



NEPAL COMMUNITY FEEDBACK REPORT

Issue: Water

November 2016





THE INTER-AGENCY COMMON FEEDBACK PROJECT

Community perception surveys conducted with:



This issue of the community feedback report supported by:



Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project funded by:



KEY FINDINGS

As early as July 2015 concerns over access to water began to be heard from earthquake affected communities. The first issue of Open Mic Nepal highlighted comments from Gorkha and Dhading that water sources had dried up. Over time the Common Feedback Project registered more and more feedback over water supply from all of the 14 priority affected districts.

These concerns were not only captured by qualitative data, but also to some extent by the Community Perception Survey, particularly in the thematic area of protection, where it was found that 10 percent of respondents felt there was tension in their community as a result of competition over scarce water resources. Also in the reconstruction themed survey, a number of respondents stated that their reconstruction efforts were delayed due to a lack of water for mixing mud or concrete. Some communities reported that they were more worried about water than they were about rebuilding, and also that additional hours needed to travel long distances to retrieve water was impacting their productive capacity.

In light of the growing body of qualitative feedback being collected on water concerns, the Common Feedback Project decided to dedicate some questions on its regular Community Perception Survey explicitly to water, in an attempt to quantify the scope of the problem across the earthquake affected area.

In June 2016 the Community Perception Survey included two questions specifically on water. The survey found that only 24 percent of respondents claimed there was an issue with access to water in their community. However, there were pockets of greater water insecurity in certain districts, such as Sindhupalchok (47 percent), Dhading (46 percent) and Gorkha (34 percent). Interestingly, 31 percent of respondents stated that they or their family were facing problems as a result of water scarcity. These reported problems were greatest in the same three water insecure districts.

Recommendations

- Ensure planned WASH or water supply programmes are accurately targeting the identified pockets of heightened water insecurity.
- Continued monitoring of the issues and further qualitative and quantitative research should be conducted to assess the long term impacts of the changes in the water table or water flows.
- Planned and existing water and sanitation projects could consider the promotion of rainwater harvesting techniques in the earthquake affected areas, especially if the impacts on the water table are assessed to be long term.

PERCEPTION SURVEY METHODOLOGY

To undertake the Community Perception Surveys, 84 Community Frontline Associates (CFAs) and 12 District Coordinators across 14 affected districts were trained over three days on various aspects of the survey questionnaires and the study. In each round, a total sample size of 2100 respondents, 150 in each of the 14 earthquake affected districts are surveyed. All data collection is completed with mobile phones using KoboToolbox.

Sampling

The study uses simple random sampling where four village development committees (VDCs) (rural sample) and one municipality (urban sample) are randomly selected from a list of VDCs and municipalities that are relatively accessible to the CFAs. District headquarters are selected as a peri-urban sample area in the district that has no municipality (such as Rasuwa). Within each VDC and municipality/district headquarter, three wards are randomly selected and in each ward, ten respondents are surveyed.

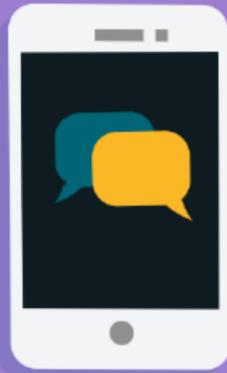
Given this sampling approach, there are some limitations that should be acknowledged. While the VDC selection is randomized, the survey does not reach inaccessible areas, particularly mountainous areas. Consequently, the perception surveys does not collect feedback from communities in these inaccessible areas; this feedback may or may not be different from that collected in the survey area. Additionally, while the sample size does provide national level representation across the 14 districts, it may only be considered indicative at the district level.

Selection of households and respondents

On arrival in the ward of the selected VDC/municipality/district headquarter, the CFAs identify an entry point such as a school, temple or chautara to initiate the individual interview process. A spin the pen approach is used to form a basis to initiate the interview process from the identified entry point. The first house in the direction of the pen is surveyed and from the first surveyed house, a skipping pattern of two houses is followed where possible until ten surveys are completed in each ward. Temporary shelters and make-shift houses are also considered part of the regular household sample.

Once in the household, the CFA interviews an individual age 15 and above from the pool of all eligible respondents present in the home at the time of the survey. The enumerators select respondents from different age groups and genders at each home, to ensure the sample is demographically diverse and reflects the population from the survey area.

June 2016 Survey Overview



2100

Surveys completed using
Kobo Toolbox across 14
earthquake affected
districts in June 2016



51%



49%

Is access to water an issue in your community?



What are people saying?



Nasekasthan, Kavrepalanchok

Supply of water is needed to resolve conflict in community due to scarcity of water.

Tilpung, Ramechhap

Water resources are drying up.

Baseshwar, Sindhuli

We have scarcity of water after earthquake.



Key findings in June

Among 2100 respondents across 14 districts 24 percent stated that there was a problem accessing water in their community. No significant differences were observed among genders, age groups or caste/ethnic groups. However, substantial differences in perceived community water scarcity were recorded between districts. Any planned WASH or water supply programmes targeting earthquake affected communities should ensure they are providing adequate coverage in these districts which have identified greater concerns.

What has been the impact of water scarcity?



46% of respondents said that there is an impact on livestock (no water for animals to drink)

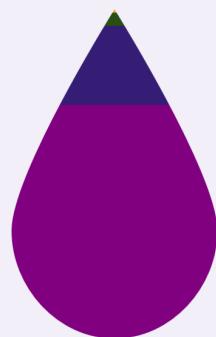


43% of respondents said that there is an impact on agriculture (no water to grow crops)



35% of respondents said that there is an impact on drinking water

Is access to water an issue in your community?



■ No, there is no issue (71%) ■ Don't know (4%)
■ Yes, there is an issue (24%) ■ Neutral (1%)

District highlight

47%

of respondents from Sindhupalchok believe access to water is an issue in their community

46%

of respondents from Dhading believe access to water is an issue in their community

34%

of respondents from Gorkha believe access to water is an issue in their community

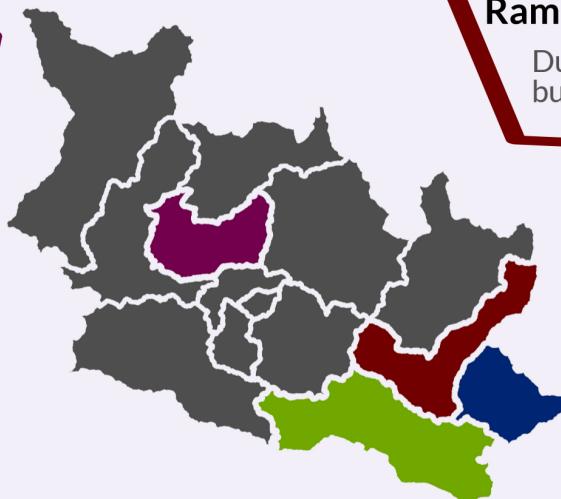
Do you, or your family, face any problems as a result of water scarcity?



What are people saying?

Chargharay, Nuwakot

We have scarcity of water. In this case how can we construct house?



Ramechhap N.P., Ramechhap

Due to lack of water we are buying each and every food.

Baseshwar, Sindhuli

Water resource are drying up since earthquake, does government have any plan to resolve this issue?

Chyanam, Okhaldhunga

We have water supply problem. Water source is damaged since one year but no one is helping us to resolve this issue.



Key findings in June

Among 2100 respondents across 14 districts 31 percent said that they, or their family, were facing problems as a result of water scarcity. Respondents were asked to report the two main problems they were facing, and the top answers included negative impact on livestock as a result of insufficient water for animals to drink (40 percent), negative impact on agriculture as a result of no water to grow crops (40 percent) and added time in traveling long distances to fetch drinking water (40 percent). Other significant issues cited by respondents included: no water for reconstruction (24 percent), tension or conflict over water (12 percent) and insecurity while travelling to collect water (8 percent).

District highlight

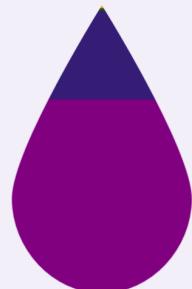
80%

of respondents from Kavrepalanchok do not feel they face any problem as a result of water scarcity

54%

of respondents from Gorkha feel they do face problems as a result of water scarcity

Do you, or your family, face any problems as a result of water scarcity?



■ No, there is no problem (68%) ■ Don't know (1%)

■ Yes, there is a problem (31%) ■ Neutral (1%)

Top two ways water scarcity has impacted life



40% of

respondents said that there is an impact on livestock (no water for animals to drink)



40% of

respondents said that there is an impact on agriculture (no water to grow crops)



40%

of respondents said that there is an impact due to long traveling time to gather drinking water



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