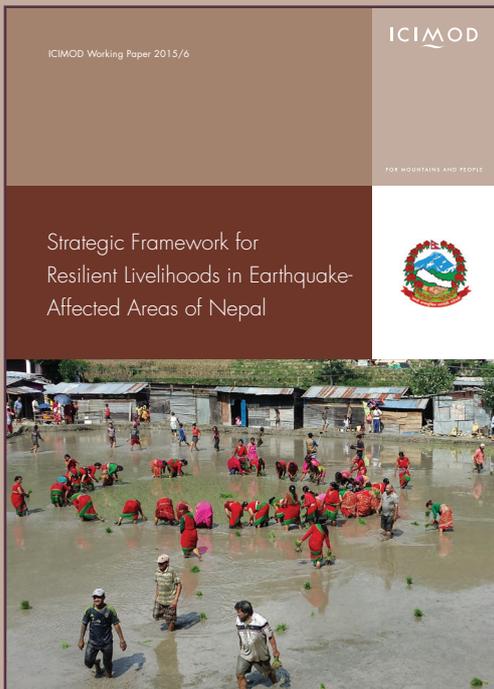


Strategic Framework for Resilient Livelihoods in Earthquake-Affected Areas of Nepal



On 25 April, Nepal experienced a catastrophic earthquake that not only took the lives of over 8,000 people, injured over 22,000, and displaced over 100,000, it also affected the livelihoods of over 2.28 million households and pushed an additional 700,000 people below the poverty line.

In light of this, ICIMOD, together with the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal, has prepared this report to provide insights into how to restore, revive, and revitalize livelihoods focusing on the various socioeconomic challenges towards a strategic framework for designing and implementing actions, particularly those in the 14 most affected hill and mountain areas. This publication aims to complement the Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) of the Government of Nepal by providing insights into the livelihood dimensions of the earthquake and its socioeconomic and livelihood impacts. It explores the strategic choices and options for developing resilient livelihoods post-earthquake, and details a number of key elements of a strategy for livelihood recovery to inform the Government of Nepal's post-disaster policies and strategic plan. It provides guidance towards a long-term strategy for the transition from reconstruction and restoration to sustainable livelihoods that are more resilient to future disasters.

It will add value to the existing knowledge base on developing resilient livelihoods post-earthquake, especially in mountain areas. It is envisioned that this report will be beneficial to the Government of Nepal and other development agencies in streamlining development efforts in the process of revitalizing livelihoods and developing resilient communities as the nation rebuilds.

Impacts of the 2015 Nepal Earthquake on Livelihoods: Key Facts

- ▶ The Nepal Earthquake affected the livelihoods of over 2.28 million households and 8 million people in 31 districts, with total damage and loss to livelihoods of NPR 28.4 billion (USD 284 million)
- ▶ The earthquake has pushed an additional 700,000 people below the poverty line
- ▶ Over 5 million workers have been affected, with about 150 million work days lost, 69% of which are in the agriculture sector
- ▶ About 135,200 tonnes of foodstuff, 16,399 large livestock, 36,819 small livestock, and 460,762 poultry animals have been lost
- ▶ More than 3.5 million people are food insecure, and some 180,000 people engaged in tourism are extremely vulnerable
- ▶ The agriculture sector suffered total damage and loss of NPR 25.5 billion (USD 255 million), with maximum losses (86%) in Nepal's mountains and hills
- ▶ The average value of per capita disaster effect is highest in the mountains (NPR 219,503/USD 2,195) and the lowest in Inner Terai (NPR 50,813/USD 508), with an average of NPR 130,115 (USD 1,301) in the 14 most affected districts
- ▶ The per capita disaster effect is positively correlated with poverty (0.46), indicating that less developed and poor communities, many of which are in mountain areas, endured a larger portion of disaster impacts
- ▶ Poor women and disadvantaged groups suffered more in terms of death, person years of life lost, injury, displacement, and impacts on other livelihood assets

Key Elements of a Sustainable Livelihood Recovery Strategy

- **Create an enabling policy and institutional environment** with clear policies, strategies, and instruments that provide a framework for active participation and effective planning, coordination, and implementation mechanisms.
- **Engage and coordinate diverse stakeholders** by instituting an effective multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism at different levels, and institutionalize a mechanism that aligns external and internal financial resources with national development planning and sectoral strategies.
- **Strengthen the skills and capacity of affected people** by integrating skill development and vocational training into livelihood recovery programmes and by building the capacity of local experts
- **Tap the potential of internal and external job markets** by providing targeted skill building trainings and support the financial literacy of migrant households in earthquake-affected areas and utilize the skills and remittances of the Nepali diaspora
- **Facilitate structural transformation** to move from a subsistence agriculture-based economy to a more commercial and diversified economy with policy, financial, and institutional support.
- **Ensure gender equality and social inclusion** by integrating women and marginalized groups into planning and implementation processes, and by taking specific measures to ensure that employment opportunities are available to both women and men equally in emergency employment and reconstruction processes.
- **Promote community empowerment** through building the capacity of community-based organizations, local government agencies and organizations, and local businesses to participate in the livelihood recovery processes
- **Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity conservation into the livelihood recovery process** in earthquake affected areas.
- **Revitalize the farming sector** by providing necessary inputs, strengthening agriculture and livestock extension services, rebuilding damaged agricultural infrastructure, and introducing crop insurance to mitigate the risk of crop failure resulting from disease or unforeseen events in earthquake-affected areas.
- **Revitalize the tourism sector** by using an eco-design approach and rebuilding environmentally friendly infrastructure and ecotourism, as well as supporting the rebuilding of damaged tourism infrastructure. Undertake targeted marketing of unaffected tourist destinations and provide policy and financial support to tourism entrepreneurs to restart their businesses.
- **Revitalize micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises** by providing loans at low interest rates, simplifying processes and mechanisms, and providing to support start-up businesses, as well as by facilitating insurance mechanisms with public-private partnerships to mitigate risk.



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