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Project Completion Report

Koshi Early Recovery Project

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Award Title: Koshi Early Recovery Project

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Signature

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February 2012

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1. Project Information

Programme Period: 2009 to 2011	Total Budget: US \$ 974,517
Key Result Area (Strategic Plan): ----- -----	Allocated Resources: US \$ 974,517
Atlas Award ID: 00058243	Source of Fund: UNDP &SWE
Start Date: September 2009	Donor: US \$ 483,919
End Date: July 2011	Other: UNDP US \$ 490,598
PAC Meeting Date: August 2009	Government: ----
Management Arrangements: UNDP Implementation	Regular: ----
	Total <u>US \$ 974,517</u>

2. Introduction

On 18 August 2008, Nepal's largest river, the Koshi, broke through a retaining embankment on its eastern bank in Sunsari district. The breach was caused by heavy monsoon rains as well as a failure in the maintenance of the embankment. As a result of the breach, two Village Development Communities (VDCs), Haripur and Shripur, were completely submerged by the floods while the VDCs of Laukihi and Paschim Kushaha were partially flooded. An estimated 70,000 people were initially affected by the Koshi Floods with many of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing to the neighbouring district of Saptari. In February 2008, the government of Nepal (GoN) implemented a Detailed Damage Assessment of the IDP camps. This assessment revealed that the total numbers of flood victims remaining in camps were 42,807 individuals (7,572 households [HH]).

The Koshi River flood resulted in severe damages to livelihoods and property. The East-West highway was destroyed in several places over several hundred meters, effectively halting the intensive road transport between east and west Nepal. Electricity lines and transformer stations were destroyed and main telephone lines were cut. High quantities of silt were carried from upstream of the Koshi River and deposited on the affected areas resulting in damages to infrastructure and arable land. The overall physical damage to the affected areas has been assessed by the Asian Development Bank (December 2008) at a total of US\$32 million (NPR 2.5 billion). In addition to these direct physical costs, there have been indirect losses in the transport, agriculture and housing sectors.

Immediately after the flood, more than 85 government and international humanitarian agencies moved swiftly and efficiently to rescue affected populations from the initial risks of the Koshi flood. The relief phase required moving and gathering people in various emergency camps and creating a database to set up and use management and monitoring systems. Refer to Figure 1 for further details on the humanitarian phase:

3. Relief and Humanitarian Phase

The relief and humanitarian phase lasted from August 2008 to May 2009. Some of the highlights include:

- People were camped in 20 schools, 6 madrasas, 1 VDC building and 1 Agriculture Service Centre for 3 months. Later on, they were temporarily camped in 14 camps and provided emergency food, drinking water, toilets, sanitation and health services.
- With support from UNOCHA, the different agencies were divided into 7 clusters.
- The GoN formulated High Level Task Force for the Koshi Flood Affected Response at the Chairmanship of MP Mr. Nandan Kumar Dutta.
- There were more than 10,000 Koshi affected Indian citizens who came to Nepal. They stayed in emergency shelter camps and were provided food and clothing. Management was then achieved through mutual dialogue with Indian Authority;
- As per the recommendation of the High Level Task Force, the GoN allocated NRS 1.6 billion for compensation of land, house, crop damages, the loss of life during the floods and camp and homes for landless persons;
- A NRS 50,000 return package was provided and identity cards were returned. All the households returned to their home after 9 months in shelter camps;
- A total of 1,422 landless households were identified and ensured that 2 Katha land and a house would be provided;
- With support from UNHabitat, the Sunsari DDRC managed to construct 235 bamboo houses for landless households in Haripur VDC and Sunsari districts

The magnitude of the Koshi Flood required additional work beyond the relief and humanitarian phase. In order to ensure long-term and sustainable growth, an early recovery plan was necessary.



Puja Devi Sada, one of the landless victim of the flood from Haripur-3 recalls "We were evacuated from flood on time; but we are still living in Sukumbasi (landless) huts. Right from the beginning, the victims, especially women, pregnant women, elderly, people with disability and children are severely affected, our issues are not well addressed." Adds **Sukuni Devi Mukhiya** "If we were supported immediately after the disaster, we could have recovered sooner and better from the grave impact caused by Koshi flood"

4. Early Recovery¹ and the Koshi Flood

Given the immense damages caused by the Koshi Floods and UNDP's role as the global cluster lead in early recovery, the Koshi Early Recovery Project (KERP) was developed and implemented. KERP is based on the principles of early recovery with a focus on building livelihood assets and skills training.

5. Objectives of Koshi Early Recovery Project (KERP)

KERP was designed to complement the activities of all other stakeholders that were in the process of assisting the Koshi flood affected population through a participatory and transparent process where the Government of Nepal would take the lead. The aim of the assistance effort was to follow a 'build back better' approach that would establish systems to help reduce the risk of floods or limit the damage to human lives and assets.

The overall strategy of KERP was to build upon and integrate the activities of several different programmes implemented by UNDP Nepal which, when implemented in conjunction, would provide a complementary early recovery response to the immediate needs of returning IDP households. KERP was also designed in a manner that would complement the top-down processes while facilitating and supporting a community based bottom-up approach in order to generate sustainable results.

The complementary character of KERP supported the early recovery mandate of UNDP and was built on UNDP's extensive experience in Nepal, working with all levels of government as well as with the most disadvantaged communities and specific groups of beneficiaries.

6. Project Partners

The number of supporting agencies had been substantially reduced from 85 agencies in the relief phase to less than 15 agencies in the recovery phase. The agencies involved in the recovery phase are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Activities and agencies involved in recovery phase

Sector	Government Agencies	Civil Society	Funding Agencies
WASH	WSSDO		ADB
Agriculture, Livestock and Food	DADO, Agriculture and Livestock Program for Koshi Flood Affected Area	CSDC, DLSO	USAID/FINTRAC, UNDP (KERP)
Livelihoods	DADO	DLSO, CSDC	USAID/MEDEP/KERP

¹ Early Recovery is a multi-dimensional process which encompasses the restoration of basic services, livelihoods, shelter, governance, security and rule of law, environmental and social issues (i.e. reintegration of displaced persons), etc. It is the arena in which recovery planning and development programming are initiated early, thus minimizing the gap between the end of the relief phase and the beginning of long-term recovery. Early recovery is guided by principles of development that seek to build on humanitarian programmes and to catalyse sustainable growth opportunities. The overall focus of early recovery is to urgently restore the capacity of national institutions and communities affected by conflict or natural disaster.

Social Services	DEO, DDRRC, NP, WDO, DHO	CSDC	USAID/FINTRAC, UNDP (KERP)
Infrastructure	WSSDO, DTO, DIO, DRO	CSDC	UN HABITAT, ADB, USAID/FINTRAC, UNDP, WVI
Coordination	DDRRC		UNDP

7. Target Group/Beneficiaries

KERP was designed and implemented in order to support and assist the affected population of the Koshi floods. The affected population of the Koshi floods represents a very diverse group in terms of religion and social status. Approximately 20 per cent of the affected households are landless and mostly depend on day labour, petty trade and share cropping activities. Muslim families also represent a large group of the affected population with a large percentage of these families living in poverty and in high vulnerability. The floods also created a delicate and precarious situation with females, who were left alone in camps as husbands searched for labour in India, teenage and young adult females were especially vulnerable. Additionally, Dalit and Janjatis groups, who are among the poorest and most vulnerable households, were heavily affected by the floods. The main beneficiaries of KERP were the local authorities in charge of the coordination and partial implementation of the government and third party assistance and compensation measures, most notably the Ministry of Local Development (MoLD). Most efforts of KERP focused on the communities of returning IDPs and those displaced. Within these efforts, the programme specifically focused on all groups of marginalized and vulnerable communities and social classes as well as individuals, specifically Muslims, Dalits and Janjatis. In terms of gender, strong focus was placed on the needs of women in general, and on the most vulnerable, the single headed households and the young, unmarried female adults. In order to ensure an effective focus on females, KERP engaged with UNFPA and the Women Development Office for technical advice and concrete project proposals to involve women in recovery planning and implementation.

KERP also targeted other vulnerable categories of people, such as the disabled, people living with HIV/AIDS and the elderly. Young males are another group that KERP focused on with the intent of creating sustainable livelihood opportunities in order to reduce the likelihood of joining army groups and to promote reintegration efforts,

While the main beneficiaries were the Koshi Flood affected IDP and returnee population, KERP also paid attention to those who never left their communities within the directly affected area as well as around it. Specifically, host families played an important role in the relief phase and KERP was designed with the goal of including these host families in rehabilitation activities. The indirect damages in the region, such as lost incomes and services as well as social impacts, required KERP to advocate for and involve the most vulnerable groups and communities surrounding the directly affected area.

KERP and the activities conducted under the project, were designed based on targeting these vulnerable groups and affected populations from the Koshi Flood.

8. Project Activities

The project activities of KERP are as follows:

Early Recovery coordination and monitoring

- As the lead of the early recovery cluster coordination support, UNDP is responsible for the coordination and monitoring of early recovery activities. KERP included activities related to disaster risk reduction, (non-agricultural) livelihoods, infrastructure, permanent shelter and rule of law. These various thematic areas required strong early recovery coordination and monitoring mechanism.

Strengthening of the Early Recovery related capacities of Sunsari District Authorities

- An important part of KERP was focused on the Sunsari district and, particularly supporting the office of the Local Development Officer (LDO) in early recovery related capacities, such as coordination and monitoring.

Community infrastructure and natural resources

- The damages incurred by the Koshi flood necessitated a UNDP supported community based rehabilitation intervention. This activity focused on providing returnees with temporary jobs in the rehabilitation and construction of community assets. These projects focused on social and productive infrastructure as well as natural resources that benefit the entire community.

Support to micro and small business and livelihood activities

- KERP built upon the existing links, networks, experiences and expert staff of Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP) in order to support the flood affected IDP population in the return process, as well as those who were unable to return immediately.

Skills training, internships and apprenticeships

- Raising the overall skills of the poor and marginalized groups with the aim of improving the economic viability of pre-flood livelihood activities and preparing beneficiaries for new ones is another livelihood based activity of KERP.

Livelihood grants

- Beneficiaries who successfully followed skills training were eligible for a small livelihood grant in order to facilitate an immediate start-up of a livelihood activity or to support an internship/apprenticeship.

Market surveys and business plans

- In order to support the livelihood strategy, KERP also performed selected and targeted market surveys that determined the need for certain skills and the marketability of certain products to be produced by beneficiaries.

Renewable energy and innovative technologies

- KERP built upon the extensive experience of Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP) to support the use of and equitable access to energy services with an emphasis on renewable sources of energy and measures to limit the impact of daily energy needs on the environment.

Community based disaster risk management

- This activity focused on creating disaster risk management groups and trainings that would support the development of community assessments, hazard and risk maps, capacity assessment and emergency action plans that included risk mitigation measures and preparedness and emergency response actions.

Shelter

- In collaboration with UNHabitat, KERP will implement and provide shelter support that includes vocational training on masonry, carpentry, plumbing and electrical wiring.

9. Project Achievements

Figure 2 (next page) provides a brief timeline of UNDP's supported interventions in the Koshi affected communities:

Early Recovery coordination and monitoring

Under the umbrella of DDRC, the General Coordination Meeting (GCM) and cluster approach were continued in the recovery phase. Coordination meetings between GCM, the 7 clusters and DDRC were conducted on a monthly basis or as needed. The number of agencies involved in the recovery phase was reduced to 15, making coordination efforts relatively simpler. Coordination of activities, which included distribution compensation packages, land reclamation, infrastructure and livelihood projects and contracting of services were based on the damage and needs assessment that was conducted by UNDP in October 2008 and UNOCHA in November 2008. The early recovery coordination and monitoring mechanism, through GCM, was vital to avoid duplication of activities and to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of recovery initiatives.

Strengthening of the Early Recovery related capacities of Sunsari District Authorities

The DDRC in Sunsari facilitated as one of the lead agencies for overall coordination in early recovery activities. After several discussions between the LDO and UNDP, a small unit to assist the LDO in early recovery coordination and monitoring was provided. This unit consisted of several specialists deployed over a period of 18 months. The specialists within this unit included an IT specialist, who maintained and

updated the return database for monitoring purposes, and an external communications expert, who supported the improvement of the District authorities' communication with beneficiaries, donors and IOs/NGOs. This support proved to be important in the effort to strengthen the early recovery related capacities of Sunsari District Authorities.

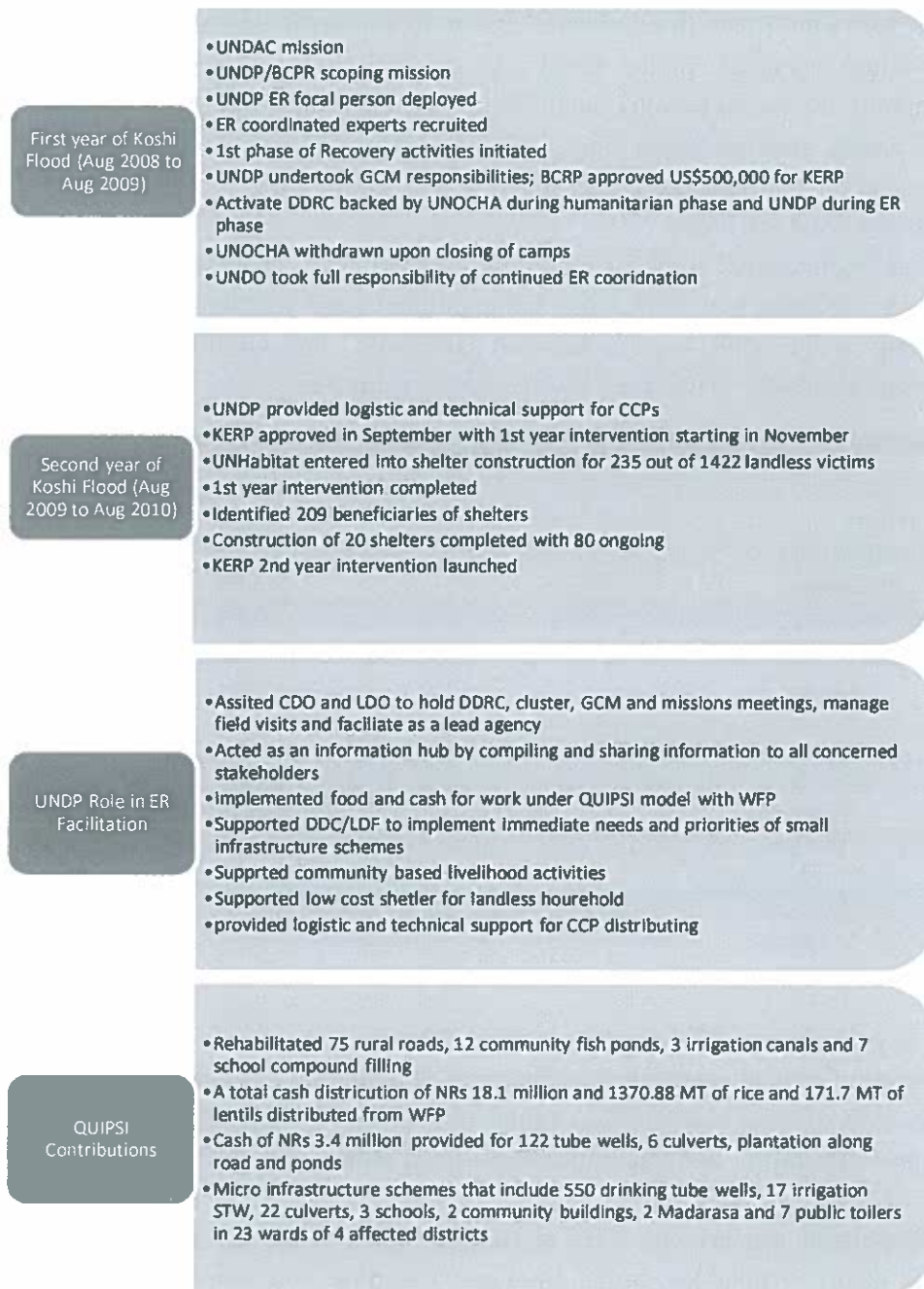


Figure 1: Timeline of UNDP supported interventions

Community infrastructure and natural resources

KERP supported and implemented the following activities related to the community infrastructure and natural resources component:

- Construction of roads/trails and fish ponds through food and cash for work framework:
 - ❖ Under the food for work (FFW) and cash for work (CFW) framework, 13 fish ponds were constructed in the Koshi flood affected area with the facilitation of DEPROSC and support from various agencies. In the fiscal year of 2010-2011, KERP with its partner NGO 'Community for Social Development Center' in Sunsari is providing rehabilitation support of fish ponds, such as finger lings, AZOLA culture to retain water for longer periods, supply of micro-nutrients necessary for fish and feed for fish.
- Cash for Work and Food for Work:
 - ❖ WFP has implemented food for work and cash for work programmes that have engaged people in reconstruction work while being compensated with food packages and/or cash. According to the MOU signed between DEPROSC and QUIPSI/DDC of Sunsari, the following outputs for FFW and CFW have been achieved:

Table 2: Food for Work Distribution

VDC	Rice	Lentils
Haripur	493,368	62,039
Shripur	440,988	55,124
PachimKushaha	285,592	33,677
Laukahi	16,800	2,100
Total	1,370,888	171,712

Table 3: Cash for Work Distribution

VDC	Cash Distributed (NRs)
Haripur	7,043,000
Shripur	6,502,100
PachimKushaha	4,274,000
Laukahi	251,000
Total	18,070,100

- Infrastructure development in 2nd launch year of KERP:
 - ❖ 2 information centers established at Haripur-1 and Pachim Kushaha-3
 - ❖ Construction of rural market place center in Pachim Kushaha-4, Shreepur-6, Shreepur-7, Shreepur-9, Haripur-1 and PachimKushaha-Pater House
- Establishment of Nursery:
 - ❖ A multi-purpose nursery was built in Haripur VDC, Ward no. 2 and consists of various types of plants, vegetables, fruits, grass and Jatropha. This nursery is being managed by the community.
- Construction of link road:
 - ❖ Employing more than 10,000 labors, this project constructed a link rural road in Pachim Kushaha-4, Shreepur-3, Pachim Kushaha-4 and Haripur-3.

- Installation of tube wells:
 - ❖ Tube wells were constructed in 8 communities, providing drinking water facilities to communities in need.
- Community fish pond management:
 - ❖ A total of 15 fish ponds have been established and managed for community level fish farming. The establishment and management of this natural resource have supported the livelihood of the targeted communities.
- Plantation alongside roads:
 - ❖ 1050 plants of different varieties have been planted alongside the roads and have been fenced by bamboo made fences. These plants are regularly cared for by local residents.

Support to micro and small businesses and livelihood activities

- ➤ UNDP/MEDEP:
 - ❖ Through its partner NGO 'Community for Social Development Center,' UNDP/MEDEP conducted many micro-enterprise trainings for Koshi flood affected populations. These trainings include Training of Potential Entrepreneur (ToPE), Training of Starting Entrepreneur (ToSE), Bamboo Mudha-making training, candle making training and tea shop support.
- Plantation of bamboo, grass, Jatropha and banana:
 - ❖ Approximately 25,000 plants of different variety, 16,000 bananas, 10,000 jatropha and 15,000 kimbu have been placed in a 3.5 hector space of land. These plantations will support and promote positive livelihood for the targeted communities.
- Seasonal vegetable farming:
 - ❖ 65 bigha lands have been utilized through different kinds of vegetable farming, which has benefited targeted communities and businesses. This includes the farming of potato, brittle guard, radish, carrot, cauliflower, bottle guard, etc.
- ➤ Livestock support:
 - ❖ 92 pigs, 39 piglets and 100 goats have been provided to the affected Mushar Dalit communities. In addition, foods and vaccination facilities have been provided in order to improve the livelihood of these communities.
 - ❖ This livestock support has been implemented under a UNDP grant scheme whereby each targeted household receives goats and pigs while Dina VadriKeraSamuh (Banana Farming Groups) manage banana farming.

Skills training, internships and apprenticeships

- Livelihood trainings:
 - ❖ KERP supported livelihood trainings on bee keeping, poultry farming, buffalo rising, off season vegetable/watermelon farming, masonry and plumbing. In addition, tools were provided to support carpentry, masonry, embroidery and plumbing while seeds were provided to support vegetable and watermelon farming.

- ❖ UNDP/MEDEP related trainings were implemented with partner NGO 'Community for Social Development Center.'
- Capacity building:
 - ❖ Skill development and income generation trainings were provided for a total of 549 people, including 269 male and 280 female participants.
 - ❖ Capacity building trainings were provided for a total of 343 people, including 196 male and 147 female participants.
 - ❖ Livestock support training and equipment support were implemented under KERP.
 - ❖ Improved cooking stove training and support were implemented with 15 people participating.

Shanti Devi Sada, one of Dalit participants of the training from Sripur VDC shares "We are now better informed and better prepared. At least now we can save our lives, our children and household belongings. But repeated and frequent orientation or training might be needed for us to refresh these learning. Similarly, one of participants **Hasina Khatun** from Pashim Kushha says "Thanks to UNDP, we are not only able to save our lives but we can save others as well. We can sensitize other rural women. But we have a fear that we might forget these learning, so would like to request UNDP for continuous engagement on the development of new skills and knowledge to tackle such incidents that will occur again.



Livelihood grants

- Livelihood support:
 - ❖ KERP, supported through livelihood grants, the development of bee keeping and poultry farming enterprises with fodder support for buffalo keeping.
- UNDP/MEDEP:
 - ❖ Through its partner NGO 'Community for Social Development Center,' UNDP/MEDEP conducted many micro-enterprise trainings for Koshi flood affected populations. These trainings include Training of Potential Entrepreneur (ToPE), Training of Starting Entrepreneur (ToSE), Bamboo Mudha-making training, candle making training and tea shop support.

Market surveys and business plans

➤ Market Survey orientation:

- ❖ A market survey orientation was conducted to strengthen the capacity of KERP staff to conduct surveys that identified product demand, feasibility and sustainability.
- ❖ The market surveys were carried out in several market areas (Itahari, Inaruwa, Lauki, Duahabi and Jhumka) and supported the establishment of plans that incorporated product opportunities, supply, demand, and sustainability. These market surveys identified the possibilities of vegetable farming in local markets but also highlighted that these markets are not organized and require improved settlement and hygiene of vegetables.

Renewable energy and innovative technologies

➤ Biodiversity conservation:

- ❖ This activity included support for animal deterrents to assist in staving off elephant and arna intrusion in order to reduce the occurrence of crop damages.
- ❖ ICS training and support to minimize the effects of smoke from fire to ensure better health for the female population.

Shelter

➤ UNHabitat support:

- ❖ The Sunsari DDRC identified 1422 landless households in the Koshi flood affected VDCs. With the Government of Nepal, who provided 2 Kattha of land for each of the landless households, KERP has supported the construction of 235 houses with technical assistance from UNHabitat. The fund flow for the construction of these homes are as follows:



10. Project Budget

Provisional Project Financial Summary (September 2009 to July 2011)

Sources of funds	Funds committed (a)	Total cash received (b)	Previous years expenditures (c)	Current year expenditures (d)	Cumulative expenditure to date (e= c+d)	Balance of funds (f = b-e)
UNDP	490,598	490,598	445,598	41,976	487,574	3,024
Other Resources	483,919	483,919	483,919	146	484,065	-146
Total	974,517	974,517	929,517	42,122	971,639	2,878

11. Lessons Learned

Early recovery is a relatively new concept in the development framework with KERP acting as an initial project in Nepal for early recovery activities. The following are lessons learned from the implementation of KERP:

- DDRC has been established and recognized as a key agency and umbrella organization for disaster management.
- There are same names of large number of people who received return package of NRs 50,000. Verification process of the household members should be good enough to triangulate the same name of the same ward of the same VDC.
- An exit strategy is required and should be part of the planning process in order to complete KERP, rather than having a lingering process.
- The compensation packaged received by the river affected households, has not been used in capital formation. There was not a condition that they have to use it for land capital formation. It has been used in purchasing land outside the affected areas particularly in safe zone in Sunsari, Saptari and Jhapa districts. Still the local people are not confident that the Koshi Embankment is safe for them.
- There is a lot of mistrust between affected households and DDRC agencies. There is a need to maintain transparency, public auditing, and social auditing to build an environment of trust between affected households, civil society and DDRC agencies.
- Land reclamation process is very slow in Red Zone and Main Stream Red Zone. The process should be completed within a set time table.
- There is an urgent need to re-vegetate even the red and MS red areas to address the environmental issues with the participation of the individual farmers and local community.
- Cluster approach with District Contingency Plan is a good start in the district to address disaster problems.
- Along with the Contingency Plan, there is long-term strategic planning to address the causes of disasters of floods. Conservation and management of sub-watersheds in upstream should be started with long-term strategic planning to protect the Terai from flooding and siltation.
- A lack of capacity can result in a dependency syndrome whereby the victims become reliant on external support rather than developing sustainable growth opportunities
- There is a lack of social preparation and mobilization in fixing the shallow boring well and many other development programs

12. Conclusion

The Koshi river flood and resulting damage required an urgent humanitarian response followed with an effective early recovery plan. While the concept of early recovery is relatively new in the development framework, Koshi demonstrated the need for implementing early recovery activities in order to support longer-term development and provide people with sustainable livelihoods. The Koshi Early Recovery

Project (KERP) aimed to support early recovery activities in a systematic manner, from coordination with government and partners to implementation of activities.

The most important output of KERP was its focus on restoring livelihoods of those affected by the floods in a quick manner through early recovery interventions. These interventions focused on providing affected persons an opportunity to normalize their circumstances after the damages of the flood. By targeting several aspects of livelihood activities and focusing on capacity building, KERP was able to target vulnerable communities and begin the process of restoring livelihoods and promoting long term development.

KERP also served as an initial early recovery project with many lessons learned for future early recovery activities in Nepal. Future planning and implementation of early recovery plans will be able to utilize the strengths and weaknesses learned from KERP in order to promote an effective and efficient early recovery response in Nepal.

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