

**HelpAge  
International**

*age helps*

# 2015 Nepal Earthquake Response Project

## Putting Older People First



**A Brief Summary of HelpAge International's  
Post-earthquake interventions  
from 25 April 2015 – 24 May 2015**

 **ageInternational**

**Disasters Emergency Committee**  
Working together

# KEY INFOGRAPHICS (As of 18 May 2015)

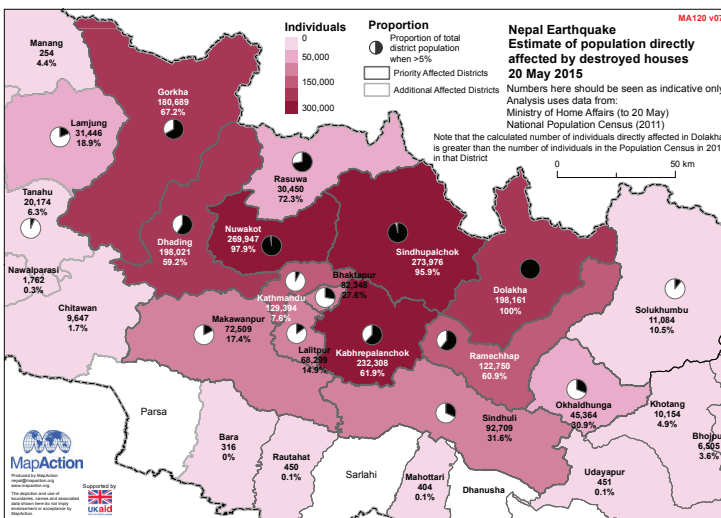
## Background

A 7.8 Richter-scale magnitude earthquake struck Nepal at 1156 hrs local time on Saturday 25 April 2015 with an epicenter in Lamjung district some 80 kms northwest of Kathmandu.

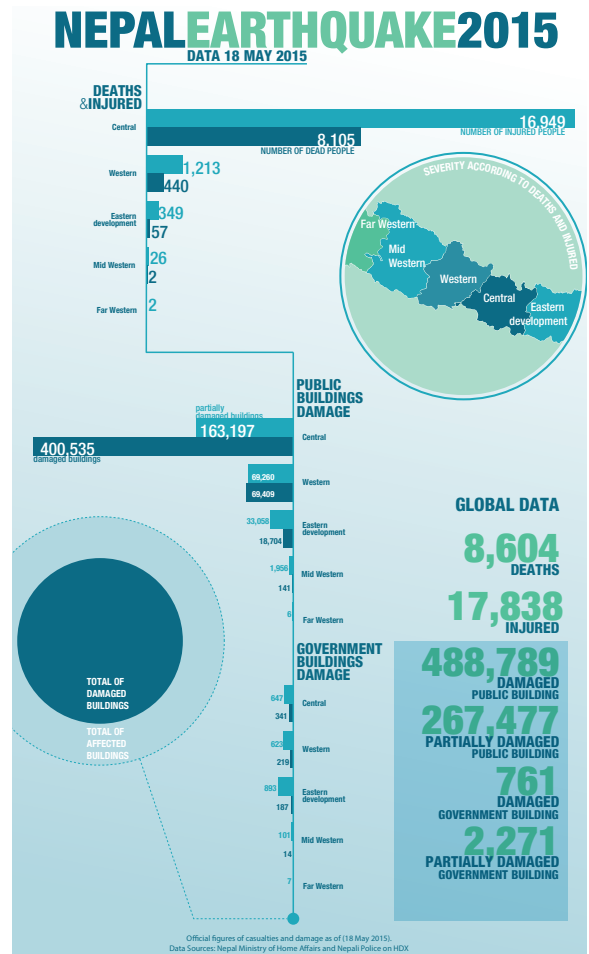
Dozens of aftershocks followed, including a 6.7 magnitude earthquake at 1254 hrs local time on Sunday, 26 April 2015, and another measuring 7.3 at 1250 hrs local time, this time with an epicenter in Dolakha district.

As of 1000 hrs, 21 May 2015, the Nepal Police reported a total of 8631 deaths and injuries to 21,838 people. The central development region (under which Sindupalchok and Kathmandu districts reported the most fatalities) suffered the most in terms of fatalities, at 6394. 39 of Nepal's 75 districts have now been confirmed to have been most-affected.

## Estimated population directly affected



## Nepal 2015 Earthquake Key Numbers



*"I personally knew several people who died here."*

Surya Bahadur Chitrakar, 68, Dattatreya, Bhaktapur



*"I lost two houses, sacks of corn and paddy."*

Naranath Sapkota, 68, Goldhunga, Kathmandu

*"I have no idea how I will rebuild my house,"*

Seti Nagarkoti, 62, Gundu, Bhaktapur

# Our Strategic Interventions

Older People above 60 years of age constitute 8.13% of Nepal's population. **In the Western and Central Regions, where the first earthquake (25th April) had the most impact, Older People make up 9.6% and 7.9% of the population respectively.** In the initial response phase, HelpAge found that Older People had been generally overlooked by the humanitarian system. HelpAge thus engaged with various clusters responsible for coordinating rescue and relief in the weeks following the 25<sup>th</sup> April earthquake to ensure that the needs of Older People are included in their response efforts.

**Some agencies cited lack of experience and lack of resources as a basis for not including Older People as part of their relief interventions,** whereas others claimed that Older People were looked after by the community and the family. As an example, of the 10 major SitReps and briefing notes generated in the week following the initial earthquake, HelpAge found that only three identified Older People as a specifically vulnerable group, and in each case the reviewed SitReps only mentioned Older People under the umbrella category of 'vulnerable groups'.

**Immediate and Sustainable Needs:** Through meetings with its partners (technical and service providers), HelpAge discussed possible steps to urgently address the needs of Older People affected by the earthquake. Following an 'assist and assess' approach, HelpAge and its partners feel that the immediate needs of Older People, such as their ability to access their local markets and buy essential items like daily medicines, soap, kerosene, cooking oil, cooking utensils, etc, have not been prioritised by general humanitarian relief efforts. HelpAge's approach of providing immediate cash assistance to affected Older People and their families through Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT) was taken positively by the UN-OCHA Cash Working Group, and by 9th May 2015, HelpAge and its existing partners delivered cash assistance to 2,944 Older People in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Kaski, and Tanahun districts.

**HelpAge, working in collaboration with local government and partners, is thus the first organisation to deliver cash assistance to one of the most neglected groups in the emergency response in Nepal.**

**Table 1: By the Numbers: First-stage Interventions of Unconditional Cash Transfers**

Particulars	Districts	HelpAge Districts	List of 14-most affected districts	Remarks	
Total number of districts covered	4 – Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Kaski, and Tanahun	All four	2 – Kathmandu and Bhaktapur	6 other affected districts will be supported in HelpAge's second stage of interventions*	
Total number of Older People receiving cash assistance: 2,944					
Percentage of Male and Female beneficiaries: Males, 1648 or 56%, and Females, 1296 or 44%					
Total beneficiaries in age ranges					
Age range	60-69	70-79	80-89	90 plus	Totals for 60 and above
Total beneficiaries	1,678	883	324	59	2,944
Percentage	57%	30%	11%	2%	100%

\* The next phase of HelpAge's cash transfer project will be conducted in Sindupalchok, Nuwakot, Makwanpur, Dolakha, Lalitpur, and Sindhuli districts with new partners. The UCTs are made possible thanks to the funds provided to HelpAge International by Age International and the Disasters Emergency Committee.

## Who are we working with?

SN	Name	Category	Coverage	Remarks
1	Nepal Participatory Action Network (NEPAN)	Technical partners	Kathmandu	HelpAge partner since 2011
2	Women for Human Rights: Single Women's Group (WHR)	Technical partners	Bhaktapur	HelpAge partner since 2011
3	Community Support Group (CSG)	Technical partners	Kaski and Tanahun	HelpAge partner since 2014
4	Friends Service Council Nepal (FSCN)	Service provider partner (SPP)	Lalitpur	HelpAge partner for UCT
5	Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC)	Service provider partner (SPP)	Sindupalchok	HelpAge partner for UCT
6	Human Rights Awareness and Development Centre (HURADEC)	Service provider partner (SPP)	Dolakha	HelpAge partner for UCT
7	Women and Children Development Forum (WCDF)	Service provider partner (SPP)	Makwanpur	HelpAge partner for UCT
8	Community Development Programme Sindhuli (CDPS)	Service provider partner (SPP)	Sindhuli	HelpAge partner for UCT
9	National Senior Citizens' Federation (NASCIF)	Advocacy partner	To support SPPs in non-HelpAge districts	

Details of partners based on partnership contracts signed as of 23 May 2015



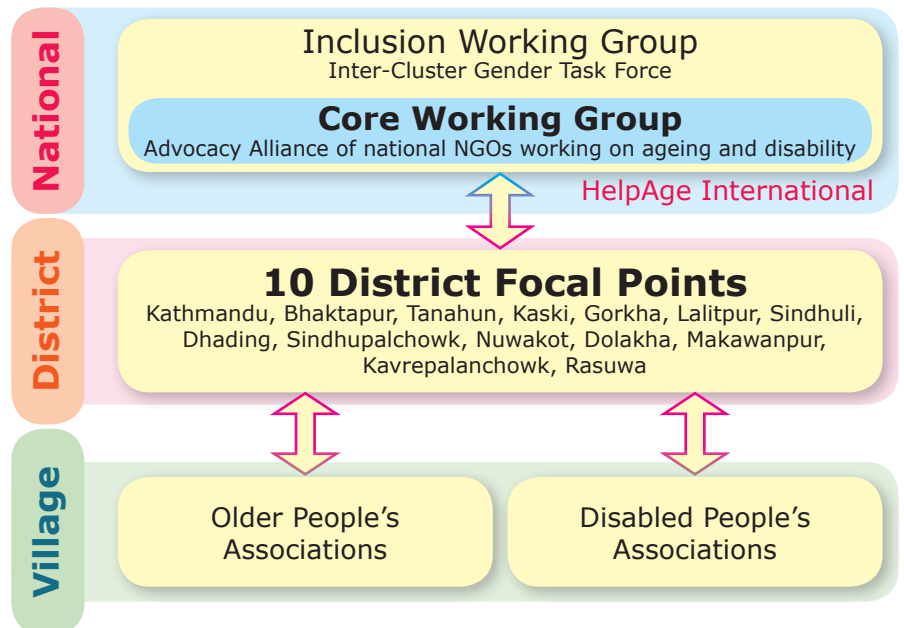
The above-mentioned organisations are partners that HelpAge has, as of 23rd May 2015, signed partnership agreements with. HelpAge is presently in discussions with at least 9 local partners to support the Inclusion-Advocacy and Health components of our disaster response.

# Inclusion Advocacy and Protection Response

HelpAge estimates approximately 650,000 Older People to be directly affected in the 14-most affected districts of the April 2015 earthquake (taking the national average of Older People from the total population in these districts).

Various data also show significant numbers of households headed by Older People and high numbers of widows/widowers who are often amongst the poorest and most vulnerable. Many of the 14 affected districts in Nepal have a high rate of migration, with nearly 5.6% of the population in the 14 districts away from their homes for work and other purposes. Based on the 2011 Central Bureau of Statistics' report of one male from each four households being away from home, it is safe to say that more and more Older People have increased responsibilities for supporting their families, mobilising resources and caring for dependants including grandchildren. Many Older People are also finding themselves looking after young dependants whose parents have either died or have been injured due to the earthquake. The geography and terrain of the affected districts coupled with poor infrastructure makes it difficult for vulnerable groups like Older People and persons with disability to access humanitarian aid. They are often excluded from needs assessments limiting access to assistance and posing risks for both Older People and their family members. Many Older People have reported their inability to queue and travel long distances to reach distribution points. As a result, they have reported missing out on receiving essential relief aid.

To ensure that the interests of Older People and persons with disability are represented and met by the earthquake response, HelpAge International along with national and international agencies working on ageing and disability in Nepal have established an **Inclusion Working Group** under the auspices of the Inter-Cluster Gender



task force. The Inclusion Working Group is a mechanism to encourage coordinated advocacy, partnership, and awareness-raising on Older People, persons with disability and other vulnerable groups within the humanitarian coordination system in Nepal. The Inclusion Working Group is supported by an Advocacy Alliance (working through a Core Working Group) of more than 20 national organisations working on ageing and disability in Nepal, representing voices and immediate needs and priorities of persons with disabilities and Older People from all the earthquake affected districts in Nepal.

The aim of HelpAge International's engagement in humanitarian action in Nepal is to influence the wider earthquake response to be responsive to the needs of Older People and other

vulnerable groups affected by the earthquake through: 1) Strengthening coordination mechanisms on inclusion of Older People and persons with disability by supporting traditional and non-traditional humanitarian actors, including local government to deliver an effective response and recovery, 2) Undertaking advocacy efforts in responding to Nepal earthquake in partnership with national agencies, Older People's Associations (OPAs) and Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) 3) Informing the earthquake response with evidence-based analysis of immediate needs, priorities and impact of the earthquake on vulnerable groups, in particular, Older People and persons with disability is developed. 4) Implementing targeted community protection intervention in ten affected districts in collaboration with CBM International.



**HelpAge and its local partners aim to deliver direct health benefits to over 8,000 Older People in at least 9 of the 14 most affected districts,** through improved access to health care services that support improvements in their wellbeing and in their recovery capacities. Targeted community-based

health care and support will also be prioritised to address the psychosocial and mental health concerns of affected Older People in a post-emergency context, through direct counseling services, general and specialised health camps and assessments, and referral mechanisms.

HelpAge International Nepal is an international non-governmental, non-profit organisation working in Nepal since May 2012 in 10 districts on various themes such as livelihoods, disaster risk management, inclusive health, and social protection. For more information on our work, please write to us at [info.np@helpagesa.org](mailto:info.np@helpagesa.org) or visit us at: HelpAge International Nepal, Jawalakhel, Patan, Lalitpur, PO Box 21299, Ktm, Nepal. T: +977-1-555-3589/5524-038; F: +977-1-5545-623.

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