



FLOOD EMERGENCY RELIEF RESPONSE - 2021

PROJECT REPORT: EMERGENCY DISASTER RESPONSE

JULY 2021 | SUBMITTED BY VOLUNTEER CORPS NEPAL



DEAR SOWERS ACTION,

We would like to thank you for your contribution in support of our response to Flash Flood affected families in Helambu, Sindhupalchowk district of Nepal. Your financial support helped us to continue our mission of serving communities in their time of needs through Emergency Disaster Services (Rescue, Relief & Rehabilitations). With the amount we were able to successfully offer rations, solar lights, tarpaulins, kitchen items and hygiene kits to meet the immediate needs of 124 families displaced by the flood. People were elated with the generosity you have shown and perceiving the fact that they are not alone to fight this unfortunate event. Their optimism on situations turning towards good has now amplified.

55 years old Geeta Nepali who lost her everything in flood was worried about what to feed her family of four during this monsoon, but your support has lessened her worry to an extent. She was exalted to receive your help. She said, "The ration will last us about a month and tarpaulins will protect us from the rain drops leaking through the tent. We could not retrieve many items from our home, and we did not have proper utensils to cook and serve food, these utensils will duly serve their purpose. I am really happy that my children will no more be terrified at night. This support of yours has lifted the load off my chest for some time now."

The distribution of relief has been completed on June 25, 2021, responding as soon as possible to the havoc caused by the flood. The residents of Gyalthum were eminently beholden for your assistance.

With all our gratitude,
Volunteer Corps Nepal

03

Project Summary

PROJECT TITLE: Flood Emergency Relief Response -2021

DONOR: Sowers Action, Hong Kong, China

TARGET AREA: Helambu Rural Municipality, Sindhupalchowk, Nepal

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: Volunteer Corps Nepal

PROJECT PERIOD: June 2021 - July 2021

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES: 124 Households

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: NRS. 2,430,000

Executive Summary

Sindhupalchowk was yet again hit by a Flash Flood of Indrawati river on the night of 15 June inundating the areas in Melamchi and Helambu this year. More than 150 houses were desolated displacing more than 600 people in those area. Following the humanitarian crisis the disaster caused, Volunteer Corps Nepal immediately started to act by alerting the District Volunteer Coordinator in Sindhupalchowk and local volunteers, who then mobilized themselves on ground to support the displaced population. The team then started to ponder on relieving the distress of affected people by responding to their urgent needs required to be fulfilled to survive through this monsoon. Considering the same, Volunteer Corps Nepal in coordination of Sowers Action, Hong Kong, China introduced “Flood Emergency Relief Response” in Helambu, Sindhupalchowk. Helambu was selected as the project site after the coordination of our team with local governments of Melamchi Municipality and Helambu Rural Municipality.

The overall funding for the project was NRs. 2,430,000, which was contributed to VCN as an implementing partner in Nepal by Sowers Action, Hong Kong, China. The project was started straightaway in order to respond to the disaster as soon as possible.

On 23rd June 2021, the packages to be presented to the beneficiaries, were delivered to the distribution point in Helambu and the distribution was carried out on 24th June. Package distribution took place in two locations: Chiuretar Keul and Ganesh Baggar in Gyalthum, Helambu, Sindhupalchowk. The distribution was carried out according to the category in which the displaced families were included by the local government (People who had lost their family members fell in group Ka/1 those who had lost their fields fell in group Kha/2 and the one at risk were in group Ga/3). Total of 124 families were benefitted from our project.

Project Background

Monsoon is steadily catching its pace, and life remains paused due to different type of problems in Sindhupalchowk. Waterlogging disrupted connection in road network, destruction of infrastructures and several other problems occurred due to flash flood that occurred in the night of 15th June 2021 because of landslides in higher regions. More than 150 households were ravaged by the unexpected swelling of Indrawati river displacing more than 600 people, 400 in Helambu alone. The most affected areas are Melamchi bazar, Ambanath, Keul and Chanaute bazar of Helambu. The East Point Academy at Gyalthum and Area Police Station of Helambu at Kuel were destructed by the flood. Hundreds of hectores of cultivable land have been converted to sandbank and the loss of properties caused due to flood is estimated to be in billions. The villagers are passing days half-fed for lack of works as croplands are now inundated by debris and their storages are also destroyed. This year Sindhupalchowk was placed second after Dolakha for the district, but the disaster hit the district much before it was projected regardless of comparatively low level of rainfall.

In response to rapidly evolving humanitarian crisis, Sowers Action, Hong Kong, China, and Volunteer Corps Nepal decided for an urgent implementation of Food and Shelter Assistance to Families Affected by Flood in Sindhupalchowk district. For the same cause, Sowers Action (SA) funded Volunteer Corps Nepal (VCN) with NRP. 2,430,000 to implement a prompt emergency relief project in Sindhupalchowk to appease the sorrow of victims. Sindhupalchowk has been continuously impacted by various natural disasters for many years and the flash flood of 15 June has yet again put the people in misery. With respect to the same, consultations were carried out with the authorities of local government of ward no. 2 of Helambu and decided to provide the food and shelter assistance to families displaced in Gyalthum-2 Helambu.

Sindhupalchowk, the largest district in Province 3, however remains lagged in socio-economic development compared to its neighboring districts. Still, the district is a hub of diversity accommodating people belonging to 52 different ethnicities, the majority are Tamang, Chhetri, Newar, Bahman, Kaami, Sanyasi, Sherpa and so on.

With the literacy rate of 59.59%, the major source of income for people in Sindhupalchowk is agriculture, tourism, and remittance which have proven to be unstable means to earn, following the series of unexpected disasters and unfortunate events like COVID-19 pandemic and landslides every monsoon. These calamities have consecutively battered these sectors affecting the socio-economic condition of the district. The region continues to experience severe hardships following the 2015 earthquake and everything that happens now feels like a sort of aftermath to the same. The district carries a huge potential of development owing to its natural diversity and richness as well as the presence of enough resources. But the resources have not found an optimum utilization till date, and the same thing is blocking the development of cottage and small industries which would otherwise have helped the economy of the district. With the attraction of youths towards foreign employment the fertile lands are often left barren, and the trend is increasing lately. This has endangered the fertility of land, and people following the same traditional way of farming depending on rainfall, shortage of seeds, fertilizers and technical awareness in people has exaggerated the prevalent food insecurity in the region. The remote terrain of the region makes it difficult for people to access the health services. The district lacks tertiary health facilities thus, people must turn to other districts and capital for emergency and life-threatening health assistance. Furthermore, Sindhupalchowk have been the epicenter of girls trafficking in Nepal; earlier the girls were mostly trafficked to India, but now new forms are emerging, and the destination have now shifted to the Gulf and East African Countries.

Disasters Sindhupalchowk faces every year exposes the people to poverty and violence. This in turn makes them more vulnerable creating a favorable environment for economic downfall, which consequently creates the glitches in social structure of the society. Melamchi is the municipality with least literacy rate whereas, Helambu is the rural municipality with least literacy rate in Sindhupalchowk. Helambu, the home of Hyolmo people, following a basic lifestyle, is a tourist destination. But after the pandemic hit the no tourism activity have occurred in the area exposing the residents to economic vulnerability. Hotels, crusher industries, agricultural farms and retail businesses are main source of economy in Melamchi. The flash flood, however, has left Helambu and Melamchi bazar in dire need of revival.

Project Goal

Many people in the flooded areas lead precarious, subsistence lives, but this disaster adds as a social and economic disadvantage to them, especially to those belonging to low-income groups. The goal of this project was to support displaced people with basic survival necessities, which would help them to overcome through this difficult phase.

Relief Methodology

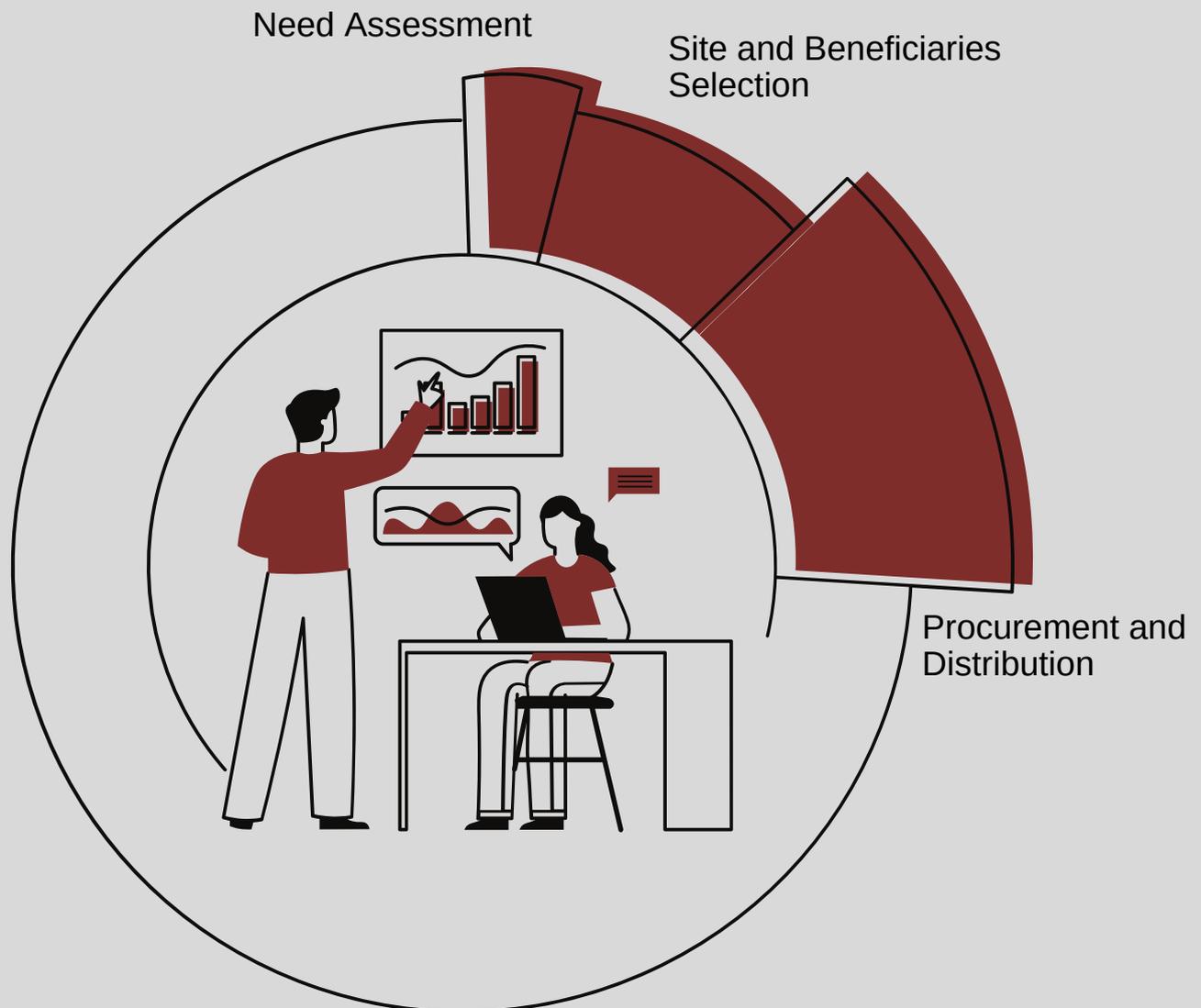


Fig 1: Relief Methodology

A. Need Assessment

VCN's District Volunteer Coordinator contacted the Melamchi and Helambu local government after the news of flash flood. The team then came out with specific needs and emergency relief plan for the victims. The first phase of relief was sent immediately on the next day to support the affected individuals from Kathmandu, and the team started assessing the urgent needs for much bigger response. Moving forward, a discussion was carried out with the affected and displaced families in an individual level which let us towards their needs. Based on these needs, the requirement of a huge package was extrapolated and planned accordingly as minimum humanitarian support had reached till that time. Also, the total human loss and damage of property had not been identified till the date of assessment.

B. Site Selection

Gyalthum, Ward no. 2 of Helambu was selected for the project implementation. Selection of site was done after the need-based assessment in coordination with local government representative, officials, and VCN's teams on the ground.



C. Beneficiaries Selection

The list of most affected families in an urgent need of help was provided directly by the ward office. As this was an emergency relief project in response to a disaster, we followed the same list of the beneficiaries provided by the ward as per their damage assessment.

The victims of flood in Gyalthum were categorized as Ka/1, Kha/2, and Ga/3. Ka/1 were the people who had lost their home and family members, Kha/2 were those who had lost their fields and Ga/3 were the one at risk. The relief material was disseminated as per the situation of each family and the category they fell in.

Special emphasis was placed on the most affected families as well as the volatility of the situation was kept in mind. Community representatives, ward president, school teachers and volunteers from the local community were involved to ensure that we identified real affected and poverty-stricken families. Local people gave us ample cooperation in this regard.

D. Procurement

The procurement of food and non-food item was carried out by direct purchase process. Solu Kirana Pasal for food items and Sandhya Enterprises and Supplier for Tarpaulins, solar lights, kitchen items and hygiene kits were designated for the procurement process and were delineated for organizing and packaging of the items. All goods were duly checked, sorted out and turned into packages by Solu Kirana Pasal and Sandhya Enterprises and Suppliers. These companies are VCN's standby vendors for food and non-food items.

E. Distribution Mechanism

Considering the urgency of the situation, it was of high significance to us to distribute assistance items as soon as possible to support the beneficiaries. VCN itself took charge of delivering the packages to the distribution area. The packages were directly delivered to the distribution point in Helambu on 23rd June and the distribution was carried out on 24th June. Dissemination of packages were conducted from two different points in Chiuretar Keul and Ganesh Baggar of Gyalthum, Helambu, Sindhupalchowk. The day set for distribution was not easy at all.

10

It was pouring continuously; thus, the packets of rice, other food items and solar lights which would be unusable if drenched in rain, were stored in a Warehouse in Chiuretar Keul for some time and distributed from the same place. Tarpaulins, kitchen items and hygiene kits were dispensed directly in the place where the displaced families were taking shelter.

Composition of Package containing food and non-food items was based on the immediate needs of the affected population and included the items that would allow total reliance on it of up to a month for a family of five members. The whole package included the following:

1. FOOD ITEMS

- Rice: 30 kg
- Mung Daal: 5 kg
- Cooking Oil: 2 lit
- Salt- 1 kg
- Soyabean Chunks: 2 Kg

2. NON FOOD ITEMS

- Tarpaulins: 2 units (12/15 size)
- Solar Light: 1 set (5 watt)

Kitchen Utensils:

- Glasses: 5 units
- Dinner Plates: 5 units
- Bucket: 1 unit
- Spoons: 5 units
- Cooking Pot: 1 unit
- Spatula: 1 unit
- Jug: 1 unit

Hygiene Kits:

- Soap: 5 units
- Toothbrushes: 5 units
- Toothpaste: 1 unit

As mentioned above about the categories of the households categorized as Ka/1, Kha/2 and Ga/3, the relief packages were distributed according to the same. The approach we used is summarized below:

- 80 most affected households were presented with a package containing ration, kitchen items, solar light, tarpaulins, and hygiene kits,
- 20 households were presented with solar light, tarpaulins, and kitchen items, and
- 24 households were presented with ration and hygiene kits.

This sums up to 124 of the total household for which we delivered the relief to through this project. As there were much more needy families than our target, thus we decided to distribute the relief among 124 as per their need. Our decision of increasing the beneficiaries was backed by the ward chairperson and the complete management regarding the separation of items was done by the chairperson himself. Banner portraying our project was displayed during distribution and packages were displayed with donor and partner's logo.

Case Stories

The stories are attached separately with 10 different beneficiaries.

Project Budget Overview

The utilization of budget made available by the Sowers Action as a contribution to the project reached 99%. The total budget of the project was NRP. 2,430,000 and the total expenses came out to be NRP. 2,414,000. The organization's funds were used wholly for procurement of goods, packing, logistics costs and transportation costs. For transportation two types of vehicles were used: a Scorpio van for travel of team members for three days at NRP. 15,000 booking cost per day and a carriage truck to transport our relief materials from Kathmandu to delivery point in Helambu, Sindhupalchowk at NRP. 30,000.

The detailed breakdown of expenses born during the project implementation is provided in the table below:

Particulars	Quantity	Price Per Unit	Price Per Package	Sum (NPR)
<u>FOOD PACKAGE</u>				
• Rice	30 Kg	80	2,400	
• Mung Daal	5 Kg	200	1,000	
• Cooking Oil	2 Lt	250	500	
• Soyabean Chunks	2 Kg	290	580	
• Salt	1 Kg	20	20	
			4,500 (100 Units Distributed)	450,000
• Tarpaulins	2 Pcs	2,250	4,500 (100 Units Distributed)	450,000
• Solar Light	1 Set	8,950	8,950 (100 Units Distributed)	895,000
<u>KITCHEN UTENCILS</u>				
• Glass	5 Units	90	450	
• Dinner Plates	5 Units	325	1,625	
• Bucket	1 Unit	400	400	
• Spoon	5 Units	40	200	
• Cooking Pot	1 Unit	2,000	2,000	
• Spatula	1 Unit	175	175	
• Jug	1 Unit	150	150	
			5,000 (100 Units Distributed)	500,000
<u>HYGIENE KITS</u>				
• Soap	5 Units	35	175	
• Toothbrush	5 Units	35	175	
• Toothpaste	1 Unit	90	90	
			440 (100 Units Distributed)	
SUB TOTAL				2,339,000
Transportation				75,000
GRAND TOTAL				2,414,000

Financial Summary

Total Fund Received: NRs. 2,430,000

Total Expenses: NRs. 2,414,000

Surplus Amount: NRs. 16,000

Way Forward

During the process, we understood the gravity of the situation and the impact of flood was way more than we had perceived. There was not only massive physical loss but the trauma they had faced was causing strong distress weakening their mental health and emotional health. The communities are forced into precarious position. Homelessness, losing source of income and farms are likely to aggravate the nutrition status of people pushing them towards the edge into malnutrition. Children, pregnant ladies, lactating women, and elderly are more likely to be vulnerable to disease and malnourishment. The rehabilitation of the displaced population is the matter of significant concern for now. A sustainable approach towards the relocation and resettlement of the displaced households needs to be taken for their wellbeing with a special focus towards water, sanitation, and hygiene. Furthermore, providing community with vocational opportunities to empower them economically will help them in a long run.

Moreover, after about four weeks of flash flood and its destruction, the exact amount of loss is still not being able to be pinned down in Helambu and Melamchi. Eventually, a comprehensive focus in different areas can be executed to recover from the devastation, which can be:

- a. Resettlement of the displaced population
- b. Restoration of infrastructures like schools and shelters damaged by the flood
- c. Economic empowerment of affected people
- d. Support to the government for disaster management

In conclusion, resettlements with particular attention to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), nutrition and economic empowerment through vocational opportunities should be our way forward based on our immediate concern to the revival of people from their trauma.

14 Project Gallery



Annexes

ANNEX 1. Agreement with the Vendor

ANNEX 2. Board Meeting Minute for Direct Purchase

ANNEX 3. Beneficiaries Name List

ANNEX 4. Letter from Municipality



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