



# NEPAL COMMUNITY FEEDBACK REPORT

## Issue: Food Security and Livelihoods

March 2017





# THE INTER-AGENCY COMMON FEEDBACK PROJECT

Community perception surveys conducted with:



Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project funded by:



# KEY FINDINGS

Between March 14-24 the Common Feedback Project (CFP) deployed enumerators through its partner organisation Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) to collect community perception surveys on the theme of food security and livelihoods.

Eighty-one percent of respondents reported that they were able to meet their daily food needs. This is an increase of 27 percent over the last round of food security and livelihood survey, completed in June 2016. A majority of respondents' report growing half (31 percent) or less than half (32 percent) of their required food themselves. Focus group discussions held in Ramechhap, Dolakha and Gorkha to triangulate findings, indicated that lack of appropriate food, seed or grain storage is a major reason for respondents not producing more of their own food supplies. Respondents stated that a lack of storage options meant they were forced to sell excess food and then purchase food in the lean season. Damage to food, seed or grain storage was also highlighted by survey respondents as one of the primary damages they suffered as a result of the earthquake.

Fifty-four percent of respondents reported facing obstacles to livelihood recovery, citing lack of job opportunities, insufficient resources to begin a new livelihood and lack of skills as principle barriers. Forty-six percent of these respondents planned to or have already taken loans in order to support their livelihood recovery.

Once again, water emerges as a top concern for respondents. Lack of access to sufficient water resources has been consistently raised as a problem in all community perception surveys, including those around Reconstruction, Protection and Food Security and Livelihoods. It is raised as a major barrier to livelihood recovery. Not only does the lack of water hamper agricultural activities, but female respondents have cited long traveling times to collect water as a burden on their productive capacity that takes away from time that could be spent on incoming generating activities.

Minor changes were observed in livelihood strategies pre- and post-earthquake. In fact, a slight increase in the reliance on agriculture, from 64 to 69 percent was recorded. Surprisingly, the emphasis on masonry, both in terms of skills respondents were hoping to develop (5 percent) and changes in livelihood strategy post-earthquake, were limited. Focus group discussions revealed concerns that while masonry may be a profitable livelihood strategy now, it was not sustainable as there would be limited work once the reconstruction was finished. Instead, respondents' main focus in terms of skills they would like to develop in support of their livelihood was on new farming techniques (44 percent).

## Recommendations

- Investment in rehabilitation of water sources and supply will potentially have the greatest positive impact on earthquake affected communities, across multiple sectors. Currently lack of water is impeding reconstruction because households cannot make mud or concrete; livelihoods because of reduced productive time as a result of long distances to travel or collect water and lack of irrigation potential; protection because of reported conflict over scarce water resources and requirements for women to travel while it is dark to collect water; and finally, health and sanitation.
- Access to affordable finance must be improved. With 25 percent of total respondents taking loans to cope with livelihood losses, concerted effort must be made to ensure that unrealistic repayment terms and rate of loans do not create crippling economic consequences for individuals or communities over the long term.
- Livelihood recovery investments, including in skills development and training, should consider a strong focus on agriculture as agriculture is the top livelihood strategy (69 percent of respondents) and development of new farming skills and techniques is the most desired skill by respondents to enhance their livelihoods (44 percent).
- Reconstruction initiatives should not overlook the importance of restoring grain, seed, or food storage for families, as both the survey and focus group discussions revealed that lack of appropriate food storage has meant communities are less likely to be able to consume all of the food they grow, and instead must sell excess and purchase food in lean seasons.

# 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.

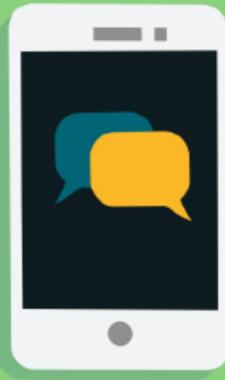
Given this sampling approach, there are some limitations that should be acknowledged. While the VDC selection is randomized, the survey does not reach inaccessible areas, particularly mountainous areas. Consequently, the perception surveys does not collect feedback from communities in these inaccessible 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.

## March 2017 Survey Overview



**2100**

Surveys completed using  
Kobo Toolbox across 14  
earthquake affected  
districts in March 2017



**50%**

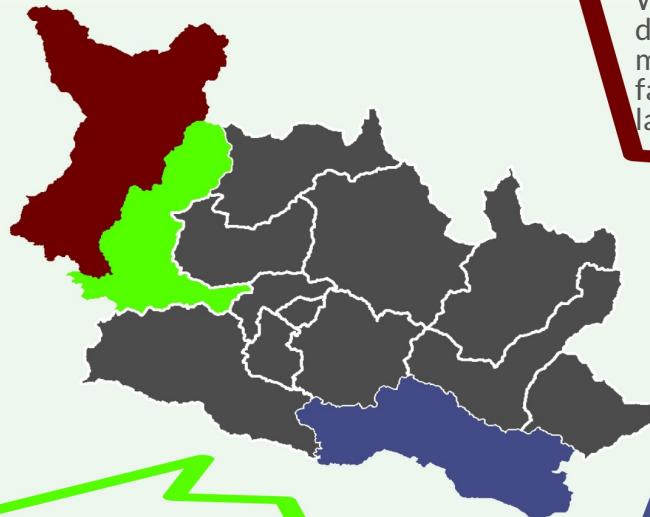


**50%**

# ARE YOUR DAILY FOOD NEEDS BEING MET?



## What are people saying?



### Baseri, Dhading

We need a proper irrigation channel.

### Gumda, Gorkha

We are somehow fulfilling our daily food needs. There is not much difficulty for small nuclear families, but it is difficult for large/extended families.

### Sitalpati, Sindhuli

We have difficulty in access to food. We want food.



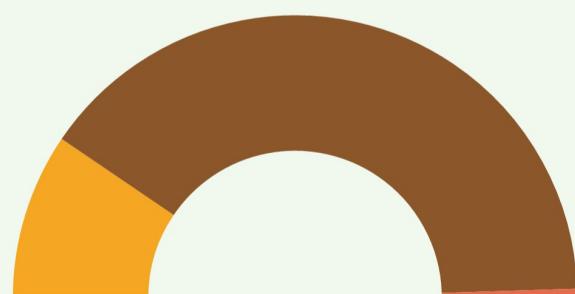
## Key findings in June

Across 14 districts, 81 percent of respondents stated that their family's daily food needs are being met. This is a significant improvement over the last round of the Food Security and Livelihood survey (July 2016), in which only 54 percent of respondents felt their daily food needs were being met.

Differences in perceived food insecurity were observed among districts, as well as caste/ethnic groups. Gurung and Dalits were the most likely to feel food insecure, with 34 and 31 percent respectively reporting their family's daily food needs were not being met. By district, Sindhuli (50 percent) and Kathmandu (39 percent) come out as the most concerned about unmet daily food needs.

Those who reported that their daily food needs were not being met were asked what they needed to meet their needs. The majority of respondents cited working opportunities, new skills, land to farm and access to water. The fact that cash support did not emerge as a priority indicates a strong desire to be self-sufficient.

## Are your daily food needs being met in your family?



## District highlights

**95%** of respondents in Nuwakot said their daily food needs are being met

**85%** of respondents in Dhading said their daily food needs are being met

**39%** of respondents in Kathmandu said their daily food needs were not being met

## Things needed to meet food needs



49% require paid work

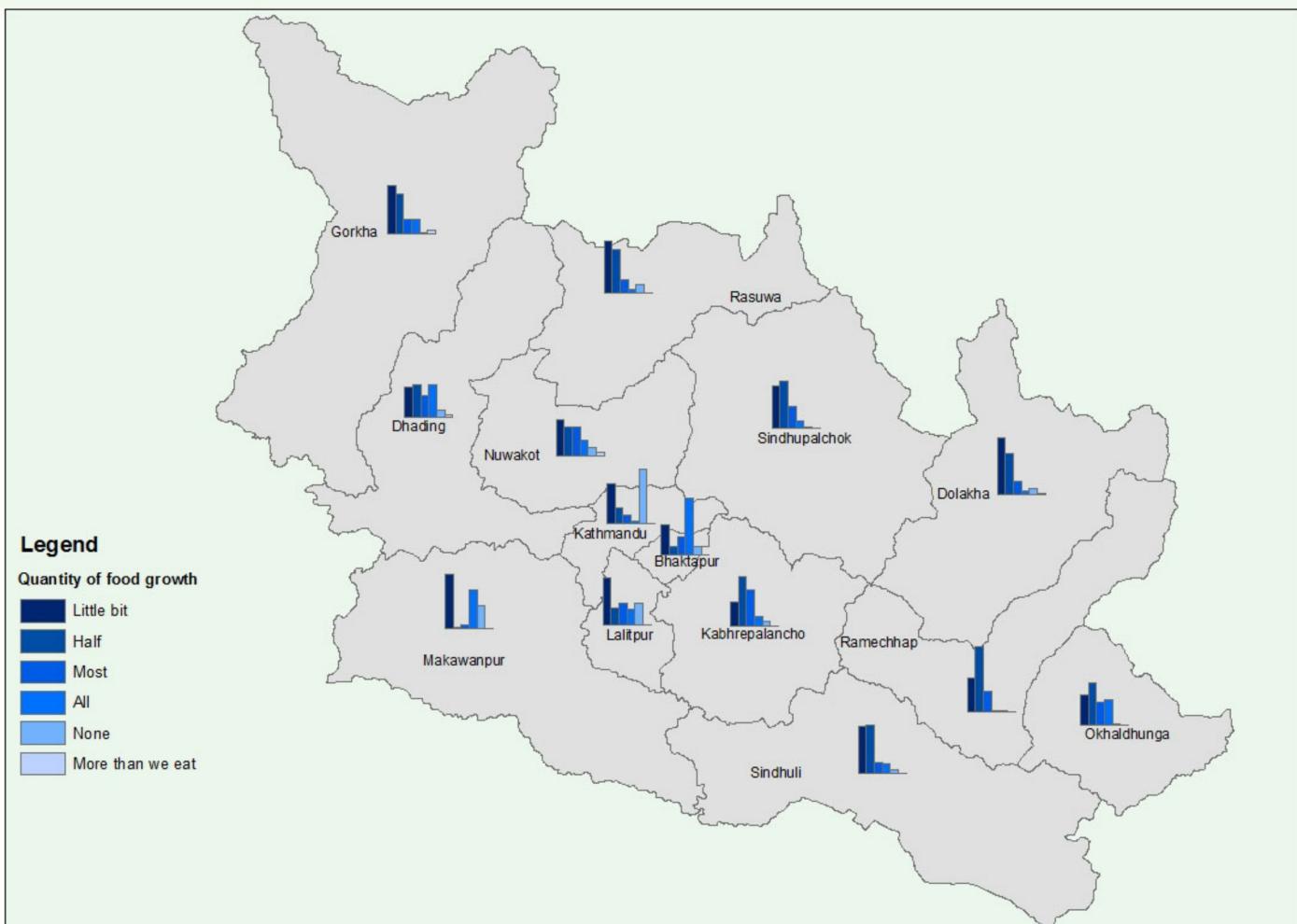


35% require new skills



32% require land to farm

# HOW MUCH OF YOUR OWN FOOD DO YOU GROW?



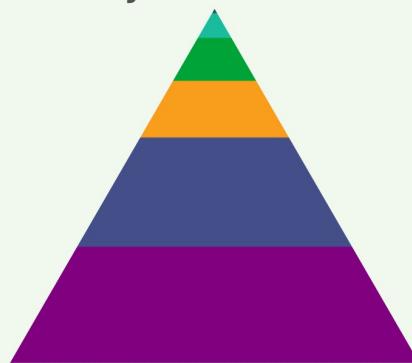
## Key findings in March

Sixty-three percent of respondents' report growing half (31 percent) or less than half (32 percent) of their required food themselves, whereas 16 percent report growing most of their own food and 12 percent grow all their own food. Only seven percent do no grow any of the food they eat.

Focus group discussions in Dolakha, Ramechhap and Gorkha indicate that lack of appropriate storage for harvested crops could be one important factor that prevents earthquake affected communities from growing more of the food they eat.

By district, neighbouring districts Kathmandu and Bhaktapur had very different results, with 47 percent in Bhaktapur claiming to grow all their own food, and 45 percent in Kathmandu claiming to grow none of their own food. By ethnicity, Dalit respondents were most likely to report growing none of their own food at 14 percent, double the national average.

## How much of your own food do you grow?



## District highlights

**47%**

of respondents in Bhaktapur said they grow all of their own food themselves.

**45%**

of respondents in Kathmandu said they do not grow any of their food themselves.

**47%**

of respondents in Dolakha said they grow only a little bit of their food themselves.

# PRIMARY SOURCE OF LIVELIHOOD



## What are people saying?

### Gumda, Gorkha

Will government provide employment opportunities to the earthquake affected families?

### Boch, Dolakha

I think self-employment opportunities are required.

### Pangretar, Sindhupalchowk

I do not have any source of income so i am unable to reconstruct my house. I expect government help.



## Key findings in March

Minimal changes were observed in respondents' source of livelihood pre- and post-earthquake across the 14 districts. Agriculture was, and remains, the most widely adopted livelihood strategy. In fact, reliance on agriculture has increased slightly, from 64 to 69 percent post-earthquake. Surprisingly, masonry as a source of livelihood has decreased post-earthquake from three percent to two percent.

By district, Ramechhap (90%) and Okhaldhunga (87%) are the most reliant on agriculture, while Dolakha (21%) and Kathmandu (18%) have the highest rate of reliance on labour, and in Lalitpur 20 percent of respondents are engaged in business as their primary source of livelihood. By caste/ethnicity, Dalits' report the highest reliance on labour for their livelihoods at 14 percent.

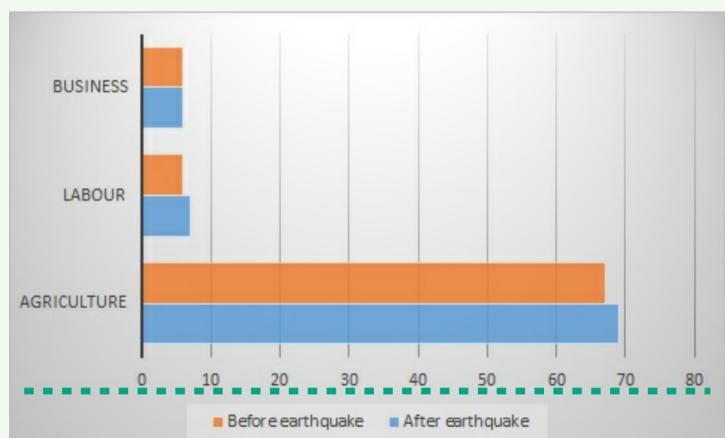
### District highlights

**90%** of respondents in Ramechhap said their primary source of livelihood is agriculture and livestock

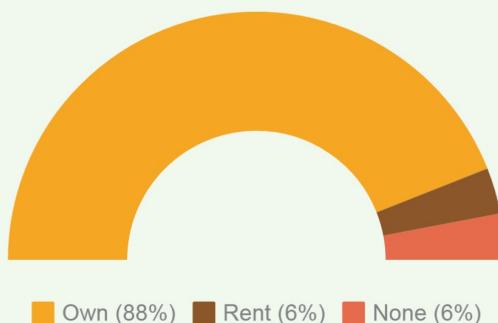
**21%** of respondents in Dolakha said their primary source of livelihood is labour

**20%** of respondents in Lalitpur said the primary source of livelihood is business

### Primary source of livelihood before and after earthquake



### Own or rent farmland



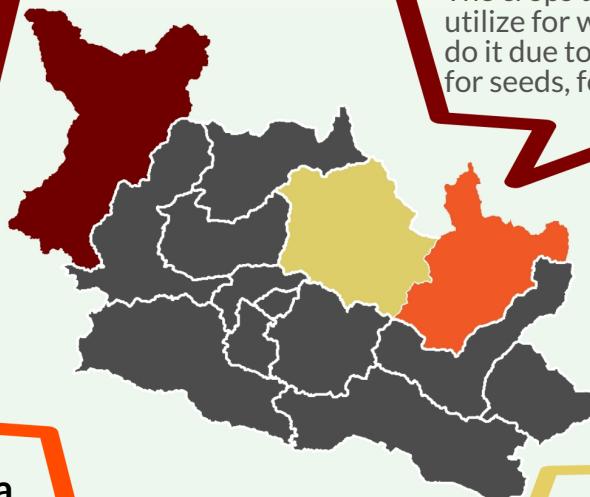
# EARTHQUAKE IMPACT ON LIVELIHOOD



## What are people saying?

### Gumda, Gorkha

Due to earthquake I lost my seed, food and grain store inside my house and I have had to take a loan to complete the house.



### Magapauwa, Dolakha

There is a huge scarcity of water and this needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

### Barpak, Gorkha

The crops that I grow, I want to utilize for whole year but I cannot do it due to lack of safe storage for seeds, foods and grain.

### Fulpingdanda, Sindhupalchowk

We have a problem in access to water.



## Key findings in March

Across 14 districts, 57 percent of respondents stated that the earthquake had caused damage to their livelihood. Of those, the main damages faced include loss of household assets, damage to food, seed or grain storage, damage to water resources and animal shed damage. Of those who had suffered damages, 46 percent reported having begun to recover from those damages.

Significant variation in the reported damage to livelihood assets was observed, with 96 percent of respondents in Rasuwa and 91 percent of respondents in Dolakha reporting damage. Alternatively, 87 percent of respondents in Makwanpur and 82 percent of respondents in Bhaktapur reported little to no damage to livelihoods. Among ethnic groups, Gurungs reported the highest damage to livelihoods at 76 percent.

### District highlights

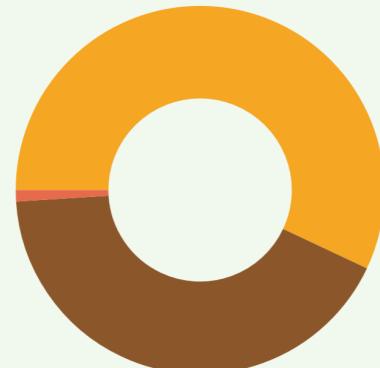
96%

of respondents in Rasuwa said damage from the earthquake has impacted their livelihood.

82%

of respondents in Bhaktapur said damage from the earthquake has not impacted their livelihood.

## Has damage from the earthquake impacted your livelihood?



■ Yes (57%) ■ No (42%) ■ Don't know (1%)

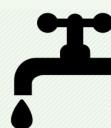
### Main type of damage



Household assets loss (72%)



Food/grain seed storage loss/damage (33%)



Water resource damage (21%)

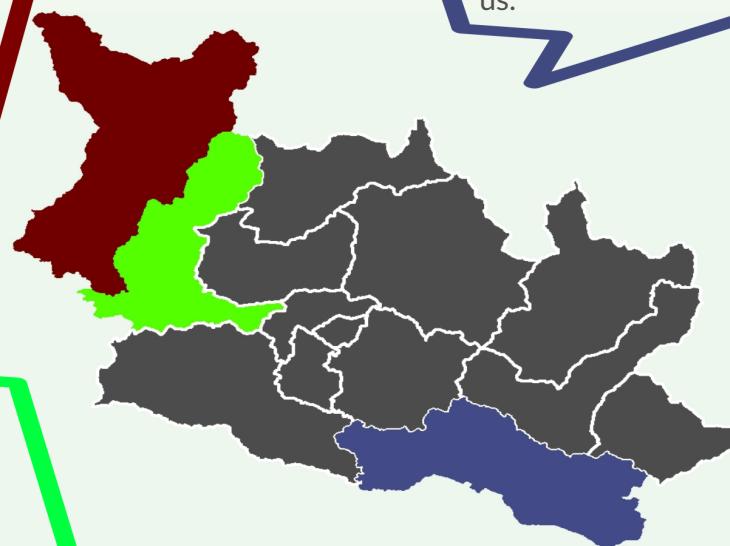
# CONSTRAINTS TO LIVELIHOOD RECOVERY



## What are people saying?

### Gumda, Gorkha

Government should provide any alternative source to sustain livelihood for those earthquake affected people who are in remote places.



### Baseri, Dhading

It would be good for us if we could introduce new technology in agriculture farming.

### Bitijor Bagaincha, Sindhuli

Government needs to provide employment opportunities to us.



## Key findings in March

Across 14 districts 54 percent of respondents felt they faced constraints to their livelihood recovery. This is only a two percent improvement over the previous round in June 2016 when 56 percent had concerns regarding their livelihood recovery.

Furthermore, the top concerns cited by respondents have not changed, but their relative weighting has. Lack of jobs, insufficient resources to start livelihood and lack of skills remain important constraints to respondents. However, damage to water resources and farm land have also emerged among the top constraints in this round.

It is concerning to see that a large number of respondents (46%) who face livelihood recovery constraints plan to take loans to cope with their current loss of livelihood. A further 26 percent plan to raise livestock as a coping strategy and 23 percent plan to search for livelihood alternatives.

## Top constraints to livelihood recovery

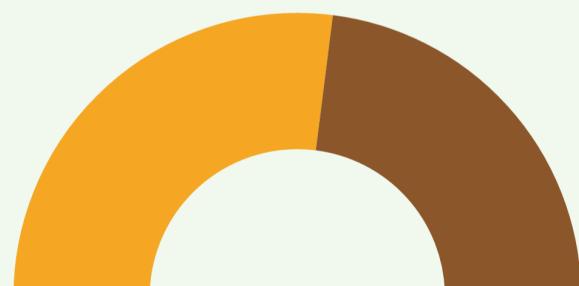


Lack of jobs  
(24%)



Farmland destroyed  
(13%)

## Do you face any constraints to livelihood recovery?



Yes (54%)   No (45%)   Don't know (1%)

## District highlights

**82%** of respondents in Rasuwa said they face constraints to livelihood recovery.

**76%** of respondents in Gorkha said they face constraints to livelihood recovery

**82%** of respondents in Bhaktapur said they do not face constraints to livelihood recovery

# RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOOD TO ANOTHER DISASTER



## What are people saying?

### Phulkhara, Dhading

We need capacity building training.



### Fulpingkatta, Dhading

We will be self sufficient to sustain our livelihood if government does something in agriculture sector.



## Key findings in March

Across 14 districts, 76 percent of respondents do not feel that their sources of livelihood could survive another disaster. This is a slight improvement from 84 percent in June 2016. When asked what would make their livelihoods more resilient, the top responses included savings, preparedness plans, diversified livelihood options and alternative shelters.

Looking at respondents by house damage status reveals interesting findings. Respondents who have already completed their reconstruction are the most confident in their livelihood's resilience (32 percent positive), while those whose homes are completely destroyed or heavily damaged are least confident (81 percent negative) and those whose homes were never damaged prove to be the most unsure of their livelihood's resilience – 19 percent say they do not know if their livelihood would survive another disaster.

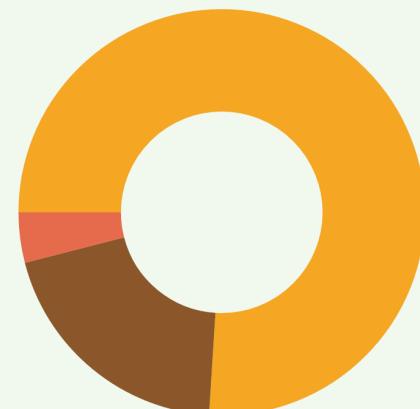
### District Highlights

**99%** of respondents in Lalitpur are skeptical about their livelihood resilience.

**90%** of respondents in Makwanpur are skeptical about their livelihood resilience.

**38%** of respondents in Kathmandu are confident about their livelihood resilience.

## Do you feel your source of livelihood would survive another disaster?



No (76%)   Yes (20%)   Don't Know (4%)

## What would make livelihood more resilient to future risks?



Savings  
(76%)



Preparedness plan  
(47%)



Alternative for shelter  
(29%)

# Migration to support family recovery



## What are people saying?

### Gumda, Gorkha

Does government provide employment opportunities to earthquake affected families?



### Maidi, Dhading

It would be better if there is employment opportunity within Nepal so that we don't have to go abroad.

### Nagaejun, Kathmandu

Earthquake affected families need employment opportunities.

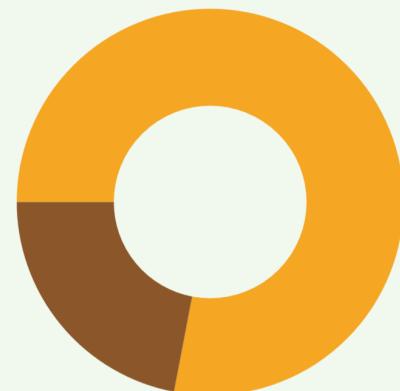


## Key findings in March

Across 14 districts 22 percent of respondents claimed that members of their families had been required to migrate, post-earthquake, in order to support their family's recovery. This represent a very slight increase from June 2016 when 19 percent of respondents' family members had migrated.

The majority of family members who have migrated are men and 59 percent are between 25 and 39 years old. Foreign employment is the most popular source of labour migration at 60 percent, and domestic construction labour is second at only 13 percent.

## Have any members of your family migrated to support recovery?



## District highlights

**41%** of respondents in Okhaldhunga said they have a family member who migrated to support recovery.

**38%** of respondents in Ramechhap said they have a family member who migrated to support recovery.

**30%** of respondents in Gorkha said they have a family member who migrated to support recovery.

## Type of employment



Foreign  
employment  
(60%)

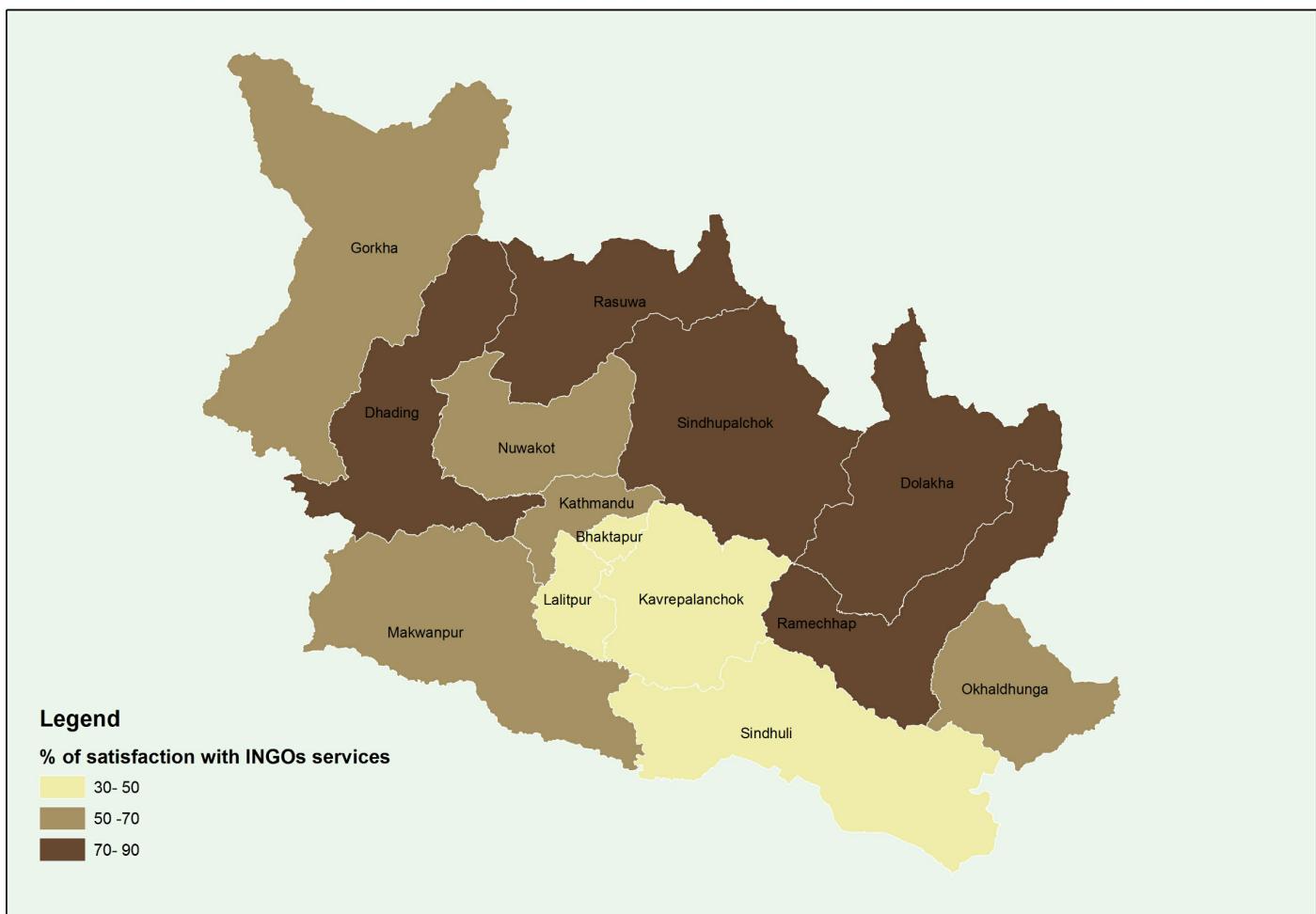


Construction  
labour (13%)



Private  
sector job  
(10%)

# Service receiving from I/NGOs



## Key findings in March

Sixty-two percent of respondents across 14 districts are satisfied with the services they are receiving from I/NGOs. Which should be considered a positive baseline for the recovery process going forward.

There was no difference in the level of satisfaction with I/NGO services between male and female respondents, and only a minor decrease in satisfaction of respondents as age increased. By district Dhading illustrated the strongest satisfaction with I/NGOs with 29 percent saying they are completely satisfied and a further 42 percent somewhat satisfied. Kathmandu (31 percent not at all) and Sindhuli (25 percent not at all) are among the least satisfied with I/NGO services. By caste/ethnicity Janajati respondents are most positive about I/NGOs (71 percent) and Newars are most negative (36 percent).

Those who are not satisfied with I/NGOs mainly cite lack of transparency, lack of follow through on commitments, not listening to or caring about beneficiary concerns and delays in services delivery as the reasons for dissatisfaction.

## District Highlights

**87%** of respondents in Sindhupalchowk said they are satisfied with the services they have been receiving from the I/NGOs

**81%** of respondents in Rasuwa said they are satisfied with the services they have been receiving from the I/NGOs

**71%** of respondents in Dhading and Dolkha said they are satisfied with the services they have been receiving from the I/NGOs



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