



Key facts and figures, initiatives, progress, challenges, needs and opportunities related to gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of the Nepal earthquake emergency response.

Ensuring a gender-responsive humanitarian effort involves acknowledging the different needs of women, men, girls and boys and promoting their equal opportunities. However, pre-existing gender inequality, as evidenced through discrimination, violence and exclusion¹, means that during times of disasters and conflict, women and girls bear the brunt of the crisis. Displacement, over-crowded centres for the internally displaced, lack of privacy, lack of lighting, limited and unsegregated wash facilities, hegemonic masculinity crises and other factors can often contribute to an increase in incidences of sexual violence against women and girls. Higher levels of violence against women and girls in turn greatly increase the likelihood of unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and complications for reproductive health. Many women, especially the disabled, elderly and female heads of households, are at risk of being overlooked when it comes to accessing relief and recovery assistance in the aftermath of the earthquake. This is the result of several obstacles such as lack of access to information, having to walk for long periods to receive aid, and having to continue to perform household chores. Notably, the high demand of women's time, due to existing gender norms, is intensified in times of emergencies and negatively impacts on their opportunities to seek livelihoods opportunities and equally contribute to the response. An issue of particular concern relates to the lack or loss of documentation (incl. citizenship papers) which, in the absence of a male relative, renders many women unable to access humanitarian assistance and support. Female-headed households may be at a further disadvantage in terms of clearing rubble, salvaging materials and repairing their homes. At the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly, held on May 13, the member states emphasised the importance of integrating a gender perspective in the Nepal earthquake response, as well as ensuring women take an active and equal role in all relevant aspects related to disaster management and rehabilitation.

According to the 2011 census figures², the 14 districts most affected by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck on 25 April (Bhaktapur, Dhading, Dolakha, Gorkha, Kavrepalanchok, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Nuwakot, Ramechhap, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchok, Makawanpur, Sindhuli and Okhaldhunga)³ include approximately:

- 2,710,239 women (50.5% of total population)
- 326,943 female-headed households (26.5% of all households)
- 39,987 women with disabilities
- 163,043 women aged 65 and over (6% of total female population)
- 764,226 girls aged 14 or under (28% of total female population)
- 794,529 illiterate women (29% of total female population).
- In the Gorkha district, the epicentre of the earthquake, the ratio of households that are headed by women is as high as one-third.

Approx. 55% of casualties identified as female - 8,604 people (4,726 female, 3,834 male, 44 bodied unidentified)⁴.

According to UN estimates outlined in the Flash Appeal⁵ approximately:

- 3.2 million women are among the population affected by protection concerns.
- 525,000 are women of reproductive age
- 126,000 pregnant women
- 21,000 of whom will need obstetric care in the coming three months.
- 40,000 women are at immediate risk of gender-based violence.

Sex-disaggregated district-level data received so far⁶ shows that women are among the majority of the earthquake affected populations:

- Kavre: 46 boys, 58 girls, 86 men and 123 women have died.
- Sindhupalchok: 92 boys, 84 girls, 384 men and 592 women have died.
- Rasuwa: 251 cases revealed that 62% of deaths and 59% of injured were women.

Response

Cross-Cluster:

- Women's groups' relief distribution
- Gender assessments and analysis at district level
- Gender and sex-disaggregated data in needs assessments
- Female demographic data
- Gender checklist for clusters
- Nepal gender profile
- Gender marker in FLASH appeal
- Inter-cluster Gender Task Force
- Cluster Gender Focal Points established
- Mapping of women's organisations
- Common Charter of Women's Demands⁷
- Radio messaging on gender equality issues
- Gender inputs integrated into Cash for Work guideline

Protection and Gender-Based Violence:

- Dignity kits
- Women-friendly safe spaces
- Psycho-social counselling
- Orientation on gender-based violence in safe houses and to police officers and protection officers.
- Information centres
- Post-rape treatment kits
- Gender-based violence referral guide
- Trafficking awareness leaflets and radio jingles.
- Strengthened border desks for trafficking prevention
- Domestic Violence Monitoring Framework

¹ See Nepal Gender Profile

² Based on figures from the National Census 2011

³ According to UN Situation Report No.9 (as of 2 May 2015).

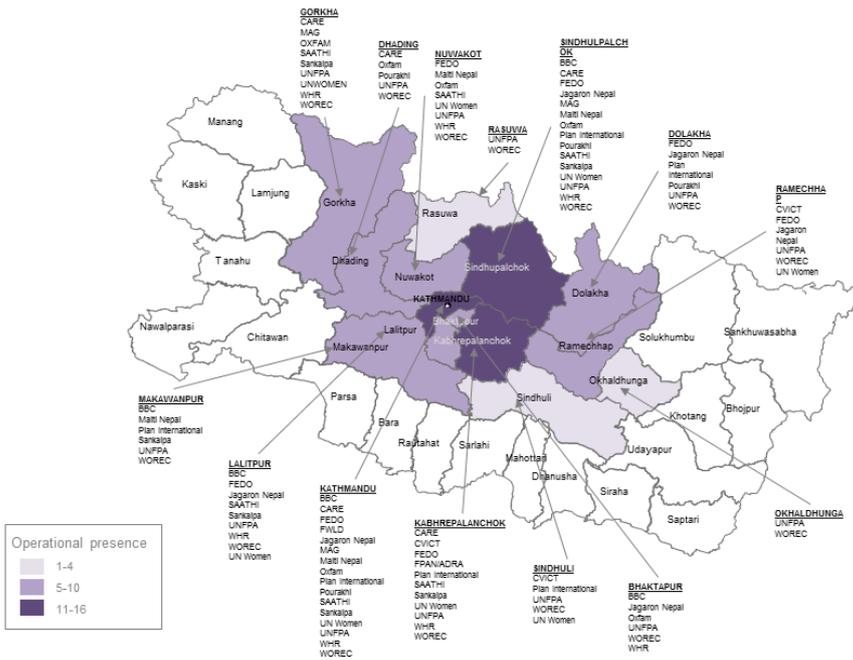
⁴ UN Situation Report No. 16 (as of 18 May 2015)

⁵ According to estimates provided in the UN Flash Appeal, available at http://un.org.np/sites/default/files/nepal_flash_appeal_1.pdf

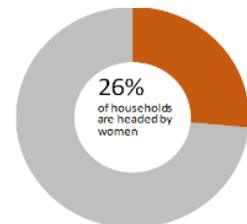
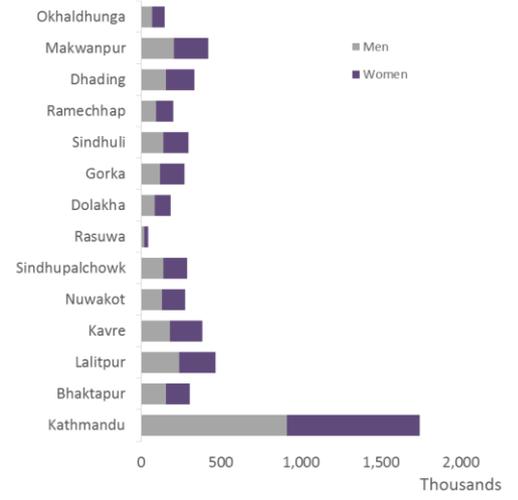
⁶ District Assessment Reports by the Assessment Group

⁷ <http://epaper.thehimalayantimes.com/Details.aspx?id=2864&boxid=42261388&dat=5%2F14%2F2015>

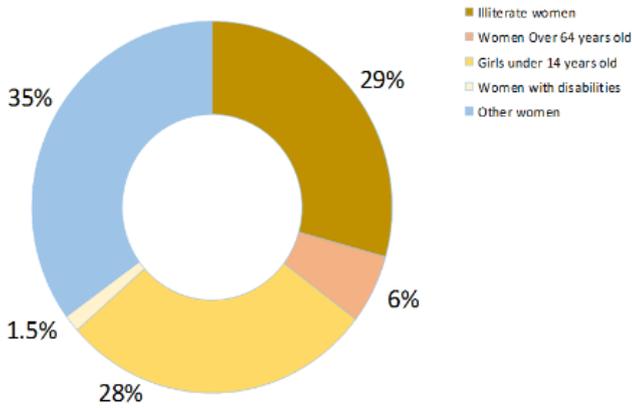
Gender focused interventions by agency in the 14 most affected districts



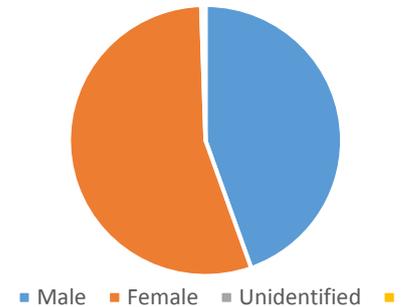
Sex-disaggregated population in the 14 most affected districts



Most vulnerable women in the 14 most affected districts

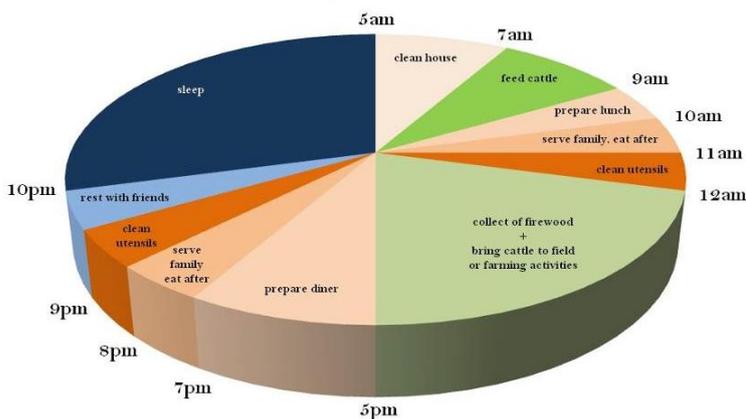


55% of identified casualties so far are female

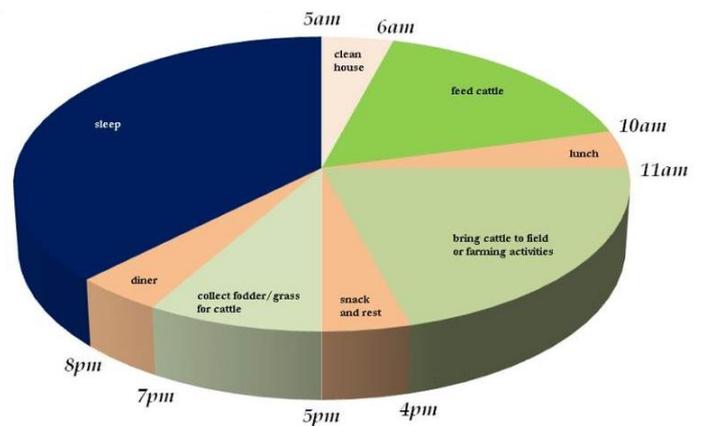


Gender Clock Time Use Survey conducted by ACF in Chaugada VDC, Nuwakot

Daily Time Use - Female



Daily Time Use - Male



Specific challenges and needs

Coordination

- **Gender discrimination** in the distribution of relief services and access to information, especially towards female-headed households. Men's political affiliations are reported to be a key factor.
- **Delays in the delivery** of consignments containing items for distribution and materials for women-friendly spaces, as well as allegations of misuse or inappropriate distribution of relief materials.
- **Dhading:** No mechanism for, or clear instructions on, paying special attention to women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities in the distribution of relief.
- **Gorkha:** CDO needs gender equality advocates to be included in the relief and monitoring teams.
- **Dedicated gender focal points** needed in the local hubs and sub-clusters.

Health

- **Single women** are fearful of walking distances alone and therefore need local provision of basic health services.
- **Trauma, fear, anxiety and stress** have all been reported among women; there is a need for psychosocial support.
- **Around 12 babies** are being born every hour in the 14 most affected districts without access to basic healthcare.
- **Gorkha:** High rates of child marriage and early pregnancy mean an increased likelihood of complications during child birth and child mortality. Damage sustained by local hospitals and health centres has limited women's access to sexual and reproductive health services. Two hospitals at the district level, three primary health centres and 25 health posts have been partially damaged, while 33 health posts have been completely destroyed. Pregnant women are suffering from bleeding, miscarriages and damp living conditions. Lack of safe and private spaces for women to bathe, as well as a lack of hygiene materials, have also been reported in some VDCs.
- **Lamjung:** Women have reported concerns of an increased risk of pregnancy due to their husbands' reluctance to use contraception and the lack of access to contraception.

- **Dhading:** Lactating mothers with newborn babies and pregnant women need residential care nearer to health institutions, including via Health Posts and Sub-health Posts. A crack in the birthing centre and health post presents a risk to accessing proper medical support.

Nutrition and Food

- **All food aid and nutrition services should take into consideration the age and gender specific requirements**, e.g. micronutrients, including for pregnant and lactating women and children.
- **Sindhupalchowk, Dhading and Bhaktapur:** Lack of access to nutritious food – including animal protein – increases the risk of serious nutritional consequences for women, particularly those who are pregnant or lactating.

WASH

- **Women's workload has increased** as they have to walk further to collect water and to access covered space for defecation. The latter has been particularly reported in Dhading.
- **Female toilet facilities are needed in schools.**
- **Women and girls need clean water,** water storage containers, private, clean latrines, hygiene materials and hygiene in all districts.

Shelter and Camp Management

- **The number of people in shelters and camps is increasing**, leading to overcrowding and a lack of private safe spaces. More tents are therefore needed in all districts to establish more safe spaces.
- **Lighting** is a key concern for women's security in camps.
- **Dhading:** Temporary shelters made of tarpaulins provide poor living conditions, food and sanitation facilities for lactating mothers, making it difficult to ask them to leave health institutions after giving birth. There have been reports of new-born babies dying in such temporary shelters.
- **Sindhupalchowk:** There are not enough tarpaulins to meet the need, leaving more women in vulnerable situations.

Early Recovery and Cash

- **Entrepreneurship support has been requested by women staying in shelters**, including in handicraft businesses, especially in Bhaktapur

Protection

- **Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot:** Reports of traffickers entering temporary shelters disguised as relief workers.
- Maiti Nepal and other agencies report an increase in interception cases.
- **Sexual abuse, harassment and gender discrimination** have been reported in Kavre district, with women facing discrimination and exclusion during their menstruation period in the camps.
- **Reports of gender-based violence (GBV)** received through safe spaces. There are concerns for young girls' safety after the death of parents, grandparents and other relatives who would normally protect them.
- **Women, especially single women and girls**, reporting fear of sexual abuse in the temporary shelters due to men's increased alcohol consumption.
- **Kathmandu valley:** two GBV cases have been reported in Thankot and girls in transit homes need support.
- **Dhading:** WDO receiving number of GBV cases from their local cooperatives, GBV women's groups and individual women. The WCO lacks the financial resources and logistic capacity to monitor the situation in all camp settings and assess the situation of GBV and trafficking risks.
- **Psychosocial counselling services and GBV Watch Groups** need to be provided in the 140 centres (10 service centres for each district).
- **Sindhupalchowk and Kavre:** More dignity kits are required and women's groups require support to distribute dignity kits to the five excluded groups of women – female home-based workers, female migrant workers, female trafficking survivors/victims, conflict affected women.
- **Gender-sensitive parenting orientation needed** for single fathers who lost their wives in the earthquake.

- <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/gender-based-violence>
- <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/coordination/gencap>
- http://un.org.np/coordinationmechanism/gender_equality
- <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/gender-task-force>
- <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/protection>
- <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/gender-based-violence>
- <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/child-protection>

Creation Date : 21 May 2015 | **Data source**: UN Situation Reports, Care Rapid Gender Assessment, Oxfam Preliminary Assessment, Assessment Group District Assessment Reports, WOREC, MAG, Maiti Nepal, Saathi, WHR, FWLD, Pourakhi, BBC, Jagaron Nepal, FEDO, FPAN, ADRA, CVICT, Plan International, Sankalpa,.Cluster Gender Focal Points (Protection, GBV, Child Protection, Shelter/NFI, Food Security, Early Recovery, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education, Camp Coordination/Management), Gender Task Force, UNICEF Nepal, UNFPA Nepal, UN Women Nepal.

Key contacts : |

Gender Task Force: pillaya@un.org, marie.petterson@unwomen.org

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Cluster: delapuenteforte@unfpa.org, Solberg@unfpa.org

Protection Cluster: carolineblay@yahoo.com