



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity

CARITAS AUSTRALIA UPDATE: APRIL 2016

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE - 1 YEAR ON



Thank you for your help

Thanks to funding from the Australian Catholic community and the Australian Government, Caritas Australia has been working with our global Caritas network to provide humanitarian assistance to communities devastated by the Nepal earthquakes in April 2015.

One year on, the emergency response is now assisting children, women and men rebuild their homes and livelihoods for a stronger future. Thank you for helping us do so.

Man Bahadur Garti Chetri and his wife lost their 10 year old daughter during the earthquake. Here, they stand outside their damaged home in Sindhupalchok. After the earthquake, they received a food basket, water and sanitation kit, wheat seeds and corrugated iron sheeting for shelter from Caritas. (Photo: Matthieu Alexandre/ Caritas Internationalis)

On 25 April 2015, communities in Nepal experienced a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. Strong aftershocks, and a second earthquake a fortnight later, continued to devastate lives and cause further damage. Approximately **8,800 people** lost their lives, **600,000 houses** were completely destroyed and **2.8 million people**, nearly one third of the country's population, were in need of humanitarian assistance.

The massive earthquake devastated Nepali families, with many losing family members, homes and livelihoods. It left people who were already only earning enough to live day-to-day uncertain about how they would rebuild a future for themselves and their families.

However despite losing almost everything, the people of Nepal showed strength and resilience in the face of this tragedy, living out a spirit of cooperation and compassion between neighbours.

Caritas Nepal has already been working with local communities for twenty-five years. In the aftermath of the earthquake, these long-term relationships proved invaluable, as the communities trusted Caritas staff during this traumatic time.

Caritas Australia's long-term partnership with Caritas Nepal, based on solidarity and subsidiarity, meant that we were able to assist immediately, and have continued to accompany Caritas Nepal throughout the emergency response.

HOW HAS THE CARITAS NETWORK ASSISTED?

The Caritas network responded immediately to earthquake-affected families. Thanks to the generous support of the Australian Catholic community and the Australian Government, the global Caritas network was able to reach **over 59,000 households** with emergency aid, such as tarpaulins, blankets, water and hygiene kits, non-food items and corrugated iron sheeting.

Caritas staff have persevered through challenging conditions to ensure the most vulnerable and marginalised communities were reached. In some instances, staff travelled by foot to reach mountainous areas, or used helicopters to deliver relief items to remote areas.



"We were not left out. He [Caritas staff] sat with us as a neighbour."

- Kamala, a widow from the Dalit caste

REBUILDING A STRONGER FUTURE

Caritas is now continuing to work with communities to recover from the destruction of the earthquake, by supporting them to rebuild their homes and restore their livelihoods.

SHELTER continues to be the key focus of the emergency response. Caritas will be training local construction workers in earthquake-resistant techniques so that new homes will be more resistant to potential future disasters.

CASH FOR WORK opportunities for more than 2,000 households who have been affected by the earthquakes to earn an income. In return for income, local people are helping to clear debris and repair damaged infrastructure.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT is re-establishing farming families' means for income and stability, through providing agricultural training or livestock management training to more than 4,600 families.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE facility construction or rehabilitation of 56 reservoir tanks to deliver clean water to communities.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION by supporting communities to develop disaster response plans in case of future disasters.



"This isn't just a shelter for my family, it is a place where my children will be safe to play and learn."

- Sukumaya, a mother of two



THANKS TO YOU...

We are continuing to help our brothers and sisters in Nepal recover from the earthquake and empower them to rebuild a stronger future filled with hope.

One year on, communities look at photographs and reflect on the earthquake. (Photo credit: Matthieu Alexandre/ Caritas Internationalis)

For more stories showing how your support has helped people in Nepal, visit
WWW.CARITAS.ORG.AU/NEPALEARTHQUAKE



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The Catholic agency for international aid and development