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JANUARY—APRIL 2015

The devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal on the 25th of April, 2015 killed nearly 9,000 people, injured over 22,000 and rendered millions homeless. The staff and volunteers at CECI Nepal would like to express their deep sorrow and we pass on our condolences to affected families who lost their loved ones, houses and other assets. We also pledge our support to the people in this recovery and reconstruction process.

## MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE





Dear Friends,

Welcome to the latest edition of CECI Nepal newsletter 'IMPACT'. In this issue you will get a glimpse of our major activities that took place between January and April 2015.

This year brought many challenges but also many opportunities. At the end of April, a devastating earthquake of 7.8 magnitude hit the country killing thousands and displacing millions of people. CECI Nepal immediately started emergency response work, putting regular programming temporarily on hold. The main emergency response included support in shelter, food, health and hygiene and non-food items for the affected families of selected VDCs in Sindhupalchok and Kavrepalanchok Districts. CECI then continued its on-going programs — consulting work with the Skills Development Project, managing its volunteer programs and moving towards completion of commitments to the Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Program. We welcomed new volunteers and bade farewell to outgoing volunteers.

As the relief phase is over, we are now preparing for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the earthquake affected areas. CECI is also preparing for the follow up phase of Program for Accountability in Nepal with World Bank support and Uniterra 3 (U3) with the financial support of the Canadian government. As always, we are strengthening our commitments towards capacity building, good governance, gender equality and social inclusion. I would like to thank all of our partners including government agencies, donors, civil society and other organizations for their continued support.

Finally, I would like to thank Ms Mallika Bhattarai and Mr Phil Robinson for their efforts to bring this newsletter to fruition.

I hope you will enjoy reading this.

Keshava Koirala Country Representative CECI Nepal

ECI Nepal conducted its Annual General Meeting (AGM) from the IIth to the 12th

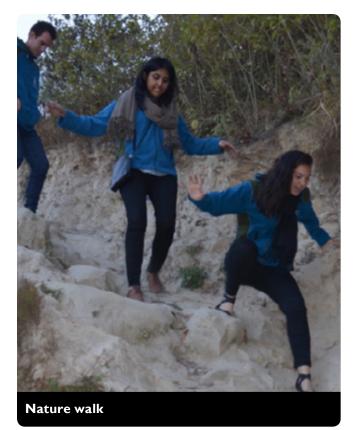


of March at the Dhulikhel Lodge Resort in the Kavre district. The AGM is a big event for CECI as it provides opportunity for all staff members and volunteers get together and promote knowledge

sharing, discuss the achievements of various projects, and future programming to achieve CECI's goal in Nepal.

A total of 44 staff members and volunteers participated in the AGM. There were two participants from Head Office — Mr Dilip Chinnakkonda, the Asia Regional Coordinator, and Ms Marilena Bioli, Director of Programs, who took an active part in workshop deliberations and inspired the whole Nepal team. In addition to the technical presentations, a guest speaker, Prof. Krishna Hachhethu, was invited to present a paper entitled "Contemporary >>>





Nepali Politics". Prof.
Hachhethu gave an
excellent overview on
the current political
situation and the ongoing constitution
making process. A halfday practical training
session on First Aid for
the staff and Volunteers
was also organized with
the support of an expert
team from Dhulikhel
Hospital.

In the evening hours, cultural programs





were presented by Canadian volunteers,
Australian volunteers and the Nepali
staff. The cultural presentations provided
entertainment as well as an opportunity to
learn each other's cultures.



The Nepali team performed a short drama about the Losar celebration and Ms Mallika a typical Nepali "Charya" Bhattarai presented a Manjushree dance, which is

dańce.





## ACTION

HE ADB-funded Skills Development Project (SDP) is moving ahead full speed to achieve its expected goals, such as expanding market-driven and inclusive training, improving TVET sector management performance and improving both the quality and relevance of public training. The consulting services to the SDP Project Implementing Unit (PIU) are managed by a consortium comprising of the World University Services of Canada (WUSC), CECI, Industrial Enterprise Development Institute and Colleges & Institutes Canada. SDP has worked to enhance the capacity of CTEVT to run short-term basic and mid-level training programs in

construction, manufacturing and services in different trades in different regions through its constituent schools, and affiliated Private Sector Training and Employment Service Providers. »



Motorcycle repair training in Bake

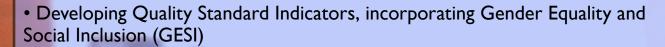


Electrician training





Over a one year period, SDP, with the technical support from the consulting services, has awarded five training packages for a total of 14040 places in all five development regions, benefitting more than 5000 beneficiaries. In addition, the SDP program has been successful in:



- Selecting I0 model schools (CTEVT constituent) through a rapid assessment and Strength Weakness Opportunity and Threat (SWOT) analysis
- Preparing an action plan for the Quality Improvement Plan finalizing 15 new programs and screening 25 new programs from a CECI perspective
- Conducting training towards Occupational Skills Upgrading and Human Resource Development
- Conducting workshops on GESI sensitization
- Organizing Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) orientation to model schools and CTEVT staff
- Completing data collections for training needs analysis of CTEVT and its constituent schools
- Carrying out TVET data surveys in 38 districts of Nepal
- Establishing five Regional Monitoring Offices
- Developing monitoring tools for GESI to minimise gender and excluded groups' disaggregated data
- Establishing a GESI Unit in CTEVT
- Forming a social marketing committee and operating Social Marketing Programs
- Developing a database structure and guidelines for training and employment services, with a monitoring and evaluation framework and tools.



## TRAINING

## WORKSHOPS

## **Animal Health Training**

AUDE Jolicoeur, an Animal Health Advisor, gave four days of training to Junior Technical Assistants (JTAs) from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of February in Chapagaon. The training was organized by Lalitpur District Milk Producers' Cooperative Union (LDMPCU) with support from Uniterra. Anatomy and physiology of dairy buffalos, physical components behind common diseases, nutrition, good feeding management, hygienic milking methods etc. were the discussed topics during the four days training. Twenty JTAs from different milk producing villages of Lalitpur participated in the training.

It was a highly interactive training with a great deal of involvement from participants. The training concluded on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February with a certificate distribution program from the chief guest, Mr Narayan Devkota, chairperson of CDCAN.

Similarly, a two day training course covering the same topics was organized at Bukhel, Sankhu and Bhattedanda for farmers. About 80 farmers, representing different cooperatives, participated in the training. Both JTAs and farmers found this training very useful for maintaining animal health and increasing quality milk production.



Field visit during training session in Chapagaun



Training participants



## **In-Country Orientation (ICO)**

ECI organized a half-day workshop for new AVIDs and their host organizations as part of their in-country orientation. This lasted for two weeks from the moment they touched down in Nepal. The objective of the ICO is to orient the newcomers to the security, political and medical situations; the transport and accommodation options in Nepal; as well as precautions that they must take during their time in Nepal. The ICO also covers their introduction to the AVIDs already in Nepal, the Australian Embassy and their Host Organizations where they are assigned for a year.

The introduction to the Host Organizations took place at the Host Organization (HO) Workshop within Hotel Radisson on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. The supervisors of the AVIDs, their counterpart or team members, and officials from the Australian Embassy (First Secretary, Ms Sarah Boddignton and Program Manager, Ms Sunita Gurung) were present in the workshop.

The responsibilities of Host Organizations, the AVID volunteers, the In-Country Manager and the Regional Director were discussed during the workshop by the In-Country Manager Mr Hari Bastola. Ms Sarah Boddington briefed participants on the Australian Aid Program to Nepal and how the Australian Volunteer Program was part of that Aid program.





## VISITS

## **HEAD OFFICE DELEGATES** VISIT TO **SHANKHU**

ILIP Chinnakonda, 'Humanitarian Aid & Asia Program Manager, and Merilena Bioli, CECI's Director of Programs, visited Shankhu VDC in southern Lalitpur on March 12th and 13th, 2015. The purpose of their visit was to observe the impact of Uniterra support in the field. For one night, a home stay was organized to allow them to see the work and lifestyles of the farmers and to observe their activities during early morning, the next day.

During their stay they observed the work of an all-female cooperative and a chilling centre run by Uniterra partner, Lalitpur District Milk Producers Cooperative Union Ltd (LDMPCU). In the chilling centre, milk from different collection centres are collected, chilled and transported to Kathmandu. The women's cooperative has been helping to acquire loans and provide animal feed to the members, and has also generated operating costs for the collection centre. They have future plans of buying a milk analyser machine and constructing a system to transport milk through pipelines to make processes more efficient.

## **CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATES VISITS CECI'S EMERGENCY RELIEF SITE IN** SINDHUPALCHOK

**WO** representatives of Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD/ IHA) of Canada, Ms Helen Barrett and Mr Jason Tulk, visited Nepal after the 25th of April earthquake struck Nepal. The objective of this visit was to observe the situation and analyse the humanitarian needs of the affected people. They visited Sakhuwa village in the Ghumthang VDC of Sindhupalchok with CECI teams to observe the emergency relief distribution that was carried out with the funded support of DFATD/IHA and CECI itself.



## INDEV COORDINATOR NEPAL VISIT

S Grainne Ryder, the International Development (INDEV) Coordinator from the University of Waterloo, was on a mission to Nepal in the first week of

February. The objective of this mission was to monitor the In-Dev Volunteers' performance and to assess the impact made by the program. During her mission

she visited the Fair Trade Group (FTG), the Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO), the Natural Resource Development Centre (NRDC), Jiri

Technical School, the Centre for Micro Finance (CMF), and the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB) and observed the contributions made by volunteers whilst identifing future program needs. In-Dev volunteers come to Nepal annually as part of the University of Waterloo's internship program under the Uniterra Program.



Grainne and Keshava with FTG member

## COMPLETED PROJECTS MSFP

HE first phase of Multi Stakeholder Forestry Project (MSFP) Lot VI has been completed in February 2015 with good results. The project began in March 2013 and over a two year period it has been successful in creating local-level job opportunities through the forest based enterprise development. As a result of this project, over 17,000 households — 50% of which are disadvantaged groups — have benefited in enterprise development for various products such as allo fiber, honey, paper, bamboo products and others. Four



Keshava Koirala addressing at the training session in Surkhet

## जाजरकोटमा साढे अठार करोड़को मह उत्पादन

यस वर्ष जाजरकोटमा करिब साढे १८ करोड रूपैयाँको मह उत्पादन भएको छ । जिल्लाका विभिन्न गाउँमा किसानले गरेको व्यावसायिक प्रतिशतले बढेपिछ किसान निकै खुसी

कल्पत गाउँमा मात्र यस वर्ष १८ करोड ६० लाखको मह उत्पादन भएको जिल्ला कपि विकास कार्वालयले

कार्यालयका निमित्त प्रमुख मुकेश राम्जालीले दिएको जानकारीअनुसार यस वर्ष व्यावसायिक रूपमा मह

पाँच हजार ८ सव १५ वटा धारमा ४६ हजार ५ सब २० किलो मह उत्पादन

यो गत वर्षको भन्दा ८२ राखेका चार हजार ९ सय ४० घारमा आठ हजार २० किलो मह उत्पादन जिल्लाको सदरमुकाम खलगाको भएको थियो । मह उत्पादनका पिपे र डाँडागाउँ गाविसको पाली र लागि मौसम उपयुक्त भएका कारण यस वर्ष धेरै मह उत्पादन भएको किसान तथा कृषि प्राविधिकहरूले भएकाले कात्तिके महको नामले प्रसिद्ध

मह संकलनका लागि फलहरू प्रशस्त मात्रामा फुलेको हुनाले आफुले गत वर्षभन्दा यस वर्ष धेरै मह उत्पादन

जाजरकोट, पुस ५ (रासस)- उत्पादनमा लागेका ९ सव किसानका गरेको डाँडागाउँ पालीका किसान सेते बढाले बताए। यस वर्ष ७५ वटा पारबाट ४०० किलो मह उत्पादन गरेको उनले बताए।

बढा जस्तै पालीकै भविलाल मह उत्पादन गत वर्षभन्दा ८२ प्रतिशतले बढी हो। गत वर्ष किसानले परिवारले पनि ६० वटा घारबाट २ सब ५० किलो मह उत्पादन गरेको बताए। अहिले जिल्लामा महको मृत्य प्रतिकिलो ४ सय र बाहिर ६ सवसम्म रहेको किसान बताउँछन।

> कात्तिक महिनामा संकलन गरिने उक्त मह स्वास्थ्यका लागि समेत निकै समयमा पानी परेको र माहरीलाई काइदाजनक हुने गर्छ । जाजरकोटको मुख्य कृषि उत्पादनमध्ये डाँडागाउँको मह नेपालगन्ज, काठमाडौँ तथा बिदेशसम्म पनि पुप्ने गरेको छ।

and the Embassy of Finland, and is implemented in 23 districts under the leadership of Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation in various lots. A consortium led by IDS Nepal involving CECI, HIMWANTI and ASMITA

covering 1,521 households, 134 community level adaptation

plans have been prepared; 8 VDC level adaptation

plans have been endorsed

in VDC Councils and 2,500

families have been trained and

supported to establish forest

jointly funded by DFID, SDC

based enterprises. MSFP is

has managed the Lot VI in five districts in the mid- and far-west hills of Nepal. The main role of CECI in MSFP is to provide technical support in project management and livelihood development.

## MSFP news coverage

new forestry groups have been groomed under community management, 500 additional households have access to forest management, 350 local forest group have improved governance (about 60% have carried out Public Audits compared to a negligible number before), 134 vulnerability mapping exercises have been conducted



**Community Involvement in Adaptation Plan** 



Bamboo furniture training in Kalikot



## COMPLETED PROJECTS UNITERRA



NITERRA 2 (U2), which began in 2009 was successfully completed in March 2015. It contributed to strengthening 22 partners' capacities in improving the economic and social well-being of the populations they serve whilst fostering sustainable development towards reducing poverty. A total of 149 Canadian volunteers and 15 national volunteers were mobilized during U2 to support technical and institutional

capacity building of partners, reaching 30,057 beneficiaries who improved their production and productivity, diversified their products, and accessed both domestic and international markets. U2 focused on three major subsectors: Sustainable Forest Management, Agrofood and Private Sector Development. In the last six years volunteers provided technical assistance in diverse areas such as organizational management, marketing, promotion, communication, food safety/quality, international market linkage, policy analysis, database management, proposal writing and gender equity.

The Uniterra volunteer cooperation program is a joint venture of CECI and World University Services of Canada (WUSC). It works to build the capacities



Dr Gonde inspecting the cow shed in Makawanpur

of program partners working to reduce poverty in 13 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin-America through mobilizing both Canadian and national professionals whilst facilitating partnerships and exchanging expertise between Canadian and developing country partners. CECI and WUSC have each been deploying Canadians to overseas assignments for more than 40 years.



# VOLUNTEERS

group of six AVID volunteers arrived in Nepal on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and commenced their year-long assignments. They began work with their host organizations following completion of their In-Country Orientation Program. The CECI Nepal Country Representative, Mr. Keshava Koirala welcomed them by draping the traditional *khada* amidst a small celebration. They have mandates in different government and non-government organizations.



## **Alan Norton**

Alan will be working with the Micro-Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA) Program as a Knowledge Management Officer. The MEDPA Program was established to help low-income families become



Alan's role will be to support and improve the MEDPA Knowledge Management System, enhance the capability of the Knowledge Management Centre and improve knowledge sharing practices.

Alan has recently retired from the IT industry. Alan's experience encompasses programming, analysis, database administration, project management and improving organisational capabilities through continuous improvement and knowledge management programs. He is looking forward to bringing both his skills and experience to his work with MEDPA in Nepal.



## **Annabel Igoe**

Annabel will be volunteering as a Social Work Support Officer at the Nepal School of Social Work (NSSW) in Kathmandu. The NSSW has been offering a Bachelor of Social Work since 2005.



Her role will involve assisting staff to review and improve their field work placements, external engagement and to develop new programs and initiatives.

Annabel holds a university degree in Social Work and has work experiences in India and Australia. She worked in India as a mental health therapist with migrant factory workers from north-east India, and with the Australian Red Cross with people seeking asylum. She enjoys the challenge of cross-cultural social work. She is extremely excited about starting this role, particularly because of the opportunity to work with key educators and NGOs in Nepal.



## **David Norrish**

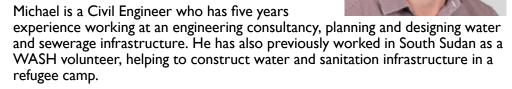
David will be working as a Biomedical Research Support Officer with the Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC): a semi-autonomous body created by the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to promote scientific study and quality research in the country. The NHRC conducts research projects, provides ethical oversight, promotes the translation of research into policy, and strengthens Nepal's research capacity through training.

In his role, David will be assisting with a range of activities, including protocol design, writing project proposals, drafting ethical guidelines for conducting and reviewing biomedical research, and identifying and reviewing guidelines on biomedical research. He will also be providing advice on data collection and data analysis methods.

David holds a Master of Science with a specialization in genetics. He has spent two years researching the basis of Alzheimer's Disease, and previously been involved in research into genetic disorders of metabolism, as well as the evolution of neuronal genes. He has a background in crosscultural education, having spent nine months teaching science in Cambodia and recently volunteering as a tutor to migrants from the Horn of Africa.

## **Michael Tolhurst**

Michael will be working as a WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Support Officer with the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS), within the Ministry of Urban Development. The primary aim of DWSS is to provide and ensure a safe, convenient and adequate water supply to all Nepali people, with sanitation an integral component, and with a specific focus on disadvantaged groups.



Key aims of his placement are to increase the uptake of rainwater harvesting, improve the maintenance of these systems, improve the design standards for water and wastewater systems, and to enhance WASH project planning and implementation within the Climate Change Adaptation and Appropriate Technology Development Section. Michael hopes that he can share knowledge and help to implement strategies and standards within DWSS. He hopes his placement will help DWSS achieve their goal.

## Lorna Törnquist

Lorna will be working as a Policy and Planning Officer with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP). MoHP plays a leading role in improving the physical, psychological and social health of the Nepali people, and is responsible for formulating policies for the effective and efficient delivery of curative services, disease prevention and health promotion.



Lorna has a Master of Development Studies and several years experience working in Cambodia,

with both a non-government hospital and with the US Navy. She will work with the MoHP Policy, Planning and International Cooperation Division and will support the implementation of the third Nepal Health Sector Plan — a five-year plan outlining strategic directions for the national health sector which will contribute to improving community health, as well as increasing access to cost-effective public health measures, essential curative services and health personnel. Lorna will be working with external development partners, line ministries, national and international NGOs, and the private sector to effectively foster a multi-sectorial collaboration for this project.

## (Rachel) Lee Chu Ngui

Rachel will be working as a Research Support Officer with the Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC).

Rachel will work within the NHRC to strengthen research capacity, links with partner organisations and research training. This involves designing protocols, writing project proposals, and providing advice and assistance on data collection methods. Rachel



will also provide support to key staff to identify and strengthen links between the NHRC and the MoHP in the translation of research into health policy. Additionally, Rachel will assist with the design and delivery of NHRC training programs and workshops as required.

Rachel holds a Master of Health Economics and a Bachelor of Business Honours degree majoring in Economics. She has experience working in the government, research and private health care sectors in Australia, including health funding policy and the government reimbursement of medicine and health technology. She had also assisted in developing data collection methods to enhance compliance for aid funding accreditation.



## VOLUNTEERS' BLOG

## "JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTER OF NONE"

**GELE RAPKE BHOTE** 

ACK of all trades, master of none". This is the figure of speech I often use with colleagues during the course of my work as I often find myself wearing different masks in different fields, ranging from dairy to handicraft and others. Recently, I came across an article by Mark Manson that piqued my interest, which states, "You can't have everything; focus on doing a few things really well." This made me wonder if I had made a mistake by becoming a generalist in diverse fields rather than a specialist in a specific field. After asking this question several times and conducting an in-depth selfassessment, my inner self said "No, you didn't."

Dairy and handicraft were the two fields where I got opportunities to work with many volunteers and partner organizations. As partner organizations are limited with their English skills, my main responsibilities included translation from Nepali to English and vice versa. In lanuary, I assisted Mary and Meagan who were compiling producers' stories and doing environmental impact assessments

of member organizations of Fair Trade Group Nepal (FTG-Nepal). Interviews with the managers and producers were held separately to help me understand the same context from different perspectives. Tours of different departments further enhanced my knowledge of the handicraft.

Animal Health Training for Junior Technical Assistants (JTAs) and farmers was another wonderful opportunity that increased my knowledge of the dairy sector. In February, the Animal Health Advisor, Maude Jolicour, conducted training on Animal Health where I acted as a translator and facilitator. Before that training, my knowledge of the dairy sector was limited but my involvement broadened my knowledge. Participants were very enthusiastic in learning new things and the training was successful with a great deal of active participation. Sleeping in farmers' homes, sharing meals, meeting their families and going on village walks were other things that I really enjoyed.

Returning to my concern regarding my work as generalist vs specialist, I can now admit that trying my hand in different fields and diversifying my knowledge has been very rewarding. This will definitely help me to work more effectively with Uniterra as it is supporting many partners in a diverse field.





## VOLUNTEERS' BLOG

## A FIELD TRIP TO SINDHUPALCHOWK

01/04/2015

COUISE Redmond and Anthony Lupi, from the inner-west of Sydney, are currently four months into their 12 month assignments with the National Micro Entrepreneurs Federation of Nepal (NMEFEN). Their assignments are made possible through the Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program, an Australian Government initiative. Louise supports the institutional strengthening of NMEFEN, while Anthony works in marketing and business development, in particular helping the NMEFEN supported micro-enterprises to gain access to national and international markets.

In March, Louise and Anthony undertook a field trip to Sindhupalchowk region with two of their NMEFEN colleagues, Marketing Officer, Ms Sirjana Ale and Intern Ms Pratistha Khadga to meet with micro entrepreneurs (MEs) to better understand how the organisation can provide them with

marketing support. The NMEFEN team decided that the best way to get people to share their ideas was to run workshops on packaging and labelling — something that is not a strength of the MEs.

Louise said that undertaking the field trip was an amazing experience. "Four of us were packed into a small hire-car as we headed for Melamchi," she said. "The roads were very bad, especially in the stretch used by the gravel-trucks. Not great in a little Ford. We had to get out and walk a few times when there was a patch of water to get through. But the biggest challenge came later when we went to the village of Sindakot. We knew it was some distance (16 km) but we didn't realise the car couldn't drive us all the way there. Eventually we had to leave the car, pick up our workshop gear and hike up the hill for 1.5 hours. Luckily the local bus arrived to take us the final 10 min."

"Once we arrived, we got to work," said Anthony. "Our meeting room was the top floor of a mud-brick building where MEs sat on the floor, rain thundered down on the tin roof, and we ran a participative workshop. Around 37 people, all working in leather, and numerous children in and out.

"It was great," he continued. "They are keen for us to develop a brand for their leather work, and a brochure template for them to use for marketing."

Over the next two days, Marketing Officer Sirjana Ale, led two more packaging and labelling workshops, supported by the AVID volunteers and the NMEFEN Intern. The NMEFEN team also met with officials from the local district chambers of commerce and industry as well as the District Micro Entrepreneurs Group Association.

"We have our work cut out for us now," said Anthony. "The NMEFEN Team has been asked to help the three co-operatives in Sindhupalchowk to develop their own brand to help market their products, and to support them to create marketing brochures."

NMEFEN have received funding from the Australian Embassy in Nepal through the Direct Aid Program to support this work.















CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Food Packet; Hygiene kit; Lining up for food package distribution in Sindhupalchok; CECI team conducting assesment in Kavre; Kavre. BELOW: Nazava water filter

## CECINEPAL STARTED EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE PROGRAM

Nepal faced a huge humanitarian crisis after being struck by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake on the 25th of April, 2015. Thousands of people were killed, a hundred thousand were injured and millions of properties were destroyed. To provide immediate support for earthquake victims, CECl started its Earthquake Response Program by distributing relief materials such as tarpaulins, hygiene kits, food packages, non-

food items (such as kitchenware) into two districts — Kavre and Sindhupalchok — which are among the I4 most affected districts of Nepal. In addition, CECI has been conducted post-earthquake and post-relief assessments in the three most impacted districts: Lalitpur, Dhading and Dolakha, and is planning to support earthquake survivors with rehabilitation, reconstruction and livelihood activities.



## **Photo credits:**

Mallika, Frederic, Gele, Anthony, Maude, Karl, Shesh Raj and MSFP program



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