

THE YEAR NEPAL SHOOK

A RESPONSE BY OXFAM IN NEPAL



OXFAM

Rise up like a phoenix

*Scared faces, ruins around
Screams of agony, desperate tears
Wailing children, mothers not found
A valley of death, submerged in fears*

*Rise up from the ashes
Like a Phoenix you must
As your whole world crashes
To the ground, reduced to dust*

*The future waits to be written anew
So gear up, you have a long way to go
Let hope be your armour, and courage lead you through
To resurrect and re-build the country you call 'home'.*

Sumi Kannoth

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**To the brave survivors of the 2015 earthquake
and Oxfam's dedicated response team**

**The Year Nepal Shook
A Response by Oxfam in Nepal**

Production: Media, Advocacy and Communications Team Oxfam in Nepal

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Note: The names of the children have been changed to protect their identity

introduction

When the people of Nepal woke up on Saturday April 25, 2016, and went about their usual business, no one knew an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 would strike the country at noon time. The nation had not faced a disaster of a comparable size for over 80 years. The impact was severe. The earthquake literally hit the heart of the nation: the old city of Kathmandu, including the wooden Kasthamandap temple, after which the capital is named. Out of 75 districts, 39 were affected, with 14 districts declared worst hit. While nearly 9000 people died, more than 22,000 got injured and nearly 900,000 houses were damaged or destroyed. The people, already badly affected by a ten year civil war and a reoccurring political crisis, mourned. Although it was a time to grieve, it was also a time to reach out to others, and to face the disaster as a community.

Oxfam in Nepal immediately responded by providing life saving relief including food items and drinking water and by setting up temporary shelters and emergency latrines. After the initial relief phase the focus shifted to recovery and reconstruction. Over the past year, Oxfam reached out over 480,000 people in seven of the most affected districts: Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, and Sindhupalchowk.

This photo essay captures the aftermath of the earthquake, showing people's remarkable resilience in the face of overwhelming loss and destruction. The images also depict how Oxfam helped the survivors in rising from the rubble and restoring their livelihoods. The essay brings together our experiences in countless communities, reflecting Oxfam's vision for building back better and creating a stronger, more equal country.



Photo Credit: Oxfam GB/International

⤴ A woman breaks down when a crowd gathers to watch a digger remove rubble from a collapsed building in Gongabu, Kathmandu.



Photo Credit: * EPA / NARENDRA SHRESTHA

⤴ Community members free a man from the rubble of a destroyed building in Kathmandu. Together with the armed forces, community members immediately take action to search for survivors. Rescue teams from around the world travelled to Nepal in a desperate attempt to find survivors.



Photo Credit: Oxfam GB/International

⌘ Oxfam staff responds in just a few hours after the earthquake. This image shows an Oxfam staff assessing the damage in the Gongabu area of Kathmandu.



Photo Credit: Aubrey Wade / Oxfam

⌘ Among the rubble Oxfam photographers discover children's toys.



Photo Credit: Oxfam GB/International

⌘ Armed forces line up to clear debris in a search for survivors at Patan Durbar square.



Photo Credit: Shristi Rajbhandari

⤴ The majority of locals resided in the open area on the night following the earthquake with fear of ongoing tremors. Instead of tents, this local in Satodobato area brought his bed onto the pavement and slept overnight. He is seen practicing yoga in the early morning.



« Gita returns to her house for the first time after the earthquake. The mother of two lived alone in Sanagaun village of Kathmandu while her husband was looking for a job in Dubai. After the earthquake, she lived nearby in a tent built with plastic sheets.

Photo Credit: Pablo Tosco / Oxfam

This man (name not known) lost his wife when his house collapsed during the earthquake. He lives in the Barabise camp in Sindhupalchowk district, overlooking his previous home. In Sindhupalchowk 97 percent of all houses got destroyed.



Photo Credit: Simone Carter / Oxfam



<< A young girl helps to clear up in the search for bodies under the debris of the temples at Patan Durbar Square a few hours after the earthquake hit. Across the city young people came to the rescue of survivors.

Photo Credit: Shristi Rajbhandari



Photo Credit: Kieran Doherty / Oxfam

⤴ Sindhupalchowk is one of the areas most affected by the earthquake in April 2015. Oxfam selects this as one of the seven working areas to provide intensive support families to get them back on their feet.



Photo Credit: Ed Berry/Oxfam

« On May 1 the first shipment of Oxfam humanitarian aid is loaded on to a truck at Bicester warehouse to go to Birmingham airport en route to Kathmandu for the Nepal Earthquake response. 12 tonnes of aid worth £80,000 including water purification, sanitation equipment and tents to shelter families, is being sent out thanks to the generous support of the British public.

Oxfam volunteer Shekhu Khadka (23) offloads latrines being delivered to the Tundikhel tented camp in Kathmandu. He is one of 500 volunteers trained to react in the event of an earthquake during Oxfam's urban risk management programme. "I'm sleeping under a tarpaulin outside our house but my family is safe. I became a volunteer because I wanted to serve my community," he said. »



Photo Credit: Aubrey Wade / Oxfam



« The Oxfam management team visits an emergency hospital operated by the Indian armed forces to assess the medical needs of people. They photograph this woman with her two sick children.

Photo Credit: Sharbendu De



The Tundikhel Camp lies at the very » heart of Kathmandu Municipality where Oxfam provides water and temporary toilets. This camp, the largest in the Kathmandu Valley, provides refuge to more than 5,000 people.



Photo Credit: Aubrey Wade / Oxfam





Photo Credit: Aubrey Wade / Oxfam / Pablo Tosco/Oxfam



« A 11,000-litre water tank is being installed and 20 pit toilets constructed.



✎ Saim , 45, fled her home with her family when the earthquake began. She finds shelter in the Tundikhel tented camp.

Photo Credit: Pablo Tosco/Oxfam



⤴ Oxfam quickly constructs 20 pit toilets to serve 5000 people at the Tundikhel camp



Photo Credit: Aubrey Wade / Oxfam



Photo Credit: Aubrey Wade / Oxfam

- ⌘ Oxfam staff distribute hygiene kits in Sankhu, a village on the outskirts of Kathmandu Valley. The kits contain a bucket for clean water, a bar of soap, oral rehydration salts, and towels, helping people to meet their basic sanitation needs. Oxfam has also provided the community with emergency latrines to help prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases.



Photo Credit: Deependra Bajracharya

⌘ Oxfam volunteers prepare to dispatch relief goods to Ghairung in Gorkha. Due to the condition of the roads tractors and porters are hired to carry the life saving materials to remote areas. Countless volunteers help distributing emergency materials.



Photo Credit: Oxfam GB

- ⌘ Women prepare to walk home with goods received at Oxfam’s food distribution in Saatbise, Nuwakot. Each of them has a 30 kg bag of rice, a tarpaulin and a bucket containing lentils, oil, salt, rope and soap. Oxfam helped around 450 households on this occasion.



Photo Credit: Aubrey Wade / Oxfam

⌘ LEFT: Torn pages of a reading book lying amongst the rubble are all that's visibly left of Anu Shrestha's (24) house in Sankhu, Nepal.
RIGHT: Anu Shrestha (24) lives with her mother, daughter, husband and 15 other people in a tarpaulin shelter amongst potato fields in Sankhu, Nepal.



Photo Credit: Aubrey Wade / Oxfam

- ⌘ LEFT: Roshana Manandhar (20) lives with 70 other people in six school busses in a field in Sankhu, on the outskirts of Kathmandu Valley. RIGHT: The building in which Roshana Manandhar (20) and her family lived stands in ruins in the village in which 980 houses collapsed and almost 90% of buildings have been left damaged.

Chahana, 2, stands with her mother Anita, 21, behind her inside the temporary shelter in which they now live, in the village of Burunchili, Kathmandu, Nepal, on August 28, 2015. Oxfam has helped the residents of Burunchili by supplying them with water storage, toilets and hygiene kits.



Photo Credit: Sam Tarling/Oxfam



⤴ LEFT: Shrijana Karki (26) has taken shelter with her two boys between two parked cars in a shed. She fled their rented apartment with just two hundred rupees (about \$2 US). Her husband who worked in a hotel has been left out of a job by the earthquake. Homelessness and joblessness are a joint curse for many families previously renting accommodation in the city.

RIGHT: Shrijana Karki (26) holds her youngest son as she walks past damaged apartment buildings in Kathmandu



Photo Credit: Aubrey Wade / Oxfam

⋈ LEFT: Indramaya Shrestha (63) searches for belongings in the remains of the collapsed building in which she lived with her brother-in-law and his family when the earthquake struck, killing her brother-in-law and leaving the family homeless.

RIGHT: A suitcase lies open with a few found clothes inside. Amongst the other belongings Indramaya Shrestha found were a single pot, a cooking spoon, some clothes and a plastic bag of loose change.



Riya, 3, stands in the village of Burunchili, Kathmandu, Nepal, on August 29, 2015.

Oxfam helps the residents of Burunchili by supplying them with water storage, toilets and hygiene kits.

Photo Credit: Sam Tarling/Oxfam



Photo Credit: Aubrey Wade / Oxfam

- ⋈ LEFT: Gurash Gureng (22), Deepak Khatri (23), and Asmi Tamang (21) are radio disk jockeys on Radio Sindhu, a community radio station that broadcasts news bulletins, music, and public awareness programming across Sindhupalchowk district. After the earthquake made their building unsafe they relocated to this open bike shed and set up their equipment for broadcast.
- RIGHT: The Nepal earthquake left the building from which Radio Sindhu operated unsafe to occupy.



Photo Credit: Aubrey Wade / Oxfam

⤴ LEFT: A whiteboard hangs from a cracked wall at the Shree Krishna Ratna Ganga higher secondary school in Chautara, Sindhupalchowk. RIGHT: Ravi (11) and his sister Pabritra (10), live with their mother and father in a temporary shelter - sleeping along with hundreds of other people in tents on the playing field in the centre of the village.



Photo Credit: Sam Tarling/Oxfam

^ Prayas, 6, helps his family harvest soya beans in the village of Burunchili, Kathmandu, Nepal, on August 30, 2015. Over two thirds of the houses in the village were destroyed by the earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015.

Oxfam has helped the residents of Burunchili by supplying them with water storage, toilets and hygiene kits.



Photo Credit: Aubrey Wade / Oxfam

⌘ LEFT: The remains of Thulimaya Tamang's house in Chhampi, Nepal.

RIGHT: Thulimaya Tamang (doesn't know age) and Bidieu Marpa (62) stand outside the partially destroyed house they've taken shelter in since an earthquake struck Nepal on April 25th 2015.



Photo Credit: Aubrey Wade / Oxfam

⤴ LEFT: Paper records and a broken computer lie amongst the rubble of the District Development Office in Chautara village in Sindhupalchowk, Nepal.

RIGHT: Maya Shrestha (47) works from a desk she salvaged in a tent opposite the destroyed DDC building where she has worked for 19 years.



Photo Credit: Sam Tarling/Oxfam

⌘ A child sits beneath a mosquito net inside the temporary shelter in which he now lives, in the village of Burunchili, Kathmandu, Nepal, on August 28, 2015. The boy's house was destroyed by the earthquake.

Oxfam helped the residents of Burunchili by supplying them with water storage, toilets and hygiene kits.



Photo Credit: Bal Krishna Kattel

⌘ Volunteers prepare buckets and food supplies to be distributed in Betini, Nuwakot district. Oxfam provides more than 7,000 food baskets and 11,100 hygiene kits in Nuwakot.



Photo Credit: Oxfam/Sam Spickett

⌘ Relief is being carried to people living in the area of the epicenter of the first earthquake. The materials are carried by foot, because the road is inaccessible due to recent landslides. On Sunday 17th May the first team of 36 porters and mountain guides trekked from devastated Barpak, the epicentre of the first earthquake, for over four hours to reach Laprak, a hamlet 2700m above sea level. They were carrying tarpaulins and 640 hygiene kits - the equivalent of almost 2.5 tonnes of aid materials- to over 650 displaced families. The village of Barpak can be seen in the background.



Photo Credit: Kieran Doherty / Oxfam



Photo Credit: Kieran Doherty/ Oxfam

⤴ When the weather grows colder there is a rush to provide people living in temporary shelters in the hills and mountains with life saving materials to better cope during the Winter. This elderly lady is waiting at a school in Madanpur where winter and shelter kits distribution is taking place. Madanpur, 37 km outside of Kathmandu, is one of the places that suffered a number of severe aftershocks.



⌘ Trainees install a metal sheet on an improved temporary shelters in Chokati VDC, Sindhupalchok district. These shelters require nine metal sheets to complete the structure. They stand about six feet tall and can easily accommodate between seven and eight adults.



Photo Credit: Catherine Mahony / Oxfam

Sangita Thami, 18, »
learns to build an
improved temporary
shelter in Chokati
VDC, Sindhupalchowk
district. Sangita and
her team have built
26 such shelters so
far. She says she is
very happy to have
acquired vital skills.
In Sindhupalchowk 97
percent of houses got
destroyed during the
earthquake.



Photo Credit: Catherine Mahony / Oxfam



Photo Credit: Oxfam

⊞ Trainer, trainees and community members along with Oxfam’s emergency response team at the end of a hard day’s work building improved temporary shelters in Chokati VDC, Sindhupalchok district. These shelters require nine metal sheets to complete the structure. They stand about six feet tall and can easily accommodate between seven and eight adults. By July 21, Oxfam has distributed more than 6,200 emergency shelter kits and 1,120 improved shelter kits in Sindhupalchowk.



Photo Credit: Abdullah Ampilan



« Homeless families from remote areas transport donated CGI sheets on their backs. The load proves a heavy one for women whose husbands have died or are abroad as migrant labourers. Oxfam staff Abdullah Ampilan witnessed how a woman was unable to lift the load but after a few failed attempts walked away with the sheets. Above the zigzagging road up to the village can be seen.



« Oxfam staff often had to travel through extremely difficult terrain to reach remote communities. Says Abdullah Ampilan: "To reach Satyadevi in Dhading, we drove for 6 hours through Nuwakot district. Then we walked for a whole day, crossing rivers and landslides. One of my colleagues, Bibek Balla, fell when crossing one landslide and slipped down a few feet. We tried to get paid porters for our luggage but the locals felt it was too risky. It was a terrifying journey but we made it and reached those who needed our help most."



Photo Credit: Abdullah Ampilan



⌘ Oxfam has provided water and sanitation in temporary schools in Gorkha. This temporary school for 300 children in Chapabhangyang has received latrines for both boys and girls with soap and buckets, a new water supply and regular hygiene classes. The original school in Chapabhangyang was destroyed in the 2015 earthquake.



Photo Credit: Kieran Doherty

⤴ Students at the Chapabhangyang school react excited during a hygiene class conducted by Oxfam staff



Photo Credit: Kieran Doherty/ Oxfam



« The communities living in Ghairung, Ghorka, take part in an Oxfam funded Cash for work scheme to rebuild a 5 km trail. The trail connects two villages, a health centre and a local market and will benefit 1140 households. The 153 people (both men and women) taking part in the scheme are being paid 510 rupees per day for 32 days.



Photo Credit: Kieran Donerty/ Oxfam



Photo Credit: Kieran Doherty / Oxfam



Photo Credit: Kieran Doherty/ Oxfam

⤴ After the earthquake occurred the irrigation channel that was here went down the drains. Bimala is one of the women participating in Cash for Work to restore the local irrigation system.

With this one: Bimala Balami is one of the women participating in Cash for Work to restore the local irrigation system in Dakchinkali village in Kathmandu district. 'I like the job because I know it is for the welfare of my entire village. People do need proper irrigation for their fields. If I don't do this work people won't even be able to eat. And besides: at the end of it I will be paid handsomely,' says Bimala..



Photo Credit: Kieran Doherty/ Oxfam



Women rebuild Dakchhinkali 's irrigation channel. The old irrigation channels were destroyed by a landslide caused by the earthquake.

There are a total of 25 cash for work programmes in the area, reaching a total of 600 direct beneficiaries. Other cash for work programs include debris clearing and road repairs.

Photo Credit: Kieran Doherty / Oxfam



Photo Credit: Rakesh Tuladhar/Oxfam

- ⌘ Fifty-one-year-old Dil Maya Sunar (second from right) hands a stone from a collapsed school block to her colleague at Golma Devi School in Timbu of Sindhupalchowk district. “We generally work on the farm but this time, the earthquake swept away our land where we would grow corn, and I’ve nothing else to do,” Dil Maya said. She worked for 15 days under Oxfam’s Cash for Work Programme to clear the debris from the school, earning daily wage of Rs 460.



« Anita K.C., 23, was volunteering for a local aid group when 17 days later the second quake hit and she returned home to find her house destroyed. After the first quake her family lived in a tent before moving into a temporary shelter built by her uncle. Anita is studying a journalism BA and also preparing to take entry exams to the Nepal police force.



Photo Credit: Sam Tarling/Oxfam



Photo Credit: Sam Tarling/Oxfam

« Saroj's house was destroyed by the earthquake. His brother was trapped under the rubble but Saroj was able to rescue him. He now works as a social mobiliser for Oxfam's local partner. Oxfam has helped the residents of Salyantar by supplying them with water storage, toilets and hygiene kits.



Photo Credit: Roshani Kapali



« Radhika Majhi, 25, uses a tool Oxfam provided in Khadgabhanjyang VDC-4 in Nuwakot district. She is now living in a temporary shelter made from CGI sheets and bamboo mats with her husband, in-laws and her five-year-old son. They lost their house, cattle shed and latrine in the 25 April earthquake. Oxfam has provided her with farming tools and a hygiene kit.



⤴ Indra Khadka (36) and his wife Sharmila Khadka (34) of Tripureshwor VDC, Dhading district, received rice seeds. Indra says, “With a 20 kg sack of rice seeds, we will be able to produce 600 kgs of rice. We are very happy and grateful to have received the seeds from Oxfam.”

Photo Credit: Jes Aznar / Oxfam



Photo Credit: Jes Aznar / Oxfam

« Ram Prasad Sapkota (62) of Tripureshwor VDC, 35 km from HQ Dhadingbesi of Dhading district with the coupon at the distribution point to receive the seeds distributed by Oxfam and its partner, Small Small Farmer Agricultural Cooperative Federation (SFACF) on 27th May 2015 for earthquake affected people of the region. He lost his house during the earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale in April 25 2015.





⌘ Dhar Maya was inside her house when the earthquake struck. Because she suffers from cataract she was unable to get out, and had to be pulled out by her daughter. Once she started visiting the nearby Women’s Centre, she was supported with a cataracts operation. The centres were set up after the earthquake in April 2015 at different locations inside the Kathmandu Valley and offer group counselling sessions for vulnerable women who were affected during the disaster.

‘I am happier than before; now that I’ve had my eyes operated I can see more clearly,’ says Dhar Maya.



Photo Credit: Jes Aznar/Oxfam

⌘ An old woman of Tripureshwor VDC of Dhading checks the quality of rice seeds that she received from Oxfam. Most of the habitants lost their seeds amidst the rubble of their collapsed house in this region.

Dhan Kumari Adhikari (32) of Tripureshwor VDC in Dhading district scatters rice seeds in her field, preparing for paddy cultivation in monsoon which is a couple weeks away. A housewife and a mother of two, Dhan Kumari received the seeds from Oxfam and its partner, Small Farmers Agriculture Cooperative.



Photo Credit: Jes Aznar/Oxfam



Photo Credit: Jane Beesley/ Oxfam, Aubrey Wade/Oxfam

« The earthquake affected the livelihoods of around 2.3 million households across the affected districts.

During the emergency response, Oxfam in Nepal distributes rice seeds and agricultural tools for farmers whose own supplies were lost or damaged in the earthquake. The initiatives paid off: the following season brings new life and abundant harvests.





A year after the earthquake life is gradually restoring to normal. Hundreds of thousands of people still live in tents or temporary shelters but basic community services are being restored and festivals are once more being celebrated. The initiative and resilience of the Nepalese people and the selfless support from countless concerned citizens from across the globe has instilled hope and confidence.

Oxfam has been supporting the people of Nepal for more than 30 years with the vision to create a just society without poverty; a society in which all women and men live a life of dignity, enjoy their rights and assume their responsibilities as active citizens of Nepal. Through its Sustainable Development Programme, Earthquake Response Programme and Media, Advocacy and Campaign, Oxfam in Nepal aims to provide people with livelihood opportunities, ensuring that development-related activities are demand driven and sustainable and that the most vulnerable are empowered to claim their rights.



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