensitive analysis in recipient selection by targeting women-headed households, pregnant and lactating women, single women, people with disabilities, elderly people, children, SGBV survivor and displaced people.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection criteria for targeted population were:

1. Families whose houses were fully and partially damaged by earthquake.
2. Households headed by children below 18 years and elderly above 65 years of age.
3. Households headed by women and single women.
4. Death of an earning member of the family due to earthquake.
5. Households comprising of pregnant and lactating women, people with disability and chronic illness
6. SGBV survivors and community people from low income/displaced families.
7. Migrant/stateless people who are not able to access other support due to legal or social issues



Total Targeted Population

Women	2,475	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	1,350	Urban	-
Men	2,213	People with disabilities (estimated)	2.2%
Boys (under 18)	1,462		
Total targeted population	7,500		

Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Remoteness for transportation	Coordinated with local transport service providers in district level for transporting and mobilize local volunteers or community members.
Delay implementation due to festival season in Nepal and multiple international holidays.	Expedited the distribution process by increasing number of volunteers before the festival started.
Market price fluctuation for purchase of construction materials.	Cash and voucher assistance implemented and joint work with community, local government to monitor market condition.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The National Society's security framework was applicable for the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. For personnel under IFRC security's responsibility existing IFRC country security plans was applicable. All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers were encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses.

Enabling safe and secure programme delivery was a priority for IFRC and a standard security framework as well as a country security plan was in place which applied to all IFRC deployed personnel. The National Society enjoyed a good level of community acceptance countrywide, with established networks of community-based volunteers. There was recognition of and respect for the RC emblem and understanding of the activities carried out by the NRCS. Regular contact was maintained with local security networks. IFRC Nepal Country Delegation participated in a range of stakeholder meetings in which safety and security matters were considered and discussed, including Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings convened by the UNRC office.

An IFRC country security team constantly monitored the general safety and security situation in country. The security officer disseminated Security Advisories, including any necessary temporary restrictions when appropriate. Safety and Security alerts were also sent via SMS messages. All new and visiting international personnel were provided with a security welcome pack and must attend a security briefing within 24 hours of arrival in-country.

Field movement monitoring was in place, with field travel monitored closely through phone communications. All teams had access to first aid kits, hard copy road map with alternative routes, contingency supplies of water, food and funds to enable them to be self-sufficient in the event they become stranded. Finally, it was noted that when military and/or other security actors were present in the same humanitarian space, the guidance in the Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance 2013 Section 6 – Relations with Public Authorities: Civil-Military Coordination and the IFRC Stay Safe – Guide to a Safer Mission was applied. Operations and programme managers/coordinators adhered to the IFRC Stay Safe – Guide to Managers in Chapter 5 – Working with the military to ensure principled humanitarian action.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes



Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 131,231

Targeted Persons: 7,500

Assisted Persons: 11,765

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households supported with emergency shelter items	1,500	2,353

Narrative description of achievements

Emergency Relief Item Distribution:

During the reporting period, the NRCS distributed various emergency relief items to the most affected communities in Bajhang and Bajura districts. A total of 2,353 tarpaulins, 3,028 blankets, 2,645 mattresses, and 995 rolls of rope were distributed to affected households. Additionally, the IFRC procured 3,000 blankets, mattresses, and tarpaulins in December 2023 to replenish the NRCS stock, following IFRC's standard procurement policies. NRCS, with the support of UNFPA, also distributed 2,061 dignity kits, 471 kishori kits, 480 solar lamps, 6 reproductive health kits, 2 tents, and 1,211 tarpaulins. Due to the emergency needs, it was challenging to distribute the complete standard set to all households. As a result, NRCS adopted a "No Regret" approach and prioritized addressing urgent needs by distributing one tarpaulin per household in many cases.

Transitional Shelter Support:

In line with the government's commitment to assist families whose homes were completely damaged, NRCS extended support for the construction of 249 transitional shelters in Bajhang and Bajura. This support included not only cash assistance but also community sensitization on safe shelter construction, along with technical assistance during the construction phase. A total of 1,468 people from the affected communities benefited from these efforts. Shelter tool kits (27 kits) were distributed in December 2024, supporting 1,245 individuals across 249 households receiving shelter cash grants.

Each of the 249 households (124 in Bajhang and 125 in Bajura) received NPR 50,000 (approx. CHF 357) for transitional shelter construction. The cash grants were provided by the IFRC Network, with contributions from the British Red Cross (50 households), Danish Red Cross (99 households), and Swiss Red Cross (100 households). One household did not receive the cash grant due to permanent migration from the affected area. Additionally, NRCS conducted 12 shelter awareness sessions for 223 community members (120 from Bajhang and 103 from Bajura) to educate them on safe shelter construction and provide technical support.

Safer Shelter Awareness:

To promote safe shelter construction, NRCS distributed 27 shelter tool kits to assist the community in building safer shelters. Shelter awareness sessions were conducted to educate the community about safe construction practices, including technical support for design estimates and on-site guidance during construction. Participants were also informed about protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) issues, mental health, and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities, along with hygiene promotion messages such as handwashing practices.

Multi-Purpose Cash Grant:

NRCS supported 640 households (320 in Bajhang and 320 in Bajura) with Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) grants of NPR 15,000 (approx. CHF 107) to meet their basic needs, particularly for winterization. This support was provided by the IFRC Network, with contributions from the IFRC Secretariat (40 households), American Red Cross (300 households), Danish Red Cross (170 households), and Swiss Red Cross (150 households). Although MPC support was not initially planned, it was added to the operation after a continuous assessment identified 40 missing households. The adjustment, which affected less than 10 per cent of the operation, was coordinated and approved by the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office.

Households were selected based on vulnerability criteria, and coordination was carried out with local Disaster Management Committees



(LDMC and DDMC) for the selection process. The MPC support was transferred to their bank accounts, with NRCS volunteers assisting with bank verification and account setup. According to the Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report, assisted households welcomed the MPC as it provided them the flexibility to meet their needs. The MPC was mainly used for purchasing food, warm clothing, medicine, school fees, and shelter construction materials. Some of them also used it to repay loans.

Lessons Learnt

Shelter Assistance:

- **Limited Understanding of Transitional Shelter Guidelines:** There was a lack of understanding of the transitional shelter guidelines, as well as a shortage of technical human resources at the Ward level. This made it challenging to ensure uniform understanding and implementation of shelter standards.
- **Bank Service Delays:** Delays were encountered in opening bank accounts and verifying them due to limited staff availability at the banks. NRCS District Chapter staff provided additional support to compile documents and transfer sheets, helping to minimize delays. However, some of them faced further challenges as bank branches were far from affected communities, requiring them to spend an entire day to withdraw support.
- **Lack of Uniform Understanding of One-Door Mechanism:** In some areas, there was confusion regarding the one-door mechanism for distribution of Non-Food Items (NFI), causing delays. To address this, NRCS communicated promptly with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), and the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC), which led to improved understanding and smoother coordination.
- **High Community Expectations for Transitional Shelter with WASH Facilities:** There was high community expectation for shelter assistance that included WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities. NRCS responded by mobilizing Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) volunteers to manage expectations and ensuring clear communication with local authorities about the selection process based on the agreed criteria.

Multi-Purpose Cash:

- **Coordination with Local Government for Social Security Fund:** Establishing coordination with local government bodies for linking beneficiaries to their social security funds could have supported a more timely distribution of MPC.
- **Mapping of Financial Service Providers:** It is beneficial to map financial service providers at the district level ahead of time to expedite cash transfers to beneficiaries' accounts during emergency responses.
- **Appreciation of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA):** The Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) approach was highly appreciated by beneficiaries because it provided them with the flexibility to use the support according to their individual needs.

Challenges

Shelter Assistance:

- **Ownership through Design Choice:** Allowing targeted households to choose the layout and design of their transitional shelters, with technical support during the construction phase, enhances their sense of ownership and improves the overall success of the shelter support.
- **Integration of Sanitation, Health, and PGI Initiatives:** The integration of sanitation facilities with transitional shelters, along with a focus on health and PGI initiatives, ensures the safety of affected people and helps address their humanitarian needs.
- **Enhanced Coordination with Local Authorities:** Strengthening coordination and collaboration with local government authorities is crucial for ensuring timely support and long-term sustainability of interventions at the community level.

Multi-Purpose Cash:

- **Geographical Remoteness:** The geographical remoteness of some areas made it difficult for targeted to easily access banks, which led to delays in the cash distribution process.
- **Limited Financial Service Providers:** The limited number of financial service providers, coupled with a lack of human resources at the local level, delayed the cash transfer process more than initially planned.





Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 951

Targeted Persons: 7,500

Assisted Persons: 3,300

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with hygiene promotion activities in the response period	7,500	3,300
# of hygiene kits distributed	50	50

Narrative description of achievements

Integrated Shelter and WASH Support:

The devastating earthquake caused significant damage to shelters, water supply systems, and sanitation facilities within communities and schools. In response, NRCS adopted an integrated approach to support both shelter and WASH needs. Specifically, 249 households received shelter support along with assistance for constructing or maintaining toilets along with water tank support. WASH interventions were particularly prioritized for families fully displaced by the earthquake, as other affected populations managed to return to their homes during the operation.

Based on requests from schools and observations by the programme team during field visits, NRCS supported minor repairs to water points damaged by the earthquake in Bajhang. Eight schools received support, directly benefiting 544 students and teachers. These efforts included maintenance of school taps in a child-friendly manner, pipeline and water source repairs, and the provision of water reservoir tanks. All activities were coordinated with school management committees and community representatives to ensure ownership and long-term sustainability.

Despite the integrated operational approach, a variance was observed between the targeted and actual number of people reached through WASH activities. This was attributed to the integrated operational approach, which focused WASH interventions on families fully displaced by the earthquake, who were also recipients of transitional shelter support.

Hygiene Promotion Activities:

During the operation, 3,300 people (1,617 males and 1,683 females) were reached through hygiene promotion activities. In Bajhang, 1,650 people (808 males and 842 females) participated, while the same number was reached in Bajura. A total of 52 volunteers (23 males and 29 females) were trained and mobilized across both districts, with 21 volunteers (11 males and 10 females) in Bajhang and 31 (12 males and 19 females) in Bajura. These volunteers disseminated health and hygiene awareness messages and conducted sessions on handwashing techniques, water purification methods, and community and school sanitation practices. The sessions contributed to improved sanitation behaviors in the communities.

Hygiene Kit Distribution:

In the initial phase of the operation, 50 hygiene kits were distributed. Each kit included essential items such as cotton towels, bathing soap, shampoo, washing soap, soap cases, toothbrushes (for children and adults), toothpaste, combs, sanitary pads, women's undergarments, nail cutters, nylon ropes, and safety pins. In the later phase, MPC were distributed to targeted households, enabling them to purchase basic hygiene items. NRCS volunteers provided information on the usage of hygiene kit items during the distribution process in the communities.

Lessons Learnt

- Dissemination of the health and hygiene awareness through local radio seems effective to reach the community with difficult terrain.
- Increased monitoring and follow up to facilitate target households to adapt proper sanitation.



Challenges

- Difference on the costing/availability of toilet construction materials and water tank.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 5,705

Targeted Persons: 200

Assisted Persons: 729

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with violence prevention awareness sessions	750	729
# of women and adolescent girls receiving dignity kits	200	1,268
# of people supported with assistive device	50	9

Narrative description of achievements

Orientation on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection:

In December 2023, NRCS staff and volunteers received orientation on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and child protection messages. Following this, they sensitized 729 individuals in the programme areas, raising awareness about these critical issues.

Distribution of Dignity Kits:

A total of 1,268 dignity kits, provided by UNFPA, were distributed to individuals in need. These kits aimed to support personal hygiene and dignity, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Support for Assistive Devices:

During the operation, NRCS Bajhang conducted an assessment to identify the need for assistive device support and referral services within the community, especially after the earthquake. Based on established criteria, nine individuals were provided with assistive devices tailored to their specific needs, such as crutches, wheelchairs, and hearing aids. These devices are expected to significantly enhance the quality of life for the assisted individuals.

NRCS District Chapters worked closely with local authorities and community members to identify individuals requiring assistive devices. Despite these efforts, only nine individuals were identified during the operation. The district chapters procured the necessary assistive devices and distributed them to the targeted individuals.

Referral Services and Transportation Support:

NRCS extended additional support to individuals who lacked access to necessary health services due to economic constraints or limited healthcare availability. Accordingly, the NRCS PGI team at headquarters has initiated the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for referral services to provide clear guidance to district chapters. However, as of the reporting period, these SoPs remain in draft form and require endorsement.

Additionally, as part of the operation, four individuals in Bajhang district received transportation and minimal treatment cost support under the referral service. The support ranged from NPR 10,000 to 15,000 (approximately CHF 71 to 107). This initiative aimed to ensure that affected individuals could access essential health services despite financial or logistical barriers.



Lessons Learnt

- SOPs with clear modalities suitable for the program areas (in terms of culture and practices) should be identified to reach the targeted people during emergencies.
- Coordination with concerned local authorities is essential for developing a sustainable approach to sensitizing communities on SGBV and linking them to services through other stakeholders working in the same field.
- Sensitization and promotion of referral service numbers play a crucial role in empowering communities.

Challenges

- Due to the limited grant amount for transitional shelters, constructing separate rooms for men and women to ensure safety and dignity was challenging.
- Collecting concrete and accurate data on people with disabilities and SGBV needs is difficult due to the prevailing stigma in the communities.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 12,867

Targeted Persons: 7,500

Assisted Persons: 10,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached through awareness activities such as radio messages, IEC materials distribution, mega phone	7,500	10,000
types of radio programme/jingle produced and aired through local FM	4	5
# of community feedback mechanism used to informed the operation	4	4

Narrative description of achievements

Ensuring Community Involvement:

The NRCS emphasized community engagement throughout the response process, demonstrating a commitment to listening to and addressing the concerns of those it serves. By integrating a robust feedback mechanism, NRCS collected valuable insights and concerns to inform and improve response efforts while ensuring accountability to the affected communities.

Information Dissemination:

NRCS utilized various channels to provide timely and accurate information to the community, including:

- Radio Broadcasts: Key messages on safe shelter construction, MHPSS, WASH, PGI, and MPC were aired via three local FM stations in each district: Bajhang District: Saipal FM, Jayaprithivi FM, and Bajhang FM; Bajura District: Badhimalika FM, Paurakhi FM, and Bajura FM.
- Public Announcements: Information was disseminated through miking and word-of-mouth efforts by volunteers and staff.

Feedback Collection Mechanisms:

NRCS implemented multiple feedback collection approaches;

- Hotline Service: The NRCS hotline (1130) enabled community members to share their feedback and grievances.
- Volunteer Outreach: Volunteers conducted household visits to deliver awareness messages related to health, WASH, and SGBV



prevention. They also collected community feedback and identified vulnerable individuals, such as those requiring assistive devices.

Coordination and Volunteer Mobilization:

NRCS district also coordinated with the LDRMC to facilitate referral services and procure assistive devices. For instance, a household in Bajhang district received crutches through this coordination effort.

A total of 142 volunteers, including 35 technical volunteers, were mobilized for various roles during the response, including:

- Conducting detailed assessments.
- Performing household visits.
- Promoting safe shelter construction.
- Delivering health, hygiene, and SGBV awareness activities.

Partnerships with Local FM Stations:

During the operation period, the NRCS Bajhang District Chapter established agreements with three local FM stations—Saipal FM, Jayaprithivi FM, and Bajhang FM. These stations regularly broadcasted messages related to MHPSS, WASH, PGI, MPC distribution, and shelter construction, ensuring consistent communication with the community.

Lessons Learnt

- The well-accepted modalities for collaborative actions with communities, ensuring continuous community engagement, should be identified and used to disseminate information.
- Promote local radio to disseminate information through radio PSAs and IEC materials.
- Collaboration with local community groups (e.g., mothers, women's groups, youth clubs) is highly effective for the sustainability of CEA-related activities.

Challenges

- Recording and documenting the feedback received at the community level, especially when it has been addressed immediately, has been challenging due to the ongoing gap in maintaining proper records.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 4,412

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of financial reporting compliance to IFRC procedures	100	100
Post distribution monitoring conducted	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Survey:

An external consultant was engaged to conduct a PDM survey in Bajhang and Bajura districts. The PDM team shared several recommendations to enhance future disaster preparedness and response efforts:

- **Capacity Building for Staff and Volunteers:** Strengthen the capacity of staff and volunteers in disaster preparedness, management, and response, including training on both online and offline data collection methods.



- Orientation on Humanitarian Work: Provide orientation to people's representatives and employees who are involved in decision-making processes, focusing on the basic principles of humanitarian work and essential knowledge and skills for effective engagement.
- Support for Local Emergency Operations Centers (LEOCs): Assist in building capacity for and the establishment of Local Emergency Operations Centers (LEOCs) to improve local disaster response capabilities.
- Community Sensitization: Raise awareness within the community about activities that should take place before, during, and after a disaster to improve preparedness and resilience.
- Top-Up Cash Assistance: Consider providing top-up cash assistance to high-risk individuals and households to meet their immediate needs and reduce the financial burden of accessing banking services.



Budget: CHF 17,010
Targeted Persons: 0
Assisted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of lessons learned workshop conducted	1	1
# of volunteers insured	100	100
# of volunteer/day mobilized	1,800	1,800

Narrative description of achievements

Lesson Learned and Recovery Planning Workshop:

After completing the initial emergency response, the NRCS conducted a Lesson Learned and Recovery Planning Workshop from 7-9 April 2024 in Dadeldhura District. The workshop included the participation of Bajhang and Bajura district chapters to review the progress of the response and capture key learnings for future operations.

To assess the effectiveness of the response and develop a better strategy for future emergencies, the workshop included a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). This group exercise enabled participants to evaluate:

- Internal factors: Strengths and weaknesses that could significantly impact the response.
- External factors: Opportunities and threats that may affect the effectiveness of future operations.

Following the SWOT analysis, a Problem Tree Analysis was conducted to identify the root causes of the weaknesses identified during the SWOT exercise. This process helped clarify the underlying issues that need to be addressed for more effective future responses.

Volunteer Mobilization:

The operation initially aimed to mobilize 1,800 man-days of volunteer work, which was successfully achieved by mobilizing 200 volunteers continuously over a two-month period. This effort contributed significantly to the success of the response.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/10-2024/7	Operation	MDRNP015
Budget Timeframe	2023/10-2024/4	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 21/Oct/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRNP015 - Nepal - Earthquake

Operating Timeframe: 12 Oct 2023 to 30 Apr 2024

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	172,176
DREF Response Pillar	172,176
Expenditure	-153,021
Closing Balance	19,155

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	131,230	136,719	-5,489
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health			0
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	951	7,817	-6,866
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	5,705	467	5,238
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery		-24,934	24,934
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	12,867	9,296	3,571
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	150,754	129,365	21,389
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	1,521		1,521
EA02 - Secretariat Services	2,891	902	1,989
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	17,010	22,754	-5,744
Enabling Approaches Total	21,422	23,656	-2,234
Grand Total	172,176	153,021	19,155

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

A total of CHF 172,176 was allocated for NRCS to assist people affected by the earthquake. The total expenditure recorded at the end of the operation was CHF 153,021 (89 per cent of the budget), leaving a balance of CHF 19,155. The remaining funds will be returned to the IFRC-DREF pool.

The surplus resulted mainly from the procurement of relief items. The actual cost of relief items (blanket and mattress) was less than the allocated budget. Likewise, the dignity kits were supported by the UNFPA; therefore, the budget from DREF was not used for the procurement of dignity kits. In addition, there were some exchange gains that contributed to the surplus.

In moving into Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), expenditures that are completed by the National Society, including the sectoral level expenditures are captured in the financial report as one line under National Society Expenses (SFI 1). Therefore, causes variances under other budget groups where NS expenditure was initially budgeted.



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[Click here for reference](#)

