1. Summary

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has been implementing Earthquake Response Operation (ERO) in partnership with Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners primarily targeting in 14 of the worst affected districts by Gorkha earthquake 2015. Shelter, water sanitation and hygiene-(WASH), health, livelihood and institutional capacity building (ICB) are the five thematic components of ERO. Likewise, gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) are the cross cutting issues of the operation.

During the reporting period, major progress was made in shelter cash grants, livelihood support, drinking water supply system (DWSS) construction, toilet construction, hygiene promotion activities, health service and awareness. Likewise, several trainings and orientations were conducted to build capacity of the target communities in shelter, WASH, health and livelihood. Similarly, door to door visits were carried out by the trained staff and volunteers to provide shelter construction technical assistance and deliver messages on build back safer (10 key messages of building safer shelter), safer motherhood and diarrhoea.

This report provides major progress of the operation as of 31 May 2017.

2. Sectorial Progress
2.1 Key Figures (Cumulative figures)

- 6,522 families received first tranche of shelter cash grants and 1,521 families received second tranche of shelter cash grants.
- 48 drinking water supply schemes completed
- 1,052 families constructed household toilets
- 88,432 people reached through sanitation and hygiene promotion activities
- 10,926 families received livelihood support

68,432 people received first tranche of shelter cash grants and 1,521 families received second tranche of shelter cash grants.
2.2. Shelter
As of 31 May 2017, NRCS has supported 6,522 households with first tranche, 1,521 households with second tranche and 237 households from Ramechhap, Sindhuli and Rasuwa districts received third tranche of shelter cash grants. Village development committee (VDC)/municipality wise progress has been presented in chart 1.

Following the cash grant, 2,150 households have completed construction of damp-proof course (DPC) band level, and 891 families have completed the house construction. While more than, 1,500 households are waiting for certification from Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) for second tranche and more than 230 households for third tranche. NRCS plans to support 7,000 households for shelter construction in seven districts namely: Sindhupalchok, Ramechhap, Okhaldhunga, Sindhuli, Nuwakot, Makwanpur and Rasuwa.

2.3. Water and Sanitation
In May 2017, construction of four DWSSs were completed in Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Sindhuli and Kavre districts. Likewise, and prefeasibility study of 18 DWSSs was completed and construction of seven DWSSs is in progress. The chart 2 shows district-wise detail of DWSSs construction.

Similarly, a total of 66 households constructed toilets in Kavre and Sindhupalchok districts in May 2017. Out of them, 28 toilets were in Kavre and 38 toilets in Sindhupalchowk. Many toilets are under construction in other districts which will be reported in next months.

2.3. Health facilities
In May 2017, four health posts of Sindhupalchok provided health service to 1,423 people from the community. Chart 3 shows the number of people (disaggregated by sex) served by four health posts in Sindhupalchok district in April 2017. The chart shows that the number of female is comparatively higher than the number of male taking health services from health posts. One of the main reasons is that women are the one to receive health facilities regarding ante-natal and post-natal care and family planning services. In addition, according to health post in-charge of Banskharga and Bhotenamlang, male migration for employment is fairly high as compare to female so the number of female in the VDC is higher than male.
2.4. Livelihood

In May 2017, a total of 451 households received first tranche and 279 households received second tranche of livelihood support in Nuwakot, Lalitpur and Kathmandu districts. District wise number of households supported with livelihood interventions has been provided in chart 5.

The progress made by Lalitpur district chapter is the highest for first tranche whereas it is the lowest for second tranche. While it is moderate for both tranches in Nuwakot and Kathmandu districts. Main reason for this result was that Lalitpur district chapter was trying to distribute at least first instalment of livelihood support to all of the identified and selected beneficiaries.

3. Training/orientations and Volunteer Mobilization

3.1. Trainings and orientations for community

More than 1,279 people from community trained/oriented in WASH, livelihood, health and DRR

During the reporting period, more than 40 orientations/trainings were conducted as part of capacity building of community in programme area.

Health remained the major sector with 26 events of orientations for 767 people in Kavre and Sindhuli district. A total of 469 people from the community were reached out through communicable disease orientation in Kavre district. The orientations were conducted by Red Cross volunteers and female community health volunteers in each of the 27 wards of working VDCs of Kavre district.

Similarly, nine events of water and sanitation orientation were conducted for 262 people in Nuwakot and Rasuwa district to orient them on proper utilization of resources ensuring sustainability of Red Cross supported infrastructures such as drinking water supply schemes.

In addition, one event of mason refresher training was conducted to 22 masons in Rasuwa who were trained by Red Cross in 2016. Objective of the training was to enhance the technical skills of the trained mason and provide them addition masonry skills. Following the training, the participants supported the masonry skills work in an under-construction house at Thulogaun VDC of Rasuwa district.

Chart 5 provides summary of number of people trained/oriented in different sectors in different districts.
3.2. Training and orientations to NRCS staff and volunteers

In May 2017, a total 275 staff and volunteers were oriented/trained on shelter, health and WASH. A total of two events of first-aid training and one event of community based health training were conducted for 105 staff and volunteers of Nuwakot and Ramechhap and Sindhupalchok districts. The NRCS will mobilize the trained staff and volunteers to provide first-aid services and to conduct community based health sessions in the community.

Similarly, two events of a 3-day epidemic control volunteer training for 47 staff and volunteers was conducted in Sindhuli and Ramechhap districts. The trained staff and volunteers will conduct epidemic control volunteer sessions in the community by raising awareness against communicable diseases, mode of transmission and ways to prevent it. In addition, one event of menstrual hygiene and management training was conducted in Sindhupalchok district for 23 participants.

Likewise, one event of water quality test training was conducted for five WASH staff of Sindhuli district. The training was organized with an objective to provide knowledge regarding safe water and water source, water testing methods, drinking water risk assessment, and Water safety plan. Also one event of WASH response team training was conducted to 26 participants of Sindhupalchok district. It was organized with an objective to provide needed technical know-how on water purification preventing the possible prevalence of water borne illness during monsoon or during emergency. Chart 7 provides summary of number of staff and volunteers trained/oriented in different sectors in different districts.

Apart from that, one event of emergency shelter response training was organized in Sindhupalchok district for 19 staff and volunteer. The training was organized with an objective to develop a pool of trained staff and volunteers who will be available for shelter response during natural disaster or emergency. As the graph elaborates, first aid training was provided to more people as compared to other trainings in consideration with high movement of people in construction and increasing rate of injuries as indicated by household visits conducted by Red Cross volunteers.

3.3. Volunteers mobilization

The NRCS has been implementing an integrated recovery programme in 465 wards (communities). In the reporting period, 245 volunteers were mobilized for the delivery of service to the community. Most of the volunteers were engaged on shelter construction.

4. District Highlights

This section includes the district-wise highlight which has not been included in other sections.

Gorkha
- Supported security team of Nepal government during local election by deploying 85 Red Cross volunteers in programme VDCs to manage queue of voters and provide first aid services. Fortunately, no incident that require first aid service occurred during the election period in the programme VDCs.
- Completed three hand washing technique demonstration sessions in Barpak VDC. A total of 101 school students had participated in the sessions. At the end of the sessions, the participants expressed their commitment that they would bring the learning into practice and disseminate the importance of hand washing to other family members and neighbours.

Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur
- Conducted hygiene promotion activities such as hand washing demonstration and garbage management in school premises reaching out to 1,219 school students of 11 school of programme wards of Kathmandu valley districts. Likewise,
1,326 students were reached out through psycho-social support activities such as quiz contest and orientation on disaster preparedness Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts. Need of psychosocial support to students was identified through discussion with school teachers. 

- Completed debris clearance of 143 houses of Lalitpur district through cash for work approach.

**Sindhupalchwok**

- Visited 590 households with technical advice for earthquake resistant shelter construction and 600 households with 10 key messages on safer shelter construction.
- Visited 679 pregnant mothers and women with uterine prolapse with safe motherhood messages such as information about pre-post-natal care, and causes of uterine prolapse and its control measures. Door to door visits were conducted by community-based health (CBH) trained staff and volunteers to disseminate the messages.
- Conducted three injury prevention sessions with focus on management of minor diseases and infections in Nawalpur, Kunchok and Melemchi Municipality Ward No. 12 and 13. At the end of the session, the participants were provided with antiseptic solution and cotton so that they can provide first aid of minor injuries in future.
- Reached out to 226 people including 42 female with hygiene promotion activities such as hand washing demonstration sessions.
- Conducted one animal health camp in Badegaun VDC. During the camp 1,933 livestock from 202 households were benefitted from medical support and health check-up facility.

**Dhading**

- Completed construction of six waste bins in community and schools according to the need identified by Village-WASH-Coordination Committee mass meetings in Kalleri VDC.
- Reached out 545 people including 425 female (through hand washing demonstration/practice sessions in community and schools in programme VDCs.
- Conducted 13 hygiene and sanitation classes in the community and schools of programme VDCs. A total of 290 people including were reached by the activities.
- Conducted two events of sanitation campaign in two schools of Katunje VDC reaching out to 57 school students 32 female students.

**Kavre**

- Provided first aid services to 35 people and oriented 67 people on first aid in Jamydi Mandan VDC. The services and orientation were provided by 10 first aid volunteers who were trained in basic first aid.
- A total of 43 people including 11 female worked for 448 man-days through cash for work to complete the construction of two drinking water supply schemes.
- Installed 24 sets of response materials in the 24 wards of programme VDC.

**Okhaldhunga, Ramechhap and Sindhuli**

- Oriented 305 households of Ramechhap district on safer shelter construction and distributed ten key message of safer shelter awareness.

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Dhanamaya Thami, the 73 years woman is a resident of Suspa Chhemawati VDC, Ward No. 5 in Dolakha districts.

The earthquake had severely damaged Ruchil drinking water supply system affecting 80 households in the community in 2015. All the villagers including Dhanamaya had to walk for 45 minutes to fetch drinking water. During the conversation, Dhanamaya mentioned that it had been very difficult for her and her neighbours to walk far for drinking water. She also shared incidents of falling off the road while fetching water.

But the situation has changed now- the water scheme is functional. There is a tap with drinking water 24 hours a day in two- minute walking distance from Dhanamaya’s house. The Red Cross had supported in the reconstruction of the water supply scheme.

Gleamingly happy Dhanamaya added, “My days of struggle has gone; I can fetch water with no efforts. Many thanks to Red Cross for this”. 

Photo and story collection: NRCS Dolakha
• Conducted hygiene promotion activities such as hand washing, water purification, and food safety reaching out to 857 people including 209 female in Ramechhap and Sindhuli districts. Likewise, sanitation and hygiene related information education and communication materials were distributed to 57 households in Sindhupalchowk district.
• Conducted school sanitation campaign such as hand washing, garbage management in two schools of programme VDC reaching out to 56 school students in Sindhuli district.
• Conducted 49 events of health education sessions reaching out to 916 people including 690 female from the community in Okhaldung district. The sessions were conducted by the staff and volunteers trained in community based health.
• Provided first aid service to 52 people in Ramechhap and Okhaldung districts by the Red Cross volunteers who were trained on first aid. Dressing of bleeding and burning, and bandaging of fracture cases are some example of first aid service. Likewise, four cases of dog bite were provided with first aid service and referred to Rampur health post in Ramechhap district.
• Conducted under 5 nutrition status screening of 395 children including 180 female children to identify status of stunting and wasting among children in the programme area of Okhaldung district. Five children were found to have moderate acute malnutrition and were referred to health post. However, no cases of stunting and wasting were found.
• Altogether 77 selected households completed construction goat/pig sheds with the support of Red Cross in Okhaldunga district.

Nuwakot, Makwanpur and Rasuwa
• Conducted 18 sessions of community based health reaching out to 474 people in three districts. The sessions included diarrhoea, malaria, reproductive health, demonstration of oral rehydration solution and personal hygiene.
• Completed livelihood vulnerability assessment in Saramthali and Yarsha VDC to identify the vulnerable households in Rasuwa district. A total of 140 households from Yarsh VDC and 180 households from Saramthali VDC were selected as vulnerable after the assessment. Red Cross will be supporting the enlisted vulnerable households for improving their livelihood.
• Handed over the outreach clinic materials to health posts of Kaule and Balche VDCs of Nuwakot district so that they can operate outreach clinic once a month to ensure accessible health service to the community people.
• Conducted four events of school sanitation and hygiene education sessions reaching out to 124 people including 78 female from the community of Nuwakot district.

5. GESI, PMER and CEA

5.1. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
NRCS has implemented GESI guideline along with the implementation of child protection policy and anti-harassment policy. Following are the major activities completed in the month of May 2017. Radio messages on following issues were produced and are being aired from 25 May 2017 from Sun Koshi FM Sindhupalchok district.
• Gender based violence prevention
• Child protection
• Reserved sit of women, senior citizen and disable people in local bus

5.2. Planning Monitoring Evaluation Reporting
• Livelihood lesson learned exercise was conducted with following objectives:
  o to what extent beneficiaries were able to afford to use the goods and services delivered by the operation
  o to identify beneficiary’s access to the facilities created through operation
  o to what extent the beneficiaries are using the goods and service the operation offered.
A total of nine key informant interviews and nine focus group discussions were conducted for the lesson learn exercise. The report of lesson learned exercise is being drafted.

• Exit survey of livelihood support was conducted in Kathmandu valley districts. Face to face interview was conducted with the sampled households who had just received livelihood support from Red Cross.
Key findings of the survey are as follows:

- 30% of the respondents received grants for agriculture, 57% for livestock and 13% for small business.
- 93% of respondents were satisfied with the process of opening a bank account for cash transfer. While 5% of the respondents were partly satisfied due to the token system and regular visit of bank and 2% of respondents were unaware about the bank procedure.
- About 80% of respondents were satisfied with the services provided by the bank for delivering the cash.
- 20% of respondents faced transportation problems; it took time to search bank and long procedure of bank to collect cash.

5.1 Community Engagement and Accountability
Street drama, Murals, IEC materials and orientation
Completed two murals related to WASH promotion. It is expected that approximately 767 people from the community will observe and will be sensitized by the murals.

Namaste Red Cross Hotline- 1130
In May, a total of 130 calls were received. Number of calls per sector has been provided in the chart 8. The highest number of calls (49 calls) was about the enquiries related hotline service itself followed by the calls (41 calls) about Red Cross general enquiries such as job vacancies, and the least number of calls was about Red Cross health activities.

In relation to ERO activities, the most common enquiries were related to shelter and was mostly from Sindhuli district. In case of livelihood, majority of feedback were related to timing of cash grants and selection criteria, while for shelter the main issue was about the second and third tranches of the grants would be distributed.

All the calls, mostly queries, received in the Hotline were resolved. The process of resolving queries includes; hotline team try to resolve the queries immediately and if they cannot, the team passes the questions to respective sectors and district chapters. As soon as the hotline team get answer, they call back to the caller with answer.

Radio Programme: Two episodes of radio programme on building code and reconstruction, and one episode on water borne diseases were aired through Red Cross radio programme: “Together for Humanity” in May 2017.

Newspaper columns: Three inserts were about earthquake response operation in Annapurna post; the national daily newspaper in May 2017.

Facebook Page Likes: The social media visitors of NRCS Facebook page have increased by 1,102 than the previous month. In May 2017, total ‘Likes’ of NRCS page has reached to 141,000. Most popular post for May was the news on First Aid Team Mobilization during local election. The news was visited by 34,794 people with 681 likes and 41 shares.

6. Our Partners