

## Emergency WASH response to the Nepal earthquake

### INTRODUCTION:

On April 25th a 7,8 earthquake hit Nepal. More than 8 million people were affected, leaving millions in urgent need for shelter, food, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance. NCA responded by sending a WASH assessment team departing Oslo 48 hours after the earthquake to be deployed to our sister agency Danish Church Aid's (DCA) regional office in Kathmandu.

### RESULTS:

NCA and the ACT Alliance has worked in Gorkha, Dhading, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur District together with local partners. The cooperation has included WASH as the main delivery for NCA, but also funding for immediate needs in NFIs, food, shelter distributions, as well as psychosocial assistance followed up by DCA and Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

NCA together with Nepali partners ECONepal, FAYA and FSCN, have up to now provided safe and sustainable water to 9,898. NCA has provided emergency sanitation to over 5050 beneficiaries. NCA has also repaired and rehabilitated 36 water schemes providing assistance to 10,118 beneficiaries. Hygiene kit and hygiene education has been provided to 9266 households (50963 beneficiaries) and WASH equipment (mainly bladder tanks and tap stands) have also been installed in schools as part of the initial response.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, DCA and LWF provided emergency food baskets to more than 9658 households and NFIs to 8849 households across the target districts. DCA in cooperation with Church of Sweden and local partners provided psychosocial assistance to 6656 households.

### LESSONS LEARNED:

The work in Nepal has confirmed the importance of coordination. This has been an excellent example of collaboration amongst the ACT Alliance partners



The second phase of the disaster, after the immediate relief distribution, consisted of a major cash for shelter programme. DCA was able to distribute cash for shelter to 10,451 households across the target areas reaching 57,480 beneficiaries.

**Photo: NCA**

*NCA WASH advisor Mari Sjaastad is promoting good hygiene practises after installing latrines in a community in the remote areas in Chekampar in the Himalaya.*



# Nepal

and has very much strengthened the integrated response, ensuring that the highest possible number of beneficiaries received services that met their multiple needs.

The relationship between DCA/NCA and the Logs Cluster has been strong and they have provided a good level of service to the international community, including providing free helicopter services to access remote communities, and establishing logistics hubs in Gorkha District (Duerali) and in Dhading District (in Dhading Bhesi, the principle town).

The responsiveness of the sectorial clusters has been challenging. For example the Shelter Cluster did not provide good or comprehensive guidance on building of temporary shelters and of locally appropriate construction techniques. Equally there have been major issues with the leadership of the WASH Cluster.

## **PROJECT/PROGRAMME SCOPE:**

The project is targeting 60 000 beneficiaries with NCA's WASH assistance, and 55,000 beneficiaries for both shelter and food support. DCA also has a target to reach 27,500 beneficiaries for psychosocial assistance. Total funding from NCA to the joint response in the ACT Alliance is around 28,2 million NOK, of which 15 million NOK have been granted by Norwegian MFA. The remaining funds from NCA are in-kind donations and funds from public fundraising campaigning in Norway. The multi-sector response with DCA and LWF is also funded by support from the wider ACT Alliance and continue until end of April 2016.

## **SOURCES:**

Weekly reports from the NCA/DCA team in Nepal.

## **PARTNERS:**

ACT Alliance sister agency DCA as well as LWF have been present in Nepal for many years and have established long term partnerships with local partners. The partners engaged in NCA's WASH activities are also delivering the DCA shelter, food and psycho-social program. The partners delivering interventions are FAYA (the Forum for Awareness and Youth Activity) covering Dhading District, ECO Nepal (Environment and Child Organisation) covering Gorkha District and FSCN (Friends Service Council Nepal) covering Bhaktapur and Lalitpur Districts in the Kathmandu Valley. In addition to this DCA is also working, as part of the psycho-social programme, with Pourakhi, an organization that specializes on migrant rights and has notably expertise in psycho-social assistance in Dhading and with WOREC (Women's Rehabilitation Centre) in Bhaktapur and Lalitpur Districts.



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