

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: PIDC58991

Project Name	Psycho-social support for vulnerable communities affected by the earthquake in Nepal
Region	SOUTH ASIA
Country	Nepal
Sector(s)	Other social services (100%)
Theme(s)	Participation and civic engagement (25%), Gender (25%), Other social development (25%), Social Inclusion (25%)
Lending Instrument	Lending Instrument
Project ID	P159486
Borrower Name	iInternational Labor Organization
Implementing Agency	TPO
Environment Category	C - Not Required
Date PID Prepared	25-Feb-2016
Estimated Date of Approval	30-Nov-2016
Initiation Note Review Decision	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Nepal, with a population of approximately 27 million and a per capita income of about \$750, has experienced a prolonged and complex political transition following a 10-year violent conflict that ended in 2006. The decade long civil war spearheaded by the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoists to replace the royal parliamentary system with a ‘peoples’ republic’ resulted in the death of over 14,000 people, the displacement of more than 100,000 people, and the devastation of public infrastructure. As with most armed conflicts, the People’s War in Nepal included violations of human rights and civil liberties, extrajudicial killings, displacements and migrations, and sexual violence against women.

Peace and stability remains fragile in the country today. Since the introduction of democracy in 1990, Nepal has had at least 20 different governments. The constitution, which meant to lead to the creation of Nepal as a federal state, has experienced several setbacks including dissolution of the first Constituent Assembly, and failure of the second Constituent Assembly, to draft a constitution by the January 2015 deadline. While the new constitution was finally promulgated in September 2015, conflict, and the prolonged transition, has resulted in erosion of state institutions and governance; escalation of identity politics in a country with substantial diversity; persistent poverty and slow economic growth; and inadequate services and livelihood opportunities. Furthermore, the country was affected by a powerful earthquake in April 2015 causing widespread damage and destruction both to lives and properties.

With the circulation of the Constitution in the summer 2015, the marginalized groups, particularly the Madhesis, women, and Janajatis (indigenous) staged series of protests demanding that the constitution should not compromise inclusion. For the Madhesis and Tharus who live in the southern plains, the proposed federal state structure did not meet the commitments made in the past. In August 2015, the protests turned violent. Indiscriminate security crackdown ensued and resulted in more than 45 people dead. Despite the protests, the Constitution was adopted in September 2015, which resulted in further protests especially by the Madhesis demanding amendments. Protestors blocked border points to add pressure on Kathmandu and succeeded in blocking Birgunj. Citing security concerns, the Indian government placed an unofficial blockade.

The blockade led to a fuel crisis and shortage of food and other essential supplies that exacerbated the plight of many Nepalis, who are recovering from the devastating April 25 earthquake and its aftershocks that killed almost 9,000 people. Part of the fuel demand was fulfilled by the black market. Many essential goods including food and medicine were in short supply risking a humanitarian crisis. After five months, the unofficial blockade was lifted on February 6, 2016. However, supply of fuel and essential goods is still not regular. An amendment to the Constitution was announced in January 2016. However, protesting groups that include Madhesis and other marginalized groups continue to feel that past agreements during the peace process have been broken and achievements of the Interim Constitution on inclusion have been undermined.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

The earthquake in Nepal in April 2015 affected the livelihoods of about 2.287 million households and 5.6 million workers across 31 affected districts, resulting in losses amounting to 94 million workdays and NPR 17 billion of personal income in FY 2015- 2016. Although personal income loss is equivalent to only 2 percent of the total disaster effect, it is important to highlight that annual labour earnings in Nepal are extremely low. Therefore, even a minor income loss has serious implications for poverty in the country. The disadvantaged social groups in the poorer districts have suffered the largest damage and loss. The majority of the agricultural and informal sector workers are female due to the low capital entry requirement of the informal sector and lack of livelihood options. The widespread loss of food stocks, potential loss in crop productivity and loss of livestock as well as small scale enterprises will likely cause a severe income shock for women who rely on this sector. A narrow asset base, burden of domestic work, limited access to economic resources combined with the lack of alternate livelihoods also mean that recovery for women may take longer than for men who have more livelihood options. (PDNA, Vol A)

Dalits and other marginalized groups, and people living in remote geographical regions who are already deprived of access to social services, will face similar challenges. The housing sector, which is the hardest hit, has a bearing on gender equality and social inclusion. Women, Dalits and some ethnic groups have limited ownership of land, which could hinder their participation in the housing recovery programme and the benefits accruing from them. Senior citizens, female-headed households and people living with disabilities (PLWDs) have also been heavily affected as many do not have the means to reconstruct their houses. Families are deploying different coping mechanisms to deal with the disaster, including distress sales of assets and receipt of remittances. However, for vulnerable families, the loss of assets combined with the loss of family protection, and desperation for alternate livelihoods could have disastrous consequences on women, girls and children who may face heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence, human trafficking, child marriage, and child labour. The impact of the disaster on the mental health of the affected population is not well

documented. But interviews with women and children show that they live in constant fear of buildings collapsing and of another big earthquake. In Kavre, women reported that they are afraid to let their children out of sight, the main reason being that children are constantly wandering into condemned homes as they don't understand the dangers a damaged house presents. The women reported sleeping while holding their children to prevent separation should another earthquake occur in the middle of the night.(PDNA, Vol B)

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

The proposed project is firmly rooted in the Bank's strategy in the following ways. First, it will contribute to the Nepal Country Partnership Strategy (2014-2018) goal under Pillar 2: Increasing inclusive growth and opportunities for shared prosperity under Outcome 2.2: More equitable access to education and skills development, of higher quality and relevance and Outcome 2.3: Improved health and nutrition services, particularly for the poor and disadvantaged. Second, it builds on the South Asia Regional Strategy which highlights genders as an important development issue in the region, as well as the 2012 World Development Report on Gender Equality and Development, which recommends promoting gender equality through innovative approaches that support women's voice and agency, facilitate access to justice, and limit the reproduction of gender inequality across generations.

II. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To improve community-based psychosocial support for women affected by the earthquake

Key Results

Number of women seeking psycho-social support in our program

Percentage of participating women who self-report enhanced psycho-social well-being (to be measured using perception questions tied to three pillars: knowledge/skills, emotional, and social)

Number of women support groups formed and/or supported by the project

Number of existing formal and informal groups with plans to integrate psycho-social support into current activities

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

The project will pilot an innovative bottom-up approach to enable the vulnerable communities with particular focus on women in two post-earthquake districts to be re-integrated in the social fabric of society through the provision of post-traumatic training and a package of a multidisciplinary skills. Global evidence shows that supporting psycho-social well-being can enhance to help people cope in context of post natural disasters has great impact for enhancing access economic and social opportunities. Particularly, the project will focus on women recognizing that their social networks, livelihood activities, and their usual day-to-day practice had changed in the last few months (post-earthquake) without having the necessary technical, financial, and emotional skills and support to cope with the changes. This innovative pilot will use a multi-disciplinary approach to trauma sensitive training by integrating socio-emotional skills with soft skills (and other necessary skills that the needs assessment will highlight-such as employability, mental health, etc...) to capture the links between social vulnerabilities and social responses in post-disaster areas.

IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		x	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x	
Pest Management OP 4.09		x	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	3	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
Financing Source			Amount
Japan Social Development Fund			3

VI. Contact point

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