

# NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

## ONE-YEAR UPDATE

APRIL 2016



American  
Red Cross

## Global Red Cross Network Brings Relief after Devastating Quake

In April 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated much of Nepal. Followed by a series of landslides and powerful aftershocks, this tragic disaster took more than 8,900 lives and damaged or destroyed schools, health facilities, water systems, blood banks, and more than 800,000 homes—from the capital city of Kathmandu to remote mountain hamlets many days' walk from the nearest road.

As survivors sifted through the rubble, the global Red Cross network stepped up to meet critical needs, including emergency shelter, health, water and sanitation, cash grants to families and help for people trying to locate missing loved ones. The American Red Cross deployed 40 disaster specialists to provide cash assistance and emergency shelter supplies to those desperate for a safe place to sleep, as well as mapping, communications and other logistical support.

Over the last year, as people affected by this destructive earthquake began the long road to recovery, the American Red Cross and the global Red Cross network have continued working with the people of Nepal to identify and meet vital recovery needs, as well as prepare for future emergencies.

Cash grants have already made an incredible difference for earthquake survivors. With the onset of winter in the Himalayas, keeping warm through the bitter cold months was a critical concern for millions of people living in tents or temporary shelters—many of them unable to return to their damaged homes or unstable land. Disruption of border traffic between India and Nepal exacerbated the situation, drastically reducing the availability of vehicle and cooking fuel, as well as other supplies.

To help people prepare for the cold, the American Red Cross worked alongside the global Red Cross network to distribute 10,000 rupees (about \$100) each to tens of thousands of families, so they could buy warm clothes, blankets or food and shelter items for winter. The flexibility of cash grants allowed families the dignity of choice, while supporting the recovery of local businesses with their purchases.



Gita Rumba and her 11-month-old son, Yursang, sit in front of their small shop in Namtar, Nepal. After the quake, Gita and her family received help from the Red Cross, including kitchen utensils, a hygiene kit and winter clothing for Yursang. She says that the socks, hat and blanket kept her son warm all winter. Niki Clark/American Red Cross

### Global Red Cross Network Response



Shelter material for  
**130,300 families**



Relief items for  
**90,500 families**



Cash grants for  
**94,700 families**



Provision of **98,600**  
**hygiene kits**



Training in shelter construction  
for **6,000 people**

As of 4/7/16

“I’m incredibly saddened when I think of the lives lost, the homes destroyed, and the communities that were forever altered in Nepal—but I am encouraged by the bravery and resilience of the people I met during my visit last year. I remain deeply grateful for the remarkable generosity that powers the work of the global Red Cross network and our partners as we support recovery for people who suffered such heartbreaking losses.”

Gail McGovern, President and CEO, American Red Cross

## Supporting Sustainable Recovery and Safer Communities

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the American Red Cross has raised \$40.5 million to help families and individuals in Nepal. As of March 31, we have already spent or have commitments to spend \$39.1 million to assist people impacted by the disaster. As the people of Nepal rebuild their lives, remaining funds will be used to support the ongoing recovery and disaster preparedness needs of communities still reeling from the disaster.

As a part of this process, the American Red Cross, in partnership with the Nepal Red Cross, is undertaking an earthquake recovery program. The program touches on many aspects of families’ lives—with the goal of developing safer, more resilient communities in three severely affected districts of Nepal: Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Makwanpur.

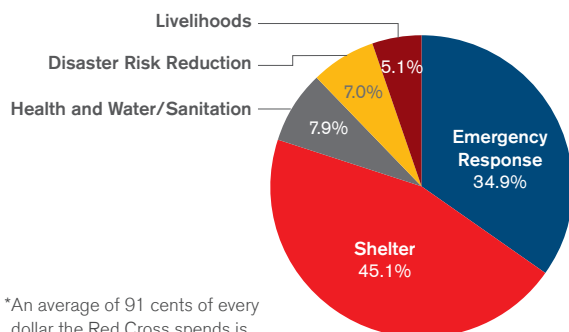
While some recovery and reconstruction projects await final decisions from the Nepal government’s National Reconstruction Authority, the Red Cross recovery program to date already includes robust help for individuals, households and community groups to rebuild

safer homes and improve water and sanitation. We are also providing job skills training so families can earn income and restore their livelihoods. For example, the American Red Cross funds week-long masonry trainings for residents of earthquake-affected communities—helping them gain work skills and teaching safer, more earthquake-resistant construction techniques.

Water, sanitation and hygiene programming aims to increase access to improved drinking water for the most vulnerable households and communities, improve schoolchildren’s water quality and sanitation, and raise awareness by teaching schoolchildren about hygienic practices in using and maintaining facilities in schools.

In addition to ongoing recovery programs, the Red Cross and its partners are also helping educate families about the threat of measles and rubella—and vaccinating millions of vulnerable children. Working in 46 districts across Nepal, the American Red Cross and its partners are helping prevent the transmission of this highly infectious disease from child to child and family to family.

**American Red Cross Funds Raised and Spent/Committed**  
Expenses and Commitments as of March 31, 2016 – US \$39.1M (of \$40.5M raised)



\*An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs.

**Emergency Response:** Includes relief items such as food and blankets, unrestricted cash grants and deploying disaster specialists.

**Shelter:** Includes funding, materials and expertise to help affected families repair or rebuild safer homes.

**Health and Water/Sanitation:** Includes repair and construction of water/sanitation infrastructure in schools as well as working with communities to support basic hygiene, health and first aid activities.

**Disaster Risk Reduction:** Includes disaster and evacuation planning with improved maps and early warning capabilities as well as identifying and mitigating potential hazards.

**Livelihoods:** Includes assistance to help restore families’ sources of income that were lost in the earthquake.

## Emergency Assistance to Recovery: Bringing Help to Champani

Sarishma Gurung was in labor when the earthquake struck, and had to evacuate when the hospital collapsed. She made her way to her home village of Champani—where every single house was destroyed—to give birth to her daughter, Rianna.

In the quake's immediate aftermath, the global Red Cross network delivered emergency assistance to the town, including food, corrugated metal sheets, kitchen supplies and cooking oil. As winter approached, Sarishma and more than 3,200 other mothers around Nepal received infant kits from the American Red Cross—which included a blanket, clothes, hats, and socks for infants, plus nightgowns for moms—to keep them warm.

The earthquake not only destroyed every house in the village, but shifts in the land also took away Champani's steady source of water. Water flow has slowed to a trickle, meaning that residents are having trouble finding enough water for drinking, cooking, growing crops and raising livestock.

As part of the village's recovery, the American Red Cross is helping to install a new 8,000-liter water tank, so residents can have water when they need it. Reliable access to water will vastly improve the lives of Champani's residents, who grow their own food to eat and sell.



Sarishma Gurung holds her 11-month-old daughter, Rianna, outside the school building where she gave birth just days after the April 2015 earthquake devastated her town. Jenelle Eli/American Red Cross

The tank is built to better withstand earthquakes, thanks to strong materials such as reinforcing metal bars and durable cement. Each household is contributing labor for building the tank, while the American Red Cross and Nepal Red Cross supply materials, money and technical assistance.

Kumari Gurung, a mother of two who helped break rubble for the project, said of the work, "I am helping so we can have more water in our village. At the moment there's not enough to drink or keep things clean."

## Masonry Training Provides Immediate, Lasting Benefits

Six hours' drive from Kathmandu, Nepal—past thousands of prayer flags and countless tea stands—Khadga mixes cement and lays bricks. He's one of 28 earthquake survivors training to become a certified mason in Namtar village this week. Khadga worked in the construction trade before the earthquake, but is now learning how to build houses in a way that makes them safer and more resilient. About 50 percent of this week's participants lost their homes in the earthquake.

This American Red Cross-funded masonry training is one of many that teaches participants how to build stone, brick, and cement block houses, so they can use locally available materials. The training—a partnership between the American Red Cross and Build Change—equips families with the improved skills they need to rebuild earthquake-resistant homes for themselves and their neighbors. It also provides the newly minted masons with work boots, a helmet, a vest and a backpack full of tools.

"Learning these new techniques is very good. If there are future earthquakes, there will be less loss of life," Khadga said.



Khadga Bahadur Muktan, one of hundreds of earthquake survivors receiving masonry training funded by the American Red Cross, is learning construction techniques to rebuild sturdier, more earthquake-resistant homes. Niki Clark/American Red Cross



## Earthquake Survivor Joins Red Cross to Help Communities Recover

The quake and resulting landslides not only destroyed the home belonging to Bam Bahadur Tamang and his wife Manga Maya, but also displaced their family and their neighbors—leaving them without their own land to live on or grow food. The global Red Cross network helped, providing Bam and Manga Maya's family with emergency assistance in the quake's immediate aftermath.

As winter approached, the American Red Cross also provided a cash grant and delivered clothes, a blanket, hat and socks to keep their 9-month old son, Riway, comfortable and healthy in the cold weather. "For my son, the blanket was the most useful. It was a very warm," said Manga Maya.

Split earth, falling rocks, and continuing landslides make it too dangerous for Bam's family and neighbors to move back to their village. They are living on rented land until the National Reconstruction Authority finalizes and approves a shelter strategy for the country.

In the meantime, Bam is volunteering with the Red Cross to help keep his neighbors safe and healthy. He recently participated in a Red Cross clean-up campaign to reduce the incidence of disease and diarrhea among children living in the temporary settlement. He's noticed a difference already, saying that kids are healthier and their living quarters are cleaner.

Joining Bam in the relief and recovery effort were Nepal Red Cross workers Rajendra Gujarel and Ganesh



Manga Maya Tamang stoops in her makeshift kitchen. Manga purchased her tea kettle and other kitchen supplies with a cash grant from the American Red Cross. Jenelle Eli/American Red Cross

Acharya. "Being part of the Red Cross means we get a chance to help other people," said Ganesh.

Rajendra is equally proud, saying, "I like working for the Red Cross because it helps humanity."



Bam Bahadur Tamang (left), Rajendra Gujarel (center) and Ganesh Acharya (right) are working together to help the people of Dandagaun recover from the earthquake. Jenelle Eli/American Red Cross

## Thank You

The American Red Cross responds to disasters around the world by mobilizing cash support, pre-positioning relief supplies, deploying disaster response experts and in some cases, implementing recovery and preparedness programs. The remarkable generosity of our supporters—individuals, corporations and foundations—drives our ability to provide relief and assist our partners in the global Red Cross network. We are grateful for your trust.