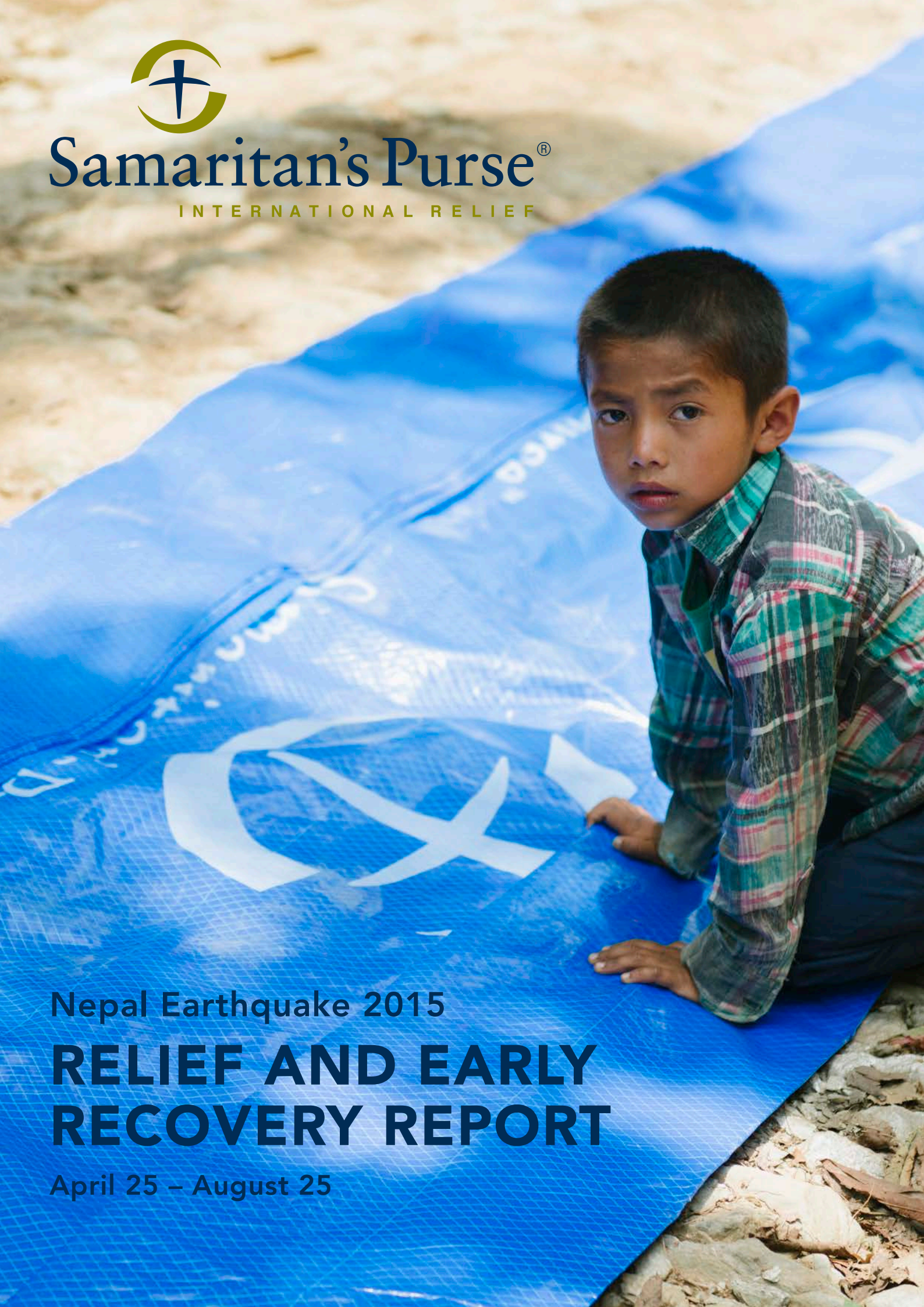




Samaritan's Purse®

INTERNATIONAL RELIEF



Nepal Earthquake 2015

# RELIEF AND EARLY RECOVERY REPORT

April 25 – August 25





## In Association With

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# MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

It is a great pleasure to report and reflect upon our relief services in Nepal since the April 25 earthquake. That very same day, Samaritan's Purse deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), sending relief professionals from the U.S., Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, Cambodia, and the Philippines to work alongside the Government of Nepal, local partner agencies, and other humanitarian actors. Nepal became a priority for our international operations, pulling support and staff from across our global offices.

On May 8, I arrived in Kathmandu for an executive-level visit to Nepal on behalf of Samaritan's Purse, to support our DART and help make funding decisions for the relief effort. Only a few days later the second earthquake happened, changing my perspective on Nepal — the disaster became personal. Although I wasn't looking for a new role or a new country to call home, I accepted the opportunity to become the Country Director, and I am excited to have my family living in Kathmandu as Samaritan's Purse serves earthquake survivors over the coming years.

I would like to thank the fine public servants in both Kathmandu and the districts as they facilitated our relief activities. Samaritan's Purse is an action-oriented organization, and we felt the needs were so significant and pressing that we chartered nine aircrafts into Tribhuvan International Airport filled with relief supplies, such as reinforced plastic sheeting, blankets, kitchen kits, hygiene kits, and water filtration units. These air charters supplemented the 140 trucks of relief goods we delivered from India to our warehouse in Kathmandu. The assistance we received through the local authorities and public servants was integral to our speedy distribution of aid to earthquake victims.

Samaritan's Purse remains deeply committed to Nepal's recovery. We are currently working on project agreements to help in the redevelopment of earthquake-affected communities through reconstruction and recovery programmes. We look forward to working in partnership with the Social Welfare Council, District Offices, and local partner NGOs in the coming years.

Kindest Regards,



Darren Tosh  
Country Director  
Samaritan's Purse International Relief







# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 25 and May 12, 2015, two major earthquakes with magnitudes of 7.8 and 7.3 devastated the central region of Nepal. The initial earthquake was the strongest in over 80 years. It resulted in widespread damage to homes and community infrastructure, mass displacement, disruption of livelihoods, and caused a significant loss of life across the country.

## SAMARITAN'S PURSE RESPONSE

Immediately after the earthquake, Samaritan's Purse (SP) responded by deploying a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to provide emergency relief to those affected by the disaster. Samaritan's Purse began assisting through emergency medical aid, as well as through providing emergency shelter (tarps), food, non-food items (NFI), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities.

Through strong local partnerships and organizational capacity, SP was among the

first organizations providing tangible relief in affected communities in 17 affected districts. Early in the response, SP set an ambitious target of assisting 50,000 households within the relief phase. Less than two months following the earthquake, SP had surpassed that target. Since then, a new target has been set for providing emergency shelter through distributing corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) kits to 25,000 households.

Samaritan's Purse is committed to helping those who are still suffering from the disaster through the recovery and rehabilitation phase. Since the earthquake, SP has been among the first international organizations to become registered with the government. Over the next couple months, SP will be continuing towards reaching the new emergency shelter target and developing its five year plan which will aim at supporting self-recovery efforts through assisting in the rebuilding of community infrastructure and the restoration of livelihoods.



*Left to Right: Mr. Darren Tosh (SP Nepal Country Director), Right Honourable Sushil Koirala (Prime Minister of Nepal), Mr. Ken Isaacs (Samaritan's Purse Vice President of Programs and Government Relations)*







# BACKGROUND

On April 25, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, with an epicentre in Gorkha district, northwest of Kathmandu. The earthquake was the largest to hit Nepal in over 80 years and was followed by hundreds of aftershocks. This included a 7.3 magnitude earthquake that struck on May 12 with an epicentre in Dolakha district, northeast of Kathmandu.

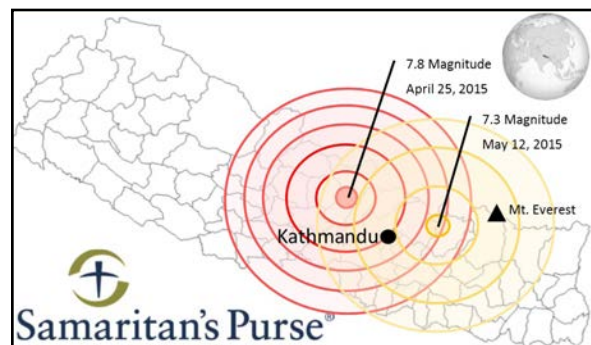


Figure 1. Nepal earthquakes 2015

The Government of Nepal (GoN) and the United Nations (UN) report that an estimated 9,000 people were killed in the earthquakes, with over 285,000 houses damaged and over 600,000 houses destroyed as a result of the earthquakes<sup>1</sup> (Figure 1). In total, an estimated 8 million people were affected by the earthquakes with over 2.8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Much of the key infrastructure in the affected districts has been damaged or destroyed, including schools, health posts, and access roads.<sup>2</sup>

The GoN and the humanitarian community prioritized shelter and non-food items

(NFIs) due to the mass displacements caused by the damage and destruction of over three quarters of a million homes. Medical treatment, health and nutrition, livelihoods, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) were also identified as needs among households that were most affected by the disaster.<sup>3</sup> These needs became even more pressing with the arrival of the monsoon rains in early June. The challenging terrain of Nepal meant that some areas could only be reached by helicopter or by foot. Landslides during and after the earthquakes hindered relief efforts and posed an ongoing risk to people's lives.



The earthquake on May 12 triggered a number of landslides, such as this one in Dolakha District.

<sup>1</sup> UNOCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, Aug 24, 2015

<sup>2</sup> GoN, Post Disaster Needs Assessment, 2015

<sup>3</sup> REACH, Shelter Recovery Assessment, 21-26 May 2015







# OBJECTIVES

## OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Save lives, alleviate suffering, restore dignity and promote the self-recovery of earthquake affected people

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Provide emergency medical care for affected individuals

Increase access to temporary shelter for affected households

Increase access to safe WASH for affected households and schools

Increase the level of food security in affected VDCs

## TARGETS

Reach  
**50,000**  
earthquake-affected households  
with emergency relief assistance

Reach an additional  
**25,000**  
households with emergency  
shelter materials





  
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# METHODS

Immediately following the initial earthquake, Samaritan's Purse (SP) mobilized an Incident Management Team at its International Headquarters. A Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) was deployed to Kathmandu. Through cooperation with the GoN, the Nepal Army, the US Marines, and Mission Aviation Fellowship, SP was able to conduct rapid assessments and provide emergency relief in remote areas of Rasuwa and Dolakha within days of the earthquakes.

The DART responded with an emergency medical team and distributions of NFIs, which included a tarp, two blankets, a hygiene kit, a cooking kit, a jerry can, and Aquapura water treatment. Based on initial needs assessments, SP soon developed a temporary shelter program and an early recovery WASH program. Samaritan's

Purse also partnered with UN World Food Programme (WFP) to register households for general food distribution and provide children 6-23 months old with the nutritional supplement Plumpy'Doz.

## RESPONSE COORDINATION

Samaritan's Purse coordinated with the GoN at the national level in Kathmandu as well as with other humanitarian actors within the UN cluster system to determine which districts SP would work in. Samaritan's Purse then approached the Chief District Officer (CDO) and the District Disaster Relief Counsel (DDRC) within each identified district to gain permission for SP to conduct operations within the district.

Specific Village Development Committees (VDC) in which SP operated in were selected



*During the response phase, Samaritan's Purse chartered nine flights into Kathmandu, in order to have a high quantity of relief supplies to quickly distribute to earthquake survivors.*





*The United States Marine Corps provided the Samaritan's Purse team transportation to the Dolakha on May 11. SP received transportation by Huey Helicopters and, a few days later, Ospreys.*

in coordination with the CDO in order to avoid duplication and to determine which VDCs SP was best equipped and positioned to support. Through national partnerships, SP was able to reach affected populations in 17 districts with a primary operational focus on Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading and Dolakha. Samaritan's Purse distribution

teams worked closely with VDC secretaries to create beneficiary lists. The projected number of households that SP would be serving was added up across all districts and a target of reaching 50,000 households with emergency assistance was set — which was felt to be an ambitious, yet achievable, target.

### **USMC ASSISTANCE**

In coordination with the Nepal Army, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) offered support to Samaritan's Purse, first by transporting five members of our team to Dolakha on May 11 to conduct medical assessments. When the May 12 earthquake devastated Dolakha, with SP team members experiencing the earthquake first-hand, SP quickly brainstormed ways to deliver supplies to survivors in that district. Having already worked with SP, the USMC offered their services. On May 17, the United States Marine Corps flew six rotations of Ospreys, setting down over twelve ton of tarps for earthquake victims in Jiri, Dolakha.



*The United States Marine Corps flew six rotations of Ospreys to help SP deliver supplies to Dolakha.*



## NEED AND PARTICIPATION

Samaritan's Purse verified the level of need in the VDCs through a two-pronged approach. First, SP conducted needs assessments using mobile data-collection software (iForm) that is pre-programmed with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Multi-cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) and Nepal Initial Rapid Assessment (NIRA) surveys. Next, SP distribution teams worked closely with VDC secretaries and other community leaders to target households based on pre-defined prioritization criteria during registration. Samaritan's Purse promoted participation throughout the relief activities. This included ensuring that a representative sample of beneficiaries (both male and female) were included in the MIRAs and NIRAs. Key informant interviews were also conducted with selected beneficiaries and local delivery partners in regards to decision-making related to the design and delivery

of the project; such as ensuring that the NFI contents were relevant and appropriate (in terms of beneficiary needs, gender, and culture), assessing the environmental impact on the potential distribution sites, and contributing to the formal risk/security assessment before the implementation of activities.

Local authorities assisted in the delivery and monitoring of the project. In June 2015, SP staff conducted focus group discussions with women in three IDP camps and three communities in Nuwakot to evaluate relief activities and gain the respondent's perspective on programming needs over the monsoon period.

## ADDRESSING VULNERABILITIES

Among the challenges resulting from damaged or destroyed shelters is a lack of privacy and lack of dignity. In this



*Community members in Charikot, Dolakha help to unload a SP truck filled with supplies for an NFI distribution. SP sought to engage the community as much as possible throughout the distribution process.*





*These beneficiaries in Jiri, Dolakha received emergency relief items from Samaritan's Purse following the May 12 earthquake. The supplies made it to Jiri with the support of the United States Marine Corps Ospreys.*

context, female-headed and child-headed households, older people, and people with disabilities are among the most vulnerable. Due to the scale of the disaster, distributions of relief materials were conducted using a blanket approach; nonetheless, efforts were made to ensure that the most vulnerable were not overlooked. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of a simple vulnerability index in the rapid assessments, as well as ensuring that the various needs of the most vulnerable were being addressed during distributions.

Samaritan's Purse held distributions in central locations for beneficiaries to access, usually recommended by local officials. Given the terrain, some beneficiaries had to walk up to four hours to reach distribution points. Small, winding roads meant that SP trucks carrying supplies could not always access these areas. Supplies sometimes had to be loaded into a smaller truck, which would make multiple trips to the distribution point.

## **INVITING FEEDBACK**

Samaritan's Purse made every effort to ensure the appropriateness of the response and accountability to beneficiaries. Feedback mechanisms were in place which allowed beneficiaries to raise any concerns, complaints, or other feedback throughout the life of the project, including a desk and staff member to address and follow-up on any concerns or complaints from community members during the distributions. Thus far, community feedback has been positive.

A significant component of SP's overall earthquake relief and early recovery objective in Nepal is to promote self-recovery. The items procured and distributed as part of this project helped beneficiaries meet their most basic needs. In turn, this will help reduce vulnerability and alleviate suffering among beneficiaries which will allow them to maintain/regain human dignity and begin rebuilding their homes, livelihoods, and future possibilities.















# ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

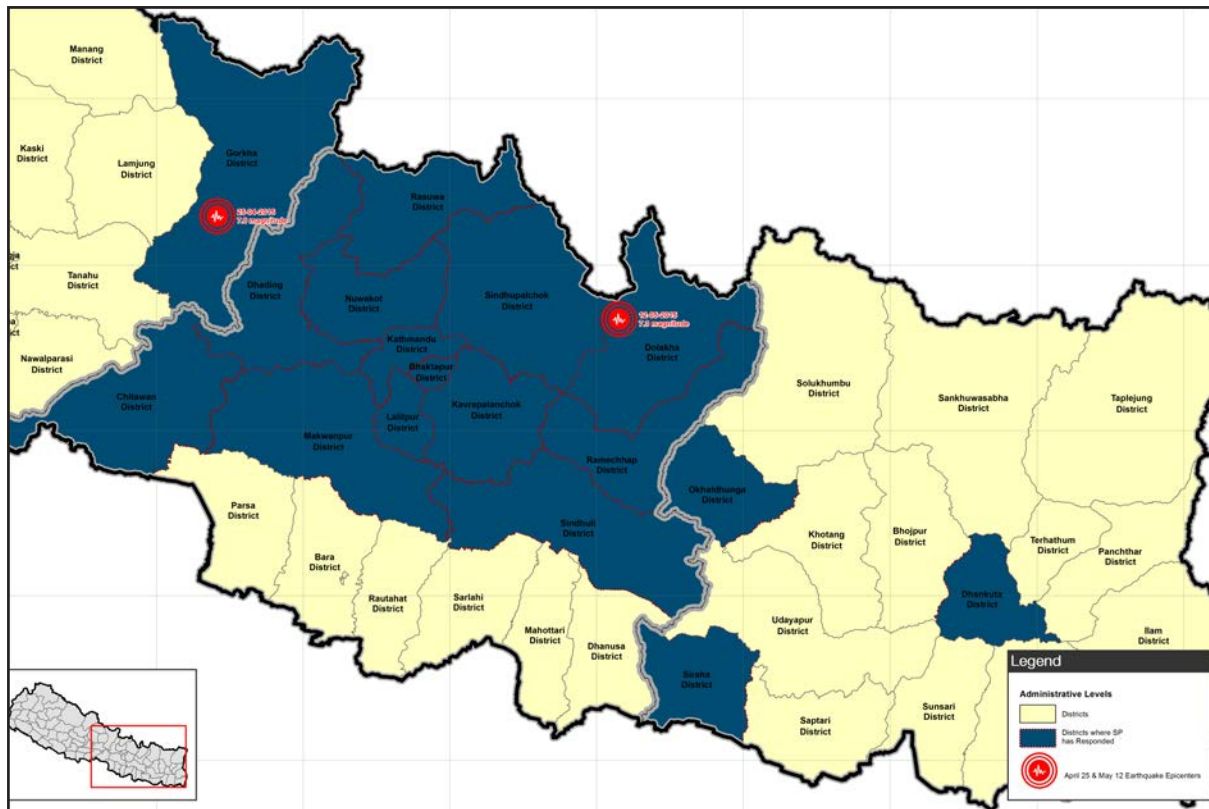


Figure 2. Samaritan's Purse and partner distributions.

Strong local relationships and organizational capacity enabled SP to be among the first organizations providing tangible relief in 17 affected districts (Figure 2). Samaritan's Purse was also among the first international organizations to become registered with the GoN following the earthquake.

Based on rapid assessment, the distribution of NFI, including tarps, was a top priority for SP during the relief phase. With the support of several local partners, SP reached over 60,000 households with NFI distributions (Table 1). To address hygiene needs, hygiene kits were standard in NFI kits and consisted of basic hygiene products such as toothpaste, sanitary pads, washcloths, and more. Jerry cans and Aquapura were also distributed to increase people's access to safe water.

## MEDICAL SERVICES

In partnership with Anandaban Hospital, an SP emergency medical team provided care to 473 earthquake victims. This included 50 major and minor surgeries, 12 wound-related infections, 48 acute respiratory infections, and setting of 34 fractures. On May 5, a medical clinic was also established in Makwanpur district, to respond to urgent medical needs.

## WATER AND SANITATION

Samaritan's Purse staff and Community Health Volunteers trained beneficiaries on the correct use of Aquapura and safe hygiene and sanitation practices. Other WASH activities included the installation of hand-washing stations, construction of latrines/distribution of materials, and installation



of Sawyer water-filter systems in 23 schools (Table 2).

### FOOD NEEDS

In May, SP addressed immediate food needs by distributing rice, beans, oil, and salt to 14,830 households (Table 3). Each household was given 15 kilograms of rice, 2 kilograms of lentils, 0.5 litres of oil, and 0.25 kilograms of salt to support them in the immediate wake of the earthquake. In addition, SP entered into an agreement with WFP to carry out beneficiary registration and the distribution of the nutritional supplement Plumpy'Doz for children 6-23 months old (Table 4).

### SHELTER PROVISIONS

During the initial push to provide tarps alongside NFIs, it soon became evident that households needed a more substantial temporary shelter to sustain them through the monsoon period. Samaritan's Purse quickly developed a shelter strategy based on the degree of structural damage to the house and a basic household vulnerability



*Dr. Lance Plyler, head of the Samaritan's Purse medical team, treats patients at a mobile clinic in a remote village in Makwanpur district*

index. After coordinating with the CDO in the respective districts, SP took a primarily blanket approach with providing corrugated galvanized iron sheets (CGI) with the exception of some beneficiaries most in need. Those beneficiaries were provided full Quonset shelters. For both the CGI kits and the full Quonset kits, one tool kit was also distributed among every four households (Table 5).



*Samaritan's Purse designed a Quonset-style hut as an option to beneficiaries of shelter distributions.*



**Table 1. NFI Distributions**
**As of Aug 25th, 2015**

District	Tarps	Blankets	Kitchen Kits	Hygiene Kits	Soap	Jerry Cans	Aqua-Tabs	Households
Est. NPR per Item	1,500	365	1,954	1,140	25	320	86	5,390
<b>Total Est. NPR</b>	<b>77,460,000</b>	<b>35,155,340</b>	<b>83,789,474</b>	<b>45,965,940</b>	<b>789,875</b>	<b>9,361,920</b>	<b>2,087,478</b>	<b>254,610,027</b>
Nuwakot	15,787	30,728	14,299	15,489	1,464	14,819	13,992	17,848
Rasuwa	2,169	3,799	1,626	1,843	2,000	1,837	1,649	2,363
Dholakha	16,530	24,700	14,912	10,650	22,811	10,567	4,588	16,152
Dhading	5,264	11,043	4,315	1,385	2,016	0	0	7,179
Lalitpur	3,663	5,561	3,068	3,752	218	1,718	600	4,545
Sindhupalchok	3,148	5,854	698	2,610	1,846	0	444	3,655
Gorkha	763	2,806	685	755	0	315	400	1,488
Kathmandu	0	1,000	500	350	0	0	0	1,100
Sindhuli	280	1,351	280	280	840	0	0	1,071
Kavrepalanchok	813	1,910	250	142	0	0	0	1,055
Makwanpur	547	1,445	898	898	0	0	0	898
Ramechhap	250	1,093	250	843	0	0	500	843
Okhaldhunga	813	1,626	250	250	0	0	500	813
Dhankuta	800	1,600	800	800	0	0	1,600	800
Bhaktapur	613	1,176	50	50	0	0	0	613
Siraha	0	224	0	224	0	0	0	224
Chitwan	200	400	0	0	400	0	0	200
<b>Total Households</b>								<b>60,847</b>

**Table 2. WASH to Date**
**As of Aug 25th, 2015**

District	Latrines Built	Latrine Kits	Hand-washing Stations Built	Water Points Built	POU Water Filters Distributed	Water Filters Installed	Hygiene Promotion
Est. NPR per Item	43,000	2,200	3,800	37,500	15,000	35,500	-
<b>Total Est. NPR</b>	<b>4,687,000</b>	<b>5,024,800</b>	<b>87,400</b>	<b>375,000</b>	<b>660,000</b>	<b>1,136,000</b>	<b>-</b>
Nuwakot	59	680	12	10	44	16	24,672
Rasuwa	4	130	2	0	0	0	877
Dholakha	46	1,474	9	0	0	16	8,697
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>2284</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34,246</b>



*Samaritan's Purse NFI Kit: 1 tarp, 2 blankets, 1 kitchen kit, 1 hygiene kit, 1 jerry can, Aquapura tabs*



Other than specially designed SP tarp, all shelter materials have been locally procured in Nepal including 17,800 bundles of CGI (all produced in Nepal), 2,600 tools (shovels, picks, pliers and hammers), 16,890 kilograms of wire, and 7,300 kilograms of roofing nails.

## BENEFICIARY RESPONSE

Over the last few months of work, SP has received positive feedback from beneficiaries. During NFI distributions, beneficiaries were often excited by the high quality of the cooking kits. SP sought to work in rural and difficult-to-access areas that other organizations were often unable to reach. Beneficiaries in these areas were deeply thankful to be receiving supplies, especially the materials that came from shelter distributions. These materials



*Darren Tosh, Country Director, receives a certificate of appreciation from the Lalitpur CDO.*

provided a temporary fix to their damaged home. Back in the valley, the SP Country Director, Darren Tosh, received a certificate of appreciation from Yadav Prasad Koirala, the Chief District Officer of Lalitpur.

**Table 3. Food Distributions**

**As of Aug 25th, 2015**

District	Rice (Kg)	Beans (Kg)	Oil (L)	Salt (Kg)	Total MT of Food	Households
Nuwakot	66,460	9,542	3,770	1,185	81.33	4,625
Dolakha	810	0	0	0	0.81	35
Lalitpur	15,000	2,975	0	250	18.23	500
Multiple	45,100	0	4,510	9,020	58.52	9,670
<b>Total</b>					<b>159</b>	<b>14,830</b>

**Table 4. WFP Partnership**

**As of Aug 25th, 2015**

District	Number of Household's Registered for General Food Distribution	Number of Children 6-23 months old receiving Plumpy'Doz	Plumpy'Doz Distributed (MT)
Nuwakot	29,158	5,662	14.720
Rasuwa	4,324	798	2.497
Dhading	7,279	1,396	4.093
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,761</b>	<b>7,856</b>	<b>21.310</b>

**Table 5. Temporary Shelter to Date – Ongoing to Target of 25,000**

District	Full Quonest Kit	CGI Kit	Tool Kits	Households
Est. NPR per Item	18,160	14,840	1,300	34,300
<b>Total Est. NPR</b>	<b>21,192,720</b>	<b>104,265,840</b>	<b>2,697,500</b>	<b>128,156,060</b>
Nuwakot	332	2,373	663	2,705
Rasuwa	21	1,503	372	1,524
Dholakha	814	3,150	1,040	3,964
<b>Total Households</b>				<b>8,193</b>







# CHALLENGES

The earthquake presented many logistical challenges, including getting relief supplies into Nepal. Samaritan's Purse aims to procure locally when possible; however, in order to ensure beneficiaries received emergency supplies as quickly as possible in the month following the earthquake, many of SP's supplies had to be flown or trucked into Nepal from Samaritan's Purse emergency supply hubs via India. With the help of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Ministry of Home Affairs, the Department of Customs, and the respective Chief District Officers, to name a few, SP was privileged to have all supplies brought into the country in an efficient manner.

Nonetheless, the influx of supplies coming into the country by air from the entire

humanitarian community was far greater than the Kathmandu airport had ever been designed for. Meanwhile, trucking supplies in from India was a comparatively slower process than using air cargo. This situation required SP to prioritize which relief items would reach beneficiaries first.

As a result, NFI distributions in the first couple months of the response were conducted without having full NFI kits. For example, since tarps and blankets were prioritized, those items were procured first and distributed to households with the greatest need as soon as stock arrived in the SP warehouses. As the remaining items of the NFI kits arrived, secondary distributions were made — again with the priority being given to households who were in the greatest need at the time the stock was on hand.

# MOVING FORWARD

## NEXT STEPS

Continue working towards a target of  
**25,000**  
households with temporary shelter

Develop and implement a Five-Year Plan focusing on rebuilding community infrastructure, restoring livelihoods, disaster risk reduction programs and shelter projects in earthquake affected areas of Nepal





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