



# INTER AGENCY COMMON FEEDBACK PROJECT

November 2015

## ISSUE IN FOCUS

COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF  
YOUTH (15-24)

ALL DATA FROM PERCEPTION SURVEYS AVAILABLE AT  
OPENNEPAL.NET

THIS ISSUE IN FOCUS BASED ON FEEDBACK COLLECTED IN  
SEPTEMBER CFP REPORT FOUND HERE

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# ISSUE IN FOCUS

Each month, the Inter Agency Common Feedback Project (CFP) releases the Feedback Report (found [here](#)). The monthly feedback report provides an overview of community feedback, on the earthquake response, received through perception surveys, rumor tracking and agency feedback mechanisms.

While the overview reports provides interesting insight on overall feedback, it is important to delve deeper into specific issues and explore how communities feel about the response.

The Issue in Focus will provide a detailed look at the particular perceptions of youth (15-24 years) as raised through community feedback. By looking, in detail, at key issues and groups, the CFP aims to provide in-depth analysis and actionable recommendations to the humanitarian community.

*This edition of Issue in Focus is on youth perceptions of the earthquake response.* In this issue, we will answer:

- What interesting differences do we see in youth perceptions on various issues as compared to other age groups?
- What factors may drive these perceptions?
- What lessons might these perceptions have for the humanitarian community?



# Youth Feedback to Nepal Earthquake Response

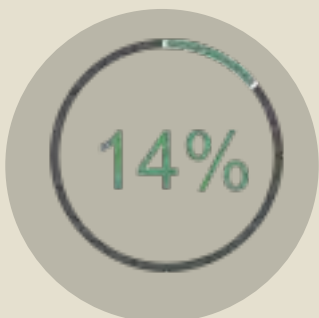
## Community Feedback Project

The Community Feedback Project collects feedback from communities to support humanitarian partners in responding to concerns or issues raised by communities. This info graph highlights the feedback received from youth (age 15-24) on the earthquake response.

## Demographics



1400 surveys collected



Youth respondents



## Are Information Needs Met?



Age 15-24



Age 25-39



Age 40-54



Age 55+

48 percent of youth respondents (15-24) believe their information needs are being met. As the age group increase, the perception on information needs being met decreases with 43 percent aged 25-39, 39 percent aged 40-54 and 32 percent aged 55+ believing their information needs have been met



## Feeling Heard in the Response

Age 15-24	11	%
Age 25-39	19	%
Age 40-54	19	%
Age 55+	12	%

Youth and elderly respondents are the least positive on perceptions related to feeling heard in the response. Only 11 percent of respondents aged 15-24 felt positive about feeling heard in the response



## Perceptions on Preparedness



Age 15-24



Age 25-39



Age 40-54



Age 55+

Youth respondents were most positive in feeling prepared for another disaster. 40 percent of respondents aged 15-24 are positive about feeling prepared. This contrasts with only 31 percent of respondents aged 55+ feeling prepared





# PERCEPTIONS OF YOUTH ON THE EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

The 25 April 2015 earthquake in Nepal (and subsequent aftershocks) caused significant damage across more than 25 districts, of which 14 have been identified as most heavily affected. Within these priority districts, there are important differences between demographic groups that should be taken into consideration for an effective emergency response.

Perception surveys, collected and analyzed under the Common Feedback Project, highlight significant differences in how young people perceive certain aspects of the response, as compared to other age groups.

In particular, youth (15-24) are the most positive age group on:

- Access to information
- Preparedness for another disaster

However, along with elderly people (55+) they are the

least positive on:

- Feeling heard

## **Access to Information**

Young people are the most positive on their access to the information related to the earthquake response. Consistently, perception survey findings demonstrate that younger respondents feel they have more information than older respondents.

This finding is not surprising, as younger age groups are more likely to be better educated, have higher levels of literacy, more likely to use social media and have better access to technology. Youth are also more mobile, again increasing the number of information sources they have access to.

## **Perceptions on Disaster Preparedness**

Youth respondents also have a perceived higher confidence in their ability to cope with another



## While youth are more likely to feel informed, they do not feel heard in the response

disaster. School based disaster risk reduction (DRR) programmes, widespread in Nepal for the past ten years, may be a factor in these results.

A recent report by Edgeryders “Alternative Leaders Dialogue: Engaging with Nepal’s Future Makers” which looked at the role of youth in the earthquake response found that the huge outpouring of citizen engagement was largely youth based, and came together in an ad-hoc manner through informal volunteer collectives. While there are cases of youth involvement through formal channels (such as appointment as Ward Committee Leaders as per an Asia Foundation and Democracy Resource Centre report), their engagement in the response was primarily informal. It is therefore also possible that the high level of engagement in the disaster response by youth has given them greater exposure to disaster related issues, and made them feel more confident in preparing for and coping with another disaster.

### **Feeling Heard in the Response**

Young people, along with elderly respondents, were the

least positive on feeling heard. According to the Edgeryders report, youth became engaged in the earthquake response in such an informal manner both out of a sense of duty and shared responsibility as well as a general mistrust of traditional humanitarian mechanisms.

This lack of trust is likely to be closely related to feelings of not being heard by traditional response actors, including government, UN and I/NGOs.

Despite high levels of youth engagement on a personal, or informal level, there has been very little effort from humanitarian actors to bring them into formal response mechanisms.

Youth have not widely been considered a target group, have not generally been included on beneficiary lists nor have they been consulted in response efforts. This lack of engagement on multiple fronts may be driving these negative perceptions on feeling heard.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

Feedback data shows that earthquake affected youth, while generally being highly engaged in the earthquake response within their own communities, feel least heard by government and humanitarian actors, despite having the best access to information. Given this analysis, the CFP recommends that the humanitarian community:

- Youth have made a valuable contribution to the earthquake relief, yet feel sidelined by the formal response. Moving forward, the humanitarian community should make a concerted effort to take advantage of the important role of youth as agents of change in reconstruction, preparedness and risk reduction by better engaging them in the process.
- Further research should be undertaken on the channels of information used by youth in order to better understand why they are more informed than other age groups.



