
1. Introduction

The large-scale earthquake with 7.8 magnitude struck Nepal on 25 April followed by several powerful aftershocks over the next two days. The earthquake was felt almost all over the country, however, it has mainly affected 31 districts among which 14 districts are very severely affected, and the government has declared a state of emergency in these districts. This deadly earthquake has created a great crisis in the country having loss of over 7366 lives, injuring over 14,388 people, and destroying of a huge number of infrastructures. More than 80% houses in these 14 most affected districts are severely damaged, and over 8.3 million population has been affected. For the rescue, relief, rehabilitation, and early recovery, all the 10 humanitarian clusters are in effect in different areas. Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MOFALD) is the lead government agency for the Early Recovery Cluster with UNDP as a co-lead to work in close coordination with all cluster members.

The ERC, in the lead of government, in this national crisis, would like to work together with all stakeholders in order to support the affected districts in 3 major areas: (i) Debris management, (ii) Reconstruction of community infrastructures, and (iii) Restoration of public service delivery. Emergency livelihoods and economic recovery is taken as a crosscutting issue that is to be considered as the central focus of all activities under these 3 pillars. Under these areas, various interventions will be implemented in an integrated manner as a package with short, medium and long term interventions all starting early but with varying intensities depending on the specific local needs and contexts. The programme will focus on mobilizing the grassroots level organizations such as Local Service Providers, Civil Society Organizations, Ward Citizen Forums and Citizen Awareness Centers under the overall leadership of the Local Bodies (DDCs, Municipalities and VDCs). The early recovery programme through the ER Cluster will be in two phases: an immediate short-term early recovery phase of 3 months period, and a follow-up medium-term initial recovery phase of 3 years period. All activities of this programme will be based on the following fundamental principles:

- Locally viable and contextual
- Culturally appropriate
- Long term consequences (sustainability)
- Strengthened existing local institutions and mechanisms (VDCs, Municipalities, DDCs, WCFs, CACs and other local government offices)

This proposal is for the immediate short-term early recovery phase of 3 months period. The programme for next long-term initial recovery phase will be designed and implemented based on the assessment, experiences and learning of this short-term early recovery phase.
2. Objective

The objective of the first phase of this programme is to work with and provide necessary support to the local government institutions for debris management, reconstruction of community infrastructures, restoration of public service delivery, and safeguarding emergency livelihoods and economic recovery in order to "Build Back Better" situation.

3. Areas of Intervention

The interventions of the Early Recovery Programme will be based on a "Three Pillars Approach" comprising the following three major areas and a crosscutting issue. While developing and implementing projects under this programme, all cluster members should be confined within the defined activities under these 3 areas and a crosscutting issue.

**Pillar 1: Support Local Bodies for debris management**

Under this area, key interventions will include immediate debris clearance to enable access to affected areas and provide conducive environment for life saving activities, through cash for work and emergency employment, assessments, planning, debris removal, technical assistance for safe waste disposal, and recycling of debris to support micro-enterprises and small and medium businesses. Debris management will also focus on building capacity of government authorities to lead /coordinate debris management and establishment of partnership with the private sector for debris management.

The activities for supporting local bodies in debris removal of destroyed infrastructures (including private houses, local road networks, community buildings, buildings of schools, health post, post office, VDCs, Municipalities and DDCs) would include:

- Providing debris management equipment such as crane, loader, hydraulic tripper, excavator, wheel dozer, chain dozer, and cement cutter for the removal of the large scale debris
- Providing set of small equipment for debris removal
- Providing training and equipment for segregation, recycle, reuse and disposal of debris.
- Providing technical assistance and small grant for starting small enterprises on recycling and reuse of debris.
- Providing Cash for Work in debris management (it should be adjoined with basic training and orientation with some cash or kind incentives to the participants of training) to manage debris considering recycle and reuse of the debris for recovery shelter

However, the debris management of archeologically and historically important and sensitive sites must be done in the lead role Department of Archaeology (DOA) and, in the case of World Heritage Sites, in collaboration with UNESCO, based on the set standards.

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1 Example- asbestos handling and disposal
Primarily for the most affected 14 districts, Cash for Work approach will be adopted for debris management from damaged private houses, public offices, local road networks and other community infrastructures for enabling the access to the settlements, and also for the environmental clean up.

**Pillar 2: Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of community infrastructures**

Under this pillar, the ER Programme focuses its support on three major areas: post-earthquake safety evaluation of buildings, temporary housing arrangement, and repairing of partially damaged houses and offices buildings.

**a) Post-Earthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings (PESEB)**

After the devastating earthquake very large number of buildings (both private and public) of the 14 severely affected districts have been completely collapsed. Many of the remaining buildings are partially damaged and they are not safe to stay people in. People are afraid to go back into home even though it is not seen any damage in their houses. This programme, as soon as possible, would mobilize technical experts groups to inspect all the buildings of the affected areas and mark those with different colors and put descriptive Placard in them such as:

(i) Green : The building has been inspected and no restrictions on use or occupancy have been found 
(ii) Yellow : The building has been inspected and found to damaged as described in the Placard.
(iii) Red : The building has been inspected and is damaged and unsafe to use. No entry is allowed

Two government agencies will be responsible for doing the PESEB. Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) under the MoUD will be responsible for evaluating the buildings of core city areas, and the concerned municipalities in coordination with MoFALD will be responsible for evaluating the buildings of non-core city areas. This programme will provide necessary technical, human resource, and financial support to the DUDBC and municipalities for this purpose.

The activities under the support for the PESEB include:

- Support DUDBC and affected municipalities to establish a desk for coordinating and monitoring the PESEB process
• Support to affected municipalities/VDC to establish of community kiosks to facilitate access to information and technical support on local infrastructures, shelters, WASH and other basic services
• Support DUDBC and affected municipalities with necessary technical human resources for conducting PESEB
• Provide necessary logistic and equipment support to the DUDBC and affected municipalities for conducting PESEB
• Support DDCs for setting standards of construction materials and designing of safe houses with Build Back Better for the rural areas

b) Support for temporary housing arrangement
It is very important to support people, whose houses are completely damaged, to develop temporary housing to live in until the permanent house is reconstructed. This programme aims to support in the following activities for arranging a temporary housing facility for 5/6 months for the affected people.
• Technical, human and financial support for constructing temporary housing.
• Provide CGI sheet or Fiber Sheet to construct temporary housing.
• Support to construct toilets, water supply (water tank, water pipe, water reservoir, maintenance of water supply, assessment of safeness of water), temporary schools and health centers/health posts.
• Provide volunteer health workers and schoolteachers if necessary.
• Provide technical and financial support for designing model of safe house, and defining standard of materials and methods of safe house construction, especially in rural areas
• Provide training and orientation to create awareness for safe house construction (with incentives to the participants)

While constructing temporary housing, preference should be given to engage affected people themselves by providing them training, in the CfW model. Special priority should be given on using local materials, skills and technologies as much as possible and appropriate.

c) Repairing of partially damaged houses and office buildings

After identifying the houses and office buildings that are partially damaged and safe to occupy after a minor maintenance, this programme will support for the repair of such houses and offices. However, a set safety standard will be followed to ensure the safety of those repaired buildings in future. The activities under this area of support include:
• Provide human, technical, and material support for the repair/renovation of the partially damaged houses and office buildings
• Renovate the houses and office buildings which do not meet the safety requirements in line with the set safety standards
Pillar 3: Restoration of public service delivery

The earthquake has severely affected the functioning of the local governments, which has severely disrupted the disaster response and services delivery process of the local bodies to the communities. The programme tries to restore the obstructed functions of local government institutions and provide additional capacity to them for early recovery and effective service delivery in coordination with other government and non-government agencies. The support will basically address their immediate needs such as key additional technical and managerial capacities, and basic logistics and equipment support to ensure effective response to the crisis and uninterrupted service delivery.

Activities under the restoration of public service delivery would include:

- Establishing a temporary work place for the local government institutions that are completely damaged by earthquake
- Repairing partially damaged office buildings of the local government institutions
- Providing short-term skilled/technical human resources as per necessity
- Providing basic equipment and logistics (computers, printers, fax machine, mobile sets, vehicle in rent, solar power, stationaries, furniture, carpeting, first aid and safety equipment etc.). Such equipment and logistic support should be only as per their real need to resume service delivery more effectively
- Capacity building of local service delivery offices (training for the staff, including the WCF and CAC members, on ER planning, coordination, implementation of ER activities and monitoring and reporting)
- Development and distribution of temporary ID card for those who have lost or got destroyed their permanent documents (such as citizenship) that are needed as requirement for receiving services
- Governance improvement (support for establishing a public hearing desk at DDCs and municipalities and conducting regular public hearing, establishing and strengthening ER coordination unit at DDCs, and strengthening monitoring and reporting system)
- Establish and strengthen Early Recovery Cluster Coordination Committee in DDCs and Municipalities to coordinate local level actors including line agencies, development partners, INGOs, CSO, private sectors and LSPs in the process of recovery
- Ensure child protection, gender, equity and social inclusion in the projects of ER Programme by ensuring the representation of women, children and socially marginalized people in the mechanisms for planning, implementation and monitoring

4. Crosscutting issue: Emergency livelihoods and economic recovery

The damage and destruction caused by the earthquake goes beyond the physical aspects as it severely affects the immediate, short-term livelihoods of communities. The program focuses on creating short-term livelihood opportunities and economic recovery through cash for work and skill development training as a crosscutting issues across the above-mentioned 3 pillars. This
crosscutting issue should be taken into consideration while selecting any projects under any of the 3 pillars mentioned above. However one can also develop projects based on the following specific on-farm and off-farm activities under emergency livelihoods and economic recovery. While designing and implementing the projects for emergency livelihoods and economic recovery, a thoughtful attention will be given to ensure that women will get equal opportunities for training, cash for work, and equal pay for equal work.

(i) **On-farm activities** such as vegetable and other short-term farming, support for seeds and fertilizers, renovation of small-scale irrigation and other agro-infrastructures, and training on livestock and vegetable farming.

(ii) **Off-farm activities** such as fast food production, weaving, bamboo crafts, small groceries, training on masons, plumbing, electrical and electronics good maintenance; and

5. **Support to National Level ER Planning**

Given the large-scale impact of the earthquake in almost half part of the country, the recovery efforts would require engagement over a period of at least two to five years. Lessons from the previous disasters' response such as Jure Landslide 2014 and Koshi flood 2011 show a significant gap in recovery planning and coordination including coherence with ongoing humanitarian responses.

The activities under the support to the national level recovery planning include:

- Conducting early recovery needs assessment
- Enhancing capacities of MoFALD to develop and implement recovery plan
- Establishing and Strengthening an Early Recovery Unit at MoFALD for operationalizing an effective recovery process
- Setting up an information system at Early Recovery Unit under MoFALD for monitoring and tracking the progress of recovery efforts
- Setting up Early Recovery Cluster Coordination mechanism at MoFALD