

PLAN INTERNATIONAL DEC-FUNDED RESPONSE TO THE NEPAL EARTHQUAKES, 2015

INDEPENDENT EVALUATION



FINAL REPORT 2018



Environmental Partnerships for Resilient Communities

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

DEC	Disasters Emergencies Committee
DSL	District Support Lead Agency
ECARDS	Ecology, Agriculture and Rural Development Society
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBP	British Pound
GBV	Gender based violence
HURADEC	Human Rights Awareness and Development Centre
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
KII	Key informant interview
km	kilometre
LDRMC	Local Disaster Risk Management Committee
LDRMP	Local Disaster Risk Management Plan
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MHM	Menstrual hygiene management
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NPR	Nepalese Rupee
PDM	Post-distribution Monitoring
RDTA	Rural Development Tuki Association
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
VDC	Village Development Committee
VWASHCC	Village Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Co-ordination Committee
WUG	Water User Group

Note: At the time of this evaluation (October 2017) NPR1,000 = GBP7

Cover illustration: Participants from one focus group discussion centred on livelihood support.
Photo credits: Sumit Rana and David Stone

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David Stone
Madhurima Bhadra

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT PURPOSE

Plan International Nepal was one of the first international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to respond to the emergency situation following the 2015 earthquakes in Nepal, with direct support from the United Kingdom's Disaster Emergencies Committee (DEC). Plan's support was in three phases: Phase I – the emergency response – was timed from May to October 2015; Phase 2A – the start of the recovery process – from November 2015 to April 2017; and Phase 2B, which is operating from May 2017 to April 2018.

Phase I, which mainly focused on distribution, was directly implemented by Plan International Nepal, alongside selected partners for immediate health support and cash-based programmes. Following elections, however, newly introduced government requirements meant that only national and/or district level NGOs could implement response/recovery programmes in the earthquake-affected areas. Aligning with this, Plan International Nepal transferred full implementation responsibilities to its local partners which were, initially in Phase 2A, the Human Rights Awareness and Development Centre (HURADEC) and the Ecology, Agriculture and Rural Development Society (ECARDS). Throughout Phase 2A and now in Phase 2B, Plan International Nepal continued to monitor DEC-supported recovery activities on a regular and as needed basis.

Phase 2A focused on providing winterisation materials, transitional shelter, capacity building for constructing more resilient shelter and the construction of a health centre in Babare VDC¹, ensuring adequate equipment was provided for maternal health. Livelihoods activities included support to young women to begin small businesses with the hope that they would then start to have greater control over their incomes and livelihood decisions.

The subsequent (current) Phase 2B is primarily focused on responding to remaining priority gaps, with a WASH, livelihoods and resilience building project, in addition to phasing out. WASH activities focus on ensuring adequate WASH facilities and hygiene practices in schools and selected communities, while livelihood activities continued to support selected young women through the provision of start-up assets to help people cope with future disasters. In this context, a new partner, the Rural Development Tuki Association (RDTA), was brought on board for WASH-related support. All Phase 2B activities are expected to be completed by the end of April 2018.

THIS EVALUATION

This external and independent evaluation was undertaken by Proaction Alliance at the request of Plan International UK and Plan International Nepal, in accordance with the Terms of Reference presented in Annex I. It was designed to assess and analyse the quality of outputs, outcomes and results achieved through a specific set of activities undertaken as part of the 2015 DEC-funded response in Nepal, specifically amongst affected communities in Dolakha District.

This evaluation was intended to cover Phase 2A and Phase 2B of the DEC support provided to this initiative. As the timing of this evaluation was at a mid-term point for Phase 2B one must thus assume that there will continue to be further achievements of progress – as anticipated in the project description – during the remaining timeframe. As such, findings from this evaluation are also expected

¹ Structural changes by government have meant that previously labelled VDCs are now deemed Wards or Rural Municipalities depending on criteria. Babare VDC, for example, is now referred to as Kalinchowk Rural Municipality.

to influence the delivery and quality assurance of at least certain of the remaining activities that are scheduled for implementation or re-inforcement.

Consultations were undertaken in five communities in Dolakha District, using a mobile data platform to collect 265 individual household surveys, in addition to a series of key informant interviews and focus group discussions with other project beneficiaries, representatives from supporting government technical services, and staff from Plan International Nepal and its implementing partners.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

Some of the most pertinent observations from the evaluation are noted below and discussed in more detail in subsequent sections.

Overall Approach and Relevance

- ✓ Plan International Nepal was the first international NGO to respond to the emergency situation in Dolakha. Government authorities met with as part of this evaluation cited their continued appreciation for this timely support.
- ✓ Post-distribution monitoring of winterisation materials, for example, showed a high level of satisfaction amongst most beneficiaries.
- ✓ Even given a number of unforeseen operational circumstances – from blockage of fuel imports by neighbouring countries during the emergency response, to disruptions on account of elections during Phase 2A – Plan International Nepal’s support to its district/local partners has also been much appreciated.
- ✓ This was a well-planned project overall, responding to the needs of some of the most vulnerable people. Most targets will be reached – some are already exceeded.
- ✓ Early recognition was given to the importance of beneficiary identification through selection criteria: duplication of effort was avoided.
- ✓ Some of the most vulnerable people/households were thus selected for support, especially young, single women.
- ✓ Findings in relation to selected OECD-DAC criteria – in particular Relevance and Impact – were seen as being particularly important.

Sectoral Support Provided

- ✓ Many disrupted water systems are now being re-established, with already good indication of future community ownership and management.
- ✓ Through this project, some Water User Groups are now registered at the Ward administrative level, giving them further recognition and legitimacy.
- ✓ WASH-related hygiene training has been greatly appreciated: from household surveys, 60 per cent of people spoken with felt that there was “some improvement” in their sanitation standards today, compared with before the start of this project.
- ✓ There has been a successful community-based outreach programme with Female Community Health Volunteers.
- ✓ A functioning health centre was constructed in Babare Ward, and is now awaiting handover.
- ✓ Menstrual hygiene facilities have been greatly improved at participating schools.
- ✓ 180 masons have received quality skills training in safer construction: the 2016 KAP Survey had previously found only 18 equivalently trained masons in four Wards.
- ✓ Livelihood support is widely appreciated, despite some weaknesses in the approach and support provided in some activities, particularly livestock rearing.
- ✓ As a result of this project, women are more confident in speaking openly during meetings.

Project Management and Implementation

- ✓ Project implementation reports good value for money: according to Plan International Nepal, 70-80 per cent of funds have gone to beneficiaries.
- ✓ The integrated nature of the response has facilitated the transition to development.
- ✓ In general, high satisfaction levels were expressed by beneficiaries, though with some marked inconsistencies reported in Phase 2A, for example, equitable distribution of livelihood packages.

SOME CONCERNS

At the same time, some broad concerns were also identified and are described in more detail in the main body of the report, namely:

- while significant achievements were made by this project in providing shelter support to some of the most vulnerable households, as recognised in Plan’s DEC reports (e.g. Final Phase 2A report May 2017), due to a lack of resources (also at government level), there are still major gaps in this sector. (The evaluation does acknowledge that Plan International provided additional funds from its own sources to purchase some additional shelter materials.)
- shelter-related concerns were raised in terms of protection for children, youth and vulnerable people in communities spoken with during this evaluation, as some families are still living under plastic sheeting;
- questions need to be asked over the continuing efficiency and/or capacity of protection structures, such as Child Protection Committees, previously supported by Plan International Nepal, particularly given the changes that have occurred – and are occurring – at local administrative levels;
- livelihood beneficiaries – particularly those receiving livestock – reported inconsistencies in the content of the package they received: people reported not receiving the anticipated amount of funding as some was apparently retained by the implementing partner for transportation;
- follow-up to some livelihood practices – again mainly in relation to livestock – has been erratic and inadequate in some cases, particularly where concerns with animal insurance have arisen;
- while project reports speak of having developed individual livelihood “Business Plans”, this was not the case for at least some beneficiaries met. Even direct requests to Plan’s partner for assistance with accessing markets to sell poultry were apparently rebuffed;
- difficulties for some beneficiaries to communicate with some of Plan International Nepal’s implementing partners for required livelihood follow-up support;
- tight timelines for partners to complete Phase 2B activities, though post-evaluation comments from Plan International Nepal indicate that is being revised;
- the number of household survey respondents (60 per cent) who claim to not be aware of climate change or disaster risk reduction; and
- perhaps as a consequence of this the fact that 81 per cent of this group of people do not believe that the project has helped their understanding of disaster risk reduction or preparedness².

² The last two comments are perhaps explained by the fact that while support has been provided to the elaboration of certain Local Disaster Risk Management Plans, information on these plans is only scheduled for dissemination in Phase 2B and had not happened at the time of this evaluation.

TOP LINE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Plan International must ensure that Rights and Protection issues are adequately and consistently covered throughout projects like this, from emergency response to recovery and phase-out.
2. Prior to phase-out, Plan International Nepal should organise a capacity building event on Child Protection for newly appointed government structures.
3. Plan International Nepal's local partners need to ensure that all field staff are aware of the support that is destined for beneficiaries, and be ready and willing to respond to concerns expressed by beneficiaries.
4. Prior to hand over, Plan International Nepal should organise a training event on Disaster Risk Management for newly established structures at the Gaunpalika and Ward levels. This should address newly elected officials as well as community representatives, complement the government's recommended order of reporting and chain of command and ensure that participants are made aware of the importance of cascading information into their communities (see Section 8 for further guidance).
5. Related to the previous Recommendation, greater clarity is required for community members to understand the status of their local/Ward level disaster preparedness plan.
6. Give particular support to female members of Water User Groups to bolster their representation and standing on these committees.
7. Provide more comprehensive hygiene awareness and training to all water scheme beneficiaries, in addition to training provided to the Water User Groups.
8. Future WASH interventions should consider a more balanced approach towards hardware and software provision: the former is more favoured in the current project.
9. Urgent reflection and integration needs to take place on lessons learned with livelihood support in Phase 2A.
10. Livestock insurance schemes needs to be carefully explained to livelihood beneficiaries at the outset.
11. For the remainder of the project, ECARDS should mobilise communities to appoint one female representative from amongst those livelihood beneficiaries to ensure better and timely two-way communications.
12. A comprehensive health check should be made of all livestock being given to beneficiaries: local people should be trained by the respective government service to perform animal vaccinations.
13. When new livestock are being given to beneficiaries, the project should support a mass vaccination of all similar livestock owners at the same time.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Representing the worst natural disaster to happen in Nepal in almost 80 years, the earthquake that struck the country on 25 April 2015 had devastating effects in terms of loss of life and damage to infrastructure. The main event measured 7.8 on the Richter Scale, with its epicentre between Lamjung and Gorkha districts³, some 80km north-west of the country's capital Kathmandu.

Many aftershock tremors continued after this event, a second earthquake – itself measuring a magnitude of 7.3 – was recorded just weeks later, on 12 May, the epicentre this time being south-east of Kodari (Sindhupalchowk District)⁴, 76km north-east of Kathmandu – an area already affected by the 25 April quake.

The confirmed death toll in Nepal from these combined events was 8,702 people, with a further 22,302 injured. Almost three million people were displaced from their homes: more than 500,000 houses were destroyed and 4,085 schools damaged. Water supplies and sanitation facilities were either destroyed or disrupted for more than four million people.



Despite significant progress made to shelter reconstruction – including support provided through this project – there are still unmet needs in many communities affected by the earthquakes.

³ http://un.org.np/sites/default/files/Kathmandu%20Earthquake2015_3.pdf

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/nepal/nepal-earthquake-situation-update-12-may-2015>

Fourteen of the country's 39 districts were severely affected. According to the government's Post-disaster Needs Assessment, the total value of damage and losses were estimated at NPR706 billion (GBP\$7 billion), equivalent to one-third of the country's gross domestic product. Initial needs assessments identified shelter as the most urgent priority need, followed by food and WASH, the latter with a focus on hygiene and sanitation.

Plan International was one of the first international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to respond to the emergency situation. Through an appeal launched by the United Kingdom's Disaster Emergencies Committee (DEC), Plan International received GBP2,596,450 to provide support to some of the most vulnerable, affected communities and households. This support was apportioned in three phases: Phase I – the emergency response – was timed from May to October 2015; Phase 2A – the start of the recovery process – from November 2015 to April 2017; and Phase 2B (also termed Phase III by Plan International Nepal) is operating from May 2017 to April 2018. Various Memorandum of Understandings were signed with, for example, the Ministry of Health, Department of Education and the National Reconstruction Authority, as well as with local implementing partners such as the Human Rights Awareness and Development Centre (HURADEC), the Ecology, Agriculture and Rural Development Society (ECARDS) and the Rural Development Tuki Association (RDTA).

Consideration needs to be given to the context and timing at which both the emergency and recovery activities were undertaken. While issues such as fuel blockades, the monsoon and difficulties with procurement and distribution of certain items were noticeable during the emergency, disruption to fieldwork during the recovery phase was a major limitation. Election polling in some parts of the district meant that field presence of both Plan and, on occasion, its local partners was scaled back for security reasons. This has had implications on achieving certain deliverables on time and within budget⁵.

1.2 Plan's EMERGENCY AND RECOVERY RESPONSE

Plan International's response to the earthquakes was designated as a "Red Alert Level Emergency", the highest alert level in Plan's system. Based on initial assessments and consultations, Plan International Nepal's immediate focus was in four districts – Sindhupalchowk (the epicentre of the second largest tremor), Dolakha, Makwanpur and Sindhuli. Sector wise, the response focused on WASH, Shelter, Health, Education, Food/Cash and Child Protection. At the time, Plan's interventions strived to reach 325,000 individuals (65,000 households) in 81 Village Development Committees (VDCs⁶) (Plan International Recovery Strategy 2016-2018).

A Real Time Evaluation conducted in July 2015 showed that while many interventions were seen as appropriate, there were some issues, including:

- timeliness of support delivery;
- accountability to beneficiaries; and
- weak emergency human resource and procurement systems.

⁵ In recent years, Nepal has undergone political changes which are affecting socio-cultural, economic and administrative areas as the country moves towards a decentralised government structure. As the ongoing reforms take place, the transition will affect the work of NGOs and INGOs. There will be changes with regards contact persons, and local government policy and practices: organisations will have to alter their co-ordination and working modalities to fit requirements of specific localities.

⁶ Following recent changes in government administration and legislation, VDCs are now referred to as "Wards" and fall under a "Gaunpalika" level of authority, within a District.

Among the recommendations that followed were a scaling back in the number of VDCs covered, improved criteria for beneficiary selection and the use of cash as an option for certain distributions, to allow families more choice and reduce the logistical burden for Plan.

Throughout the emergency phase, Plan International Nepal ensured close co-ordination with local government authorities and the sectoral clusters to effectively target some of most devastated areas and communities. As the appointed District Support Lead Agency (DSLAs) in Dolakha, Plan International Nepal played a pivotal role in co-ordinating a number of district level stakeholders, including the government’s district authority, ensuring information sharing and cross learning amongst agencies.

Table 1 outlines the communities engaged through this project, with coverage initially extending over 16 Village Development Committees.

Table 1. Communities included in the DEC-funded Nepal Recovery Programme Phase 2A and Phase 2B

DISTRICT	VDC/WARD PHASE 2A	PARTNER	VDC/WARD PHASE 2B	PARTNER
Dolakha	Fasku	ECARDS	Dadakharka	ECARDS and RDTA
	Bhusafeda	ECARDS	Vedapu	ECARDS and RDTA
	Dudhpokheri	ECARDS	Ghanyngsukathokar	ECARDS and RDTA
	Shailungeshwor	ECARDS	Pawati	ECARDS and RDTA
	Babare	HURADEC	Magapauwa	RDTA
	Pawati	ECARDS	Lakuridanda	RDTA
	Sushpakshamati	ECARDS	Katakuti	RDTA
			Melung	ECARDS and RDTA

Note: Highlighted Wards are those included as part of this evaluation. Babare was added at a later stage, with specific support to a Health Centre.

The main focus of Plan Nepal’s humanitarian response was to reduce further vulnerability of affected individuals, households and communities through the provision of technical support, basic services and materials, as identified through a series of assessments. In this context, the project reached more than 24,682 beneficiaries. Further details of achievements versus intended targets are provided in Table 7.

1.3 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Phase I was initially implemented directly by Plan International Nepal, in conjunction with its partners ECARDS and HURADEC. Following elections, however, newly introduced government requirements meant that only national and/or district level NGOs could implement response/recovery programmes in the earthquake-affected areas. This meant that for Phase 2, Plan International Nepal had to transfer full implementation responsibilities to its local partners. Throughout Phase 2A, and now in Phase 2B, Plan International Nepal has continued to monitor DEC-supported recovery activities on a regular and as needed basis, and is now preparing for its final hand over and phase out. As intended, Plan International Nepal closed its office in Dolakha in August 2017

Timing of the DEC-supported response was as follows:

- Phase I: May to October 2015 (5 months);
- Phase 2A: November 2015 to April 2017 (18 months); and

- Phase 2B: May 2017 to April 2018 (12 months).

The first part of Phase 2 focused on starting to rehabilitate shelter, rebuild livelihoods and support a specific health project in Babare Ward. This included providing transitional shelter, capacity building for constructing more resilient shelter and the construction of a health centre, ensuring adequate equipment was provided for maternal health. Livelihoods activities included support to young women to begin small businesses with the hope that they would then start to have greater control over their incomes and livelihood decisions.

The subsequent (current) Phase 2B is primarily focused on responding to remaining priority gaps, with a WASH, livelihoods and resilience building project, in addition to phasing out. WASH activities focus on ensuring adequate WASH facilities and hygiene practices in schools and selected communities, while livelihood activities continued to support selected young women, through training and the provision of start-up assets. All activities are expected to be completed by the end of April 2018: at the time of this evaluation, contracts with local partners were set to end in January 2018, but the Evaluation Team has since been informed that this is now extended to end-March, in consideration of ongoing elections in the district.

1.4 THIS EVALUATION

This external and independent evaluation was undertaken by Proaction Alliance at the request of Plan International UK and Plan International Nepal, in accordance with the Terms of Reference presented in Annex I. It was designed to assess and interpret the quality of outputs, outcomes and results achieved through a specific set of activities undertaken as part of a DEC-funded response to the 2015 earthquakes in Nepal, specifically amongst affected communities in Dolakha District. As stated in the evaluations Terms of Reference (Annex I), the purpose of this evaluation was also *“To record the learning around the implementation of this DEC-funded emergency programme in response to the 2015 Nepal earthquakes and analyse successes, areas for improvement, accountability strategies and recommendations for future emergencies”*.

The evaluation was intended to cover Phase 2A and Phase 2B, primarily. Recognition was, however, given from the outset that in the course of beneficiary consultations, many people might now not be able to distinguish between these two phases, or between the emergency and recovery periods. To the extent possible, this caveat has been taken into consideration in the current findings.

Throughout, members of the evaluation team – including data enumerators who received a detailed briefing from Plan International Nepal – ensured that all due protection measures were applied in meetings with project beneficiaries – women, men and children. Full attention was given to peoples’ respect and to the confidentiality of information shared with the team.

Emphasis was given to capturing the overall impact of the DEC-supported interventions, examining how the approach addressed needs as well as the effectiveness of specific activities over the course of the response. Organisational capacities and field-based support were also examined, all with the purpose of identifying lessons from this particular response and to formulating recommendations that will help improve future Plan International Nepal and Plan International programme actions.



Focus group discussions were held within each community visited, allowing men and women to contribute to the evaluation's findings.

The evaluation undertook consultations with a broad range of stakeholders on the ground, using a suite of appropriate methods which would include direct observations, focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs), as well as a comprehensive review of existing reports and project materials (Table 4).

2. STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

An overview of the context, some of the main findings of this evaluation and suggested recommendations have been presented above. Section 3 presents the methodology used in the approach and implementation of this evaluation, including an overview of those beneficiaries who were consulted and a description of the main tools used. The latter was essentially a combination of literature review, individual and group consultations with project beneficiaries and project staff, as well as direct observations on the ground in selected villages and settlements.

In addition to project beneficiaries, identified stakeholders include representatives from local government authorities, Plan International Nepal project staff as well as key practitioners and managers from each of the implementing partners. A list of project staff and government personnel consulted as part of this evaluation is given in Annex IV: beneficiaries consulted are deliberately not named to protect their identities. Questionnaires used to guide data collection are presented in Annexes V-VII.

Section 4 presents an overview of the adopted approach for the evaluation, including details of the evaluation team, the main tools used and the schedule followed.

In Section 5, an analysis is presented on the evaluation's findings in the context of selected OECD-DAC criteria – Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, Sustainability, Coverage and Co-ordination. Reference is also made to how some of the leading interventions applied in Phase 2A and Phase 2B (to date) relate to the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS).

The main findings of this evaluation are presented in Section 6. This begins with an overview of the situation as it appears today, followed by an analysis of observations in relation to Livelihoods, WASH, Domestic Energy, Shelter and disaster preparedness.

This is followed in Section 7 by a summary of key lessons learned, while detailed recommendations are presented in Section 8. These are intended to help Plan reflect on this form of humanitarian assistance to inform and empower it to respond to similar and even larger scale humanitarian crises, with the same quality of services.

Section 9 provides a brief conclusion to this evaluation, which is followed by a list of materials consulted prior to, during and following the actual evaluation on the ground.

3. METHODOLOGY

As described and amended from the evaluation's Inception Report (7 November 2017), the methodology applied involved the following steps.

- a) Briefing with project staff at Plan International UK. Establish a co-ordination and communication system between the team leader, Plan International UK and Plan International Nepal
- b) Review background documentation, as provided by Plan International. Data gaps were identified.
- c) Briefing with Plan International Nepal DEC project team in Kathmandu. Agreement on the scale and scope of the evaluation – site visits (based on agreed criteria), desired/practical level of consultation with communities and partners (e.g. government) and so forth.
- d) Proposed methodology and approaches developed and refined following inputs from Plan International Nepal. A suite of participatory appraisal tools (see Section 3.2) were proposed at the ground level to help identify and assess the impact of this project on individual household members and communities over the project's life cycle. Direct observations were also anticipated to allow for a comprehensive – and triangulated – series of data to be gathered.
- e) A series of questionnaires were developed to guide interviews and discussions with beneficiaries, partners and Plan International Nepal staff.
- f) Identification and recruitment (by Proaction Alliance) of six data enumerators – four women and two men.
- g) A one day orientation and training exercise on Kobo Collect was organised for all data enumerators.
- h) To address OECD-DAC Criteria, a daily log was used by the evaluation team to ensure that elaborated questions relating to each component of these tools were being considered through consultations. Proposed lines of questioning were elaborated as part of the Inception Report.
- i) Together with Plan International Nepal staff, individuals and institutions were identified for consultation, taking account of different contexts. A sampling strategy was determined to ensure adequate and appropriate coverage.
- j) Further secondary data analysis was conducted as needed.
- k) Logistic planning and preparation were undertaken prior to the start of fieldwork.
- l) Following an on the ground situational briefings with Plan International Nepal, fieldwork was conducted.
- m) A validation/debriefing meeting was held in Kathmandu, based on preliminary observations.

- n) A draft evaluation report was shared with Plan International for comments. The report format follows the outline proposed in the Inception Report. With feedback received, content was revised into this final version.

Please refer to the detailed workplan and companion timeframe established around this framework (Annex II), which followed discussions with Plan International Nepal and local partners.

4. APPROACH

4.1 TEAM COMPOSITION

This evaluation was conducted by David Stone and Madhurima Bhadra, Proaction Alliance, in close collaboration with staff from Plan International Nepal and its District/local partners on the ground. In addition to on-site observations, institutional interviews were held with representatives from participating government departments, Plan International Nepal's local partners and Plan's own project staff.

To acquire quantitative data, four students and two former NGO staff (with no link to Plan International Nepal) – Mr Sumit Bikram Rana, Mr Sujeet Gautam, Ms Indira Dulal, Ms Laxmi Karki, Ms Bipika Khadka and Ms Shirishma Pandey – were recruited and trained to undertake household surveys in selected Wards. Digital data were recorded using Kobo Collect, based on a prepared household survey. A profile of the evaluation team is provided in Annex III.

This combined approach allowed for what is gauged to have been an acceptable level of beneficiary coverage, with adequate opportunities for triangulation and minimum bias.

4.2 TOOLS

A range of participatory tools were used in this evaluation, drawing on particular methods for specific situations. This helped ensure adequate coverage of primary and secondary data, together with qualitative and quantitative approaches. The approaches applied are outlined in Table 2, below.

Given that Plan International Nepal used different approaches when providing support to beneficiaries – a generic distribution of winterisation materials compared for example with the direct, targeted support in favour of livelihoods – a uniform sampling procedure was not possible. Instead, household surveys were guided by lists of beneficiaries provided by Plan International Nepal and conducted on a “convenience sampling” basis with known project beneficiaries, depending on their availability at the time the evaluation team was in that community.

Both of the principal team members followed broad, agreed lines of enquiry for field data collection, to help ensure a degree of consistency, define the extent of innovations, for example, and identify lessons that might be learned from the project.

Annex V, Annex VI and Annex VII outline a consolidated list of evaluation questions that relate specifically to the nature of those activities provided to beneficiaries, both at an individual/household and institutional level.

Table 2. Tools Applied for Consultations

TOOL	AUDIENCE	DESCRIPTION
Individual Interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project beneficiaries • Project staff • Community leaders • Technical advisors • Other 	Along with direct observation, key informant interviews provided a comprehensive overview of the project, from different angles. Interviews focused not only on the impact of the interventions but also the quality of the implementation process, the nature of relationships with partners and so forth. Most interviews were conducted in public places or individual's homes.
Direct Observation	Beneficiaries	Intentional, guided observations helped clarify and confirm information offered during interviews, as well as from a review of background project documentation.
Household Surveys	Beneficiaries	Individual interviews were held with project beneficiaries using a questionnaire designed around this project, with data recorded on Kobo.
Focus Group Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiaries • Project staff • Partners 	FGDs were used to increase the quantity of the input, given the limited time period of the evaluation on the ground. These provided a broader sense of the quality of the process and its impact and helped inform how accurate and appropriate some of the secondary data were.
Document Review	Project staff	The evaluation team reviewed key materials and processes used for project implementation. Additional information was sourced from some of the implementing partners.

4.3 SCHEDULE

Contractual arrangements were concluded between Plan International UK and Proaction Alliance on 13 October 2017. Field deployment of the evaluation team was on 23 October 2017, with meetings starting in Kathmandu on 24 October and fieldwork on 29 October 2017. Fieldwork was concluded on 4 November, following which interviews and discussions were held with Plan International Nepal's partners and Plan International Nepal programme staff. A debriefing was held with Plan International Nepal staff on 8 November 2017, a meeting that was also attended by Plan International UK's Programme Specialist – Accountability in Emergencies. Please see Annex II for a detailed itinerary of the evaluation.

5. DATA ANALYSIS ALIGNED WITH SELECTED OECD-DAC CRITERIA AND CORE HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS

Table 3 summarises the findings of the evaluation team based against OECD-DAC criteria, which have a scale of 0-4, and defined as shown below:

- 0 *“Low or no visible contribution to the criteria”;*
- 1 *“Some evidence of contribution to this criteria but significant improvement required;”*
- 2 *“Evidence of satisfactory contribution to this criteria but requirement for continued improvement”;*
- 3 *“Evidence of good contribution to this criteria but with some areas for improvement remaining”;*
and
- 4 *“Evidence that the contribution is strong and/or exceeding that which was expected by the intervention”.*

Table 3. Summary of Attributed Scores to this Project (according to the above)

CRITERIA	ATTRIBUTED EVALUATION SCORE
Relevance	4
Timeliness	3
Effectiveness	3
Efficiency	3
Impact	4
Sustainability	2

Based on the above, the evaluation acknowledges the appropriateness of this project and the support it was designed to provide. Much of the support has been widely appreciated, especially it would appear in the aftermath of the earthquakes (Phase I), which still remains a focal point in many peoples’ minds, especially in view of the fact that more than 40 per cent of affected population in Dolakha were located in the 16 VDCs covered by Plan. The evaluation also recognises the contextual challenges faced in implementation of Phase 2A, in particular, and applauds Plan International Nepal for its flexibility in being able to adapt to uncertain and changing circumstances during this time.

5.1 RELEVANCE [CRITERIA SCORE 4]

This project has provided support to a great many vulnerable individuals, poor households and disrupted communities. Discussions with beneficiaries – and government authorities – confirmed the absolute relevance of this project by addressing and supporting peoples’ priority needs in a timely and focused manner. In part, this response was based on a series of informed needs assessments for the various sectors.

The nature of those activities provided in Phase 2 was also highly relevant, despite there still being a major need in sectors such as shelter:

- WASH support was very much needed: while basic needs were starting to be met, related training and awareness raising were also very much appreciated by communities;
- the inclusion of hygiene awareness is now showing very positive results and uptake;
- improved sanitation facilities are appreciated at schools, especially for adolescent girls;
- support to government services such as the LDRMPs was very topical for future risk preparation, though the impact of this initiative is not yet evident; and
- livelihood support should become a major driver in securing better household security for some of the most vulnerable people.

Many of the beneficiaries would not have had such support in the past, for example in terms of safer construction and hygiene awareness. New opportunities have also been provided to young, vulnerable women, many of whom now have – for the first time in their lives – an opportunity to take control of their own livelihood decisions, income and personal situation.

Significant changes have also taken place within communities and households. While in the past, people – and women in particular – would rarely discuss problems or search for solutions to their situations, today as a result of this project and support provided through Water Used Groups (WUGs), for example, people initiate meetings, join meetings and openly express their thoughts and opinions before their peers. Many peoples' self-esteem, dignity and confidence have increased significantly as a result of these experiences. This is seen as being of particular benefit to many women who have experienced rewards from discussing a number of issues with others, including home hygiene and early marriage. For many, this has been the first time they would have come together to talk openly about these issues.

Phase 2 of the project sought to address and support a number of different sectors – WASH, Shelter and Livelihoods, for example – which again was very relevant to the situation and peoples' needs. While this would certainly have added value to the overall recovery process, greater complementarity (and additionality, e.g. of marketing skills linked with livelihoods) across some of these would have been useful in terms of ensuring sustainability. This, however, is not intended to detract from the acknowledged relevance of the response as it was.

5.2 TIMELINESS [CRITERIA SCORE 3]

As mentioned above, Plan's intervention and the role it played in initial co-ordination, as well as the various forms of support provided, were extremely timely. The subsequent transition to Phase 2 was also well planned, despite some challenges encountered due to local elections and changes to some government administrative systems.

The benefits of completing all training as early as possible in a project should not be overlooked. In this instance, training on safer housing construction was concluded early in Phase 2A, which then allowed respective groups to practice and apply such learning in going forward. Other trainings, however, such as hygiene and some livelihood activities, followed much later so people will not have had as much benefit as they might from project staff on the ground. At the time of the evaluation, livelihood training for Phase 2B recipients was only starting, with some details still being worked out. Given that this involves introducing new skills to some people who have never had a similar responsibility in their lives before – and with no experience of linking with markets or business opportunities – this is expected to be a weak element in the successful uptake of some forms of livelihoods.

5.3 EFFECTIVENESS [CRITERIA SCORE 3]

Phase 1 of this project tried to address a broad spectrum of needs and would appear to have been quite effective in achieving this. Phase 2 likewise focused on a range of issues, though with a narrower scale, for example, in relation to livelihood support and improving access to drinking water. Here, the establishment of beneficiary selection criteria played an important element of the project's outreach focus and was an essential activity to have undertaken. Concerns were nonetheless expressed to the evaluation team on several occasions on this matter, though it must be recognised that this is often a very contentious issue, the success of which depends very much on the degree of consultations and representativeness behind establishing criteria and the respect given for subsequent distributions.

Transitioning from Phase 1, where high appreciation was expressed for the winterisation assistance provided, Phase 2 provided deliberate support for shelter, WASH and livelihoods, in particular. All of these were well intentioned and either matched known needs at the time (the re-establishment of water systems, for example) or helped people identify new (livelihood) opportunities which they could build on. Evidence that at least some of these activities are contributing to well-being and security can be seen in the immediate uptake of improved hygiene practices as well as the fact that some women who now generate their own, independent income are able to send their children to school.

An important element to note from this project has been the link between monitoring and being able to adapt responses in light of findings. At several times over the course of this recovery project Plan International Nepal – and by inference its partners – took such actions, which in due course contributed further to the overall relevance, effectiveness and impact of this work. The degree of flexibility with DEC funding arrangements has been cited as an important enabling aspect in this instance.

This project has already achieved many of its targets, with some even being exceeded. While tangible markers are being met (see Section 6.1), what is also important to note in this instance is that the project has resulted in behavioural changes amongst many beneficiaries, e.g. hygiene behaviour and sharing responsibilities for maintaining some communal facilities, which is often a challenging task.

Some degree of working relations has been established between some programme beneficiaries and selected government services, which has been welcomed by both parties. While it remains to be seen whether these services will continue to be as proactive to beneficiaries when the project phases out, if recommendations from this evaluation are followed, people should at least know who to contact should they need technical assistance, and how to do this.

On the ground, the appreciation by different community members for this programme was clearly visible. While there is always room for improvement and expansion of support, the programme was careful to avoid building dependencies and promising beyond what it could deliver. This was an important approach from the outset and has set a hopeful precedent for others to follow.

5.4 EFFICIENCY [CRITERIA SCORE 3]

Overall, this project is gauged to have been quite efficient, both in terms of cost management (an estimated 70-80 per cent of project funding go directly to beneficiaries) and project implementation. Considering the working context, broad objectives have been/are being achieved on time, to standard (but see Section 5.6 Sustainability) and within budget, recognising also that on occasions Plan International has also intervened with its own funding to, for example, cover identified shortfalls, especially in the re-provisioning of shelter materials.

One of the overriding contributors to efficiency in this project has been the targeting of beneficiaries. Initially this was for a large number of communities in Dolakha, with a subsequent reduction to the number of communities included in Phase 2A and, finally, the identification of some of the most vulnerable and poor members of selected communities, with priority given to single women. Reaching vulnerable communities and individuals in locations where no other support was being provided, in addition to avoiding duplication of effort, was notable in this instance.



Signboards were used extensively during the emergency response though less in Phase 2. Some people reported not being able to understand the content or relevance of some boards.

The various cash for work programmes introduced (for example, road repair) were much appreciated, despite some people not being eligible for these on account of their age. In a similar vein, the design of work programmes for water scheme establishment – where communities provided labour and some local materials such as sand, and the Implementing Partner RDTA covered transport and procurement of external items – was a sound approach and will help ensure continued ownership of facilities in the future.

As mentioned elsewhere (Sections 6.4 WASH and 8.3 Recommendations) in this report, where possible – to increase overall efficiency of a partner’s knowledge and presence – subjects such as hygiene promotion and community health promotion should be made available to the widest possible number of people, as these are generally cost-effective interventions that can be implemented by local community members with minimum external support but with significant end results.

5.5 IMPACT [CRITERIA SCORE 4]

A significant amount of knowledge has been introduced to participating communities in a relatively short time, all of which has been very practical and totally relevant. This has ensured a broad uptake, benefitting other community members who were not selected for direct support through this project. Many activities in relation to making houses more secure and starting independent livelihoods have reportedly started to spread through some communities. This should be encouraged as widely as possible by Social Mobilisers during the remainder of this project’s implementation.

Women, in particular, have benefitted from being part of this project in terms of gaining new skills training, confidence and information. For some, this has transformed their quality of life beyond what many thought possible. Their situation in society and within their households has started to change in

a short time: the financial income some women now generate has elevated their position within their homes, bringing them recognition of their active contributions to the household economy. Women are also now able to attend meetings in public, where they actively express opinions and help shape decisions.

An important contributor to such success has been the fact that elements such as water management and health promotion are community driven and community owned activities. From peoples' active contributions to community work (e.g. individuals coming together to excavate space for a water storage tank), there is a sense of impending co-ordination and collaboration between some people within the community. Such momentum needs to be recognised by Social Mobilisers and Field Staff, and encouraged through the development of livelihood business plans, for example.

In practical terms, the overwhelming appreciation of better hygiene practices, including safer access to drinking water, stands out as a major achievement of this programme. Linked with this, there are seemingly clear improvements in the overall health status of households and communities. This, together with improved hygiene facilities in certain schools, will continue to positively impact the numbers of children that regularly attend schools.

While overall impact is thought to be significant, the evaluation would have liked to see more hands on mentoring for new life skills, together with a more visible field presence of Plan's implementing partners. In this respect, it is felt important that some form of feedback mechanism should have been maintained and actively managed in Phase 2 as there are clearly issues to still be addressed in some of the communities visited by this evaluation.

5.6 SUSTAINABILITY [CRITERIA SCORE 2]

Achieving sustainability requires time and that is no exception in this project, especially where many new initiatives have started in a short time and considering the context in which this work has been undertaken – the emergency response, remoteness and access, and changes to government structures, for example.

Consideration for sustainability has, nonetheless, been evidenced through several of the activities that have taken place as part of this project. At one level, the involvement of government technical services has been important for some new livelihood practitioners while the contributions made with regards Ward level disaster preparedness should complement the government's own work (which it often cannot accomplish due to resource issues). Other important elements to highlight are the following:

- ✓ newly trained masons now working in teams with other ("less experienced") masons, transferring their acquired skills to others within their community;
- ✓ some WUGs are, as a result of this project, now already registered and recognised at the Ward and District levels, which means that they should be eligible for future financial and technical assistance, if required, for example for upgrading or extending water systems;
- ✓ WUGs are organising themselves to consider how they will sustain resources for repairs and maintenance, e.g. through household collections;
- ✓ new livelihood skills are being learned by young women, some of which will likely be scaled up and/or duplicated by neighbours;
- ✓ people acknowledged that they are likely to continue to use learned hygiene practices, which will benefit health and welfare; and
- ✓ some people have become more aware of their entitlement to rights.

Remaining administrative uncertainties could potentially affect the overall impact and sustainability of, for example, certain livelihoods and the inclusion of issues such as rights, protection and disaster preparedness in newly emerging government structures. For this reason, it is recommended (see Section 8) that in preparing its phase out from Dolakha, Plan International Nepal carefully assesses its – and its partners’ – ability and opportunities to provide specific training and guidance to newly established Ward and District administrative structures, particularly in issues relating to protection and rights and disaster risk preparedness.

During the remaining time on this project, further efforts should be made with respective local governments to ensure that they are well informed of the main lessons learned from this project and to help them identify where they, themselves, could now step in and support the longer term recovery process. Undertaking advocacy beyond this level is probably not realistic at the present time but should feature prominently in any future iterations of this work, with a clearly defined strategy developed and being implemented from the outset of activities.

To inform the process of phase out, which is now being reviewed, as well as future responses, a number of considerations might be examined to enhance sustainability, such as:

- a) ensuring that as much of the anticipated training as possible be conducted early in the project, with planned and budgeted refresher courses also envisaged. All such training should be based on prior needs assessments unless, as in the case of Nepal during the emergency response, the need for skilled masons was obvious;
- b) greater emphasis on capacity building and mentoring/monitoring for partners, especially where a partner organisation has not worked in an emergency or recovery project before;
- c) where new or diversified livelihoods are planned, these should be initiated as early in the project cycle as possible. This will allow everyone the opportunity of getting used to new practices and approaches and enable solutions to be flagged in time;
- d) working alongside senior partner management to assist them with independent fundraising to continue to support newly initiated activities, such as livelihoods;
- e) regular and impromptu verification of activities being implemented;
- f) regular co-ordination meetings with all partners in a particular community so that everyone is working from the same page; and
- g) active inclusion of partners in developing transition or phase out plans.

5.7 CORE HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS

While Sections 5.1 – 5.6 specifically related evaluation findings to selected OECD-DAC criteria, many of the comments made are also pertinent to Core Humanitarian Standards. Table 4 provides an overview on how this project is seen to have addressed these standards while in the following Section (Main Findings), evidence is given as to how the comments relate in particular to CHS 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9, in particular. In reflecting on both these OECD-DAC and CHS notations, consideration has thus also been given when formulating some Lessons Learned (Section 7) and Recommendations (Section 8) stemming from this evaluation.

Table 4. Summary of how Lessons Learned and Recommendations from this Evaluation Addressed Core Humanitarian Standards

CORE HUMANITARIAN STANDARD		OBSERVATIONS
1	Humanitarian response is appropriate and relevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undoubtedly the response – and nature of support in each of the three phases – has been appropriate and relevant. • Careful screening criteria and beneficiary selection has made this all the more relevant and effective. • Post-disaster monitoring (PDM) and routine monitoring has been timely and effective .
2	Humanitarian response is effective and timely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timing of the initial response was much appreciated by the government and recipient communities. • Content of the response was appropriate. • Plan International Nepal reports a high cost-efficiency ratio. • Plan’s flexibility in adopting to identified needs (e.g. increasing the number of distribution points to facilitate peoples’ access) was a benchmark for other agencies to adopt in future.
3	Humanitarian response strengthens local capacities and avoids negative effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with local partners (previously lacking experience in emergency response and transition to recovery) has been effective, though there are certain areas where capacity could be further strengthened, such as gender sensitivity approaches. • Plan could also further strengthen partners’ capacity to engage with communities so as to maximise the effects of transparency and accountability.
4	Humanitarian response is based on communication, participation and feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication mechanisms have generally worked well with beneficiaries and government structures. Mechanisms were put in place early on to allow feedback, though these would appear to have assumed less importance as the recovery process progressed. • PDM provided repeated opportunities for community engagement. • There were, however, some perceived gaps in communications for some communities. One way to avoid creating such gaps in this CHS, could be for Plan International Nepal to encourage partners to deploy/employ social mobilisers as early as possible in the project and keep them for a few extra months post program closure. This will ensure that there is continued communication, participation and feedback. • Prioritising CHS4 would result in good learning and programme implementation for ongoing and future endeavours.

Table 4 (Contd). Summary of how Lessons Learned and Recommendations from this Evaluation Addressed Core Humanitarian Standards

CORE HUMANITARIAN STANDARD		OBSERVATIONS
5	Complaints are welcome and addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This seems to have been particularly active, welcomed and used in Phase I, while to a lesser degree as 2A progressed. • When working with local partners who might not have the same experience as Plan itself, such systems should be maintained throughout. • Training partners in complaints handling and closure of the loop should be a priority.
6	Humanitarian response is co-ordinated and complementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan International Nepal was identified as one of the leaders in humanitarian response in Dolakha by the District Co-ordination Office. It played a clear co-ordination role in the initial response. • Handover to local implementing partners was smooth.
7	Humanitarian actors continuously learn and improve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan International (UK and Nepal) undertook several learning experiences. Feedback, however, does not appear to always have been shared with partners, e.g. lessons from livelihood support in Phase 2A. • Partners themselves should have been encouraged to do similar exercises, especially before replicating livelihood activities in Phase 2B. • Plan International Nepal provided training (financial and reporting) to its partners, as well as other specific tools, including CHS. • Plan International Nepal could further focus on providing other human resource- and accountability-related training to the staff of implementing partners.
8	Staff are supported to do their job effectively and are treated fairly and equitably	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Evaluation Team noted that Plan International Nepal has made this a priority. • Plan International Nepal staff and their partner counterparts have good co-ordination and interpersonal relationships. • There is always scope to further strengthen partner staff capacity so that they can perform their duties more effectively, e.g. detailed orientations, mentoring and on the job training.
9	Resources are managed and used responsibly for their intended purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Evaluation Team believes that Plan International Nepal made this a priority. • It cannot, however, comment further on this for its implementing partners, though the anticipated Social Audits should be able to confirm this.

6. MAIN FINDINGS

6.1 OVERVIEW

Fieldwork was conducted in five VDCs – Pawati, Fasku, Bhusafeda, Shailungeshwor (only household surveys) and Vedapu (see Annex II for itinerary). On-site visits with communities were co-ordinated to allow data enumerators to engage on a one-to-one basis with selected beneficiaries of this project, while focus group discussions were held in parallel with other community members.

In addition to field observations and random meetings with household beneficiaries, separate meetings were also arranged with representatives from Plan International Nepal and its partner staff. Table 5 provides a summary of the main people consulted outside of household surveys.

Table 5. Participants in Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions

GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL	WARD/VDC	PARTICIPANT GROUP		NUMBER	
				Male	Female
Chief District Officer	HURADEC (Chairman and Finance Officer)	Pawati	Livelihoods and WPCP	8	9
District Co-ordination Officer			WUG	7	4
District livestock Officer	RDTA (Director, WASH Co-ordinator, Field Technical Co-ordinator and Field Supervisor)	Fasku	Mixed group	4	7
District Agriculture and Development Officer			Livelihoods	-	2
Women Development Officers (3)		ECARDS (Chairman, Board Member, Livelihoods Co-ordinator and Field Officer)	Bhusafeda	Mixed group/ livelihoods	7
	Vedapu		WUG	5	6
5 people	10 people			31 people	44 people

Table 6 summarises progress achieved through Phase 2A and, to date, Phase 2B. This indicates that in some instances, for example, the distribution of winterisation materials, shelter, and health and nutritional support, original targets have been exceeded.



Key informant interviews were mainly held with beneficiaries of livelihood support



Table 6. Number of People Reached through this Recovery Phase 2A and 2B Compared with Anticipated Targets

OUTCOME/ SECTOR	PHASE 2A		Phase 2B		TOTAL (TO DATE)
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
WASH	0	0	3,530	248	248
Winterisation	16,000	18,591	0	0	18,591
Shelter	21,735	21,735	340	0	22,075
Child protection	0	0	1,500	61	61
Livelihoods	350	350	500	64	414
Capacity building	350	350	1,350	0	350
Health and nutrition	2,800	3,533	0	0	3,533
DRR and protection	1,217	1,217	0	0	1,217


Sources: Post-distribution Monitoring reports; Monitoring files provided by Plan International Nepal

An analysis of the status of activities completed in Phase 2A and ongoing in Phase 2B is provided in Table 7, in summary format.

Table 7. Status of Achievements v Intention

OUTCOME INDICATOR	ACHIEVEMENT	STATUS	SUCCESS
<p>A. Affected populations have improved living conditions and increased resilience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KAP survey conducted to understand the baseline status and guide the intervention. • A total of 5,039 households living in Dolakha were supported with winterisation kits⁷ to enable them to cope with the harsh winter. • PDM was carried out to assess the effectiveness of the winterisation programme. • 180 local masons were trained on a standard seven-day training. • 4,000 households were reached through trained masons to communicate safe construction messages. • 2,140 households in five VDCs were supported with shelter materials; 2,200 received solar lights. • PDM was carried out to assess the relevance and use of shelter support materials. • Four Local Disaster Risk Management Committee (LDRMC) were formed and Local Disaster Risk Management Plans (LDRMP) were developed in each VDCs. • KAP end-line survey was conducted to understand the impact of interventions. 	<p>Completed</p>	
<p>B. Affected populations have improved access to health facilities and knowledge and behaviour on maternal and child health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A KAP baseline survey on maternal and child health was conducted and integrated with other components. • Information, Education and Communication materials (10 boards, 500 posters, 5 radio jingles, and 1,000 booklets) were produced and disseminated. • 355 women (pregnant and exclusively breastfeeding women) received dignity kits (a kit with 14 items). • 861 households were reached with door to door awareness raising sessions. Three VDC level meetings 	<p>Completed</p>	

⁷ Winterisation kits included: jackets (2 large, 2 small), 2 blankets, gloves (2 large, 4 small), socks (4 large, 4 small), 1 bed foam, as per shelter cluster guidelines. 2,000 of those households living above 2,000 meters (2 VDCs) also received 1 solar lamp and 1 improved stove.

	<p>and 27 mothers' group meetings on MCH awareness raising were conducted in Babare VDC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Ministry of Health for the construction of a health post, followed by approval of the design. Completion was, however, delayed. • KAP end-line survey was conducted to assess the impact of the intervention. 		
C. Affected young women have recovered their livelihoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 350 young vulnerable women were selected in four VDCs of Dolakha district for life skills training and business support. • A stakeholder workshop was conducted to confirm and finalise beneficiary lists and business options. • Based on the feasibility study and identified business options, a curriculum guideline was developed for training and business support. • Groups were formed for livelihood trainings. • 350 women were trained in various livelihood options. Partial support was provided to start their livelihood. However, the election code of conduct halted the complete distribution of materials. 	Completed	

ANALYSIS

The package of activities relating to the above-mentioned indicators did not always achieve the intended results. Mason training has been greatly appreciated and masons are now contributing to building earthquake-resistant homes in their communities. However, the LDRMCs though set up have not been able to sufficiently share information in disaster risk reduction or disaster risk management to the communities as a whole and people do not understand the concepts of DRR and climate change in a broader context.



With respect to the MCH, the project has managed to reach the vulnerable and intended target populations. There were delays but the direction is good.


Concerning livelihoods, much of the work has been done and livelihoods are distributed. However, there are some gaps in the different schemes, for example, not everyone understands how the livestock insurance policy works, so they are unable to claim this. It is not sufficient that people are only put in contact with the relevant insurance company – as this is the first time many have been exposed to this topic they need guidance and back-up support.


There are also perceived gaps in transparency and mentoring for women who received certain forms of livelihood support. Trainings was completed for Phase 2A, but there are still gaps in peoples' understanding and capacity which undermine eventual sustainability of some activities.

Before phasing out, Plan International Nepal and its partners could make some amendments to the past programme to ensure that extra support is provided to beneficiaries of the livelihoods support especially in terms of clear information and support in obtaining insurance.

A similar analysis of the status of activities completed to date in Phase 2B is provided below.

OUTCOME INDICATOR	ACTIVITY/ACHIEVEMENT	STATUS	SUCCESS
<p>D. Affected girls, boys and their communities are better able to follow adequate hygiene practices through improved access to WASH facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and assess the water supply structures in need of rehabilitation in co-ordination with DWASHCC and VWASHCC. • Community consultation and formation of 16 WUGs with 11 participants in each, of whom at least one-third are women. • Rehabilitation of water supply schemes. • Water testing and handover to WUGs. • Baseline survey of knowledge on water storage and handling techniques. • Training on water safety, operation and maintenance of water schemes, source conservation and management. • Orientation on household water storage and treatment techniques for all 176 WUG members. • Identification of target schools in co-ordination with District Education Office and DWASHCC • Consultation with SMC, PTA and VWASHCC male and female members. • Installation of drinking water stations, hand washing facilities and repair of damaged toilets. • Supply of Menstrual Hygiene Management kits and installation of sanitary kit disposal facilities. • Handover to SMCs and PTAs for management and upkeep of the installed facilities. • Identification and mobilisation of children's clubs in the project target schools. • Awareness raising activities carried out through children's clubs and demonstrations in schools on safe water and sanitation practices. • Awareness on MHM and waste disposal techniques for 1,150 girls and 940 boys, including the use of the kits and disposal facilities installed in schools. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p>E. Young women in the affected communities are able to recover and improve their livelihoods through</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of beneficiaries in consultation with the Ward Citizen Forum. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	

<p>appropriate skills training and inputs for economic recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study carried out to support young women to identify potential livelihood and business activities. • Verification of business options. • Development of training curriculums based on identified business options and priorities. • Life skills and vocational training delivered to 500 young women. • Support to selected young women to develop their selected business plans. • Initial cash instalment transferred to women once business plans are completed. • Second instalment transferred once agreed preparatory activities to start business is complete. • Ongoing technical support and monitoring of livelihood activities. • Post Distribution Monitoring. • Communication with Phase 2A beneficiaries to update timeline for the receipt of business support. • Distribution of the second instalment of business support provided during Phase 1 to 350 vulnerable young women. 		
<p>F. Affected children and communities are better prepared and protected for future disasters through enhanced and known resilience and protection mechanisms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and/or formation of 7 LDRMCs in the target areas – ensuring at least one-third female representation – following government guidelines on the formation and participation of committees. • Orientation on disaster risks and mitigation measures to all committee members including local risks, identification and scope of LDRMC and mitigation measures. • Support the development of LDRMPs. • Introduction of completed plans at community level. • Orientation on school-based DRR/M to SMC members, teachers, and child club members, of whom at least half are expected to be girls and women. • Participatory and inclusive assessment of vulnerability and planning for school emergency plans ensuring the participation of girls and boys. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to schools for formulating their emergency operating procedures. • Orientation and roll out of procedures to students, including carrying out mock drills. • Stakeholder and service mapping. • Orientation and meetings on Child Protection and gender based violence (GBV) to identified stakeholders. • Publication of IEC materials on Child Protection, GBV and existing referral mechanisms. • Refresher training or re-activation of village child protection committees, child club and child protection focal point of schools for awareness on protection issues, identification support and referral techniques, and available district level referral pathways. • District child club meetings for dissemination of messages. • Radio episodes on child protection and GBV. • End-line survey. • Selection and verification of male and female beneficiaries with community participation. • 7-day standard training following guidelines from the Government of Nepal. • Supply of mason tool kits and safety gear for participants. • Inclusion of trained masons in the roster for participating in the wider government reconstruction initiatives. 		
<p>G. Affected women, men, women and girls have improved access to equipped health facilities, including for providing maternal care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction completion of type II health post and birthing centre in Babare VDC (started under Phase 2a). • Supply of medical equipment. • Handover of the health post to the community and local authorities. 	<p>Almost completed</p>	

ANALYSIS

The package of activities described above was still being implemented at the time of this evaluation. Mason training has been greatly appreciated and these people are now able to make a contribution to building earthquake resistant homes in their communities.




While Plan International Nepal and its local partners have conducted targeted committee focused LDRMC and DRR awareness, the LDRMCs have not been able to sufficiently share information in DRR and DRM with communities as a whole so that many people do not understand the concepts of DRR and climate change.

With respect to Maternal Child Health, the project has managed to reach the vulnerable and intended target populations. There are delays but the direction is good.

With regards livelihoods, content and approach for the delivery of some support was still being worked out at the time of this evaluation. Some training events were also being conducted in some communities at the same time. The evaluation team did not find any evidence of lessons learned from Phase 2A being reflected and adapted by the implementing agency which poses a risk of repeated shortcomings similar to those noted previously, particularly in relation to timely and effective mentoring and follow-up.

Before the close of this project, Plan International Nepal and its partners can still make some amendments to the programme to ensure that extra support is provided to livelihood beneficiaries in particular especially in terms of clear information and support in obtaining insurance.

Success Key:

 Expected achievement fully met	 Expected achievement surpassed	 Expected achievement not reached
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6.2 GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Household surveys were undertaken with a total of 265 respondents – 150 women and 115 men. Figure 1 shows the age range of respondents in this survey. All those spoken with were direct beneficiaries of this DEC-funded response, through one form of support or another. Thirteen criteria were established to guide the beneficiary selection process (Box 1).

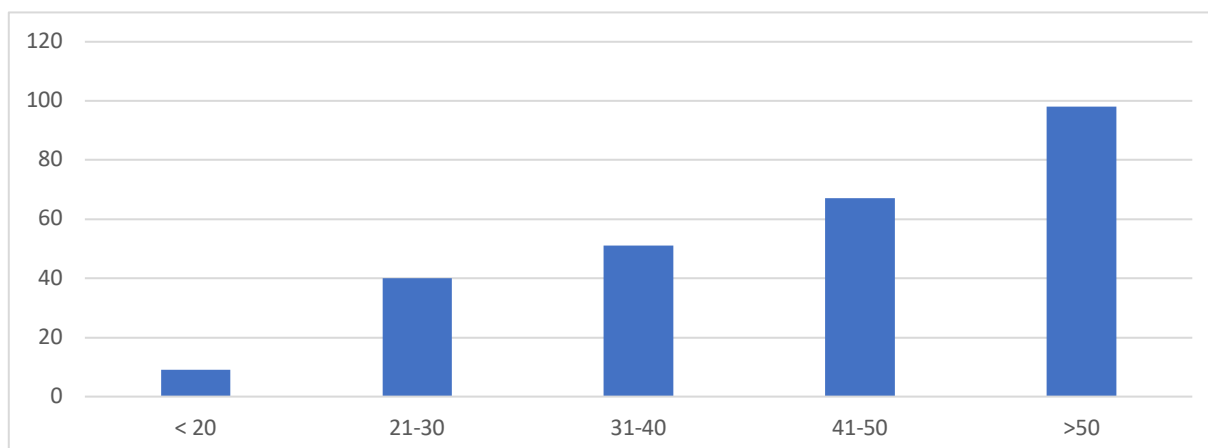
BOX 1. BENEFICIARY SELECTION CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria	Yes
Age between 16-40 years	
Available during entire programme	
Motivated to join programme	
Not in school/college	
Not receiving similar support from any other agency	

Vulnerability Assessment Criteria		
Criteria	Score if yes	Full score
House collapsed/damaged		20
Landless		5
Nearly landless but no large animals		5
Landless, but has unregistered land		5
Single women headed family		10
Family has more than 4 children below 10 years of age		10
Family with only one person who is earning a wage		5
Family with less than 6 months of food security from own production		10
Family with at least one member having a chronic disease or disability		5
No regular source of income – lives on wage or share cropping		5
Orphan		10
Poor Dalit meeting none of the above criteria		5
Poor ethnic minority meeting none of the above criteria		5
Total Score		100

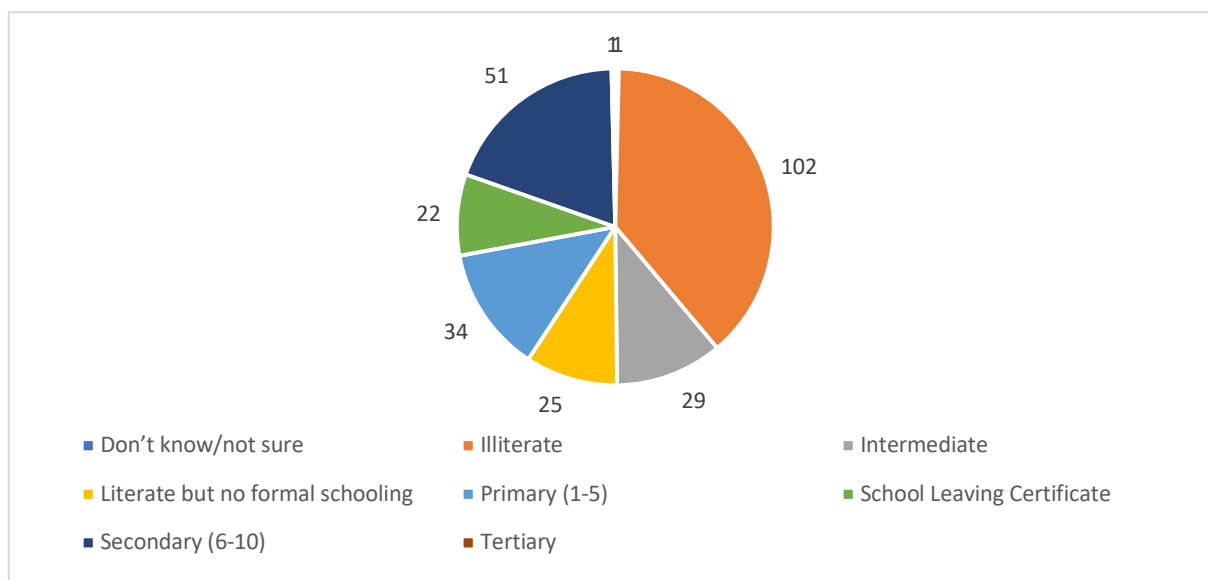
Improved livelihoods and improved shelter were among the two main types of support appreciated by people – almost 32 per cent of the respondents in each case – followed by winterisation items (23 per cent) and immediate relief (4 per cent).

Figure 1. Age Bands of People Interviewed through the Household Survey



Four different castes were represented amongst the beneficiaries surveyed at the household level: Chhetri/Brahman (150), Janajati (82), Dalit (17) and Tamang (16). The vast majority of people (85 per cent) spoken with were married, while 21 people were widows and the remaining 18 either single or separated. More than 80 per cent (215 instances) of households were male-headed. The levels of education acquired by respondents is shown in Figure 2, which indicates that less than one-fifth of the sample had reached school leaving certificate or higher. Many people (52 per cent), however, claimed that the Head of their Household was able to read and/or write.

Figure 2. Education Levels of Household Respondents



From the group sampled, 85 households mentioned that they have a vulnerable person living with them in their house, mostly elderly (35 people), disabled (17 people) and those affected by a disease (10 people).

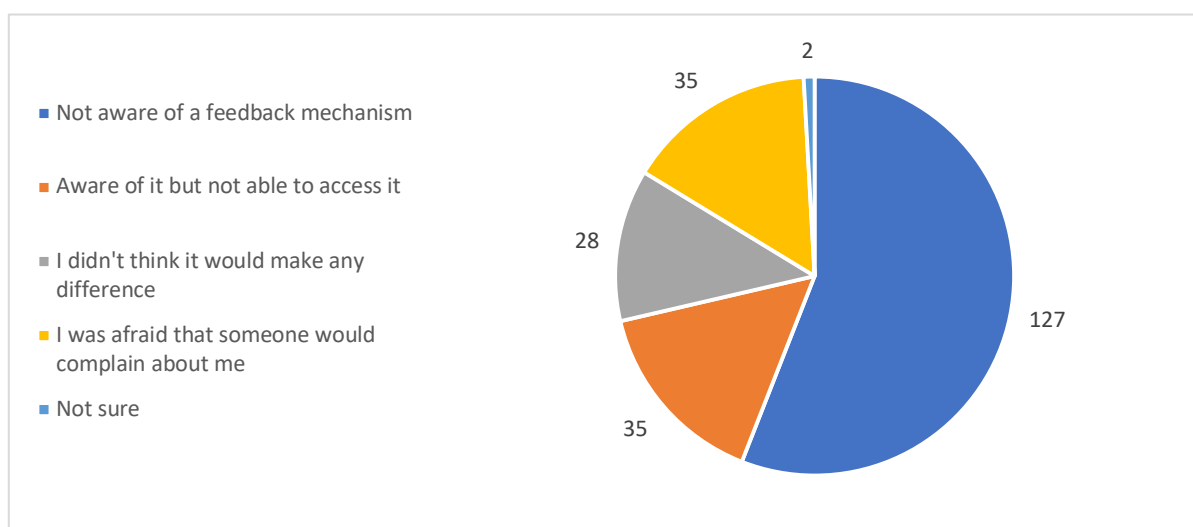
Following the earthquakes, many of those interviewed as part of this evaluation stated that they had been consulted with regards the definition of selection criteria for beneficiaries – 61 per cent. Fewer people (51 per cent), however, felt that the beneficiary criteria were not clear: in this instance, more women (150) than men (115) said that the criteria were not well explained to them at the time. Almost

one-third of the sampled population (86 people) stated that they were not satisfied with the way in which beneficiary selection was conducted⁸. While the reasons for this were not queried as part of the quantitative survey, one likely reason for this (which was mentioned in FGDs) is that people would have liked to have seen a broader, “blanket”, coverage of support to more people.

Of the support that people have received through this project, 70 per cent expressed their satisfaction with the form of assistance, as this helped them address their most immediate needs when rebuilding their lives and livelihoods after the emergency period. While more than half of the beneficiaries (63 per cent) said that this support was provided in a timely manner, only 28 per cent of all respondents said that they had been consulted in relation to the type of support they would receive.

A surprising finding from the quantitative household survey – given the prominence the matter of feedback and complaint systems are given in project reports – was that 82 per cent of respondents (216 individuals) stated that they were not able to provide feedback or complaints to the project implementers⁹. Of those people who had used some form of complaint/feedback mechanism, eight people reported “immediate follow-up action was taken”, while four others mentioned that “action happened within 1-2 weeks of their report”, though the majority (26 people) stated that “nothing happened as a result of their reporting an issue”. Figure 3 portrays why many people did not avail of this system, with more than half of those respondents (56 per cent) stating that they were not aware of a feedback mechanism.

Figure 3. Reason Stated for not Providing Feedback or Complaints (n=227 people)



This finding is further re-inforced by direct observations by the evaluation team, in addition to discussions with other community members. In Pawati, for example, one of two feedback boxes is located within a busy community centre: anyone accessing this box would be seen by others present in the room/centre at the time. The access door to this facility is also locked each evening. Discussions with community members at Vedapu mentioned that while there had been a feedback box in the

⁸ While there is a chance that some people might be reflecting on immediate post-earthquake distributions, at this time all households had been provided with winterisation equipment. These concerns therefore are most likely to reflect opinions in Phase 2A itself.

⁹ One possible reason for this – as there was a scaling back of feedback facilities being operated in Phase 2 – might be that people no longer relate to feedback and were considering this question in the present rather than the past.

village centre, this was removed some 5-6 months prior to this evaluation taking place, though the reason for this was not known.

When asked whether people felt they had been kept well informed of either what support was going to be provided or what was happening through the recovery project, quite similar numbers of people stated that they had (109 people – 71 women and 38 men) and had not (102 people – 52 women and 50 men) been informed: 54 people were not sure about this. In terms of age categories, it was apparent that most people who reported not being well informed were 50 years old or more (35 people), with similarly high levels also being reported for the age categories 41-50 years (28 people) and 31-40 years (23 people). Four people under 20 stated that they had either not been well informed or were unsure about this, while 20 people in the age category 21-30 reported similar.

Most people were not aware of project display boards¹⁰ within their communities and, of those who were, some reported that they could either not read or were not interested in what was being portrayed on the boards.

In order to gauge whether there had been any changes in the social dynamics within communities as a result of this project, beneficiaries were asked whether they were involved in any community service structure, such as a WUG. While half of those people interviewed reported that they were a member of a community structure, just 25 people said that this was a direct result of this project's interventions. While this might be a small proportion in total, what is important to note is that within this group of people, all but five of them now felt that they were able to express their personal opinions during community meetings.

Different activities and forms of support provided through this project have certainly helped some community beneficiaries, especially women, as also evidenced through KIIs and FGDs held as part of this evaluation. The recently provided WASH training by RDTA, for example, has helped women to learn, appreciate and apply more hygienic practices of washing and water management than before, which is reportedly having positive benefits on family hygiene and is seen as being appreciated by all family members. Women's inclusion in WUGs and/or their new-found independence through livelihood generation are other direct forms of empowerment that can be directly attributed to this project.

Raising awareness of disaster preparedness has been a central theme to this project and implementing partners have worked closely with local authorities to develop and/or update Local Disaster Management Plans. When asked whether they were aware of the existence of such plans, however, the majority of respondents (75 per cent) stated that they were not. Examining data from Fasku and Bhusafeda VDCs alone – as these were both Phase 2A supported activities – 65 per cent and 83 per cent of survey respondents, respectively, stated that they were not aware of such plans.

Of those who were aware of such plans, just over half (34 people – 15 of who are women) said that they had had an opportunity to contribute to such plans. This was most prominent in Fasku VDC. And, once again, much of this inclusion can be directly attributed to this project's support as almost 80 per cent of those who contributed to these plans believe that this was a direct result of support received through this initiative. It would, however, appear that there is a problem with broader information dissemination by people who possess this knowledge.

Community Mobilisers – men and women, most often selected from within specific communities, where they would also normally reside – were intended as important “bridges” between community

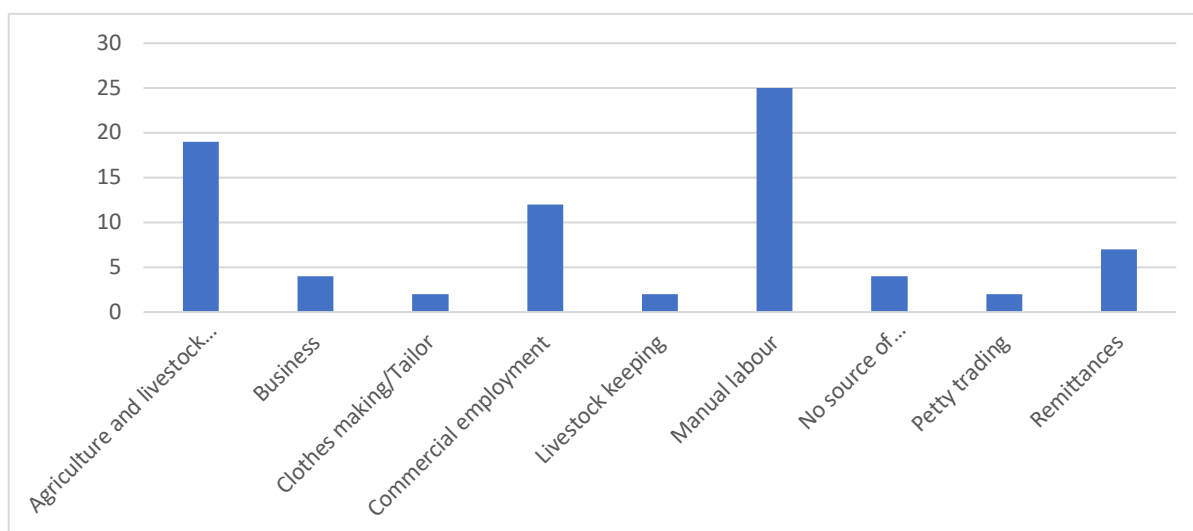
¹⁰ A recent monitoring visit to Babare by Plan International Nepal staff confirmed there was a notice board in place at this facility.

members and project implementers. While these persons played a prominent role in the emergency phase, they were also intended to serve as central figures in Phase 2A, in particular, given the introduction of new activities and expected need for support and communications. Another surprising finding from the household surveys was therefore to learn that 161 people questioned (61 per cent of the total sample) did not know who their Community Mobiliser was¹¹. Of this total, less than half (67 people) reported that they had contacted their local mobiliser with a concern relating to their recovery, post-earthquake.

6.3 LIVELIHOODS

Agriculture, as a single activity, i.e. not done together with livestock keeping, was reported as being the main source of peoples' livelihoods prior to the 2015 earthquakes, supporting more than 70 per cent of households at the time. Figure 4 shows the range of other – non-agricultural activities – also reportedly practiced at this time, which shows that manual labour together with agriculture together with livestock keeping and commercial employment were also important sources of livelihoods.

Figure 4. Main types of Livelihood Support (excluding Agriculture) prior to the 2015 Earthquakes

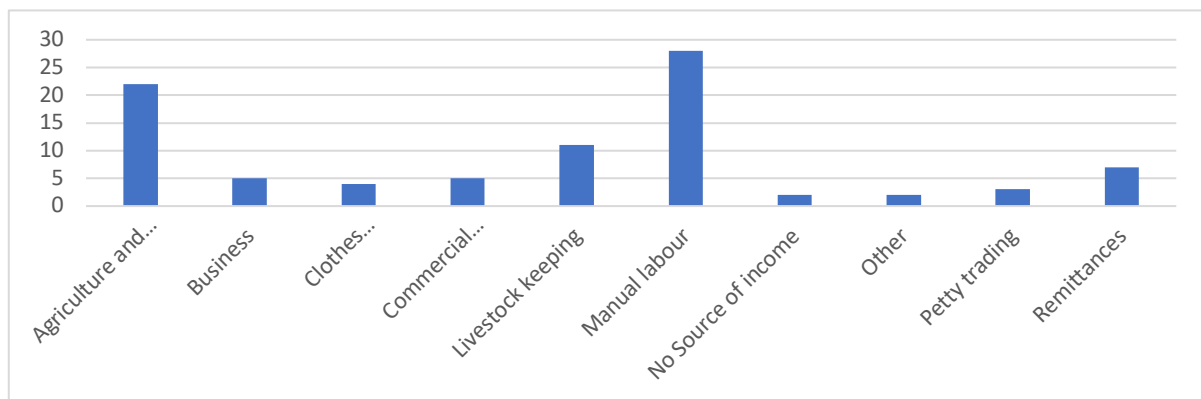


Some people (40 per cent of survey respondents) noted that their main form of livelihood has changed since the earthquakes happened, with 50 people stating that their livelihood was better today than in the past, 24 mentioning that it was the same now as before the earthquakes and 33 people stating that it was worse than before. Of those who claimed that their livelihoods have improved, all but 12 people directly attribute this change to support provided through this project, mainly through cash assets, training and business support and the provision of livestock.

Figure 5 provides a summary of the main sources of income today – again with the exclusion of agriculture – which shows a similar pattern to the situation before the earthquake (Figure 4). As expected, some of the most prominent changes which are noted are the increase in livestock keeping, commercial employment and clothes making.

¹¹ As for footnote number 9, here again there might have been some confusion on the part of respondents in relation to the past and present levels of support being provided through Social Mobilisers.

Figure 5. Main types of Livelihood Support (excluding Agriculture) Today



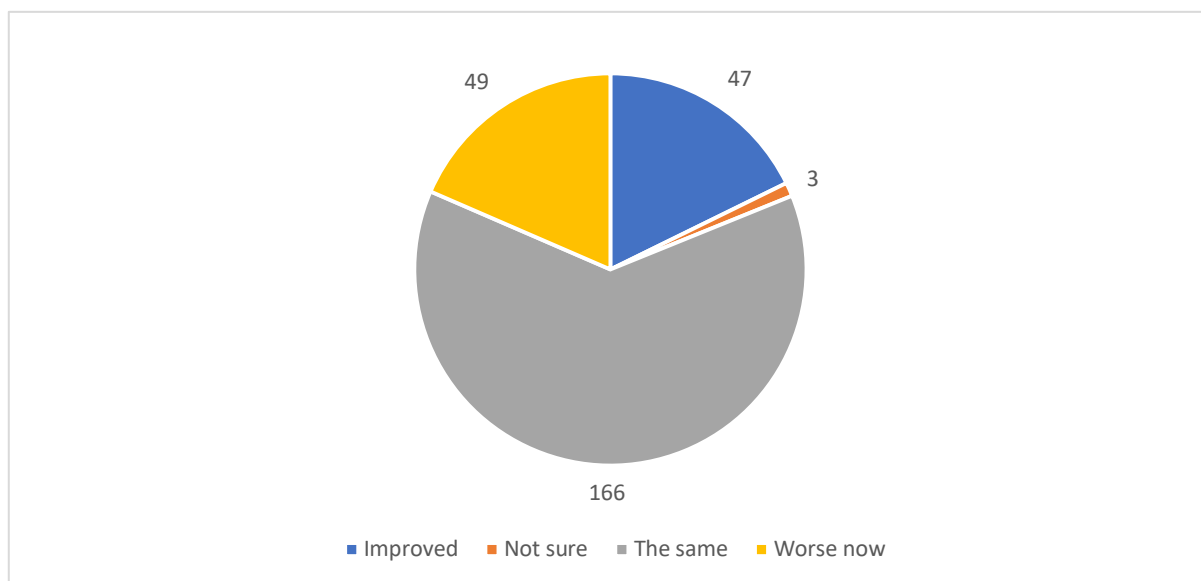
Support to new livelihoods needs careful monitoring: this beneficiary lost all of the livestock she received though the project and was unable to claim from the insurance as she did not understand the process.

True findings on either personal or household incomes require detailed surveys with multiple cross checks to ascertain real figures. While this was outside the scope of this evaluation, some indications were obtained from interviews that at least some households/individuals have seen their income increase compared with before the earthquakes (57 occasions). While most (153 respondents)

indicated that their income levels had not changed in this time, 55 people felt that it had declined. The majority of people reported a monthly income of between NPR5,000-15,000 (GBP36-108).

As Figure 6 shows, when asked in a different way, most households claim that their income level has not changed significantly over the past two years, with 18 per cent believing that it had either improved or was now worse off than before. Sixty per cent of those interviewed claimed that, as a result of the earthquakes they have been obliged to borrow money from others to help with the recovery process.

Figure 6. Changes to Income Levels in the Past Two Years



When asked if any household either lacked food or money with which to purchase food in the month preceding this evaluation, 85 people (32 per cent of the full household sample) reported that they had experienced this situation.

As noted in the 2015 Market Survey, *“Livestock have been an integral part of peoples’ livelihood strategies in Dolakha”* before the earthquake. As a result of the event, however, more than 2,200 livestock were lost in the 16 VDCs covered by Plan International Nepal. In view of the scale of these losses, and with the intention of directly supporting some of the most vulnerable women in selected communities, direct assistance has been provided through this project to provide different forms of livelihood support.

Selected women were introduced to a small number of livelihood options – such as tailoring, poultry raising and small livestock keeping – with a view to then developing these assets as a profitable business. As the primary focus of this activity was on supporting vulnerable young women, Plan International Nepal gave particular attention to ensuring that, in male-headed households, men were first consulted as to whether it was appropriate for women to engage in new livelihood activities. Advocacy work conducted at the same time was intended to ensure that whole families, including husbands, supported the action which would in turn help enable decisions to be taken by the women. This was seen as an important step in women starting to gain recognition and responsibility for their intended activities.

Intended activities were linked where applicable/possible to people's existing skills or interest which has likely helped with uptake of some. While project reports to DEC speak frequently about "business training" for beneficiaries, quite a few of those people spoken with could not describe their personal business plan in any detail. Some complained about the lack of support in accessing markets while others also mentioned that the business that had expressed interest in (e.g. egg production) was not what they eventually received (broiler production). Greater emphasis could, perhaps, also have been given to helping people understand the different elements of risk or continuing cost outlays that goat or pig production have in comparison with tailoring.

Some of these newly acquired activities have already started to yield financial benefits: women who opted for poultry keeping, for example, reported to the evaluation that they are now able to buy clothes for their children and send them to school. For others though, it has been more difficult as they need to wait at least 18 months before they can sell their produce, while meanwhile paying expenses for animal feed and vaccinations.

Overall the evaluation views the livelihood support provided in Phase 2A with mixed impressions. As noted above, some such as tailoring and poultry keeping are already gaining an income, others are not: one woman even reported that she has negotiated a loan to be able to continue upkeep of her animals until such time as she can sell them. While this project component appeared good in principle, there have been a number of issues – such as dealing with livestock insurance and a mass loss of animals to disease – which should have been dealt with differently by the project's implementing partner. It is also important that lessons from these experiences are taken into account for the new round of livelihood activities being planned and implemented in Phase 2B.

6.4 WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Support provided through DEC Phase 2A support did not address WASH issues. However, during a needs assessment conducted within this period, one of the unmet needs identified by communities was the rehabilitation of water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure. This is now subsequently being addressed in Phase 2B, with plans to construct 16 water schemes and work on seven school-based WASH programmes. Some of this work is already underway as shown in Table 3, with a focus thus far on latrine construction, provision of drinking water and menstrual hygiene management with the provision of menstrual kits and disposal pits being dug in schools.

Surveyed households reported that their main source of drinking water prior to the earthquakes was water that was directly piped to their household yard (n=90) or a public tap stand (n=94) (Figure 7). Some homes had water piped into their homes (28 households) and a similar number reported using protected springs (30 households) as their main water source. Other sources mentioned were unprotected springs and surface water. All but two households used these sources for domestic purposes.

Figure 8 depicts the present day situation, showing that no respondent reported now collecting surface water and indications of higher access to piped water and public tap stands. One concern, however, might be that more households now report accessing water from an unprotected spring.

Figure 7. Main source of drinking water prior to the earthquake

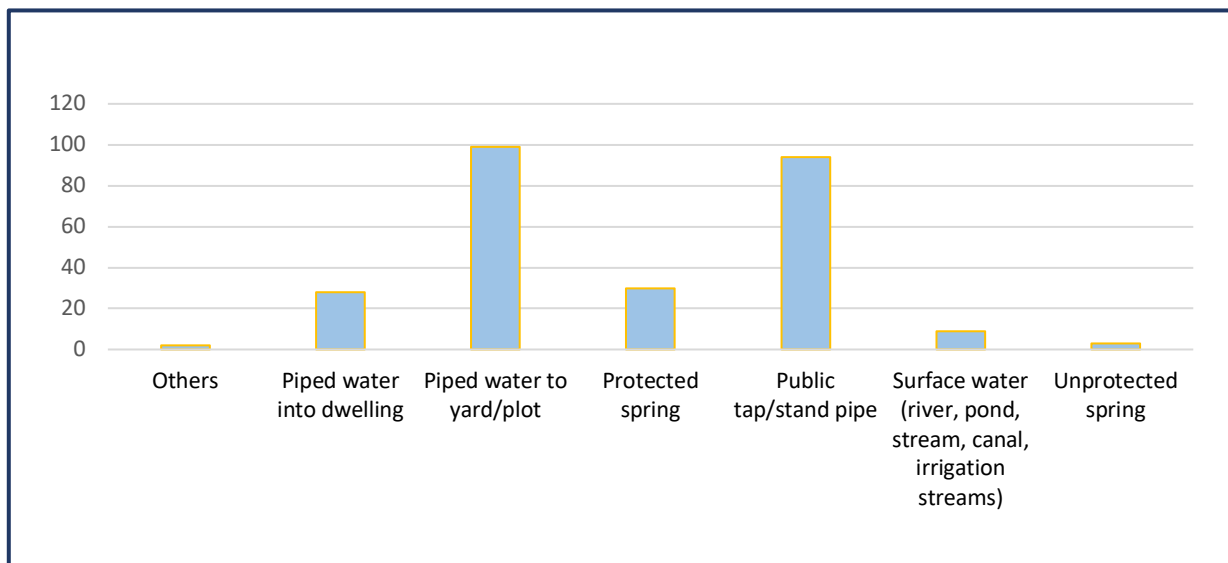
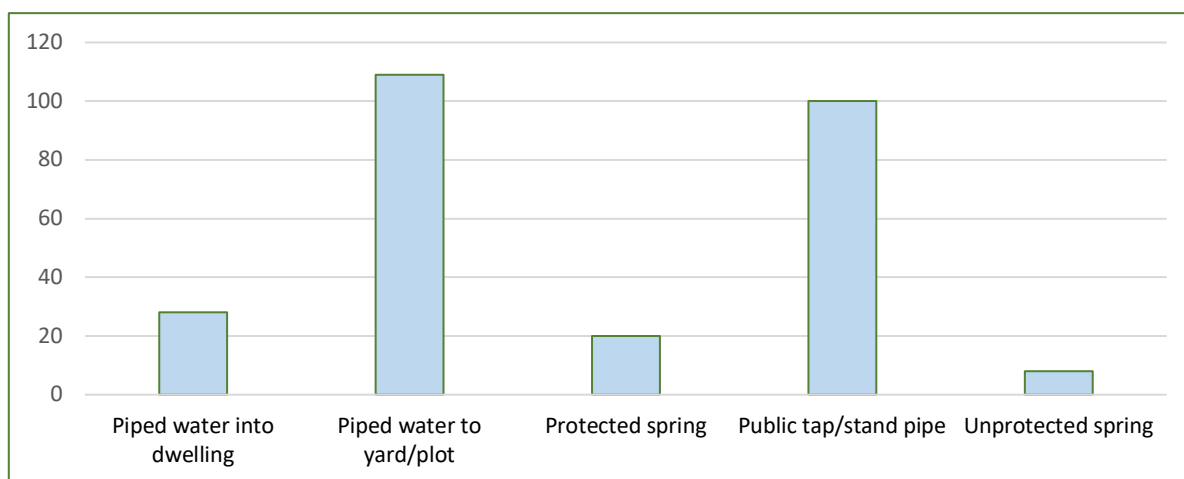


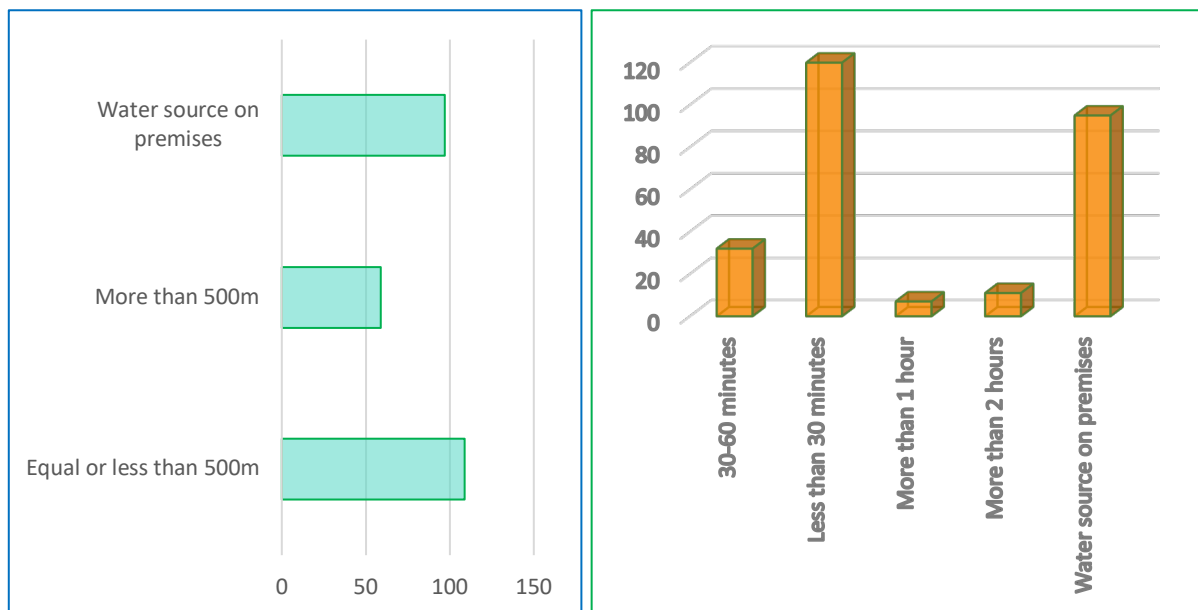
Figure 8. Main Source of Drinking Water Today



Forty-eight of the 265 households interviewed reported that – at the time of this evaluation – they do not have sufficient water to meet their daily needs: such claims were especially noted from Pawati, Fasku and Bhusafeda wards. During FGDs, the idea of water harvesting was discussed with participants expressing a keen interest to pursue this option if it's establishment could be supported technically and financially. At the same time, however, it is recognised that this was not an activity of this project, but might become a consideration for Plan International in similar recovery programmes in the future.

As figures 9 and 10 illustrate, most homes now have water either on (n=97) or close to (n=109) their premises, with 59 households reporting that their water source was more than 500m from their homes.

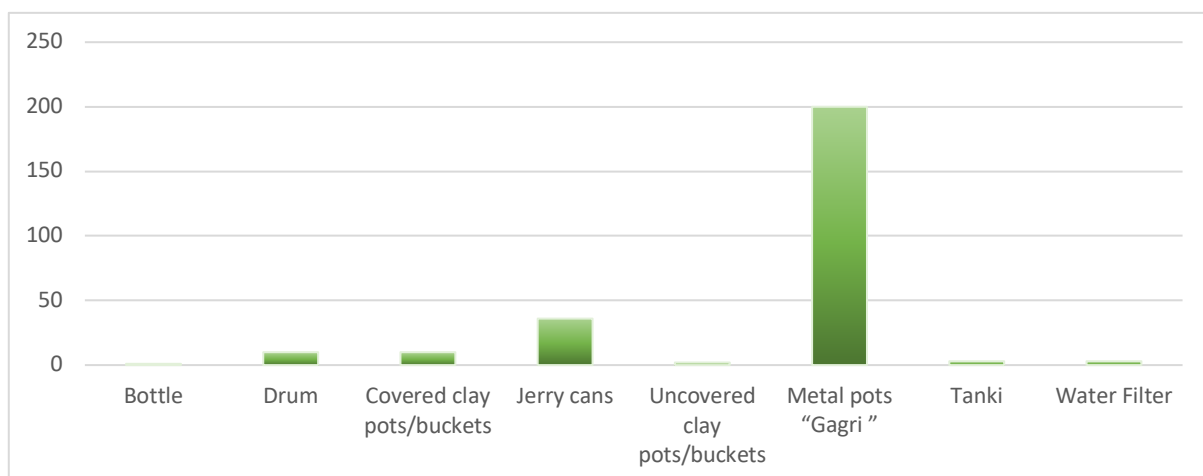
Figures 9 and 10. Distance of the main water source from home (left) and the reported average travel time to collect water (right).



In terms of the establishment of WUGs – one of the activities supported in this project – 55 respondents reported that they have an established WUG in their Ward, 25 did not know whether such a structure existed or not, while 50 people were sure that there was not a WUG in their Ward. Fifteen respondents were certain that their WUG had resulted directly from support provided through the Plan-DEC project. All respondents believed that the water from their current main water source is safe to drink. Those who reported that they treated water before consumption did so by boiling, chemical treatment and straining the water.

Figure 11 shows how people store water in their homes, with the Nepalese equivalent of a metal drum – called the *Gagri* – being the main vessel for water storage.

Figure 11. Storage of Water in Homes





The evaluation noted the active and open engagement of women members of each WUG consulted, which is a major departure from the situation before this project.

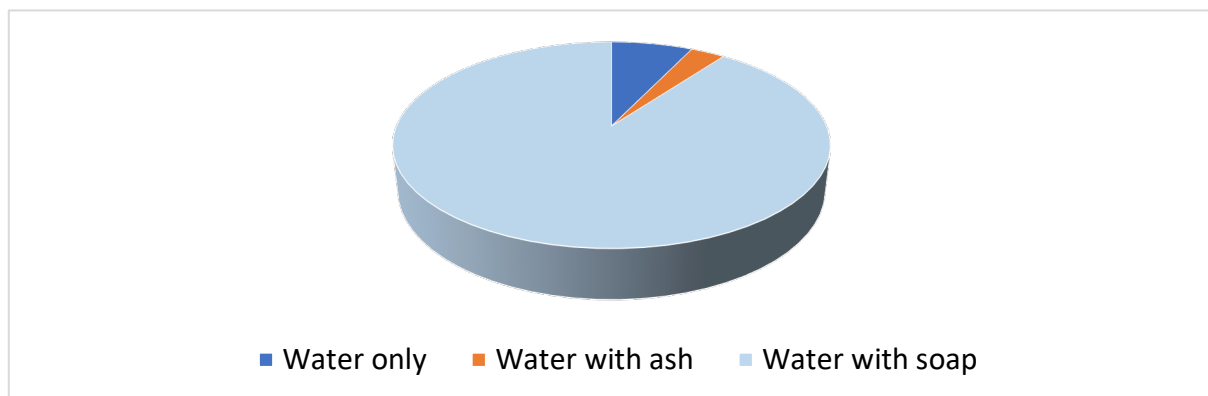
The most common method of cleaning storage containers is with water and ash, followed by soap and water, just water, and straw and ash. The majority of respondents (n=208) stated that they clean their water containers every day.

Two hundred of those households surveyed mentioned that they had been sensitised on how to take care of drinking water. Of the full survey quota, 142 respondents said that they had seen some improvement in their access to clean drinking water as compared with before this project: 97 reported no change and 23 felt that there was a high improvement in their access to water.

The vast majority of respondents (n=202) were aware about diseases that are transmitted through bad water hygiene practices: 13 households reported that family members had suffered from waterborne diseases – diarrhoea, cholera and dysentery – in the two weeks prior to this evaluation.

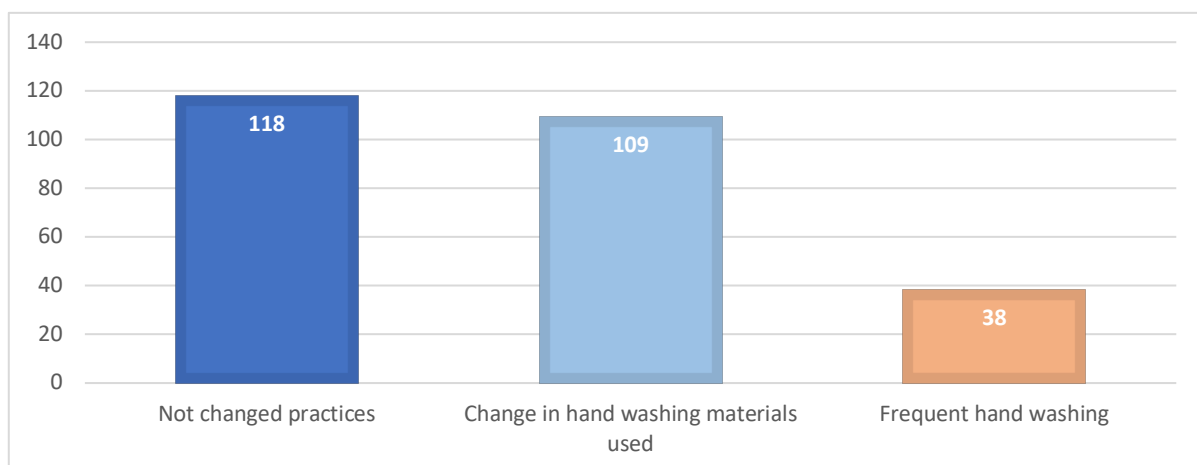
A significant number of respondents (n=109) reported that they washed their hands before preparing food, after visiting the toilet and before eating, with most people (98 per cent) using soap and water, together (Figure 12). This is an encouraging observation but, to ensure that it is continued, it is important to invest further in social mobilisation and hygiene promotion. Only five people, for example, were able to respond that they washed their hands at the six crucial times of the day.

Figure 12. Reported Hand Washing Materials



More than half of the survey respondents (147/265) reported that they had changed their hygiene practices as a direct result of this project. Altered practices were notably in using different hand-washing materials and, to a lesser degree, in terms of the frequency of washing their hands (Figure 13).

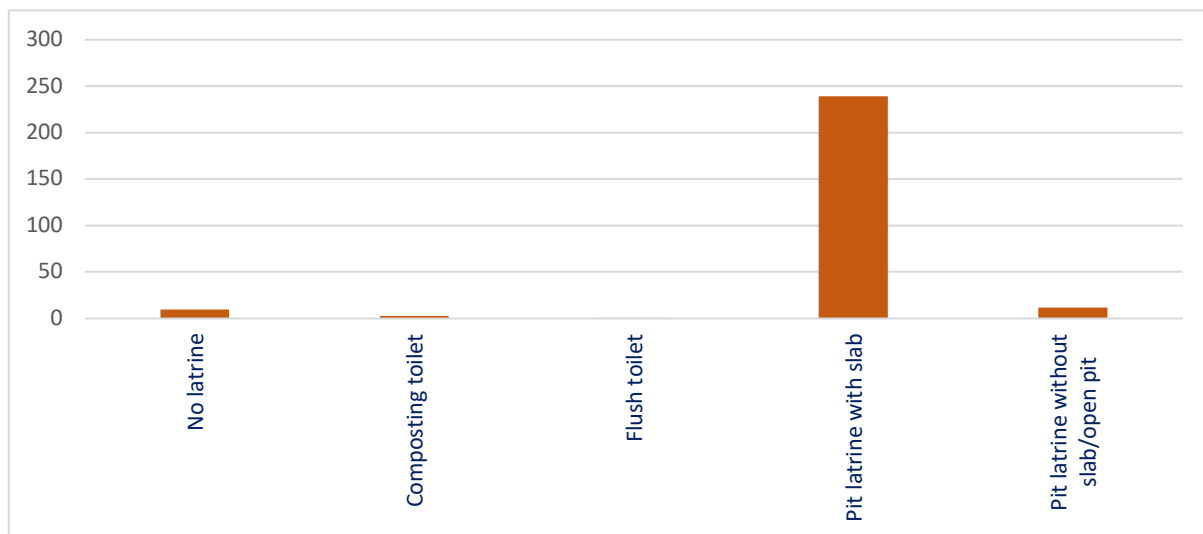
Figure 13. Main Changes in Hygiene Behaviour



Some households (n=161) reported having received hygiene awareness materials through this project. Of those that did, however, a significant number (n=118) again reported that they had not been consulted regarding the type of support that their household might receive. This matches other findings that communities were not always consulted about what support they would receive. This observation is re-inforced by direct interactions by the evaluation team with community members.

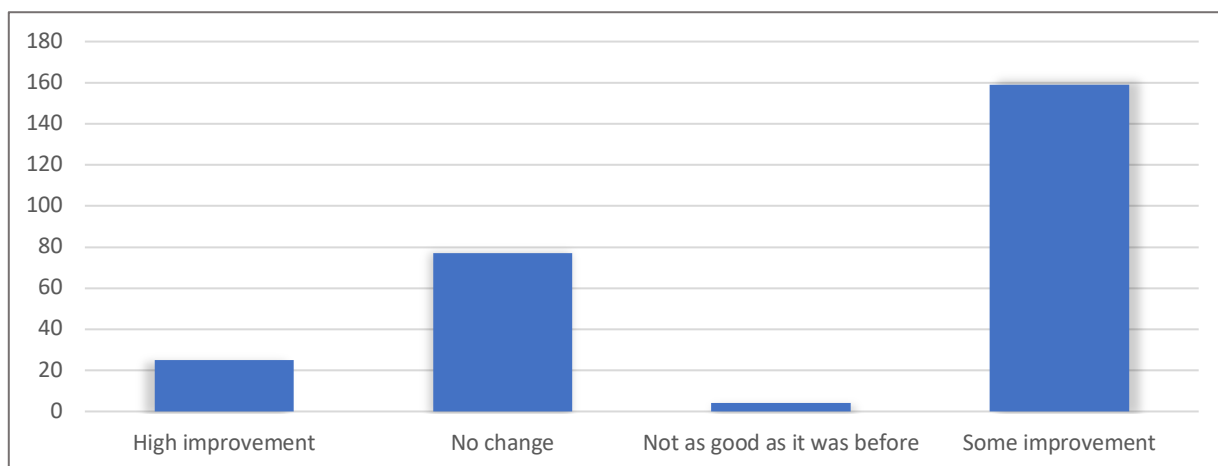
In terms of latrine access, 95 per cent of those households surveyed reported having a latrine, as summarised in Figure 14. This clearly shows that the majority of latrines are those fitted with a concrete slab base, which is that recommended by the government following the earthquakes. Twenty-one households reported sharing their latrines with other households.

Figure 14. Type of Latrines in Households



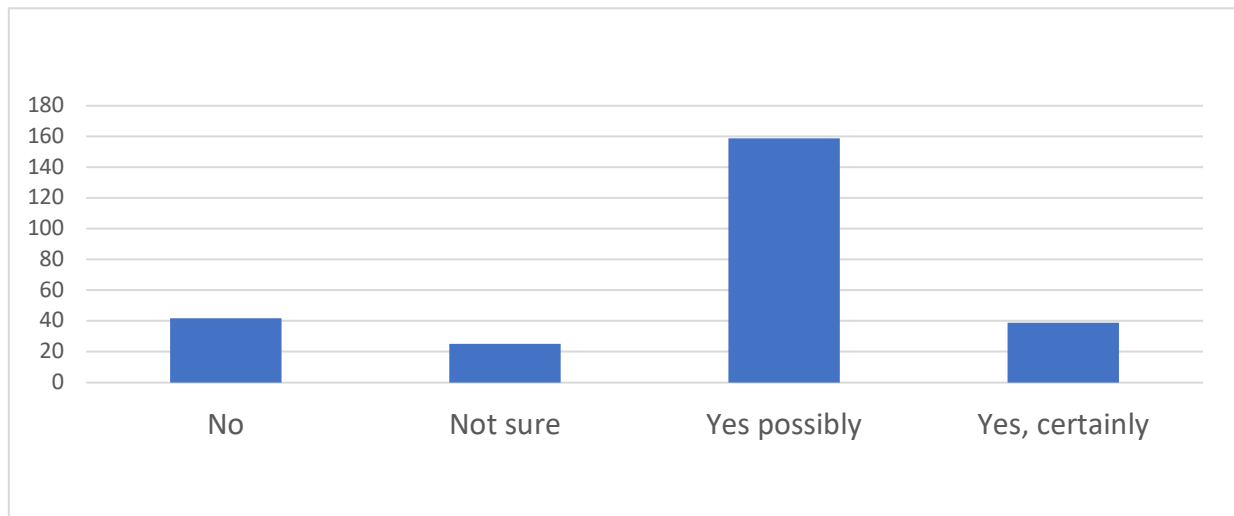
The responses received from those households interviewed showed that 60 per cent of people spoken with felt that there was “some improvement” in their sanitation standards today, compared with before the start of this project (Figure 15). A still sizeable number of people – 29 per cent of respondents – however, felt that there had not been any change in their personal situations, while 9 per cent already reported a high improvement in their household’s sanitation conditions.

Figure 15. Post-earthquake Sanitation Conditions



Finally, in terms of the continued use of repaired WASH facilities and newly learned practices, it is important to highlight that people expressed high appreciation for these services and many people will likely continue to practice these in the future (Figure 16).

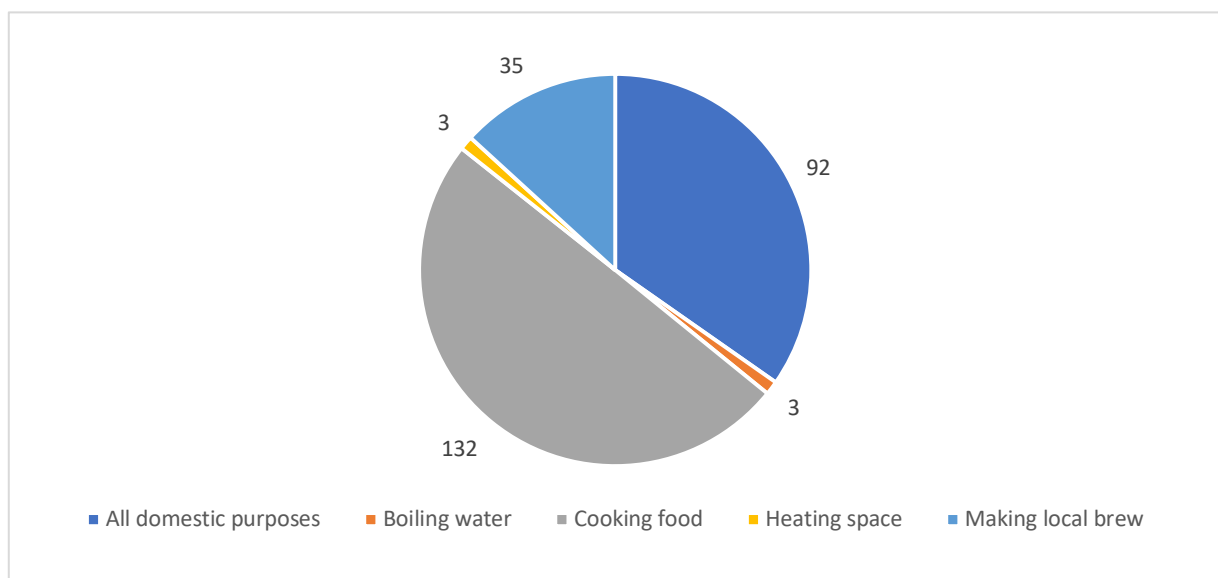
Figure 16. Number of Families Reporting that they would Continue to use Newly Acquired WASH Practices



6.5 DOMESTIC ENERGY

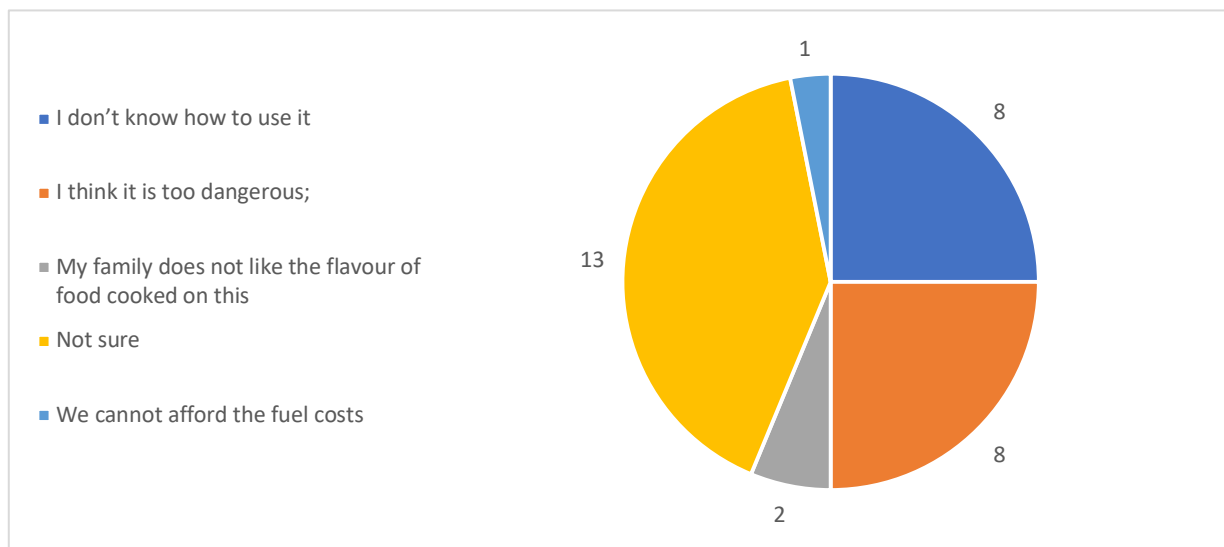
Cooking food accounts for the main use of domestic energy in households (50 per cent), followed by other domestic purposes, that includes washing (35 per cent) (Figure 17).

Figure 17. Main Domestic Energy Requirements



As part of the winterisation kit provided, households at an altitude above 2,000m were provided with a fuel-efficient stove. In this instance, 84 of the households reached through the quantitative survey indicated that they had received such a device. At the time of this evaluation, 52 households were continuing to use the stoves. Reasons given by the other 32 households who were not using the stoves are shown in Figure 18, seven of who later expressed the fact that they did not have enough fuel energy for cooking purposes.

Figure 18. Reasons Given for Not Using Provided Fuel-efficient Stoves



Of those people who were still using these stoves, many reported positively on the multiple benefits from using these devices, if used in the prescribed manner. All users appreciated the fact that the stoves use less fuel for cooking, while more than two-thirds also acknowledged the fact that they cook food more quickly and, importantly for personal health reasons, produce less smoke than traditional open fires. Freeing up time from collecting woodfuel, and thus permitting people to engage in other activities was also appreciated by some users.

Few respondents reported actually purchasing fuel, with weekly costs ranging from NPR700 (GBP5) to NPR8,000 (GBP56) in one instance. Many households, however, reported no spending on fuel, which indicates that they are relying solely on locally available natural resources.

Of the full survey group, 65 people reported a decreased spending in the past year, 57 increased and 143 the same.

People reported wide differences in the amount of time they – or a family member – spends collecting fuel each week, with the majority of people reporting three hours or less per week. Some, however, spend as much as 30 hours per week gathering fuel.

Finally, when asked to describe their household's domestic energy situation today, compared with before this project started, the majority of people (62 per cent – 162 households) believed that there was no real change, whereas "high improvements" and "some improvements" were registered by 15 and 57 households, respectively. Seven people reported that their situation was "much worse off today" than even before the earthquakes.

The "improvements" noted above to those household's domestic energy profiles can be linked directly with the provision and use of the fuel-efficient stoves: 14 of the 15 people who reported "high improvements" were all recipients and users of stoves, while 42 of the 57 households reporting "some improvements" were in a similar situation. This demonstrates the appreciation people have had for these stoves.

Given the appreciation of these positive aspects, it is therefore disappointing to note the overall poor uptake rate for these devices. From discussions with Plan International Nepal project staff, stove procurement was done through a private company, as part of the winterization kit. No formal training

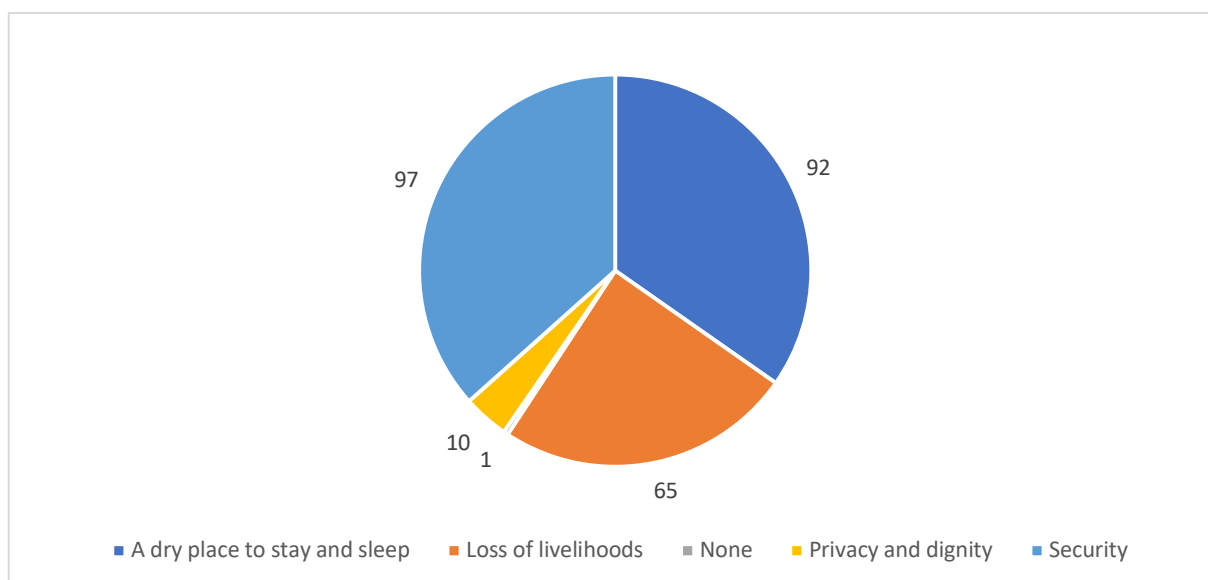
is believed to have been given to recipients, apart from just checking that all of the parts of the metal stove were provided. Inadequate follow-up seems to have happened in this instance.

6.6 SHELTER

The 2015 series of earthquakes had devastating impacts on constructions in each of the locations where this evaluation was conducted: 89 per cent of houses were reported to have been completely destroyed by those interviewed as part of the household surveys, while the remainder were partially damaged. Most (84 per cent), but not all, affected families claim that they received shelter assistance as part of this project’s recovery process. Fewer than one-third of those interviewed (93 people) said that they were consulted about their shelter needs after the earthquake, primarily by a government representative (50 instances) or by Plan International Nepal or one of its partners (34 occasions).

People naturally felt great concern and experienced considerable uncertainty as a result of the repeated series of tremors that followed the main earthquakes in Dolakha. Figure 19 indicates that having a dry place to stay and personal security were two of the main concerns expressed by people interviewed, followed by concerns with regards their privacy and dignity.

Figure 19. Main Challenges People Experienced in Relation to Shelter

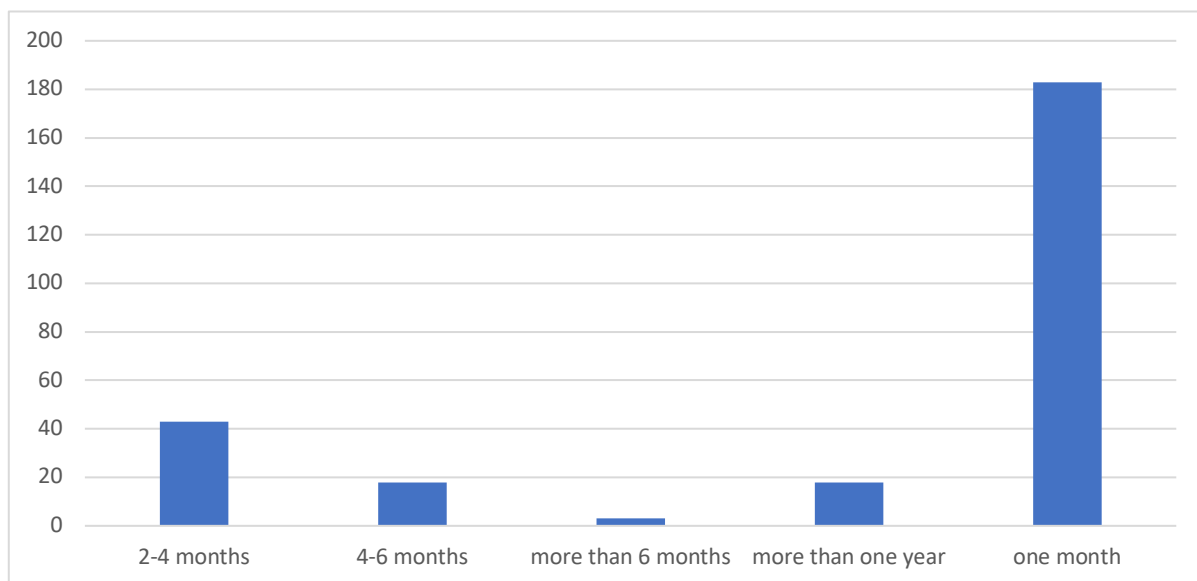


As part of its sectoral support to the recovery process this project deliberately chose to provide quality skills training to masons across the project area. In Phase 2A, 180 masons received a seven-day training to a nationally accredited standard. Each person was then each provided with basic essential tools and safety equipment. A total of 340 people are expected to likewise benefit from such training in Phase 2B.

Findings from the household surveys indicated that just over one-third of house repairs were conducted by a newly trained mason – some 91 households. Masons met with as part of this evaluation expressed their deep satisfaction with the training they received and the new skills they have acquired. While some of those trained have moved outside of their home Ward for better employment opportunities, those spoken with reported being constantly occupied in both construction itself as well as in training others to the same standards they have now reached.

While a good proportion of those families/households surveyed – almost 70 per cent – were provided with some form of temporary shelter within one month of the earthquakes, others reported that this took more than one year to happen (Figure 20). Even at the time of this evaluation, many people spoken with were still living in unsatisfactory temporary shelters, where concerns of safety and dignity were still being experienced. When asked about the ease for women, disabled and elderly people to receive temporary shelter support, 31 people reported that it had not been possible to receive such support while the majority of respondents (127) reported that getting temporary shelter support was easy but only with external assistance. Overall, 74 per cent of people interviewed stated that they had experienced extreme challenges in relation to shelter construction due to a combination of lack of funds, skilled manpower and/or knowledge.

Figure 20. Time Taken to Receive Temporary Shelter



As a result of the different forms of support and awareness raising conducted in relation to safer construction, many of those people surveyed (116 – 44 per cent) today feel that their houses are now better constructed and could withstand another event like an earthquake. Seventy-five people, however, do not believe that this is their actual situation, while a similar number remain uncertain.

6.7 DISASTER RISK PREPAREDNESS

Some of the support provided in Phase 2 of this project was intended to raise awareness about disaster preparedness and to facilitate inclusion of peoples’ needs and opinions in the development of VDC level Disaster Management Plans. The evaluation team understands that information on disaster risk management was only ever intended to be “key messages” on, for example what to do in the event of an earthquake or to not build in flood or landslide prone areas. Dissemination of messages is also anticipated in Phase 2B, following the evaluation. As such, the questions posed to beneficiaries were probably not relevant at the time. Some responses, however, are nonetheless included below as they might help inform the remaining work on preparing and informing people on these key messages.

For example, when asked whether they were aware of climate change or disaster risk reduction, rather a large number of survey respondents (60 per cent) replied that they had not heard of these two concepts. Going a step further, 81 per cent of this group of people felt that the project had not (yet) helped their understanding of disaster risk reduction.

Just 18 people felt that the project has helped them to adapt to climate change, mainly through activities that they themselves had undertaken in relation to tree planting. A few people made the positive link between adaptation and safer construction though no respondent mentioned their personal involvement with their local Disaster Risk Management Committee.

Finally, when asked whether they felt better prepared and protected today should there be another emergency, most people (60 per cent) replied that they did, while 23 per cent did not. The remainder were not sure about this. This finding is possibly linked with the notion of safer construction, in that people now appreciate having a better constructed house that might be expected to be more resilient to at least some future disaster events.

While recognising and appreciating that government administrative changes and continuing uncertainties might have added to this confusion, maximum effort needs to be made in the remaining time in Phase 2B to try and get future clarity and direction on this, with clear, understandable information being provided to communities. Attention also needs to be given to ensuring that vulnerable community members are themselves somehow involved in and aware of local disaster preparedness or management plans

6.8 PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

As mentioned earlier, due to government requirements, part-way through Phase 1 implementation, Plan International Nepal had to alter its implementation procedures to work directly through district- and local-partners, who they were already engaged with. While Plan International Nepal had previously undergone a form of institutional assessment with these partners, this was not undertaken with a view to them then taking up the reins fully on project implementation. For some, at least, this would have been the first occasion when they would have had to adapt to such a significant undertaking.

From discussions with Plan International Nepal staff, an important part of their support was through regularly verifying findings reported through their partners. Validation was done through keeping records of events, PDMs, reviews and monitoring visits. Desk monitoring and monthly visits were still being conducted by Plan's technical staff at the time of this evaluation.

Programme co-ordination between Plan International UK and Plan International Nepal was reported as good with reportedly "no barriers to accessing support when requested". Appreciation was cited for:

- Plan International UK's support with the preparation of Phase 2B by being a resource provider and helping with proposal renewal, administration and providing guidance on project activities, donor compliance, reporting formats and standard maintenance;
- good team work;
- good communications and reliable information exchanges;
- technical assistance in terms of providing guidance and monitoring support;
- joint undertaking of exercises such as those on Age and Gender markers and Common Humanitarian Standards; and
- sharing of relevant DEC learnings.

Plan International Nepal, in consequence, reported that it:

- cascades all information and support to its partners;
- communicates regularly with partners;

- plans and undertakes regular field visits – RDTA staff specifically mentioned their appreciation for this during the evaluation;
- provides overall programme orientation on roles and responsibilities, monthly work plans and technical guidance;
- monitoring feedback and learning;
- quality control;
- financial orientation and training on subjects such as fraud and child protection; and
- management, including guidance on dispute resolution within communities.

Plan International Nepal closed its office in Dolakha in August 2017.

7. LESSONS TO CONSIDER

Lessons constantly need to be learned.

While Plan International Nepal undertakes routine monitoring with a view to inform learning, the same cannot be said of its implementing partners, for example in relation to livelihood options, approaches and follow-up support. A review of what worked and what did not work as planned from the livelihoods experiences of Phase 2A, for instance, would likely have positively informed a number of decisions still currently being discussed for Phase 2B implementation.

Community motivation comes first.

Community motivation is a must in recovery projects: bottom-up approaches are essential for successful recovery and sustainability. Communities – with full representation from all groups of stakeholders – must be allowed the opportunity to engage in decision-making, whether in consideration of materials to be distributed, or opportunities provided.

Implementing partners must not position themselves above communities.

Establishing trust with community members is essential: this requires mutual respect and fairness between all actors – Plan International Nepal staff, implementing partners, government services and beneficiaries. Partners need to maintain open and reliable two-way communication mechanisms with communities and should always strive to be good ‘Ambassadors’ that earn and retain peoples’ confidence and trust.

Integrated approaches work best.

Where possible, strive to integrate activities, such as WASH with livelihoods or health with education, while respecting the needs to constantly address cross-cutting issues such as protection and gender. Integrated approaches are commonly stronger, reach more people and are generally more sustaining than stand-alone activities.

Main a balance between soft and hard support during recovery.

Where possible, in sectors such as WASH and shelter, striking a balance between soft (e.g. hygiene training) and hard (infrastructure repair) components will find considerable favour in the community as not everyone will have the same needs.

Feedback mechanisms should be continued beyond the emergency phase.

Given increasing attention to establishing and respecting feedback from project beneficiaries, and using this information to positively change approaches (where possible), such systems should be maintained at least in the initial phases of recovery support where new approaches are being suggested, new interventions started and skills being acquired. Failure to do so could result in a rapid loss of confidence and uptake of intended recovery activities.

Where possible, include known “easy win” activities to the greatest extent possible in recovery.

Some activities allow themselves to be more easily introduced and scaled-up than others. In this instance, hygiene awareness was an obvious example, which could have benefitted many more people if a more comprehensive approach had been considered beyond the immediate reach of the WUGs. RDTA has outsourced hygiene education to another NGO, however, there is no hygiene focal person to ensure continued, regular hygiene awareness campaigns.

Women’s engagement in community structures can have multiple benefits.

Pay particular attention to supporting women members of groups, e.g. WUGs so as to give people an opportunity they might not have again to receive counselling, guidance and re-assurance, and allow them to develop confidence in expressing their opinions in public.

Increasingly, consideration needs to be given on partner engagement from the outset

With renewed focus on local partnership engagement following the World Humanitarian Summit, and as witnessed essential at a key stage of this project’s implementation, organisation’s like Plan need to be prepared to support the development of respective partners’ – and, tentatively, new local government services – capacities in specific areas such as Child Rights and Protection, Livelihoods, successful community mobilisation and so forth.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 GENERAL

Greater consistency and improved information sharing need to be practised across the project.

Some community members expressed their displeasure over the selection process for certain forms of support provided. This seems especially to be the case in relation to livelihood support. Some people who received goats, for example, were given different amounts of financial support, the reasons explained to them being that additional charges, such as transportation, had to be discounted. The content and amounts of these packages are, however, clearly described in project documents yet the responsible implementing partner applies different systems in different communities – without explanation. Greater consistency is therefore required across the project in this respect.

Conduct more regular on-site monitoring of implementing partner staff, to include consultations with beneficiaries.

In line with the above recommendation, and comments shared again with the evaluation team, Plan International Nepal should increase its monitoring of its partners work, including how often partners are convening community consultations and how they are responding to feedback. This should include roles covered by Project Supervisors, Field Staff and Social Mobilisers, in particular. This is particularly important to provide timely support to beneficiaries acquiring new livelihood skills and underpins future sustainability.

Plan must ensure that Rights and Protection issues are adequately and consistently covered throughout projects like this, from emergency response to recovery and phase out.

Though not a specific focus of this evaluation, it is believed that children’s rights and protection issues were at the forefront of the emergency response. Evidence from Phase 2, however, suggests a significant tailing off of this support as seen both in the absence, or non-use, of complaints boxes, a lack of knowledge of alternative feedback mechanisms and findings from the quantitative household surveys.

Prior to phase out, Plan International Nepal should organise a capacity building event on Child Protection for newly appointed government structures.

Under the newly established Gaunpalika and Ward levels, Child Protection is unlikely to be given immediate prominence. Some of Plan International Nepal's partners, such as HURADEC know, however, that there are still serious concerns about children's rights and protection issues in some earthquake-affected communities in Dolakha. Without insight and guidance from Plan International Nepal, progress made thus far might easily lose traction as newly appointed representatives in local government offices are likely to be – and consequently remain – unaware of these needs and how to address them. This concern was raised by many institutions.

Extreme caution needs to be exercised in matching beneficiary selection with distribution.

While guidance was established to inform the selection of beneficiaries for different types of support, the criteria for final selection needs to be clear to everyone and respected by those in charge of eventual distributions.

Plan Nepal's local partners need to ensure that all field staff are aware of the support that is destined for beneficiaries, and be ready and willing to respond to concerns expressed by beneficiaries.

Field staff, including social mobilisers, of Plan's implementing partners – in particular ECARDS – need to be more visible amongst communities, especially those receiving new forms of livelihood support. Constant attention is required in this respect to overcome staff turnover and ensure open lines of communication are maintained. While not necessarily serving as technical experts, staff need to know who to contact in search of assistance for specific issues such as veterinary support or livestock insurance.

Prior to hand over, Plan International Nepal should organise a training event on Disaster Risk Management for newly established structures at the Gaunpalika and Ward levels¹².

Plan, with its strong community focus, is in an ideal position to provide a short training event on disaster risk management to newly appointed government officials. This could be undertaken at the same time as it phases out its support, informs new authorities on what has happened through the development of the LDRMPs and explores how resources might be mobilised to continue support for these plans. Training should:

- address newly elected officials as well as community representatives;
- complement the government's recommended order of reporting and chain of command;
- help establish a well-designed and easily implementable LDRMP;
- ensure that participants are made aware of the importance of cascading information into their communities;
- be accompanied with a post-training follow up by Plan International Nepal six months after project closure to ensure that any technical expertise can be provided to beneficiaries.

Greater clarity is required for community members to understand the status of their local/Ward level disaster preparedness plan.

A significant number of people who contributed to this evaluation's findings are not involved in, nor aware of, local disaster preparedness or management plans. While recognising and appreciating that changes to the government's administration, together with some continuing uncertainties in personnel/posts, might have added to this confusion, maximum effort needs to be made in the

¹² The evaluation learned later that this activity is planned for Phase 2B

remaining time in Phase 2B to try and get future clarity and direction on this, with clearly understandable information being provided to communities.

8.2 PROTECTION

Prior to hand over, Plan International Nepal – through its local partners – should assess the current status of protection structures it helped support, for example the Ward Citizen Forum.

Protection and rights issues were clearly at the fore of emergency relief operations. Their consistent consideration is now, reportedly, not always considered, despite known needs, for example the still considerable number of vulnerable people in need of secure shelter. This matter should be discussed with partners and relevant authorities to review the status of these structures and help advocate for future support to enable them to continue to operate as intended.

Assess to what extent Plan International Nepal can support newly established Ward level government structures and personnel.

While administrative systems in some of the wards is still unclear, Plan International Nepal should – as part of its Phase Out Strategy – assess to what degree it (or its local partners) might be able to support newly incumbent structures in critical issues such as Child Protection and Rights.

The current status of the WCPC's in those Wards supported in Phase 2 should be reviewed in detail, immediately.

Given the fact that many families are still living in temporary shelters – where privacy is often an issue for adolescent girls, in particular – more support needs to be directed to at least some WCPCs to build their capacity and enable them to mobilise more frequently within their respective communities. Some communities also reported that some children are still suffering from stress following the earthquakes, but are not receiving adequate support.

8.3 WASH

Give particular support to female members of WUGs to bolster their representation and standing in these committees.

Being part of a group, and being able to express their thoughts and opinions, is a new experience for most female members of WUGs. As evidenced from this evaluation, some women are now able to freely express themselves in front of their male counterparts, defending their arguments and encouraging other women to do the same. Such actions need to be encouraged and supported by RDTA's social mobilisers, while at the same time ensuring that all members of a WUG are equally informed on how to service and maintain newly established water systems or, at the least, be able to report issues to their fellow group members.

The Treasurers of each supported WUG should receive a simple form of bookkeeping training.

Given that many newly formed or re-established WUGs are anticipating charging households a small user fee – which ideally should be done on a regular basis – it is important that the Group's Treasurers are training in basic bookkeeping, either by Plan or RDTA. Accompanying this, the Treasurers should be given basic materials such as a ledger and bag in which to safely keep this. Records should be available at all times for any future inspection.

Provide more comprehensive hygiene awareness and training to all water scheme beneficiaries, in addition to training provided to the WUGs¹³.

Members of WUGs trained during the preconstruction training should be able to share the knowledge they have gained with other community members, though this should not be taken for granted. A broad, community focused, awareness raising event should be carried out in conjunction with such training so that all community members understand and appreciate the importance of protecting water sources so that there is further minimisation of drinking water contamination.

Future WASH interventions should consider a more balanced approach to hardware and software provision.

Ninety per cent of the respondents in this evaluation reported that they now wash their hands with soap and water. This is very encouraging and highlights the importance of investing in social mobilisation and hygiene promotion. While RDTA field staff have themselves noted the importance of combining both hardware and software a likely future step to ensure success and help achieve sustainability of WASH projects would be for social mobilisers to also function as hygiene promoters.



Earthquake tremors have affected the former flow path of some water sources leaving farmers now without enough water to grow crops.

Plan and RDTA should meet more frequently in the field to review progress on WASH implementation.

Given the short timeframe remaining on Phase 2b Implementation – January 2018 – it is strongly advised that Plan’s WASH personnel meet with RDTA field teams, on the ground, at two weekly intervals, at least in the coming months. This, it is believed, would make joint assessments of the

¹³ The evaluation learned later that this activity is planned for Phase 2B

situation(s) more relevant, help with troubleshooting, assist with logistics and enable both teams to plan immediate next steps, together.

Future recovery projects like the current one should consider going to scale more quickly, including links with irrigation schemes, if appropriate.

While the current project addressed important water access needs for some households, the need is still far greater than can be met with the current set of resources. Given that the earthquakes have disrupted some former water supplies, agricultural productivity is decreasing as there is insufficient water to provide irrigation in some instances.

Rainwater harvesting should be promoted at household and school levels.

Collecting rainwater from tin roofs can help reduce the need for collecting water from tap points for at least part of the year and for certain activities, e.g. livestock and kitchen gardening. At schools constructed as part of this project, rainwater could be stored in tanks and used for cleaning latrines. Recognition is given to the fact that this practice was not part of this project's design though it is recommended here for consideration in future similar projects that seek to boost recovery following a disaster.

8.4 LIVELIHOODS

Urgent reflection needs to take place on lessons learned with livelihood support in Phase 2A.

While ECARDS is in the process of now training new livelihood recipients in selected activities, no consideration has been given to learning from past experiences with other communities. Plan International Nepal is aware of some such lessons, through its PDM on livelihoods, but its partner on the ground has not taken these into account. Should this not happen, time will be lost and mistakes inevitably made for both existing and newly selected beneficiaries.

Refresher training should be provided to livelihood beneficiaries of livestock.

While most women seem to be managing their new livelihoods quite well, some have yet to realise any benefit from this activity. In order to maximise the benefit from breeding and/or sale of livestock when they mature, prior to a final hand over, it would be advisable that ECARDS undertakes one more round of technical support to beneficiaries. This should focus on people's original business training and their individual business plans, to help ensure that they will get maximum benefit from their livelihoods when these activities eventually mature.

More credit and involvement needs to be given to existing livestock owners within a community.

Prior to the new livestock-based livelihoods being introduced through this project, many people were already successfully raising and maintaining livestock. Their knowledge needs to be acknowledged in this project. Their involvement, for example, in helping to diagnose a sickness on a timely basis would be more effective than having, first, ECARDS and then a vet come to the community from Charikot. This is yet another important step in helping ensure future sustainability and independence for livestock-based livelihood support.

Livestock insurance schemes needs to be carefully explained to livelihood beneficiaries at the outset.

Particular attention should be given to explaining the whole process of insurance to beneficiaries, including what steps need to be taken when making a claim (in particular the timelines involved in getting a claim registered with a veterinary officer and the insurance company) and when re-insuring animals once the current policy expires. While a beneficiaries' initial understanding of the process is important, ECARD's Social Mobilisers should also help facilitate this process.

For the remainder of the project, ECARDS should mobilise communities to appoint one female representative from amongst those livelihood beneficiaries to ensure better and timely two-way communications.

Many livelihood recipients are unhappy with the lack of support received through ECARDS, in addition to difficulties contacting them should something go wrong, e.g. animals dying. A request was made to the evaluation team for ECARDS to be actively involved in selecting a focal person from within a community who would then have all contact details for ECARDS and the DLSO and who would be systematically in contact with the ECARDS Social Mobiliser to ensure that livelihoods were being managed as anticipated.

Regular monitoring needs to be assured of all new livelihoods

Closer follow-up is required for some, if not all, livelihood activities supported through this project, especially the more complicated and demanding choices such as livestock management.

8.5 LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

A comprehensive health check should be made of all livestock being given to beneficiaries.

All livestock being provided to intended livelihood beneficiaries should undergo a thorough health inspection before delivery. This is essential for the health of those animals being provided but also in consideration of other livestock which a beneficiary, or their neighbours, might already have in order to prevent disease transmission.

Local people should be trained by DLSO in performing animal vaccinations.

To reduce costs – bringing an officer from DLSO Charikot is an expensive undertaking – a local member of the community should be trained by the DLSO in the art of animal vaccinations and knowing when, and what sort, of vaccination should be used. This would be a more sustainable option for livestock owners and serve as a future income generating activity for those persons trained.

When new livestock are being given to beneficiaries, the project should support a mass vaccination of all similar livestock owners at the same time.

Vaccinations are cheap (NRP5-50, depending on the type) and by offering to vaccinate all goats or pigs in a community at the same time as new animals are introduced through the livelihoods scheme this will help reduce the possibility of any one animal causing a disease. At the same time, this will contribute to the overall health of the full livestock quota of the community, thus bolstering their resistance to sudden shocks and losses.

Requests for DLSO supported livestock training events should be better planned and communicated with the government office.

In order to ensure that the right staff are available to conduct training with communities, DLSO needs to be better informed of such events to allow for smooth planning and preparation. Notice of just one day – as has reportedly happened in the past – is not sufficient to allow smooth preparations to happen.

9. CONCLUSIONS

This evaluation focused on a set of carefully considered and generally well-planned activities undertaken in Dolakha District, Nepal, under the oversight of Plan International UK and Plan International Nepal and in association with selected District/Local level implementing partners, participating communities and selected local government authorities.

As indicated above, this has been a well-designed, implemented and monitored programme. Significant progress has been made within the project's timeframe and in a challenging context. Most activities have been successfully completed, with some exceeded.

Participation in this project has been an innovative undertaking for many of its beneficiaries. In a short period of time, some people have started to see how their lives and livelihoods can be enhanced through engaging in new activities, some of which are as simple as a discussion group. Realising change in peoples' perceptions – in particular in relation to issues such as confidence and empowerment which were firmly engrained in peoples' former routines – is not simple or immediately obvious.

Several issues stand out as having contributed positively to change and success, including:

- ✓ the timing and relevance of the project design, particularly the continuation from response to recovery;
- ✓ the scale of intervention and beneficiary selection process, both in terms of who it selected and how these people were selected;
- ✓ various needs and situational assessments which provided early identification of needs and challenges, and allowed for prioritisation and consensus building;
- ✓ community willingness to contribute in certain activities which, in some instances, demonstrates a new-found sense of community engagement and ownership;
- ✓ tailored awareness raising, which resulted in communities becoming informed and empowered;
- ✓ tactical income generating activities which has allowed some people to start being better prepared and in a stronger position to recover should they be affected by another disaster;
- ✓ active engagement of local authorities;
- ✓ transparency – financial as well as with regards decision-making and support;
- ✓ periodic reviews and monitoring; and
- ✓ a planned phase out and handover process.

Some areas of improvement have also been identified, primarily with the design, approach and support provided to new livelihood activities. Becoming truly sustainable in a timeframe or context such as those experienced in this project is not achievable, hence this aspect receiving a slightly lower score than other OECD-DAC criteria (Table 4). This, however, should not be interpreted in a negative sense but rather that the "proof of sustainability", for example, can only be measured effectively after a particular project has concluded and people continue to use and adapt the experiences and practices they have learned. Positive signs of what this project has started to introduce being replicated are, though, quite likely imminent, as reflected above.

Should this project be replicated or scaled-up – both of which are recommended should funding and partnership opportunities allow – it is hoped that some of the key recommendations provided in Section 8 would be considered. In the remaining time available in Phase 2B, however, some of the points highlighted above could already be introduced, particularly in relation to livelihoods, WASH and disaster preparedness.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

SN	NAME OF DOCUMENT	TYPE OF DOCUMENT
1	DEC Phase 2a 6 month report financial and budget modification	Excel
2	DEC Phase 2a 6 month report logframe	Excel
3	DEC Phase 2a 12 month detailed financial report	Excel
4	DEC Phase 2a 12 month report finance	Excel
5	DEC Phase 2a 12 month report logframe	Excel
6	DEC Phase 2a final financial report	Excel
7	DEC Phase 2a final logframe report	Excel
8	DEC Phase 2a proposal budget	Excel
9	DEC Phase 2a proposal detailed budget	Excel
10	DEC Phase 2a proposal logframe	Excel
11	DEC Phase 2a revised budget	Excel
12	DEC Phase 2a Workplan December 2015	Excel
13	DEC Phase 2b proposal logframe	Excel
14	DEC Phase 2b proposal budget	Excel
15	Final financial report for Phase I Plan UK	Excel
16	Final logframe table for Phase I Plan UK	Excel
17	Sample Size Calculator	Excel
18	Annex 1_ Post Distribution Monitoring Report	PDF
19	Annex 1_ Post Distribution Monitoring Winterization	PDF
20	Annex 2_ KAP Baseline Survey	PDF
21	Annex 2_ ANC PNC Mapping	PDF
22	Annex 3_ Health Facility Assessment	PDF
23	Annex 4 Market Assessment	PDF
24	Nepal Strategy Earthquake Response final version	PDF
25	Nepal-earthquake-one-year-on-report	PDF
26	NPL-Report_on_Community_Feedback-IO-Final-Eng-Oct15	PDF
27	NPL-Report_on_Community_Feedback-IO-Final-Eng-July_August	PDF
28	Summary_Recovery Plan International Nepal	PDF
29	DEC Phase 2a 6 month report narrative	Word
30	DEC Phase 2a 12 month report narrative	Word
31	DEC Phase 2a final narrative report	Word
32	DEC Phase 2a proposal narrative	Word
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35	NPL_PDM_DEC_Draft_IO_Eng_subtt ukno_160518	Word
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ANNEX I TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THIS EVALUATION



Plan International UK TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR:

External Evaluation of Plan International UK's DEC Funded Response to the 2015 Nepal Earthquake

Type of Contract:	Independent Consultancy
Language:	English
Contract Length:	Expected 30 working days

1. BACKGROUND

On 25th of April 2015 a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the central and western regions of Nepal, followed by another earthquake on the 12th of May with its epicentre in Dolakha district. The government reported a total of 8,702 fatalities (4,802 female; 3,900 male) and thousands of people injured while 505,745 houses destroyed and 279,330 damaged by both earthquakes. The Dolakha district, epicentre of the second earthquake, was one of the most affected, with 50,284 houses out of 57,956 fully destroyed (87%). Plan International began responding to immediate humanitarian needs of affected communities in Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk districts. Through the DEC appeal, Plan International UK received £2,596,450 to respond in 3 phases: phase 1 from May-October 2015; phase 2a from November 2015- April 2017; and phase 2b from May 2017- April 2018. Particular emphasis was given to meeting the specific needs of women and girls throughout the response.

Phase 1 focused on providing immediate relief through cash for work and food distributions while also focusing on providing emergency health support through temporary health facilities with a focus on providing maternal and neo natal care. The first part of the second phase focused on beginning the rehabilitation through a shelter, livelihoods and health project. This included providing transitional shelter, capacity building for constructing more resilient shelter and the construction of a health centre ensuring adequate equipment for maternal health. Livelihoods activities included support to young women to begin small businesses and have greater control over their incomes. Phase 2b is focusing on the phase out and responding to remaining gaps with a WASH, livelihoods and resilience building project. WASH activities are focusing on ensuring adequate WASH facilities and hygiene practices in schools, continued support to livelihood recovery of young women, and capacity building for better coping with future disasters. Activities will be completed by the end of April 2018.

2. RATIONALE FOR THE EVALUATION

2.1. This final evaluation is planned to allow Plan International to record the learning around the implementation of its DEC funded emergency programming in response to the 2015 Nepal Earthquake and analyse successes, areas for improvement, accountability strategies and recommendations for future emergencies. The objectives and key questions have also included references to the Core Humanitarian Standards to ensure the evaluation considers the extent to which the response is aligning to the 9 commitments. This evaluation is also part of the DEC's Accountability system and a requirement for member agencies to complete. The evaluation will therefore also be shared with the DEC, published on Plan International UK's website, ALNAP and used to demonstrate the impact of Plan and the DEC's work for this appeal.

2.2 The findings from the evaluation will primarily be used by:

- The Plan International Nepal project team, partners and stakeholders
 - i. to inform improvements in delivery of the project and support sustainability and succession strategies;
 - ii. to learn and document lessons from the project for replicating good practices and/or taking up approaches and activities with evidence of success
 - iii. to share findings with the affected communities we worked with for the Nepal Earthquake emergency response.
- The Plan International UK project team
 - i. to assess and demonstrate accountability for the funding received to communities we work with and the Disasters Emergency Committee;
 - ii. to learn and document lessons for replicating good practices and use findings to inform future responses
 - iii. to leverage additional resources to scale up and sustain the activities /benefits delivered by the project;
- by Plan International Nepal and UK
 - i. to continuously evaluate alignment to the Core Humanitarian Standards and progress towards Improvement Commitments;
- the DEC team
 - i. to share findings, information and impacts of the Nepal earthquake appeal to external stakeholders and demonstrate accountability to its supporters

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE EVALUATION

3.1. Assess the quality of achieved outputs, outcomes and results of the project throughout the period of implementation and its continuous improvement against the key evaluation criteria (relevance, timeliness, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, accountability, impact etc. considering how the response is aligning to the Core Humanitarian Standards) including analysing the reasons behind their successful or unsuccessful achievement.

3.2. To assess the effect of the project, including intended and unintended impacts and adaptation to the changing context, on the target communities and their environment; particularly considering the effects on young girls, marginalised groups and the sustainability of strategies in social, economic and environmental terms (CHS commitments 2 and 3)

3.3 Evaluating the extent to which the programme encouraged meaningful participation of the different groups and communities it worked with- making particular reference to the opinions of young girls, young boys and other marginalised groups- throughout the programme cycle and identifying areas for improvement including in: effectively communicating with communities, encouraging and using feedback, supporting community decision making (CHS commitment 4), and responding to the priorities, needs and culture of the communities and groups the response is working with (CHS commitment 1).

3.4. To identify key good practices and key lessons learnt, including how these have been used throughout the programme to improve its delivery (CHS commitment 6), and make recommendations for future improvement of similar programs based on evaluation findings.

4. METHODOLOGIES

4.1. The evaluation will involve a review of secondary data from the project to ascertain that all the contractual areas are evaluated as well as other relevant literature.

4.2. The evaluator(s) will be also responsible for assessing the programme, financial and management issues.

4.3. Evaluators are requested to propose their own methodology and or approach for how they will cover all the key questions found in **Annex 1 “Key Questions of Evaluation”**. It is expected that this will include quantitative and qualitative data collection and participatory methods taking child and youth friendly approaches with a consideration of gender, age and cultural sensitivities. Annex 1 is provided as initial guidance but may be refined at inception stage depending on discussions and feedback between the selected evaluators and the Plan Evaluation Management Team.

5. SCOPE OF WORK

5.1. The evaluation will look to specifically assess the DEC Funded response and it is not expected for the evaluation to cover the Plan International Nepal Earthquake response as a whole. The evaluators will not be expected to draw conclusions on the Plan International response strategy or approaches. The evaluation team however will be given access to information on the overall response for context and understanding the project as part of a wider response. It is expected that assessing the key questions will involve how the project worked within the response such as coordinating with other actors and projects, using response-wide beneficiary feedback mechanisms and general Plan systems. Due to the time elapsed, it is expected that the evaluation will primarily look at Phases 2a and 2b of the DEC funded response.

6. SAMPLE SIZE

6.1. The consultant(s) shall determine the appropriate sample size in consultation with Plan International during the inception phase. These figures will take into considerations the activities carried out and the project areas.

6.2. The consultant(s) will visit project sites and gather data on the relevant project objectives as per the agreed methodology. The sampling criteria and sampling methodology will be clearly described in the final report of the consultant.

6.3. It is important in gathering data to ensure safe and meaningful participation of different groups, including women and girls through gender, age and inclusion friendly approaches.

7. EVALUATION REPORT

7.1. The production of the evaluation report will be the liability of the evaluator(s) covering all the evaluation questions, objectives and areas outlined in this ToR. Plan International Nepal will support with coordinating the evaluation exercise in collaboration with the consultant/s. During the evaluation process, the evaluator will keep the evaluation management team up to date and agree on changes to the methodology where appropriate.

7.2. The evaluation report shall be produced in English language and should be simple in expression (jargon free). The text should be an A4 paper size in Calibri font size 11 and no longer than 35 pages (excluding appendices).

7.3. The Executive summary should be no longer than 4 pages and include a brief description of the project, a brief section on methodology but with most text for conclusions and summary of recommendations and lessons learned. Recommendations and lessons learned should include a

generalised principle on how they can be applied to other situations and clearly outline the evidence or rationale for them.

7.4. The evaluator(s) will be liable to submit an electronic version of the evaluation report in PDF Version by the agreed deadline.

7.5. The final product should be fully referenced, with findings clearly linked to evidence and the context of the intervention.

7.6 The consultant should submit all survey data, transcripts of the FGDs and KIIs, photographs etc

8. KEY ACTIVITIES

Developing a detailed evaluation work plan and designing an evaluation methodology in consultation with the Plan team for gathering all necessary information and data.

9. ANTICIPATED DELIVERABLES

The evaluation will result in the following outputs/deliverables:

- Inception meeting to discuss and clarify expectations of the evaluation
- Inception report which will include: detailed proposed work plan and evaluation methodology based on consultations with the Plan team and inception meeting
- Evaluation tools finalised in consultation with the Plan team
- Training of any staff or enumerators if required by the methodology
- Field visits to collect data through the agreed methodology and timeline
- Validation workshop in country presenting initial findings, key recommendations and lessons to allow discussion and input from the team
- Draft report with the executive summary addressing all objectives, evaluation questions, clear recommendations and lessons learned, submitted for input and feedback from Plan
- Final evaluation report including all of the above incorporating feedback from Plan along with all relevant appendices
- Presentation of the key findings, lessons learnt and recommendations through a dissemination workshop online or in person as feasible

9. TIME FRAME

The whole program evaluation process is expected to take around 30 working days including: preparation, field work with partners and stakeholders, and report writing. The expected date for commencing work is around the 15th of October and will follow the agreed work plan based on that submitted and discussed between the selected evaluators and the Plan Evaluation Management Team. It may be possible for the evaluation to take place across more than one calendar month depending on agreed dates for travel and allowing input from the Plan International teams. It should be noted that meetings in country and field visits with the Nepal team will have to take place until after the 24th of October due to national holidays.

10. Ethical and Child Protection Statements

Child protection is a term used to describe the responsibilities and activities undertaken to prevent or to stop children being abused or ill-treated. It is Plan's duty and responsibility to reduce the risks of abuse to the children who we have contact with and keep them safe from harm. Plan's Child Protection Policy, "Say Yes to keeping children safe", is Plan's overriding framework to protect children

who come into contact with Plan employees, volunteers, partner organisations and individuals, including consultants, who are working on behalf of Plan.

The consultant should include statements in the proposal on how he or she will ensure ethics and child protection in during the commencement of the assignment and during the field works. Consultant/s should also specify other ethical protocols to be followed during the due course of the evaluation. Consultants are expected to take consent of the respondents or children's guardian before taking photographs and ask if their photographs, verbatim or case stories could be used in report and for public dissemination. Such consent must be documented and submitted to Plan International Nepal along with the final report.

Confidentiality of all issues discussed either with communities or Plan staff shall be safeguarded by the evaluation consultant/s

10. REPORTING LINE AND LOGISTICS

10.1. The consultant shall work under the joint supervision of Plan International Nepal's MER Manager and the designated Plan International UK Programme Specialist

10.2. The evaluation management team composed of Plan International UK and Plan International Nepal staff will play an advisory role in the planning and implementation of the evaluation.

10.3. The consultant/s and the evaluation management team will meet as per the agreed timings, particularly at stages in the evaluation process when deliverables are produced.

11. SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES

The desired specifications and qualities of the consultant(s) are:

- University degree in political science, sociology, international relations, anthropology, public administration, development studies, gender studies or other relevant fields.
- A minimum of 4 years' experience in carrying out impact evaluations, demonstrable relevant academic and practical experience in qualitative and quantitative research methodology, evaluation design and implementation; experience undertaking similar evaluations in Nepal would be an advantage.
- Good understanding of participatory methodologies with proven background in evaluating sudden-onset emergency response and recovery projects with in-depth knowledge of WASH, protection, health and/or livelihoods programming; knowledge of humanitarian response programming in Nepal is a plus
- Strong analytical, facilitation and communication skills, especially with regard to working with children and youth.
- Knowledge of child protection procedures when working with children and youths, as well as experience with implementing child and/or youth friendly evaluation methodologies.
- Experience of effective interaction with local and national organizations, government departments, and marginalized communities in rural and urban areas.
- Conversant with gender transformation and analysis, child rights and advocacy.
- Excellent spoken and written communication skills in English; Nepali would be a great asset
- Proven experience of using participatory tools, appropriate for different vulnerable groups including boys and girls, as a means of data collection for project evaluation.

12. BID REQUIREMENTS

Interested evaluators or firms are requested to submit:

- An Expression of Interest detailing their interpretation of the TOR, proposed methodology including an initial sampling framework and work schedule.
- A clear budget detailing all proposed costs needed for undertaking the evaluation (travel, accommodation, transportation etc.) **including all taxes liable to be paid**
- A capability statement demonstrating how they meet the required qualifications and competencies;
- Copies of all relevant Curriculum Vitae (CVs). Only CVs for the specific individuals that will form the proposed evaluation team should be included.
- A sample of an evaluation report for a similar project completed within the last 24 months (this will be treated as confidential and only used for the purposes of quality assurance) along with contact details for the responsible person from the organisation for whom the evaluation was done.
- Two references (including one from your last client/employer).
- N/B: The entire bid should be a MAXIMUM OF seven (7) pages including the budget. Bids not meeting this requirement will not be considered.

13. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

13.1. If you believe you qualify for this post and you are the candidate that we are looking for, please submit your applications as per the bid requirements in English by emailing all requested documents and information above to Lucy Goodyear at Lucy.Goodyear@plan-uk.org

13.2. The closing date for applications is **27 August 2017 at noon BST**.

13.3. The shortlisted 3-4 candidates may be invited to submit modifications or make a short presentation for the final selection.

13.4. We are committed to ensuring diversity and gender equality within our organization.

13.5. Qualified women are highly encouraged to apply

14. Payment

Forty percent of the agreed contractual amount will be paid after signing of the agreement, thirty percent will be paid after submission of preliminary findings in the format outlined in the inception report and remaining thirty percent amount will be paid after submission of final report.

15. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

15.1. All documents and data collected will be treated as confidential and used solely to facilitate analysis.

15.2. Where necessary, the respondents will not be quoted in the reports without their permission.

15.3 All those contracted by Plan must agree to sign and abide by the Child Protection Policy.

ANNEX 1: KEY QUESTIONS OF THE EVALUATION

Effectiveness

- Have the activities been undertaken in a timely manner? Were objectives achieved on time?
- Quality of assessments: what was missing; what can we do differently next time?
- How appropriate and useful were the interventions and/ activities implemented?
- Were the beneficiaries able to provide feedback during the operation?
- Was the feedback from beneficiaries able to be incorporated into the project design?
- Have the alterations made during the project implementation had positive / negative effects to the achievement of the outputs & outcomes?
- What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives?

Efficiency

- Cost-benefit analysis / Has the scale of benefits been consistent with the cost?
- To what extent has the funding been utilized to directly assist beneficiaries - has project support and operational costs been reasonable (%) compared to entire budget?
- How well were the inputs (funds, people, materials and time) used to produce results?
- Were procurements done in an efficient manner considering the constraints of the emergency?

Relevance

- Have the project objectives proven to be valid and appropriate in meeting the most pressing needs of those affected by the earthquake? If not what should have been done instead?
- Has the project been consistent with the initial and changing needs and priorities of the intended beneficiaries (most vulnerable in the communities)?
- Has the project complemented and been compatible with government approach?
- Has the project approach or design changed to ensure continued relevance in a changing context?

Sustainability

- Has the project managed to put in place systems to enable sustainability; for example in relation to the livelihood, shelter and WASH components?
- What were the major factors which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability of the project?

Impact

- Results achieved vs planned results, if discrepancy- why?
- Has the project had any unforeseen positive and/or negative institutional impacts which have influenced Plan, prompted changes in partners' ways of working etc.?
- Has the project been able to strengthen partners' and communities' capacities?
- What are difference has the activity made to the beneficiaries?

Coordination / Communication

- How effective was the coordination/collaboration between Plan and its partners, coordination bodies, local stakeholders, government and other organisations?

Coverage and targeting

- Was the targeting of the beneficiaries appropriate? Was the selection criteria implemented? Was the community involved in determining the selection criteria and well informed about the decisions?
- Did the project address the needs of all intended beneficiaries in a consistent manner as per project design?
- How has gender and age been considered in the project design and implementation?

Replicability & scale

- What would be the main considerations when replicating and scaling up/down this project design for future emergencies to ensure a better quality of response (e.g. main lessons learnt)

ANNEX II SCHEDULE FOR THIS EVALUATION

WHEN	TIME	WHAT
23 October	All day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Travel London – Kathmandu
24 October	1000 1400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrival Team Leader Kathmandu Meet with Nepali Team Member, Dr Madhurima Bhadra; Discussion of evaluation and planning
25 October	1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing with Plan International Nepal Questionnaire development
26 October	All day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document review Survey questionnaire development Preparation for Kobo Platform demonstration
27 October	All day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data enumerator training Orientation and practise on the use of Kobo Platform
28 October	All day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household survey correction and completion Kobo Platform testing and finalisation
29 October	All day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Kathmandu to Charikot
30 October	0800-1800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field work, Pawati Ward Key informant interview; Focus group discussions Household surveys by data enumerators
31 October	0800-1800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field work, Fasku Ward Key informant interview; Focus group discussions Household surveys by data enumerators
1 November	0800-1800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field work, Bhusafeda Ward Key informant interview; Focus group discussions Household surveys by data enumerators
2 November	0800-1800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutional interviews, Charikot-based agencies Field work, Sailungeshower Ward Household surveys by data enumerators
3 November	080-1800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field work, Vedapu Ward Key informant interview; Focus group discussions Household surveys by data enumerators
4 November	0800-1800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutional interviews, Charikot-based agencies Field work, Fasku Ward Household surveys by data enumerators
5 November	All day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Charikot to Kathmandu
6 November	All day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutional interviews Data analysis Interview with Plan International Nepal technical project staff
7 November	All day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data analysis Preparation for debriefing Further interviews with Plan International Nepal staff
8 November	1000-1200 1300-1800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debriefing Plan International Nepal Report writing
9 November	All day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International travel Team Leader

ANNEX III EVALUATION TEAM PROFILE

David Stone has been working in the humanitarian arena for more than 25 years, primarily in the context of environmental and livelihood security with refugees and internally displaced people, worldwide. A zoologist by training, David is Director of Proaction Alliance, an international NGO which addresses community-based disaster preparedness, climate change adaptation and resilience through the creation and support of local and appropriate solutions.

Madhurima Bhadra has been working in the humanitarian and public health field for seven years, primarily with refugees, WASH and reproductive health. Madhurima also has an interest in media and the development of IEC materials.

Laxmi Karki lives in Kadaghari, Kathmandu. Laxmi has completed a Bachelor's Degree in the Arts of Social Work from the Nepal Mega College. She is now doing a Master's Degree at the Institute of Crisis Management Studies and is currently in the fourth and final semester of this work.

Bipika Khadka is from Kavrepalanchowk District. Bipika has completed a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and is currently waiting for her results to be issued. While hoping to pursue this career further she is currently working in an administrative position to gain further office skills.

Shirishma Pandey lives in Anamnagar, Kathmandu. Shirishma has already completed her BSc and is now in her final year doing a Master's Degree in Sociology and Anthropology. She is currently working as a Laboratory Supervisor with the Reliance International Academy in Kathmandu. Shirishma has previous experience of Magpi-based digital data collection within the Changunarayan municipality and was a Field Surveyor on female reproductive health and nutrition for the Centre for Economic Development and Administration, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu.

Indeera Dulal lives in Lalitpur, has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and is currently pursuing a Masters in Rural Development. Indira is a social mobiliser who has skills to train Female Community Health Volunteers in Hygiene promotion and social mobilisation. She enjoys working in rural Nepal especially with women and children to motivate them to make positive health behaviour changes.

Sujeet Gautam is from Lalitpur and received his bachelor's degree on Business Studies in 2014 from Tribhuvan University. He is now undertaking a Master's degree in International Co-operation and Development at the Mid-Western University. Sujeet holds a diploma in computing from the Slash Computer Institute and has worked as a Trainer on Community Action for Disaster Response with the Nepal Red Cross Society. Following the 2015 earthquakes, he joined the Friends Service Council Nepal as a Social Mobiliser on their Earthquake Emergency Project, being later promoted to Programme Officer.

Sumit Bikram Rana is a graduate student of Crisis Management Studies from the Tribhuvan University of Nepal and is currently working for his thesis. Sumit completed his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from North South University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. He has extensive field research and expertise in community resilience and mapping processes, climate risk management, project management, research design and stakeholder coordination.

ANNEX IV PEOPLE CONSULTED AS PART OF THIS EVALUATION

PERSON	ORGANISATION	ROLE/TITLE	LOCATION
Tala Budziszewski	Plan UK	DRM Programme Officer – Accountability in Emergencies	London
Vikas Sharma	Plan Nepal	Emergency Response Manager	Kathmandu
Nirak Bahadur Sunar	Plan Nepal	Project Manager DEC III	Kathmandu
Man Kumari Thada	Plan Nepal	ER – Monitoring and Evaluation Co-ordinator	Kathmandu
Sajan Neupane	Plan Nepal	ER WASH Co-ordinator	Kathmandu
Pramila Dhakal	Plan Nepal	Economic Security Co-ordinator	Kathmandu
	ECARDS	President ECARDS Board ECARDS Board Member	Charikot
	ECARDS	Livelihoods Field Officer Livelihoods Project Coordinator	Charikot
	RDTA	WASH Project Coordinator	Charikot
Durba	RDTA	Field Supervisor Technical Field Coordinator	Charikot
Shanti	RDTA	Field Supervisor Technical Field Coordinator	Charikot
Government authorities		Chief District Officer District Administration Office District Co-ordination Office	Charikot
Government Services – Livestock; Agriculture; WASH; DRR; Women and Children	District Agriculture Office, District Livestock Service Office Women’s & Children’s Office	District Livestock Service Officer Women’s & Children’s Officer	Charikot

ANNEX V HOUSEHOLD SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

PLAN INTERNATIONAL DEC-FUNDED SUPPORT TO 2015 NEPAL EARTHQUAKES PHASE 2A AND 2B

QUESTIONNAIRE IDENTIFICATION		
Date of Interview		
Name of Enumerator	1 Indira Dulal	
	2 Sujeet Gautam	
	3 Sumit Bikram Rana	
	4 Laxmi Karki	
	5 Shirishma Pandey	
	6 Bipika Khadka	
Name of Respondent		
Gender	1 Male; 2 Female	
Caste/Ethnicity	1 Chhetri/Brahman; 2 Janajati; 3 Dalit; 4 Other	
Age of Respondent	1 < 20; 2 21-30; 3 31-40; 4 41-50; 5 >50	
District	Dolakha	
Name of VDC or Rural Municipality and Ward Number	VDC/Rural Municipality	WARD NUMBER
	Lakuridanda	
	Pawati	
	Fasku	
	Bhusafeda	
	Dudhpokhari	
	Vedapu	
	Babare	
	Charikot	
	Other: Please specify	

SECTION A: BACKGROUND		
1	Marital status of Respondent	1 Single; 2 Married; 3 Widowed; 4 Divorced; 5 Separated
2	Household Head	1 Male headed; 2 Female headed; 3 Child headed; 4 Male headed (disabled); 5 Female headed (disabled)
3	Highest level of education of the Household Head	1 Illiterate; 2 Literate but no formal schooling; 3 Primary (1-5); 4 Secondary (6-10); 5 School Leaving Certificate; 6 Intermediate; 7 Tertiary; 8 Don't know/not sure
4	Is the household head able to read and/or write?	1 Yes; 2 No

5	Has your household benefitted from support provided by this project?	1 Yes; 2 No
6	If "Yes" what has been the <u>single most important contribution</u> from this project?	1 Improved shelter; 2 improved access to safe drinking water; 3 improved hygiene knowledge; 4 safer protection for children; 5 increased awareness and involvement in disaster risk reduction; 6 Improved livelihoods; 7 More meaningful inclusion in community decision-making; 8 Other [Please Specify]:
7	Do you have a vulnerable person in your household?	1 Yes; 2 No
8	If "Yes" who is this person: 1 Pregnant or lactating woman; 2 Widow; 3 Disease; 4 Child under 2 years of age; 5 Orphan; 6 Disabled; 7 Aged members; 8 None of the above Multiple options possible	
9	Following the earthquakes, were you or members of your community involved in the definition of selection criteria for beneficiaries?	1 Yes; 2 No
10	Was the beneficiary criteria used clear to you?	1 Yes; 2 No
11	Were you satisfied with the manner in which this was conducted	1 Yes; 2 No
12	Did the support you received help address your most immediate needs when rebuilding your lives and livelihoods after the emergency period?	1 Yes; 2 No
13	Were you consulted about the support you wanted most, before you received that support?	1 Yes; 2 No
14	Was the support you received in a timely manner?	1 Yes; 2 No
15	Have you been able to provide feedback or complaints to the project implementers?	1 Yes; 2 No If "No" Skip to Q18
16	If "Yes", have you ever used this system	1 Yes [Skip to Q17]; 2 No [Skip to Q18]
17	If "Yes" what was the response?	1 Immediate follow-up action by the project implementer; 2 Action happened within 1-2 weeks following my report; 3 Nothing has happened Then Skip to Q19
18	If "No", why not?	1 Not aware of the feedback mechanism; 2 Aware of it but not able to access it: 3 I didn't think it would make any difference; 4 I was

		afraid that someone would complain about me; 5 Not sure
19	Over the past two years do you feel that Plan and its partners have kept you well informed of what was going to be delivered and what was happening?	1 Yes; 2 No; 3 Not sure
20	Are you aware of the display boards in your community?	1 Yes; 2 No If "No" Skip to Q23
21	If "Yes" do you understand the messages that they give?	1 Yes [Skip to Q23]; 2 No
22	If "No" why not?	1 I cannot read; 2 I don't understand the language; 3 I don't understand the images; 4 I am not interested
23	Are you involved in any community service structure, e.g. Water User Committee?	1 Yes; 2 No [Skip to Q26]
24	If "Yes" has this happened as a result of this project	1 Yes; 2 No [Skip to Q26]
25	If "Yes" are you able to express (share/ speak) your opinions in meetings?	1 Yes; 2 No
26	Are you aware of your community's Disaster Risk Management Plan?	1 Yes; 2 No [Skip to Q29]
27	If "Yes", did you have an opportunity to contribute to this plan?	1 Yes; 2 No
28	If "Yes" was your ability to contribute a direct result of support you received through this project?	1 Yes; 2 No
29	Do you know who your Community Mobiliser is?	1 Yes; 2 No [Skip to Q31]
30	If "Yes" have you ever contacted him/her about a concern relating to your recovery after the earthquakes?	1 Yes; 2 No

SECTION B. LIVELIHOODS AND LIVELIHOOD SECURITY		
31	Prior to the 2015 earthquakes, what was your <u>main source</u> of livelihood? Select one only 1 Agriculture; 2 Livestock keeping; 3 Agriculture and livestock keeping; 4 Commercial employment; 5 Manual labour; 6 Remittances; 7 Housekeeping; 8 Clothes making/Tailor; 9 Petty trading; 10 No source of livelihood/income; 11 Other	If 10 Skip to Q36
32	Has your main form of livelihood changed since the earthquake?	1 Yes; 2 No. If "No" skip to Q36
33	If "Yes" is it: 1 Better Today; 2 The Same; 3 Worse Than Before?	
34	If "Yes" is this a direct result of support you, or a family member, received from this project?	1 Yes; 2 No. If "No" skip to Q36
35	What support did you receive?	1 Training and business support; 2 Cash asset; 3 Livestock; 4 Other [Please Specify]; 5 I did not receive support from the project
36	What is your <u>main source</u> of income today? 1 Agriculture; 2 Livestock keeping; 3 Agriculture and livestock keeping; 4 Commercial employment; 5 Manual labour; 6 Remittances; 7 Housekeeping; 8 Clothes making/Tailor; 9 Petty trading; 10 Other	

37	What is your <u>second most important</u> source of income today? 1 Agriculture; 2 Livestock keeping; 3 Agriculture and livestock keeping; 4 Commercial employment; 5 Manual labour; 6 Remittances; 7 Housekeeping; 8 Clothes making/Tailor; 9 Petty trading; 10 Other	
38	What was your income over the past 30 days?	NPR:
39	Was your household income over the past year greater or less than before the earthquake happened?	1 Greater; 2 The same; 3 Less
40	Due to the costs of recovering from the earthquakes, do you or your household owe any debts to others?	1 Yes; 2 No
41	Has your income level changed over the past 2 years?	1 Improved; 2 The same; 3 Worse now; 4 Not sure
42	During the last 30 days, did you experience lack of food or money to buy enough food to meet the needs of all your household members?	1 Yes; 2 No

SECTION C. WATER SUPPLY		
ACCESS TO WATER		
43	Prior to the earthquakes, what was your <u>main source</u> of water for drinking? <u>Select one only</u>	Piped water into dwelling
		Piped water to yard/plot
		Public tap/stand pipe
		Protected spring
		Unprotected spring
		Rain water collection
		Surface water (river, pond, stream, canal, irrigation streams)
		Others [Please Specify]:
44	What was the <u>main use</u> of the water you get from this source?	Domestic (e.g. cooking, drinking, washing)
		Livestock
		Caring for trees
		Agricultural purposes
		Other (Specify)
45	Why did you use this source of drinking water? [Multiple responses possible]	Water is safe
		Tastes good
		Water is very clear
		It is near home
		It is the only one available
		Others [Please Specify]:
46	Did you use another source of water for any other purpose?	1 Yes; 2 No
47	If "Yes" what was the <u>main use</u> of this water?	Domestic (e.g. cooking, drinking, washing)
		Livestock
		Caring for trees
		Agricultural purposes
		Others [Please Specify]:

48	How far (in <u>metres</u>) was the main water source from your home? (make a comparison with football ground size)	Water source on premises
		Equal or less than 500m
		More than 500m
49	How long (<u>time</u>) did it take you to go to the main water source, draw water and come back home?	Water source on premises
		Less than 30 minutes
		30-60 minutes
		More than 1 hour
		More than 2 hours
50	Today, where is the main source where you collect water? <u>Select one only</u>	Piped water into dwelling
		Piped water to yard/plot
		Public tap/stand pipe
		Protected spring
		Unprotected spring
		Rain water collection
51	Do you now have sufficient water each day to meet your household needs?	1 Yes; 2 No
52	Do you sometimes experience breakdowns/water stoppages at your main water source?	1 Yes; 2 No
53	Does your community have an effective Water User Committee today?	1 Yes; 2 No; 3 Not sure
54	If "Yes" is this a result of support provided through this project?	1 Yes; 2 No; 3 Not sure
DOMESTIC WATER MANAGEMENT		
55	Do you think that the water you get from your main source is safe to drink?	Yes [Skip to Q57]
		No [Proceed to Q59]
56	Do you treat the water before drinking?	Yes [Skip to Q58]
		No [Skip to Q59]
57	How do you treat your water before drinking? Multiple answers possible	Boiling
		Chemical purification (Chlorine/Water Guard)
		Strain through cloth
		Use water filter (ceramic, sand, composite etc.)
		Let it stand and settle
		Other [Please Specify]:
58	How is drinking water stored in the home? <u>(Please do a visible check.)</u> <u>Do not read these observations</u>	In uncovered clay pots/buckets
		In covered clay pots/buckets
		Metal pots "Gagri"
		In jerry cans
		Other [Please Specify]:
59	How often are both collection and storage containers cleaned? <u>Do not read these observations</u>	Daily
		Weekly
		Rarely
		Never
60	How are both collection and storage containers cleaned? <u>Do not read these observations</u>	Water rinsing
		Cleaning with sand
		Cleaning with soap

		Cleaning with ash
		Others [Please Specify]:
61	When drawing water for drinking from the storage container, what utensil do you normally use?	Cup
		Gourd
		Others [Please Specify]:
62	What utensil do you then use for drinking? <u>PLEASE DO NOT READ OUT</u>	The same cup
		A different cup
		The same gourd
		A different gourd
		Others [Please Specify]:
63	Have you ever been sensitised on how to take care of drinking water?	1 Yes; 2 No
64	How would you describe your household's access to clean potable water today, compared with before this project?	High improvement
		Some improvement
		No change
		Not as good as it was before
		Much worse off today
PREVALENCE OF WATERBORNE DISEASES		
65	Are you aware of diseases that can be transmitted through poor water hygiene practices?	1 Yes; 2 No
66	Have any of your household members suffered from waterborne diseases in the last 2 weeks?	Yes [Skip to Q 68]
		No [Skip to Q69]
67	Which waterborne diseases were experienced? <i>Multiple responses possible</i>	Cholera
		Dysentery
		Diarrhoea
		Others [Please Specify]:
68	In general, when do you wash your hands? <i>Multiple responses possible</i> <u>Do not read these observations</u>	Before preparing food
		After visiting the toilet
		After changing baby nappies
		After cleaning baby's bottom after defecation
		Before feeding baby
		Before eating (meal)
		Others [Please Specify]:
69	What do you use to wash your hands? <u>Do not read these observations</u>	Water only
		Water with soap
		Water with ash
		Others [Please Specify]:
SANITATION (TOILET) FACILITIES		
70	Does your household have a toilet facility	1 Yes; 2 No [Skip to Q74]
71	What kind of toilet facility does our household have?	Flush toilet
		Ventilated improved pit latrine (VIP)
		Pit latrine with slab
		Pit latrine without slab/open pit
		Composting toilet
		Bucket

		Others [Please Specify]:
72	Do you share this facility with other households?	1 Yes [Skip to Q75]; 2 No
73	If your household does not have a toilet facility, where do you go to relieve yourselves? <i>Multiple responses possible</i>	Neighbours' toilet
		Public toilet
		Bush, field, lake, bucket
		Others [Please Specify]:
74	How would you describe your household's sanitation conditions today, compared with before this project?	High improvement
		Some improvement
		No change
		Not as good as it was before
		Much worse off today
HYGIENE		
75	Did you receive hygiene awareness and materials as a result of this project?	1 Yes; 2 No [Skip to Q79]
76	If "Yes" were you consulted in advance of this support being given to yourself or other members of your household?	1 Yes; 2 No
77	If "Yes" was this support provided in a timely and efficient manner?	1 Yes; 2 No
78	If "No" why do you believe this was the case?	1 No agency support; 2 Agency support was late; 3 Not sure
79	Have you and other members of your household changed any hygiene practices as a result of this project?	1 Yes; 2 No
80	If "Yes" what are some of the main changes that you now practice?	1 Frequent hand washing; 2 Change in hand washing materials used
81	Will you and other members of your family continue to use these practices after this project?	1 Yes, certainly; 2 Yes possibly; 3 No; 4 Not sure

SECTION D. DOMESTIC ENERGY		
82	Did your household receive an energy efficient stove as part of this project's support	1 Yes; 2 No [Skip to Q88]
83	If "Yes" are you using it?	1 Yes [Skip to Q88]; 2 No [Skip to Q85]
84	If "No" why?	1 I don't know how to use it; 2 We cannot afford the fuel costs; 3 My family does not like the flavour of food cooked on this; 4 I think it is too dangerous; 5 I sold it; 6 Not sure
85	Does your household have enough fuel energy for cooking?	1 Yes; 2 No
86	If you purchase fuel, how much do you spend on average on fuel per week?	NPR:
87	Has your spending on fuel increased or decreased in the past year?	1 Increased; 2 Decreased; 3 The same
88	If you do not purchase fuel, how much time do your family members spend each week collecting fuel?	Hours:
89	What do you use the main cooking fuel for?	Cooking food

		Boiling water
		Heating space
		Making local brew
		Others [Please Specify]:
90	If you are using an improved stove, what are some of the main benefits you experience from this? <u>Multiple answers possible</u>	Uses less fuel
		Cooks faster
		Less smoke
		Food tastes better
		More free time for other activities
		Others [Please Specify]:
91	How would you describe your household's domestic energy situation today, compared with before this project?	High improvement
		Some improvement
		No change
		Not as good as it was before
		Much worse off today

SECTION E. SHELTER		
92	Was your house physically damaged by the earthquakes?	1: Yes slightly/partially; 2 Yes Fully destroyed; 3 No
93	Did you or your household receive shelter assistance as part of this recovery process	1 Yes; 2 No
94	Were you asked about your shelter needs after the earthquake?	1 Yes; 2 No {Skip to Q97}
95	If "Yes" by who?	1 Plan Nepal (or its partner); 2 Government; 3 Other [Please specify]
96	Was your house reconstructed by a trained mason?	1 Yes; 2 No
97	What were your biggest challenges relating to shelter after the earthquake?	1 Security; 2 A dry place to stay and sleep; 3 Privacy and dignity; 4 Loss of livelihoods; 5 Other [Please specify]
98	If your home was damaged and could not be lived in, how soon after the earthquakes were you able to get temporary shelter?	1 one month; 2 2-4 months; 3 4-6 months; 5 more that 6 months; 6 more than one year
99	How easy or difficult was it for women, the elderly and the disabled to receive temporary shelter support after the earthquakes?	1 Very easy; 2 Easy though only with external assistance; 3 Not possible; 4 I am not sure
101	What financial challenges did you have with accessing temporary shelter and repairing/rehabilitating your home?	1 Extreme challenges due to lack of funds, manpower and/or knowledge; 2 some challenges through these were overcome; 3 no challenges – able to access this on our own
101	Today, do you think your house is better constructed to withstand another event like the earthquake?	1 Yes; 2 No; 3 Not sure

SECTION F: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION		
102	Have you ever heard about climate change or disaster risk reduction?	1 Yes; 2 No
103	Has the project helped your understanding of disaster risk reduction?	1 Yes; 2 No
104	Has the project supported you to adapt to climate change?	1 Yes; 2 No [Skip to Q106]
105	In which ways has it supported you to adapt? Multiple answers possible	Tree planting
		Safer house construction
		Conservation farming
		Fuel-efficient stoves/energy conservation
		Better connection with the Disaster Risk Management Committee
		Other: Please specify
106	In the past year have you made any changes to your main livelihood practice?	1 Yes; 2 No; 3 Not sure
107	Do you feel better prepared and protected today should there be another emergency	1 Yes; 2 No; 3 Not sure

Finally, what has been the most significant change to you, your family or your community that has resulted from this response project	<i>Please Specify – A quote [in English] would be ideal</i>
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Thank you very much for your time and for speaking with me today.

ANNEX VI INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE

(To guide discussions on project status as well as inform on OECD DAC Criteria)

1. RELEVANCE/APPROPRIATENESS

Were the project's objectives valid and appropriate in meeting the most pressing needs of those reached for the recovery work after the emergency?

If not, what should have been done instead?

Were they based on a systematic, objective, ongoing assessment and analysis of needs undertaken with relevant stakeholders?

Has the project been consistent with the initial and changing needs and priorities of the intended beneficiaries – the most vulnerable people in those communities?

Has the project complemented and been compatible with the government's approach to recovery?

Has the project's approach or design changed to ensure continued relevance in a changing context?

To what degree did the recovery response specifically target and reach vulnerable groups like women, the elderly, the disabled and marginalised groups in the project area?

2. EFFECTIVENESS

Was the recovery response provided by you through Phase 2A and Phase 2B timely and effective?

Were the objectives achieved on time?

With regards the quality of community assessments what, if anything, was missing? What could be done differently next time?

Were intended beneficiaries allowed to provide input to the design of the recovery phase? How effective or difficult was this?

How appropriate and useful were the interventions and activities implemented? What was the most appropriate intervention overall in Dolakha? Why?

Was there complementarity between the range of interventions applied or were these seen as single, stand-alone activities to households rather than communities?

Were project beneficiaries able to provide feedback during the operation? If "Yes", was feedback provided incorporated into project design? Examples?

Did the alterations made during project implementation had any attributable – positive or negative – effects to the achievements of outputs and outcomes? Examples?

What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the recovery response objectives?

[IP] To what extent did your organisation have the capacity and skills to implement emergency response actions?

[IP] What support did you receive from Plan International Nepal and was this appropriate?

{IP} How did Plan International Nepal support longer term capacity building of your organisation for responding to future emergency and recovery actions?

[Plan] How did you assess the needs – technical capacity, accountability, etc – of your local partners? Are you satisfied with this? Could improvements still be made?

3. EFFICIENCY

Cost-benefit analysis: has the scale of benefits been consistent with the cost? What, if any, areas might be improved in a future recovery response?

To what extent has the DEC funding been used to directly assist beneficiaries? % going directly to affected people?

[Plan] Has project support and operational costs been reasonable compared with the entire Phase 2 budget?

How well were the inputs (funds, staff time materials and time) used to produce results?

[Plan] Were recovery procurements done in an effective manner considering the constraints following the emergency?

[Plan] Was opportunity taken to procure local goods at any part of the recovery phase?

Could any other actions been taken at any stage of the response Phase 2 to have made this project more cost-effective?

Were the most efficient approaches used during the implementation of the activities?

Please given any examples of innovation/programming excellence you saw in Phase 2.

4. IMPACT

Which element of response Phase 2 has had the greatest impact on intended beneficiaries, and why?

Which element of response Phase 2 has had the least impact on intended beneficiaries, and why?

What could/should have been done to address this?

Has the project been able to strengthen communities or partners' capacities? Examples?

How would you describe the impact of this work on government structures?

Has there been any discrepancy between anticipated and achieved results? If so, what were the reasons for this?

Has the project had any unforeseen positive or negative institutional impacts which have influenced Plan or promoted changes to the way in which partners worked? Examples?

This response covered many sectors: did it spread itself too thin? Would it have been better – greater and more lasting impact – if the focus had been on fewer sectors?

This response covered many affected communities: did it spread itself too thin? Would it have been better – greater and more lasting impact – if the focus had been on fewer sectors?

What are some main lessons learned and how have these been incorporated into delivery of support?

5. CO-ORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION

How would you describe the overall co-ordination – from planning to delivery – with Plan Nepal?

Were your suggestions/concerns listened to and acted upon?

Could anything have been done better?

[IP] Did you co-ordinate/communicate directly with local government, e.g. the NRA or DDRC, or was this always done through Plan International Nepal? If you had direct contact, how would you describe this?

With your communication with beneficiaries what were the main challenges you experienced? How did you address these?

[IP – and repeat for Plan] Have you been happy with the reporting requirements from Plan Nepal? Did you receive feedback on reports provided?

6. COVERAGE AND TARGETING

What specific steps were taken to ensure that the views and needs of youth were heard, considered and addressed?

What specific steps were taken to ensure that the views and needs of marginalised members of your community were heard, considered and addressed?

7. SUSTAINABILITY

Has the project put in place systems to ensure sustainability, e.g. in relation to shelter, WASH or livelihood components?

What were the main factors which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability of this phase of the project?

Do you think that communities will continue to apply the learning from this response phase once the project is over? Give examples, e.g. better building standards or new livelihoods.

Do you think that community structures such as the DDRC will continue to update its plans in an appropriate way? Do they have the knowledge and capacity to do this independently?

How has support from Plan International Nepal affected your organisation's capacity to take on similar activities should a future emergency occur?

What, if anything, could have been done to further your organizational capacity? Any remaining gaps?

What would you describe as your organisation's strategic advantage gained as a result of being involved in this response project?

8. REPLICABILITY AND SCALE

What would be the main considerations if replicating and scaling-up/down this project design for future recovery responses, to ensure a better quality of response?

What, if anything could be done better in future to allow the changing needs of beneficiaries to be addressed in the recovery response?

Should future recovery response projects address a smaller number of well-targeted sectors/activities, or not? Are there advantages to having a broad – and to some degree cross-supporting – approach?

Finally, any comments/recommendations on:

- a) Working with the Clusters in Nepal
 - Any comments/observations/recommendations?
- b) Gaps in the response period – please give examples of these
- c) Lessons Learned/Recommendations
 - What are the key learning /recommendation points to improve future response programme performance?
 - Can you give examples of compliance with quality and accountability standards? CHS/Sphere/Do No Harm?

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?

ANNEX VII. GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONs

END-OF-PROJECT EVALUATION PHASE 2A AND 2B

1. To begin with, could you tell us about your community before the earthquakes in 2015, what were your main livelihoods, what was your lifestyle like, what challenges did you face?
2. Now, two and a half years later, how would you compare your lifestyles with the past – is it better, worse or the same? What major changes have taken place?
3. What was the main type of support you received through project once the emergency phase was over, around November 2015 – two years ago ?
4. Did the support you received through this project respond to your needs at the time?
5. As the emergency phase came to an end last year, were you consulted about your longer term needs? Were these addressed do you think?
6. How would you describe the level of protection today for children, youth and vulnerable members of your community? Do you think they have benefitted from the support provided by this project? In what way?
7. Were you aware of the complaints and feedback mechanisms made available to your community? Did you ever use them and, if you, were you satisfied with the response you received?
8. Were you kept informed by Plan’s partner (ECARTS or RDTA) of developments happening during the response phase? Was this helpful for you?
9. Some of you have learned new practices and approaches through this project, such as improved hygiene, new livelihoods and safer construction: will you continue to use this experience in future?
10. Are you today able to take part in more meetings and express your opinions? Is this a direct result of the support you received through this project?
11. What do you see as the main challenge facing you household or community in the coming years? How do you propose to address this?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME: IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD OR ASK?