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## FOSTERING RESILIENCE IN NEPAL: Recovery Strategies for Earthquake-Affected Areas



The Jewish Federations  
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prepared for:  
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UPDATE REPORT | NEPAL

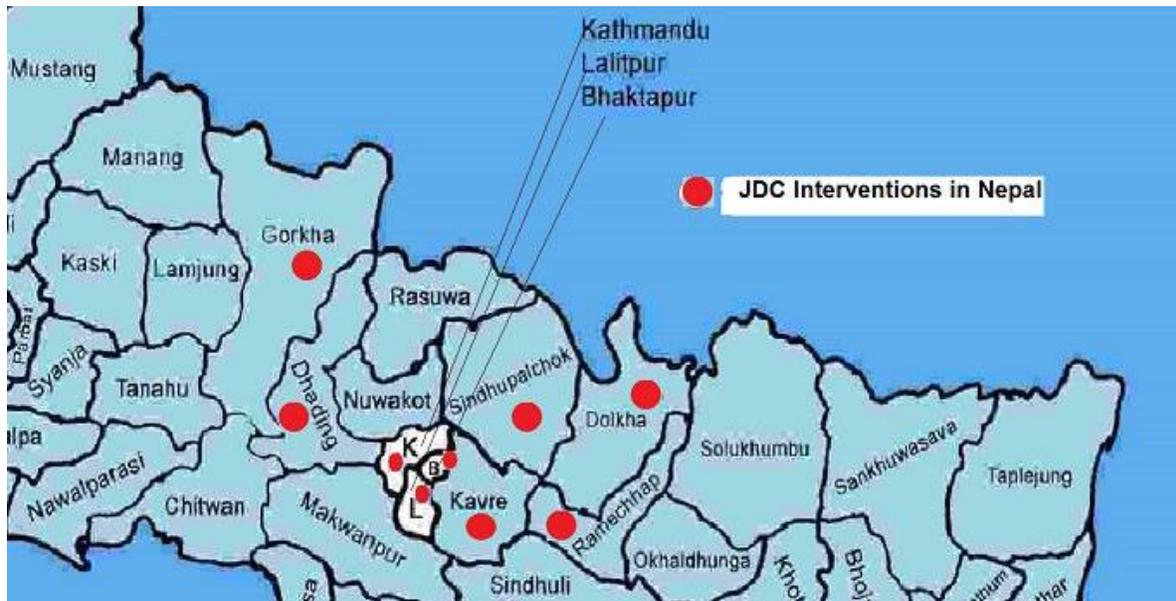


## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Though eight months have passed since the first of the devastating twin earthquakes struck Nepal on April 25, 2015, the country is still reeling from the impact. Over 8,800 people perished and 22,300 suffered injuries. The destruction of nearly 600,000 homes and damage to another 280,000 has irrevocably altered the landscape of the country.

Hundreds of thousands of survivors, in addition to grieving over families members who perished, have lost their homes, their food stores, and sources of livelihood. Living in makeshift shelters, they faced additional danger during the summer monsoon season, as heavy rains caused landslides, flooding, and increased risks of water-borne disease. Now with winter in full swing, the many thousands of people lacking adequate shelter are suffering from the cold temperatures.

Further exacerbating the situation, the recent unofficial blockade on the border with India is preventing the passage of many ground shipments into Nepal, creating severe shortages of fuel, gas, and medical supplies; and obstructing program delivery. Through increasing collaboration with partners, and restructuring some programs to meet this new reality, JDC is adapting its response to the growing needs. At the same time, JDC continues to target women and marginalized groups, who were particularly vulnerable even prior to the catastrophe, and who are now especially at risk for long-term economic and social distress. To date, JDC has assisted 49,000 of the most vulnerable people in Nepal.



## JDC'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE

During the weeks immediately following the disasters, JDC's response focused on the provision of emergency relief. The following table provides an overview of JDC's impact in the country during that initial emergency phase.

Emergency Aid	Description	Impact
<b>Hygiene</b>	Water filters and purifiers	4,282 items producing over 800,000 gallons daily
	Hygiene kits distribution	5,585 distributed
	Hand soap bars and dish soap bars distribution	5,888 distributed
<b>Medical</b>	Emergency medical kits for three months of health care	Serving 10,000 people
	Medical supplies to local hospitals	3,824 pounds of supplies
	Emergency treatment of patients	About 700 people served
<b>Food</b>	Three meals a day for one week	142,560 meals distributed 6,788 people served
	Food for school meals	39,000 kilograms distributed
	Distribution of rice seeds and pulses	Over 25,600 kilograms distributed
	Other emergency food aid	2 metric tons distributed
<b>Shelter Supplies</b>	Tents and tarpaulins	2,096 items distributed
	Blankets and flashlights	1,484 items distributed
<b>Temporary Spaces</b>	Temporary Learning Spaces	7 constructed
	Child Friendly Spaces	6 constructed

## RECOVERY EFFORTS TO BUILD RESILIENCE

JDC's key priorities in Nepal now and in the months ahead include the provision of community-based disaster risk reduction programs, livelihood support – especially for women, reconstruction of critical health facilities and public health education programs. Responding to the massive scale of damage in the area, JDC has undertaken multiple projects to reestablish a semblance of normalcy in daily life.

### Regaining Livelihood

JDC continues to help various groups regain their sources of income. Specifically, JDC and partners have constructed multi-purpose centers tailored to the needs of home-based female workers whose homes were lost or damaged, and thus also their equipment and sources of livelihood. The settings provide access to necessary equipment, training in new crafts such as sewing and tailoring, as well as safe childcare frameworks so that the women are available to work. In varied locations throughout the earthquake-affected region, **152 women to date are once again earning a living and providing for their families.** These women also benefit from psychosocial support provided in partnership with the Israel Trauma Coalition (ITC) to help them overcome the trauma of losing their homes and loved ones.

In the Ramechhap district of Nepal, farmers are attending agricultural training programs, to enable them to provide for their families, and recover the stability that comes with a regular income. JDC is also working with Israeli-Nepali NGO Tevel b'Tzedek to launch an initiative patterned after the Israeli "National Service" model to encourage youth to take a more active role in strengthening their communities. To date, **40 idealistic young adults** are receiving leadership training and leading community interventions in the areas of agriculture, women's empowerment etc., thereby developing their own careers while assisting members of their community to gain the knowledge they need to thrive. **Currently, 4,000 households in 40 different geographic zones are benefitting from the opportunities generated by these young volunteers.**



### TAKING STEPS TOWARD SOCIAL IMPACT

At age 19, Namita Khatiwoda, is already pursuing her life goal to instill social change in her home country of Nepal. During her teen years, she was an active member of a local youth movement in the Dhading district. Today, she is pursuing a degree in education, and is planning to earn a degree in social work in the future.

The Tevel b'Tzedek Youth Service Project Initiative correlates well with Namita's aspirations. As a volunteer, she is involved in projects to improve the welfare of her neighbors today, and absorb the knowledge that will enable her to be an effective community activist tomorrow.

## Reconstruction of Community Infrastructure

JDC is striving to restore critical community infrastructure, which are necessary for provision of basic services. These include restoration of roads and water supply routes, examination of dams and irrigation canals and reconstruction/repair of schools. In light of the dearth of medical services in the hardest hit areas of Nepal, JDC is rebuilding **two medical clinics**, which were destroyed in the earthquakes in Nepal's Dolakha district. This effort is part of a larger endeavor of JDC's to enhance the capacity of Dolakha public healthcare system.

## Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR)



Working in areas most heavily affected by the earthquake, JDC has been providing psychosocial support, and furthering resilience so that communities can respond more effectively in the event of future disasters. This means improving the quality of education, fostering youth leadership, and involving all segments of the community in strategy and planning. Recent achievements include:

- Developing increased communication and collaboration across all sectors in the communities where JDC works as a key strategy to increase resilience and emergency preparedness in the face of crisis. In the Ramechhap district, this effort has involved **gathering various community stakeholders**—from the policy makers to the household members themselves— for joint workshops, strategy meetings, and related activities.
- Partnering with Israel Trauma Coalition professionals to educate 13 local staff working in Ramechhap about the profound impact of disaster and equipping them to administer psychosocial first aid in the aftermath of crisis. This effort has led to tangible outcomes, **as the trainees have begun disseminating their knowledge through conducting workshops with different relief agencies, Village Development Committees (VDCs, local governing bodies) and women's advocacy groups**. JDC is now bringing ITC to the area to supervise this dissemination process and provide targeted feedback to the trainees.
- JDC is working closely with **27 teaching fellows in the earthquake-affected region**, who have committed themselves to elevate scholastic achievement and combat the country's 70% dropout rate. Since the earthquake, JDC has mobilized the fellows to help the community recover and distribute school supplies, to help restore children's daily routines. Moreover, JDC aims to maximize the potential of these volunteer teachers, who have been "adopted" by their host communities and are thus uniquely positioned to connect families with the resources that they need to improve their lives and to boost emergency-preparedness, especially among the most vulnerable members of the community.



### Improving Public Health

As part of its overall efforts to boost resilience in Nepal's most vulnerable locations, JDC is enhancing healthcare services. Along with supporting the construction of the aforementioned medical clinics, JDC is embarking on a partnership with the Israel-based NGO NATAN to enhance preventative and primary healthcare, particularly in the realms of women's and maternal/fetal health. This endeavor will include training sessions for midwives, community health professionals and health educators in the Dhading district, which was heavily affected by the earthquakes. Support from JDC also furthered the efforts of a professional from Israel's Magen David Adom (MDA) to serve as a community health delegate at the Norwegian Red Cross field hospital in Sindhupalchuwk, a village severely impacted by the earthquake. The MDA representative trained local health services staff and promoted good hygiene among children. Under his guidance, the local trainees composed and recorded a public awareness song about hygiene that now airs 10 times a day on local radio stations.

## JDC'S PARTNERS ON THE GROUND

JDC's robust network of local and international partners strengthens our ongoing efforts in Nepal. These partners include: The Afya Foundation, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, Heart to Heart International, Homenet, The IDF Field Hospital, Integrated Development Society – Nepal, Israel Trauma Coalition, Magen David Adom, NATAN, Possible Health, Rural Reconstruction Nepal, Teach for Nepal, Tevel b'Tzedek, UNICEF.

## WITH MUCH APPRECIATION

With the passage of time, the crisis in Nepal has retreated from the daily headlines, but the Nepali people are still vulnerable and needs are still intense, especially in light of extreme weather conditions and a fragile humanitarian situation. **Generous support from the Jewish Federations of North America has made it possible for JDC to continue to deliver humanitarian aid, focusing on the most vulnerable: women, marginalized groups, and people living in isolated villages, with little access to humanitarian aid.**

JFNA has also furthered JDC's efforts to transition from the emergency response phase to the recovery phase, which provides sustainable solutions to issues such as poverty, inequality of opportunity, and women's vulnerability.

Thank you, JFNA, for standing by the people of Nepal, as JDC and its field partners help them recover from this disaster, while creating opportunities to improve their lives.

## FINANCIAL REPORTING

As of December 2015, JDC has allocated \$1.7million of the \$2.4 million raised for JDC's Nepal emergency and recovery efforts. The chart that follows represents an up-to-date distribution of funds by program sector.

