



# **INTER AGENCY COMMON FEEDBACK PROJECT**

## **FLOOD PERCEPTION SURVEY**

**OCTOBER 2017**

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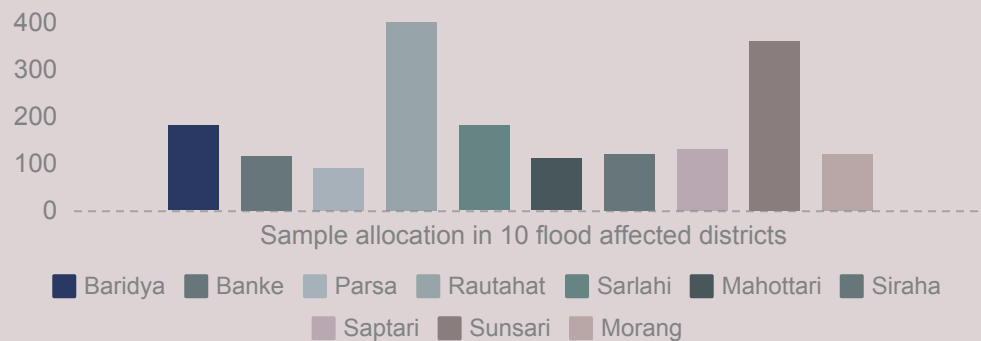
**Round- 1**

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## Survey Methodology and Demographics

To carry out the Flood Perception Survey, 30 trained enumerators are deployed throughout the ten most heavily flood affected districts to collect data over the course of 10 days from a total of 1800 respondents using a probability proportionate to size (PPS) methodology. All data collection is completed with mobile tablets using KoBo Toolbox.

The top ten districts were selected based on damage data released by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) on 31 August 2017. The total affected population of each district was used to proportionally distribute the sample of 1800 among the affected districts.

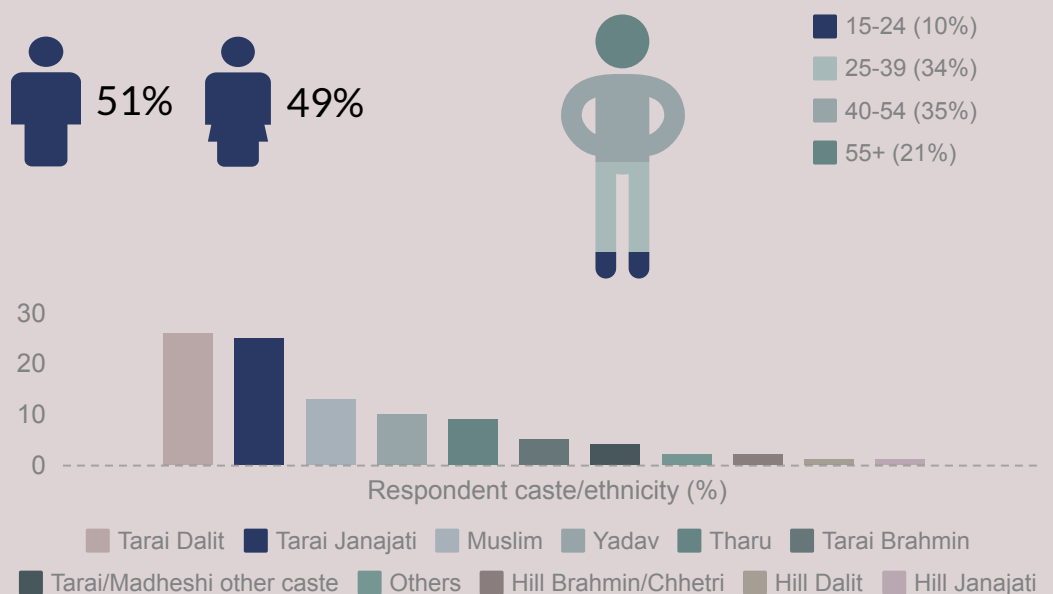


Because not all VDCs within affected districts were flood affected, Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) post-flood data was used to identify VDCs which were classified as highly food insecure, as a proxy for flood affectedness. VDCs from NeKSAP Phase 3 or 4 post-flood were then randomly selected, using an online list randomizer.

The number of VDCs selected in each district was determined based on the sample size and CFP's regular methodology of sampling two wards per VDC, with ten samples per ward. Wards are also randomly selected within VDCs.

Once wards are selected enumerators identify an entry point to initiate the individual interview process. They will then spin a bottle, and walk in the direction the bottle points until a home is found to take the first interview. The first house will form a basis to select the next house, as enumerators will exit, turn right and skip two houses, completing the next interview at the third house. This process continues until the required 10 samples are collected.

After entering the household, enumerators interview an individual about 15 years of age. The enumerators select respondents of different genders and age groups in each household in order to ensure the sample is demographically diverse and reflective of the population from the survey area. In addition, Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) staff were deployed to Provinces 2 and 5 to oversee the initial surveys.



## Key Findings

In October 2017 the Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project completed 1800 Community Perception Surveys at the household level with community members randomly selected from throughout 10 priority districts. This project was introduced as a result of the catastrophic flooding that took place in August 2017. This was the first round of data collection in flood affected districts.

Of the 1800 respondents, only one percent said their main problems were being completely addressed and an additional 27 percent said their needs were being partially addressed. This means that seventy-one percent of respondents felt their needs are not being addressed. Interestingly, Tarai Dalits were most likely to report that their needs were partially addressed. There are similar parallels in the findings from the CFP earthquake Community Perception Surveys. It can be hypothesized that such results may be due to significant expectations between socially advantaged and socially disadvantaged. In addition, it may mean relief actors are targeting socially excluded groups to a greater extent. These findings also demonstrate there is a long way to go in terms of flood recovery and reconstruction.

Only six percent of respondents reported having been asked to exchange something for relief or support; however, 14 percent refused to answer. Among those who said they were asked to exchange something, 94 percent were asked to give political support or a vote. Worryingly, two respondents reported having been asked to trade sexual favours for relief. This has already been forwarded to the Protection cluster for their follow up.

Both issues are an important reminder that it is the responsibility of all working in humanitarian and development settings to ensure that the provision of assistance to those most in need is impartial. Most importantly all actors must remain aware of the potential for exploitation and be committed to ensuring appropriate protection to the most vulnerable.

Even though flooding in the Tarai occurs annually, and 56 percent of respondents reported being affected by flooding in previous years, only 33 percent have adopted any mitigation measures. This is an extremely low rate. Given the recurrent nature of flood events in the Tarai efforts to enhance resilience, such as alternative livelihood strategies, risk transfer, risk insurance products, infrastructure upgrades, etc, should be promoted and expanded.

One particularly worrying trend was that 34 percent of respondents said they do not feel respected by aid providers, including government and I/NGOs, local organizations and others. Forty-four percent said it was because there was not enough assistance available for all entitled to it, and 43 percent said the assistance was not fairly or evenly distributed.

The issue of equality in the provision of relief aid has also been highlighted by the UNRCO's field based staff. These includes reports of socially excluded groups, such as Muslim and Dalit communities, facing difficulties in accessing relief, and political manipulation of beneficiary lists.

## Recommendation

Humanitarian partners should remain aware of the humanitarian principles including humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and exercise vigilance to ensure that abuses of authority do not compromise the quality or coverage of assistance to the flood affected communities in need.

Inter-Agency Common  
Feedback Project funded by:



Flood Perception  
Surveys conducted with:





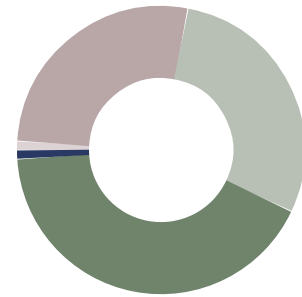
## Are your main problems being addressed?

### Highlighted findings

Across 1800 respondents in 10 districts, only one percent said their main problems are being completely addressed, while an additional 27 percent said their needs are being partially addressed. This means a total of 71 percent of respondents feel their needs are not being addressed.

Among caste/ethnic groups, an interesting finding is that Tarai Dalit respondents were the most likely to report that their needs were being [partially] addressed at 32 percent. Conversely, the most likely ethnic group to say their needs are "not at all" addressed are Tarai Brahmin (51 percent). CFP has observed similar findings in past surveys and hypothesized that such results are due to significant differences in expectations between socially advantaged and disadvantaged groups. It may also mean that relief actors are targeting socially excluded groups to a greater extent.

Communities in Morang and Saptari are generally more satisfied that their needs are being met than other districts, at 48 and 49 percent respectively. In addition, skilled workers are the most satisfied among occupation groups at 42 percent.

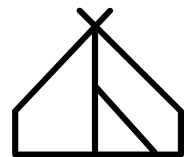


Completely yes (1%) Somewhat yes (27%)  
Not very much (29%) Not at all (42%)  
Don't know/refused (1%)

### What are your two biggest problems?



Damaged crops  
(43%)



Short-term shelter  
(40%)



## Do you have the information you need to get relief and support?

### Highlighted findings

Across 1800 respondents in 10 districts, 50 percent of respondents feel they have the information they need to access relief and support. However, survey results reflect a significant difference between male and female respondents, with females reporting 46 percent and males reporting 55 percent. This reflects the same issue highlighted in all previous CFP surveys: women consistently feel they have less access to the information they need than their male counterparts.

In terms of caste/ethnic groups, Muslim and Tarai Janajati respondents were the least confident in their access to information (44 and 46 percent respectively). Interestingly, sizable differences between occupations was also observed with those who own their own businesses feeling the most informed (58 percent) and those who primarily rely on remittances feeling least informed (42 percent).

### What are your top information needs?



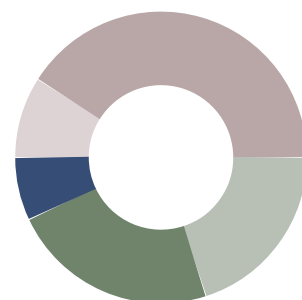
How to register  
for support  
(50%)



How to get  
food support  
(38%)

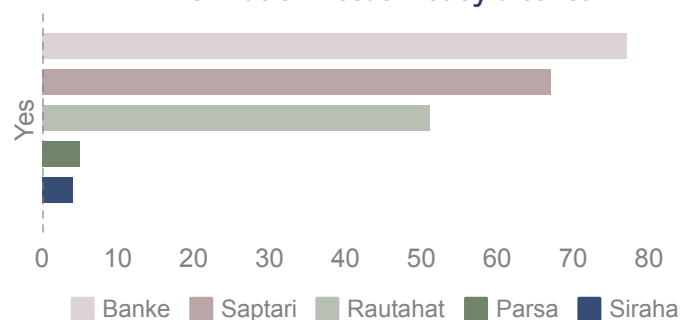


Information of  
government  
decisions (37%)



Completely yes (9%) Somewhat yes (41%)  
Not very much (20%) Not at all (23%)  
Don't know/refused (7%)

### Information needs met by district





## What are your top two sources of information?

### Highlighted findings

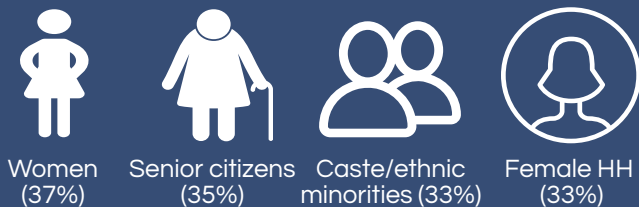
Seventy-six percent of respondents across 10 districts said their main source of information is community members. This was followed by family members and local government, proving that face-to-face communication is the most used form of information transmission among flood affected communities.

### Is anyone being excluded in the provision of information?

Twenty-nine percent of respondents said they felt people were being excluded from information provision. A further 19 percent said they did not know, or refused to answer the question. Only 14 percent were completely confident that no one was excluded.

Among districts, respondents in Mahottari (50 percent) and Morang (49) felt most strongly that some were being excluded from information.

### Who is unable to equally access information?



Community members (76%)



Family members (33%)



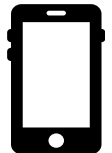
Local government (19%)



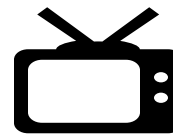
Radio (16%)



Political representative (15%)



Mobile phone (10%)



Television (7%)



Social media (5%)



## Have you received any kind of support after the flood?

### Highlighted findings

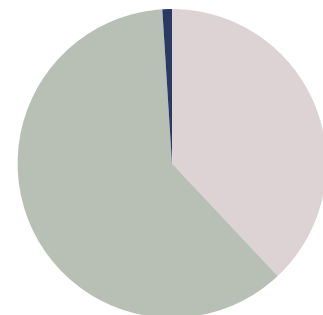
Across 1800 respondents in 10 districts, only 38 percent said they have received some form of support after the flood.

Among districts, respondents in Parsa and Siraha were most likely to say they had been left out of support, at 95 and 96 percent respectively.

In addition, only 36 percent of agricultural workers said they had received support in some form.

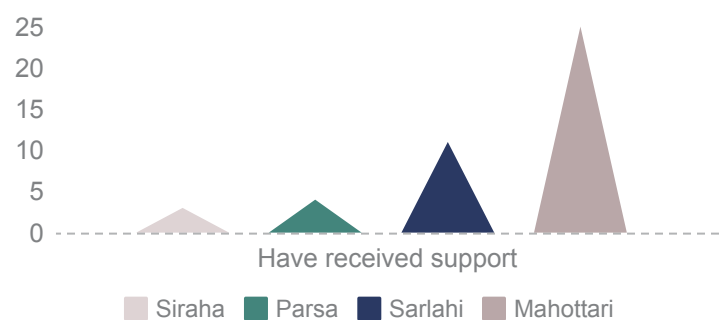
### Have you been asked to do or give anything in exchange for support?

Only six percent of respondents claimed they had been asked to exchange anything for support; however, a further 14 percent refused to respond. Among the six percent, 94 percent were asked to vote in exchange for assistance. Of great concern are two respondents who reported being asked to exchange sexual favours for aid.



Yes (38%) No (61%) Don't know/refused (1%)

### Lowest reports of receipt of support by district







# JALIM'S STORY

**Jalim Ali Shahi, a 24-year old man lives in Sunporuwa, Banke with his widowed 54-year old mother, Shakrun Shah, as well as his three younger brothers and two younger sisters. To sustain their livelihood, the family grows rice and processes it at their mill.**

Jalim's village sits on the banks of the Rapti River, and is prone to flooding, like many of the villages in Banke. Every year, Jalim and his family bear the consequences of annual floods, but this year was the mass flooding brought on by the heavy August rains was more than they were able to cope with.

Jalim recounted the fears his community faced, with the water level rising over a meter in a matter of minutes, not knowing how long it would be until the water receded and additionally worrying about increasing number of poisonous snakes, also looking for refuge from the flood. He remembers their family's horror as the water came up when his two brothers were away from home, and how they managed to survive only by swimming three kilometers back to the village.

During this year's flood, Jalim and his family, along with their neighbours, stayed on the roof of one of their village's two concrete houses for four straight days until it was safe to come down. Over 100 people took refuge on two concrete rooftops, with limited food and water, exposed to the elements all day long.

When Jalim was finally able to come down from the roof, he realized his family's home was badly damaged, and all of their harvested crops had been washed away. As a result, it has become very difficult for them to find enough food to eat.



Since the flood, Jalim and his family have received 5kg of rice and 2.5kg of beaten rice through government sponsored assistance. He has heard an announcement by the government that they would distribute NRs. 2100 to each flood affected person, but he has no faith that his family will ever see that money. According to Jalim, the only people who will get aid are those who have access to a higher authority or are affiliated with political parties.

Due to a fear that the flood would return, Jalim's family and many others from their village, decided to relocate to a safe place in the nearby jungle, and created temporary shelters. However, soon after, the Army destroyed the temporary shelters, saying "it is illegal to live in this area." Jamil, his family, and the rest of the community were forced to return to the previously flooded area.

Every year after their village floods Jalim and his community members file a grievance with the Banke CDO's office, requesting relocation, but their concerns have yet to be addressed. The community wants to move to a safer place, and to have a dam to protect their cultivable land from being destroyed by the raging Rapti every year. They just don't know who else they can ask for help.





## Do you feel support is reaching those most in need in your community?

### Highlighted findings

Fifty-two percent of 1800 respondents across 10 districts said they feel support is reaching those most in need in their community. These results were consistent across gender, but reflect a slight decrease in confidence that assistance is reaching those most in need as age increases.

Significant variation by district is observed, with 78 percent of respondents in Banke and 71 percent in Siraha saying they felt aid was reaching those most in need, compared to 69 percent in Parsa saying aid is not reaching those most in need.

### If no, who is being left out?



Caste/ethnic minorities (34%)



Women (25%)



Senior citizens (23%)

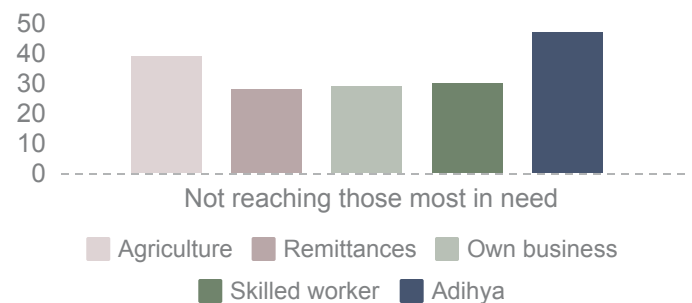


Female HH (20%)



Completely yes (5%) Somewhat yes (47%)  
Not very much (20%) Not at all (16%)  
Don't know/refused (12%)

### Assistance not reaching those in greatest need, by occupation



Not reaching those most in need

Agriculture Remittances Own business  
Skilled worker Adihya



## If you were to receive support, what would your preference be?

### Highlighted findings

Forty percent of respondents across 10 districts expressed that their preference for support would be cash only. In-kind support only, and a combination of cash and in-kind tied with 29 percent each. This is different from respondents preferences in the post-earthquake period, perhaps due to greater market accessibility in the Tarai.

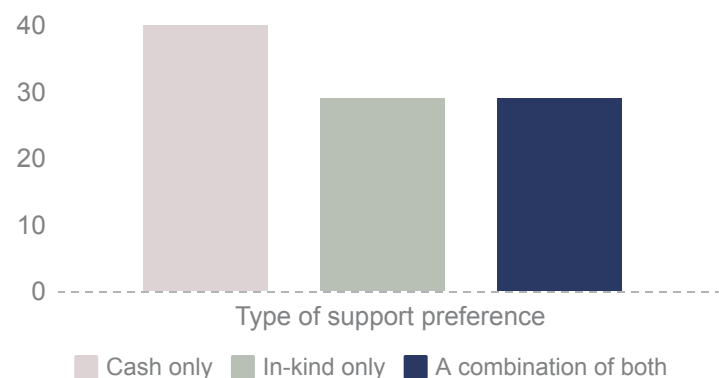
These responses were consistent across genders; however, by age group interesting differences were observed. The oldest age group was the most likely to prefer cash only (48 percent of 55+ year olds), while the youngest age group was most likely to prefer in-kind only (36 percent of 15-24 year olds).

Skilled workers were the most likely to prefer in-kind support, at 40 percent, whereas those who rely on remittances were mostly likely to have a preference for cash only (46 percent).

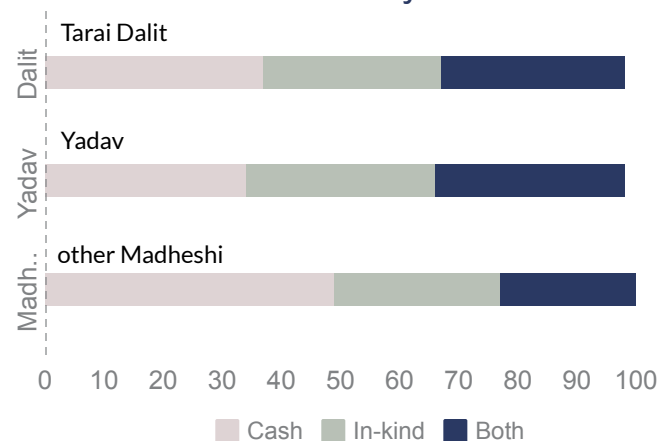
These findings should be taken into account by humanitarian agencies undertaking preparedness planning for future monsoon seasons.

We prefer cash so that we can buy what is necessary for us."  
- Malangwa N.P, Sarlahi

We prefer in-kind food support right away, and then cash so we can repair our home."  
- Koshi G.P., Sunsari



### Preferences by caste







## Do you feel respected by aid providers including government, I/NGOs?

### Highlighted findings

Thirty-four percent of respondents said they do not feel respected by aid providers, including government and I/NGOs, local organizations, and others.

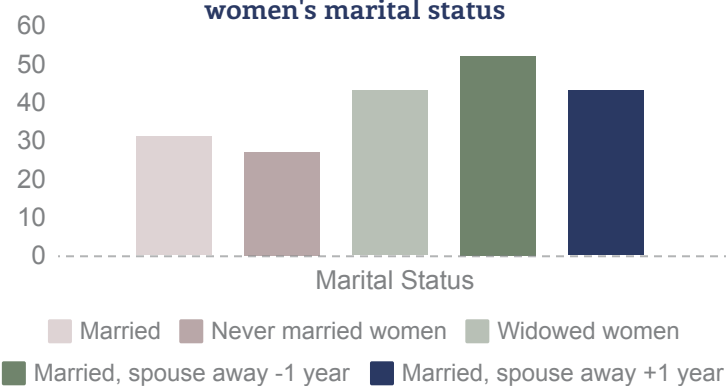
This number differed slightly between male and female respondents, with males five percentage points more likely than females to say they felt they were being respected. Some differences among districts emerged, with 60 percent of respondents from Mahottari and 44 percent from Siraha saying they felt they were not being respected.

Forty-four percent of respondents who said they do not feel respected said it was because there was not enough assistance available for all entitled to it, while 43 percent said the assistance was not fairly or evenly distributed. Importantly, 26 percent said it was because assistance was based on the caste system, making it clear that this remains an issue in relief operations.



Completely yes (17%) Somewhat yes (36%)  
Not very much (19%) Not at all (15%)  
Don't know/refused (13%)

### Not respected by aid providers, by women's marital status



## Has your family been affected by floods in past years?

### Highlighted findings

Among 1800 respondents across 10 districts, 56 percent said they or their family have been affected by floods in past years. The findings are consistent across gender and age.

Of the 56 percent who responded that they had been affected by floods in the past year, only 33 percent have adopted any measures to reduce the impact of potential flood/mitigate the risk of flood. Measures they reported taking included developing their own preparedness plans (63 percent), storing valuable assets in safe places (31 percent) and moving to a less hazard prone area (23 percent).

### Reasons for not adopting mitigation measures (among the 63 percent)



Concerns not listened to (61%)



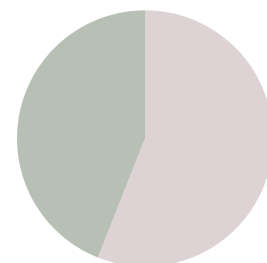
No self-preparedness plan (38%)



No embankment construction (32%)

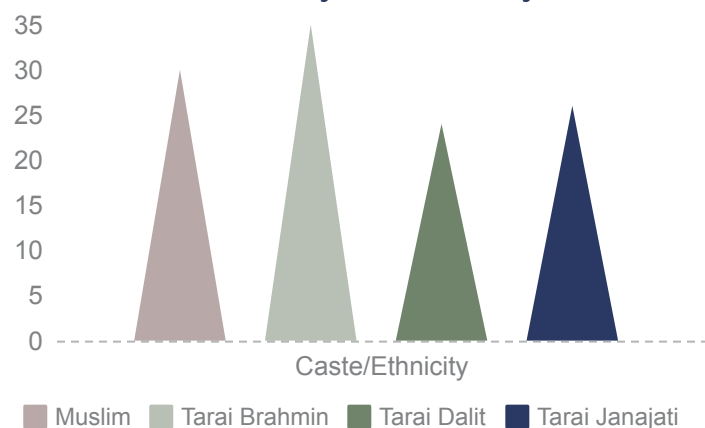


No preparedness support (28%)



Yes (56%) No (44%)

### Those who have adopted mitigation measures, by caste/ethnicity





# TETERIDEVI'S STORY

Teteridevi Thakur, a 36-year-old women from Mittawa, Rautahat, is struggling to regain normalcy after her home and livelihood were destroyed by the large August 2017 flood. The Mittawa area has extremely low human development indicators and is home to a majority Dalit population. Teteridevi's husband is a migrant worker in China and her two sons study in Kathmandu, leaving her as the head of household.

Despite losing everything but the lives of herself and her family members, Teteridevi is not included on the victim's list. This list is curated by local officials and sets out who qualifies for benefits. Other people in her area have received aid with the same level of damage. Because of this, she insists there is discrimination in the relief distribution process.

**"It is all female member in my house so it was difficult for us to get the relief items".**

With the loss of food stores, and her exclusion from the victim's list, Teteridevi worries about the coming winter. She has three children and her mother-in-law to care for. Adding further stress is the fear that, without being able to relocate to higher ground, her family may face the same fate next year when the seasonal monsoon rains come to Nepal again. For now, Jeteridevi and her family occupy the same house, its inside cleared of debris, and hope they will receive some assistance to survive the winter and stay safe in the future.



## Are there any problems particularly affecting women in your community?

### Highlighted findings

Sixty-five percent of respondents said there are particular problems affecting women in their community.

These responses were fairly consistent across genders, with female respondents only two percentage points more likely to respond yes. Among ethnic groups, Muslim and Yadav respondents were the most likely to feel women faced specific issues (72 percent each), and Tarai Brahmin were least likely, at 52 percent.

### If yes, what are the two biggest problems women are facing?



Healthcare  
(58%)



Toilets/  
sanitation  
(36%)



Clean water  
(34%)

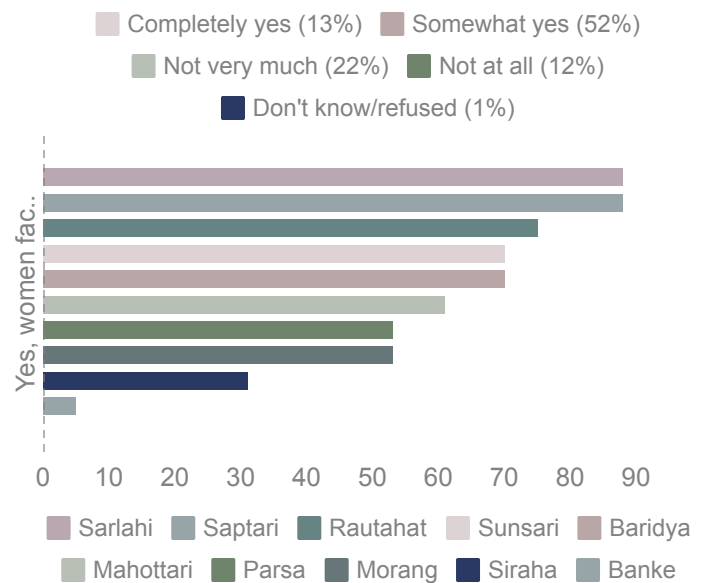
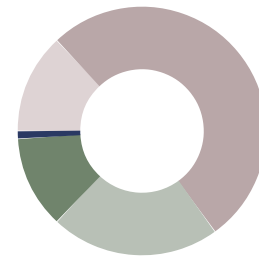


Food aid  
(25%)



Lack of  
access to  
relief (16%)

Note: more men than women cited toilets/sanitation, clean water, livelihoods and risk of GBV than women. Conversely, more women than men cited food aid, lack of access to relief and lack of access to decision making as issues.



## Are there any problems particularly affecting children in your community?

### Highlighted findings

Among 1800 respondents across 10 districts, 74 percent said there are problems particularly facing children in their community.

While women were only two percentage points more likely to say there were particular problems affecting children. Those who are married but their spouse is out of the home showed greater than average concerns for children. Those whose spouse is out of the home for less than a year at 75 percent and those whose spouse is out of the home for more than a year at 84 percent.

Skilled worker respondents also reflected greater concerns than average, with 88 percent saying yes.

### If yes, what are the two biggest problems children are facing?

For those who responded yes, the biggest problem was health care with an impressive 74 percent. Clean water was the second biggest problem reported, with 45 percent of the responses, followed by school (21 percent), food aid (19 percent), child protection (18 percent) and toilets/sanitation (17 percent).

