



2018-2019

Annual Report



**Mennonite
Central
Committee
NEPAL**



+977 1-5532338



nepalinfo@mcc.org



mccnepal.org

Table of Contents

Forward	3
MCC Nepal Project Summary	4
Previous 5-Year Project Impact	5
Implementing Partners	6
Project Impact by Sector	7
List of Projects by Sector and Partner	11
Summary of Annual Outputs and Indicators	12
Impact Stories	16
Earthquake Recovery Project Annual Summary	21
Earthquake Recovery Impact Stories	23
Finance Report	25



MCC staff and partners learn together during MCC Nepal's 2018 Annual Partner Workshop.

Forward

For over a decade, MCC's presence in Nepal has been marked by a faithful commitment to understanding communities' unique assets and needs, serving those most marginalized, building the capacity of community-based organizations, and connecting people to one another. This year was a significant one for MCC Nepal, as we concluded a five-year Project Agreement with the Government of Nepal's Social Welfare Council and signed a new agreement for another five years in the sectors of food security and livelihoods; health, water and sanitation; rural education; and disaster response. We also continued supporting our partners' long-term recovery efforts that are restoring homes and livelihoods for communities effected by the 2015 earthquake.

MCC's work in Nepal would not be possible without the commitment and effective coordination of our MCC Nepal team, our implementing partners, the Government of Nepal's Social Welfare Council, the many government stakeholders and line agencies with whom our partners collaborate, and the faithful financial support of MCC's donors.

To our friends and partners, we hope this Annual Report offers you a glimpse into our collective impact on many, many lives throughout Nepal.

With gratitude,



Daphne Hollinger Fowler
Country Representative
MCC Nepal



The MCC Nepal Team (pictured at MCC's Annual Vision Day): Daphne Fowler, Durga Sunchiuri, Juliana Yonzon, Avash Karki, Asha Nepali Gurung, Janardan Adhikari, Gita Sunar, Ryan Fowler

Overview of MCC's Work in Nepal

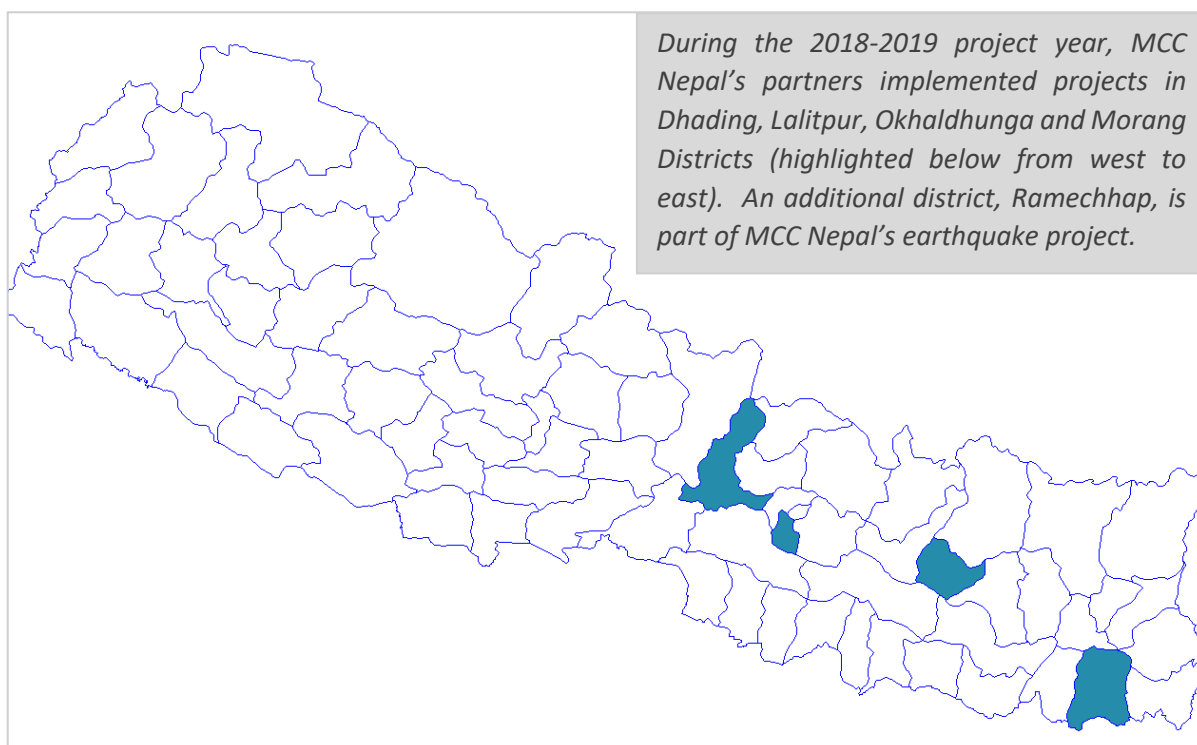
Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is an international relief and development organization based in Canada and the United States that works in a variety of development sectors in 54 countries around the world. MCC first began sending expatriate volunteers to Nepal in 1956, initially seconding workers through United Mission to Nepal. In 2009, MCC signed its first five-year General Agreement with the Social Welfare Council and began directly providing financial and capacity support to local partners. The most recent General Agreement was signed on September 20, 2017, and the current five-year Project Agreement was signed on October 13, 2018.

In the current Project Agreement, MCC Nepal's geographic focus narrowed to just two provinces: Province 1 (Morang District and Okhaldhunga District) and Province 3 (Dhading District and Lalitpur District), as depicted on the map of Nepal below. This allows for a deeper and more integrated approach in communities and people groups of greatest need, and for programming that is in line with MCC's values and operating principles.

This Annual Report provides the outputs and progress toward indicators for MCC Nepal's 2019 Fiscal Year which ran from April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019. An overview of MCC's earthquake recovery efforts, through the National Reconstruction Authority, is also available on page 21.

MCC'S OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- Building local capacity
- Acting sustainably
- Making society more fair economically
- Bring people together
- Ending discrimination
- Finding non-violent solutions

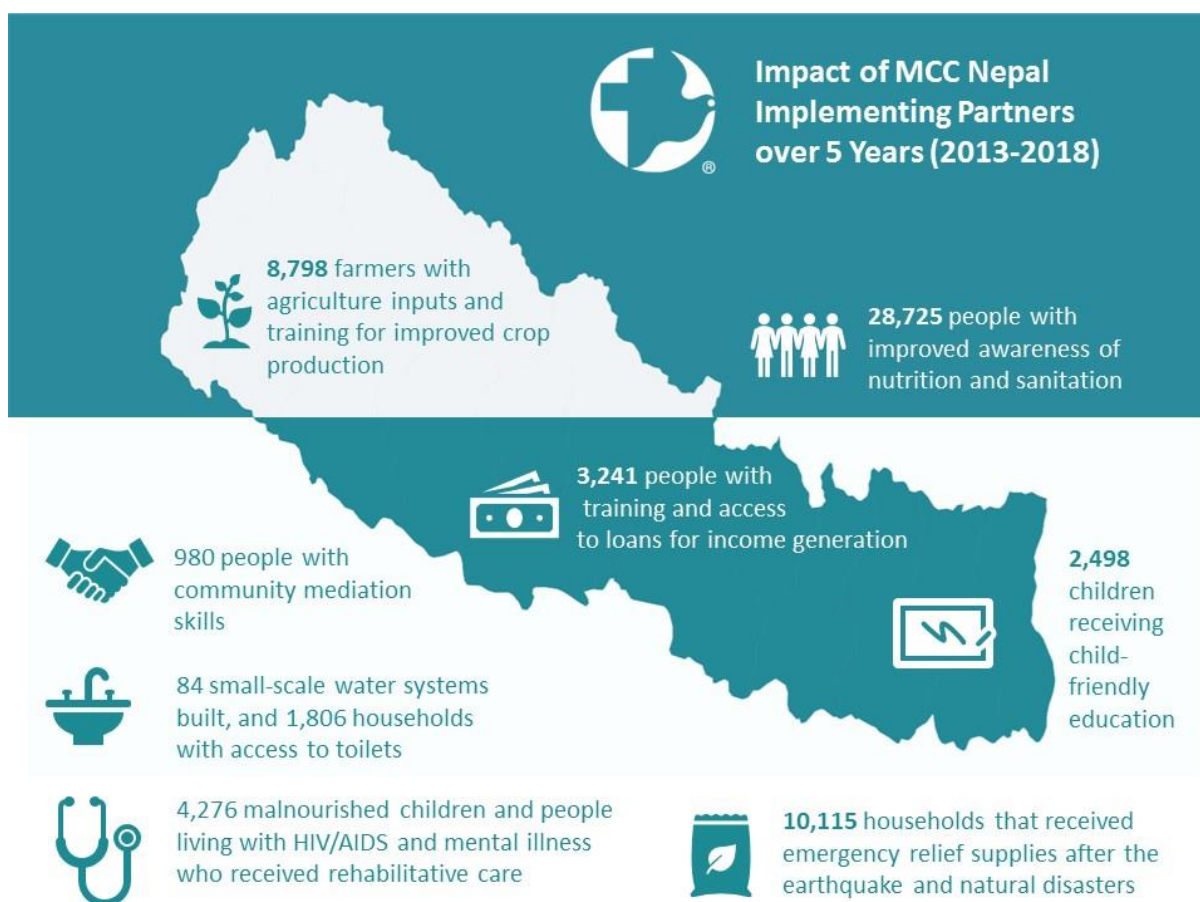


Previous Project Impact

An evaluation of MCC Nepal's previous five-year "Poverty Alleviation through Community Empowerment" Project Agreement (2013-2018) with the Social Welfare Council was conducted in March 2018. The evaluation verified the findings in MCC's own completion report, demonstrating extensive impact on the lives of people across Nepal. In collaboration with 8 implementing partners across 13 districts, the project supported activities in five thematic areas: food security and sustainable livelihoods, health (including mental health and HIV/AIDS), rural education, water and sanitation, community institution building, and disaster relief. MCC Nepal supported its partners through regular monitoring visits, capacity-building workshops, coaching staff, report editing, and liaising with international donors.

Key learnings and best practices captured during implementation of the 5 year project included: the effectiveness of supporting growth monitoring centers to reduce acute child malnutrition; the inclusion of males in nutrition trainings in order to improve dietary diversity and household nutrition; the importance of regular social audits and transparent disclosure of information; the significant impact of community-level awareness campaigns to reduce stigma against people living with HIV/AIDS; the necessity of a multi-faceted approach to improving education; and the effectiveness of community reintegration in order to support women living with mental illness.

The impact of MCC Nepal and its partners is summarized below:



Implementing Partners

In order to ensure long-term sustainability and build local capacity – and per requirement of the Government of Nepal’s Social Welfare Council – MCC’s work in Nepal is implemented through local Nepali non-governmental organizations. During the 2019 Fiscal Year, MCC Nepal provided capacity and financial support to the following five implementing partners:

Brethren in Community Welfare Society (BICWS)

BICWS is registered in Morang District since 2004 (and affiliated with SWC since 2006) and works primarily in Jahada Rural Municipality. BICWS’s work focuses on improving food security, livelihoods, educational and income-generating opportunities for highly marginalized and landless communities.

KOSHISH National Mental Health Self Help Organization

KOSHISH is registered in Lalitpur and affiliated with SWC since 2008, although project participants come from throughout Nepal. KOSHISH is committed to improving resources for people living with mental distress and psychosocial disabilities through community-based and emergency psychosocial treatment, short-term residential rehabilitation, peer support networks, and advocacy for inclusion and meaningful participation of people with psychosocial disabilities.

Rural Institution for Community Development (RICOD)

RICOD is registered in Lalitpur District and affiliated with the SWC since 2001, and has a long history of working in remote, rural communities of southern Lalitpur. RICOD collaborates with local government bodies to deliver nutrition and small-scale gardening projects at the community level, mobilize peer educators, raise awareness about basic health services, and train Female Community Health Volunteers.

SAHAS (Group of Helpings Hands) Nepal

SAHAS Nepal registered as a local NGO in Lalitpur in 1996 and became affiliated with SWC in 1999. SAHAS builds the capacity of community-based organizations (CBOs) from socially excluded communities in Okhaldhunga, empowering them reduce poverty, develop income-generating skills, develop climate resilience, and improve food production and livelihoods.

Shanti Nepal

Shanti Nepal is a social development organization that was registered as a local nongovernmental, non-profit organization in 2003. Shanti Nepal facilitates grassroots-level sustainable development in Dhading District through mobilization and empowerment of poor and marginalized communities and through partnership with local organizations, government bodies and community-based organizations. Focus is given to improved agricultural production, livelihoods and WASH facilities.

Project Impact by Sector

MCC Nepal's modality focuses on integrated development, in which the many factors that shape a community's context are considered during project design and implementation. This means that, regardless of a project's primary focus, there is typically an emphasis on: access to opportunities for economic growth (for example, by providing job skills to women living with mental illness, or by connecting farmers to savings groups and agricultural cooperatives), gender inclusivity, and peace-building through conflict sensitive programming.

MCC supports its partners to design and implement projects that are aligned not only to MCC's cross-cutting themes and priorities, but also to the Government of Nepal National Planning Commission's long-term development goals. Specifically, MCC supports projects among marginalized communities with low Human Development Index rankings, in order to improve marginalized communities' access to resources for economic growth. MCC's work also supports Nepal's SDG 2030 targets of reducing extreme poverty to less than 5%, reducing the prevalence of underweight children to 5%, increasing the percentage of students who complete grade 8 to 95%, and reaching 95% of households with improved sanitation facilities.

This year, MCC Nepal's work in the following four sectors contributed to these goals:

Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods (FSSL)

MCC supported four partners (SAHAS, Shanti Nepal, RICOD and BICWS) to improve crop production for improved nutrition, and to increase economic opportunities for farmers, as Nepal works toward achieving its targets of reducing the prevalence of underweight children and extreme poverty to 5% (SDGs 1 and 2) and maintaining 5% growth in agriculture (SDG 8).

This year through MCC's support **3,007 rural farmers were trained** in improved agricultural techniques including commercial vegetable production, livestock management, integrated pest management, fish farming, making biochar and organic fertilizers, food storage, and kitchen gardening. An additional 2,869 community members participated in awareness events about nutrition. To encourage economic growth for resource-poor farmers, **2,412 people also received agricultural inputs** for improved production, such as seeds, fish fingerlings, quick lime, nursery kits, tools, and livestock.



Support for a haat bazaar gives farmers near Milan Chowk in Morang's Jahada Rural Municipality an opportunity to showcase and sell their produce.

These activities resulted in a reduction in the average percentage of children with low weight for height in MCC's working areas to 14.1%, and an increase in the percentage of households eating at least two full meals a day to 30.2%. As a result of nutrition and kitchen garden trainings, the average women's dietary diversity score in MCC's working areas has increased to 5.2 (eating a minimum of 5 out of the 10 defined food groups is recommended by the FAO in order to improve micronutrient uptake). These averages do vary significantly between implementing partners' working areas, with relatively higher instances of malnutrition in Morang's Jahada Rural Municipality. In addition, providing seed funding and capacity support for community-based organizations and savings groups across partners' working areas resulted in 50% of group members accessing loans for livelihood improvement.

Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

A focus on health (specifically for pregnant and lactating mothers, and for children under age 5) and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) is integrated into the work of all five of MCC's partners:



A Mother's Group in Khoilatar, Dhading weighs their young children monthly in order to assess their growth and immediately address any instances of severe malnutrition.

BICWS, Shanti, RICOD, SAHAS and KOSHISH. MCC's goals over 5 years include increasing the percentage of women attending at least four ante-natal care visits to 90% in order to reduce maternal and child deaths (SDG 3), decreasing the percentage of underweight children in the working areas by 50% (SDG 2), and working toward the elimination of violence against women (SDG 16) via mental health services.

This year, through close collaboration with government services and health posts, MCC supported health and/or **family planning awareness sessions for 1,304** people, along with sessions on hygiene and sanitation to another 1,108 people. In addition, **8 health posts received much-needed equipment** for effective service delivery, **16 small-scale drinking water systems** were built or repaired to provide clean drinking water, and 32 women living with mental illness received rehabilitative care. These efforts resulted in an average 7.8% annual increase in the percentage of women attending the recommended number of ante-natal and post-natal check-ups, and an increase in the percentage of households with access to clean drinking water.

The majority of MCC's WASH activities are concentrated in two Municipalities of northern Dhading to support the local government's goal of declaring Total Sanitation and comply with SDG

targets of 99% access to a water supply and 99% ODF. The outcome of MCC's support this year is 100% access to clean drinking water and latrines in the working areas of northern Dhading.

Finally, through MCC's partner, KOSHISH, progress was made toward reducing violence and stigmatism toward people living with mental illness through the **rehabilitation of 32 people** and the successful reintegration – coupled with community-level psychoeducation – of 26 people into their home communities.



Women living in KOSHISH's short-term rehabilitation home benefit from counseling, medication, and therapeutic activities.

Rural Education

MCC's education activities were concentrated on 11 primary schools in two rural municipalities in Morang characterized by high levels of household poverty, high drop-out rates and misconceptions about the benefits of education (particularly for girls). These activities were implemented by MCC partner, BICWS, and in coordination with its partner, HRDON. In order to work toward the Government of Nepal's goal of 95% completion rates by grade 8 (SDG 4), this year MCC supported activities that: **improved the capacity of 116 school administrators, head teachers and School Management Committee members** to implement needs-based planning and results-based monitoring of School Improvement Plans; **trained 72 teachers** in child-friendly pedagogy; and supported the formation of **9 child clubs**.

The efforts resulted in increased parental awareness about the importance of consistently attending and completing primary school, as well as increased awareness of schools' governing stakeholders to monitor and plan effectively.



Primary school teachers from Morang's Jahada Rural Municipality are trained on child-friendly teaching methods for improved rural education.

In addition to supporting primary education, MCC and BICWS also supported **60 youth to receive scholarships for vocational training**. Of the youth who have completed their training over the last 3 years, 80% are now employed. Steady employment is a vital need in this community where 76% of people are living below the poverty line.



Rita Mandal received a scholarship to participate in a sewing and tailoring vocational training program. She now works in a small business alongside her sister in Jahada Rural Municipality.

Emergency Disaster Response



Community members from Darkha Village receive relief materials via MCC partner, Shanti Nepal, in coordination with Khaniyabas Rural Municipality.

While long-term development is at the heart of MCC's work in Nepal, MCC also offers support for communities affected by emergencies and natural disasters, per request of our partner organizations and in collaboration with local disaster management committees. This year MCC supported one **emergency relief effort for 40 households** in Khaniyabas Rural Municipality of Dhading District whose homes were severely damaged after heavy rainfall and landslides. Emergency relief materials included tarpaulins, mattresses, blankets, plastic buckets, food items, soap, first aid materials, and water purification tablets.

Projects by Sector and Partner

Name of Project	Location	Partner	Sectors	Goal
Improving Mother and Child Nutrition	Mahankal & Bagmati Rural Municipalities, Lalitpur	RICOD	FSSL Health	To improve the health and nutrition of pregnant/ lactating women and young children in remote areas.
Building Happy and Healthy Families through Improving Food Security	Jahada Rural Municipality, Morang	BICWS	FSSL Health	To empower landless and land-poor farmers to strengthen their agricultural livelihoods and improve family health and nutrition.
Community Nutrition and Food Security Program	Benighat Rorang & Gajuri Rural Municipalities, Dhading	Shanti	FSSL Health	To improve nutrition and food security among marginalized Chepang communities, especially women and children.
Nutrition and Food Security Improvement in Okhaldhunga	Molung, Chishankhugadi, Siddhicharan, Sunkoshi & Maneybhanjyang Rural Municipalities, Okhaldhunga	SAHAS	FSSL Health	To improve nutrition and food security in rural communities through building the capacity of grassroots CBO networks.
Reintegration of Marginalized Women and Girls with Mental Illness	Women come from across Nepal to the rehabilitation home in Lalitpur	KOSHISH	Health	To rescue and rehabilitate vulnerable women with mental illness and reintegrate them into their families and communities.
Community Health and Empowerment Project	Ruby Valley & Gangajumana Rural Municipalities, Dhading	Shanti	WASH	To improve sanitation and decrease the prevalence of communicable diseases.
Rural Education Project	Jahada Rural Municipality, Morang District	BICWS	Education WASH	To train teachers in improved pedagogy, mentor School Management Committees, and build a child friendly learning environment.
Vocational Training Program	Jahada Rural Municipality, Morang District	BICWS	Education	To enable young people to access vocational training so that they may find employment in their own communities instead of migrating.

Summary of Indicators and Annual Outputs (April 2018 – March 2019)

Logical Intervention 1: Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods (FSSL)			
	Outcome	Indicator of Change	Annual Progress
	By the end of 5 years, individuals in MCC's working areas have improved nutrition and food security through a <u>50% reduction</u> in the percentage of malnourished children under age five, a <u>2-point increase</u> in the average female dietary diversity score, a <u>50% increase</u> in the percentage of HH eating at least 2 complete meals a day, and a <u>50% increase</u> in the percentage of loans taken by first time borrowers.	Average Female Dietary Diversity Score	5.2 average score
		% of HH eating at least 2 complete meals a day	30.2% of households
		% of loans by first time borrowers	50% of group members who accessed loans
	FSSL – Hardware Outputs	Districts	Partners
1.1	2,412 farmers and Community Development Group (CDG) members received agricultural inputs (such as seeds, livestock, saplings, nursery kits, greenhouse plastic, etc.)	Morang, Lalitpur, Okhaldhunga, Dhading	BICWS, RICOD, SAHAS, Shanti
1.2	4 small-scale irrigation systems were built or distributed to farming households	Dhading, Okhaldhunga	BICWS, SAHAS
1.3	105 local Health Centers (HC) and Growth Monitoring Centers (GMC) received measuring equipment for monitoring children's nutritional status	Morang, Lalitpur, Okhaldhunga, Dhading	BICWS, RICOD, SAHAS, Shanti
1.4	55 children identified as severely malnourished received support for malnutrition rehabilitation (super flour and/or transportation costs to a rehabilitation center)	Okhaldhunga, Dhading	SAHAS, Shanti
1.5	249 people received loans for income-generating activities via seed funding Mothers Groups or Community Development Groups	Morang, Lalitpur, Dhading	BICWS, RICOD, Shanti
1.6	77 newly formed Community Development Groups received material (stationary) support for them to register	Dhading	Shanti
	FSSL - Software Outputs	Districts	Partners
1.7	3,007 rural community members received technical agriculture training (on topics including animal husbandry, kitchen gardening, commercial vegetable production, seed saving, IPM, and/or soil management)	Morang, Lalitpur, Okhaldhunga, Dhading	BICWS, RICOD, SAHAS, Shanti

1.8	2,869 individuals benefited from community awareness campaigns about maternal and child nutrition	Morang, Lalitpur, Dhading	BICWS, RICOD, Shanti
1.9	2,282 health workers, FCHVs, local government officials, mothers group members, and traditional healers were trained in maternal and child nutrition	Lalitpur, Okhaldhunga, Dhading	RICOD, SAHAS, Shanti
1.10	400 people received employment and career development skills for improved income generation	Morang, Lalitpur	BICWS, KOSHISH, RICOD
1.11	117 Mothers Groups and Community Development Groups were trained in financial management, savings, and income-generation	Morang, Lalitpur, Okhaldhunga, Dhading	BICWS, RICOD, SAHAS, Shanti
Logical Intervention 2: Health, Hygiene and Sanitation			
	Outcome	Indicator of Change	Annual Progress
	Individuals in working areas have improved health through a <u>50% reduction</u> in the percentage of malnourished children under age five, by increasing the percentage of women attending at least 4 ante-natal care (ANC) visits to <u>90%</u> , and by <u>100%</u> of households in working areas having access to clean drinking water and latrines.	% of under-5 children with low weight-height (wasting)	14.1% of children
		% increase in attendance at ANC/PNC visits	7.8% annual increase
		% of HHs in North Dhading working area with access to drinking water and latrines	100% in working area
	Health/WASH – Hardware Outputs	Districts	Partners
2.1	8 health posts received material support	Dhading	Shanti
2.2	3 public/school latrines were built or repaired for total sanitation	Dhading	Shanti
2.3	16 small-scale drinking water systems were constructed in rural areas for improved community health	Okhaldhunga, Dhading	SAHAS, Shanti
2.4	8 health centers (HC) received matching funds (safe motherhood funds) to promote institutional delivery	Lalitpur, Dhading	RICOD, Shanti
2.5	5,000 health education materials (booklets, pamphlets) were developed and distributed in collaboration with Rural Municipalities	Morang, Lalitpur	BICWS, KOSHISH, RICOD

2.6	32 individuals living with severe mental illness received rehabilitative services (transitional housing, food, medicine) for reintegration into their home families/communities (26 were reintegrated this year)	Lalitpur	KOSHISH
	Health/WASH – Software Outputs	Districts	Partners
2.7	18 community-level information sessions on reproductive health and family planning were held for MGs and community members (414 participants)	Dhading	Shanti
2.8	55 training events on general health topics (HIV/AIDS, ARI, diarrhea, psychological health) were held for health workers, FCHVs, community members, and MG members (890 participants)	Lalitpur, Dhading	KOSHISH, RICOD, Shanti
2.9	11 PHCORCs, HCs and MGs received capacity building support to effectively mobilize mother/child health activities (117 participants)	Dhading	Shanti
2.10	26 awareness sessions on Clean Village, health and sanitation were conducted for WASHCCs, MGs, schools, and CDGs (1,108 participants)	Dhading	Shanti
Logical Intervention 3: Education and Vocational Training			
	Outcome	Indicator of Change	Annual Progress
	Students, teachers, and schools will have improved education as evidenced by a <u>50% increase</u> in the percentage of teachers regularly using child-friendly teaching methods, increased parents' level of satisfaction with their child's education <u>by 50%</u> , and the aim that <u>75% of SMCs</u> will be involved in monitoring school activities.	% of teachers regularly using 5 or more specified child-friendly teaching methods in the classroom	Not yet measured
		% of parents reporting their level of satisfaction with their child's education is high or very high	79%
		% of SMC members regularly monitoring school activities	Not yet measured
	Education – Hardware Outputs	Districts	Partners

3.1	60 youth received scholarships to participate in Vocational Training programs that lead to employment	Morang	BICWS
3.2	50 at-risk girls received educational material supports and incentives to promote school attendance and decreased drop-out rates	Morang	BICWS
3.3	5 classrooms were equipped with child-friendly teaching materials (white boards, low round tables, carpets)	Morang	BICWS
	Education – Software Outputs	Districts	Partners
3.3	72 primary school teachers were trained in effective classroom management and child-friendly pedagogy	Morang	BICWS
3.4	116 School Management Committee (SMC) members and head teachers received training on their roles and responsibilities, including how to monitor School Improvement Plans and governance	Morang	BICWS
3.5	9 children’s clubs received support to create a positive psycho-social learning environment for primary students	Morang	BICWS
3.6	908 parents and community members attended awareness events on the importance of education	Morang	BICWS
Logical Intervention 4: Disaster Relief (as needed)			
	Outcome	Indicator of Change	Progress
	Households will receive emergency necessities in times of disaster (including floods, fires, cold snaps, droughts and earthquakes).		
	Disaster Relief: Hardware Outputs	Districts	Partners
4.1	40 households in Darkha, Dhading (Wards 3 & 4 of Khaniyabas Rural Municipality) received emergency disaster response materials (tarpaulins, mattresses, blankets, plastic buckets, food items, soap, first aid materials, water purification tablets) after heavy rainfall and landslides that damaged many homes and displaced 100 people; in collaboration with the Local Disaster Management Committee.	Dhading	Shanti Nepal

IMPACT STORIES and BEST PRACTICES

Story 1: Working through Farmers' Groups for Integrated Development

In a remote area of Okhaldhunga's Sunkoshi Rural Municipality lies the small village of Bhirgaun. For many years, the 41 Magar families who call Bhirgaun home faced the immense challenge of walking up and down steep hills for two hours every day to fetch water from a distant source. The lack of water only exacerbated the community's other challenges; as a result, many men from Bhirgaun considered moving abroad to earn income for their families.

Through the work of MCC's partner SAHAS and its member organization, SKCDF, the Janachetana Farmer's Group was formed in Bhirgaun. Group members participated in trainings on vegetable cultivation, livestock management and nutrition. They also received



Group member Ramesh Kumar Magar explains that, "My commercial farm was only possible after the renovation of the water supply system."

support to take out loans for income generating activities. As a result, 5 group members began commercially cultivating vegetables, earning from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 25,000 annually; and 18 members improved their animal sheds for improved livestock production. In collaboration with the municipality, SKCDF also supported the community to buy and install pipes from a water source 1100 meters away. This water is used for drinking, cleaning, feeding livestock and irrigating fields.

Being a member of a farmer's group not only offers technical support for improved income generation, but also builds the capacity of local bodies to motivate their communities toward positive change. Bhirgaun's monthly savings allowed the group to donate Rs. 12,000 toward the building of a local health post, Rs. 3,500 for buying a public grinding mill, and Rs. 12,450 for building a house for their group meetings. They have also started weighing their children monthly to monitor their nutrition and encouraging the use of dustbins to improve sanitation.

The Janachetana Farmer's Group is now officially registered with the rural municipality and plans to expand their efforts as they work together toward community development.



Farmer's group member Devi Magar is now able to commercially produce cauliflower.

Story 2: Sustaining Drinking Water Systems through User Committees

The village of Kupchet – a northern-most community in Dhading District before reaching Nepal’s mountainous border – recently developed a user committee to sustain a drinking water scheme supported by MCC and its implementing partner, Shanti Nepal. While another organization had previously built several water taps in Kupchet, years of use, compounded by the 2015 earthquake, left the taps largely dysfunctional. With technical input and survey work initially conducted by the Shanti Nepal team, Kupchet now receives water from a clean source atop the steep hill towering over the village. Water flows through 230-meter long pipes connected to a cable that suspends across a deep, rocky valley: an engineering feat deemed impossible in prior surveys. The formation of a drinking water user committee now allows for ongoing impact in an isolated community that is several days’ walk from the nearest road.



Community taps in Kupchet now have a consistent flow of water.

User committees offer a local, immediate and cost-effective means of technical support. Two people from Kupchet’s seven-member committee attended a basic course in construction and



Water system user committee members in Kupchet share about the project’s impact on their lives.

water pipe repair. These trainees then led the new water system’s construction and installation processes, according to the design of Shanti Nepal’s lead engineers and technicians. Active engagement from the very initial stages of project implementation allows user committee members to more deeply understand the purpose and design of water and sanitation schemes, develop a keen eye for regularly monitoring infrastructure and gain critical skills in maintenance and repair. Repairs beyond the scope of the user committee may receive outside support from Shanti Nepal or the local Ward and Municipality offices.

User committees also ensure proper infrastructure maintenance through the regular and systematic collection of fees from all households that benefit from water and sanitation schemes. In Kupchet, all 67 households contribute Rs. 100 per month to the user committee. This fund covers the cost of basic repairs as well as regular monitoring of the water system.

Finally, the influence of user committee members builds momentum toward an entire community's collective ownership over water and sanitation projects, while contributing toward leadership development. In the case of Kupchet, the influence of the user committee resulted in 65 people from the village participating in the installation of the water system's pipes. Lined up along a precarious trail, these 130 hands grasped the cable and pipes as they were swung across a gorge and attached to cement pillars. Tak Tamang, chairperson of the drinking water system user committee, shares that there were many torn palms, but no one complained. There was a deep sense of pride and ownership in having installed a much-needed system through the village's collective strength.



Tak Tamang stands next to a previously damaged water tap that was recently repaired by Shanti Nepal.

Shanti Nepal and MCC have found that, when coupled with well-thought-through project design, and appropriate levels of capacity support, WASH user committees that monitor drinking water systems at the community level in Nepal significantly contribute toward the long-term use and maintenance of water systems and the sustainability of sanitation and hygiene outcomes.



A 230-meter long suspended cable allows pipes to bring water from a water source over 5 kilometers away, across a deep gorge, into the village of Kupchet.

Story 3: Improving Children's Nutrition through Diversified Gardening

Pabitra Sunar assumed for many years that her illiteracy and physical disability barred her from opportunities for personal growth. Her home community of Gimdee, Lalitpur is in a remote, forested area with limited access to health facilities or nutrition trainings. This lack of access directly impacted the health of her young son, Chok Raj, who at the time was quite thin and weak.

With the support of MCC's partner, RICOD, Pabitra's life reached a turning point when she joined a Mother's Group. Through the group, Pabitra participated in 11 training sessions about the importance of monitoring children's growth, eating enough vitamins, practicing sanitation, and making *sarbottam pitho ko lito* and *posilo jaulo* as nutritious supplementary foods. She also visited a health institution for the very first time – a 4 hour walk away – where she received vitamins for herself and her son. RICOD even invited Pabitra's husband, Chook Bahadur, to invited attend a two-day nutrition training in order to encourage family ownership.

Good nutrition depends not only on access to health services, but also on access to vegetables that offer diverse vitamins and nutrients. For this reason, RICOD offers kitchen garden training, in which Pabitra participated and received 10 packets of vegetable seed. She was encouraged to incorporate these vegetables into her family's daily meals. In addition, a loan of Rs. 5,000 from RICOD allowed Pabitra to purchase a goat so that she now has a source of income for her family.

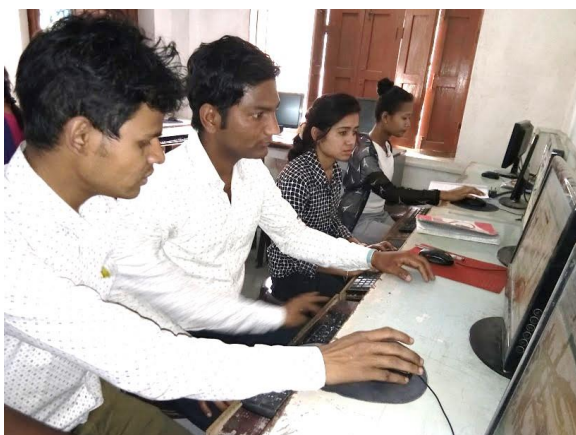


"I am so thankful to RICOD for helping me change myself, both mentally and socially. Though I am illiterate, I gained full knowledge of living a healthy life and caring for my family. I am so happy that my son has gained weight. I came to know that motivation and encouragement can bring changes in life."

Story 4: Earning Income and Respect through Vocational Training

Pramod's story is not unlike many others' who live among Nepal's marginalized communities. Although caste discrimination has been illegal for decades, families like Pramod's often remain significantly disadvantaged due to deeply entrenched stigma in their communities. In this context, even sending a child to school in the face of such discrimination is an act of courage.

Pramod had a deep passion for learning from when he was young, despite the many disadvantages he faced. His parents were illiterate, and his father supported the family of seven on a meager income earned by repairing shoes and musical instruments. Payment was often received in the form of rice and wheat. There certainly was not extra money for sending a child on to higher education: a dream of Pramod's as he diligently completed secondary school.



Pramod studied IT for one year alongside other students in Biratnagar.

Despite his dream of earning his bachelor's degree, Pramod recognized the need to help support his family, and quickly turned his mind to finding a job that would provide some steady income. What he needed was training in specific skills that would earn him some meaningful work. When Pramod learned of a vocational training scholarship opportunity through MCC's partner, the Brethren in Community Welfare Society (BICWS), he was immediately interested. He was selected as a participant for a one-year IT course in Nepal's south-eastern city of Biratnagar.

Upon successfully completing the training course, Pramod was offered a job at a private company where he earns a steady monthly salary for supporting his family. Pramod plans not only to continue supporting his family, but also to work toward a higher-level IT degree.

As he thinks about the impact of BICWS's scholarship opportunity on his life, Pramod explains that he has gained not only much-needed income, but also the respect and acceptance of an entire community. He is looking forward to continuing to support himself and his family through his newfound work.



Pramod's new job was made possible by the opportunity to participate in a vocational training program.

IMPACT OF MCC'S EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY EFFORTS

The 2015 earthquake significantly impacted the working environment of MCC Nepal and its implementing partners. Damage to property and infrastructure was extensive. In the wake of the disaster, MCC distributed emergency relief supplies including food, tarps and blankets.

Recognizing the need for longer-term efforts that enable communities to rebuild their homes, infrastructures, and livelihoods, MCC has continued supporting earthquake recovery efforts through an agreement with the Government of Nepal's National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) from February 2016 to November 2019. MCC's current implementing partners and working areas for earthquake recovery efforts are as follows:

MCC Partner	District	Project
KOSHISH	Lalitpur	Rehabilitation and Recovery of Earthquake Affected Abandoned Persons with Mental Health Problems
RICOD	Lalitpur	Disaster Risk Reduction, Household Reconstruction Support, WASH Facilities and Livelihoods Project
SAHAS Nepal	Okhaldhunga	Post Earthquake Recovery Initiatives: Capacity Building, Reconstruction and Livelihoods Support
Sansthaagat Bikas Sanjal	Ramechhap	Integrated Post-Disaster Rehabilitation Support for Marginalized Groups
Shanti Nepal	Dhading	Building Back Better: Integrated Earthquake Recovery Project



From left, Sunita, Rupmaya, Sitaman, Ashbir and Samikshya Tamang pose in front of their earthquake-resistant home in Khijifalate, Okhaldhunga. Sitaman received 5 goats and training in goat raising through MCC partner SAHAS and its member organization, LDCDF, and now has a regular source of income for the family. This year their daughter Samikshya, age 18, also participated in a youth leadership and peace development training through Sansthaagat Bikas Sanjal and is now implementing a project to address child marriage in her community.

EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY



Health

REHABILITATION & AWARENESS

92 people living with mental health rehabilitated
619 people participated in awareness events
6 PHCOs and Health Centers built
9 health centers received medical supplies



Housing

CONSTRUCTION & TRAINING

60 masons trained in EQ resistant construction
76 received top-up support for housing reconstruction
9 community buildings and collection centers built



Livelihoods

AGRICULTURE TRAINING & INPUTS

2,634 trained in agricultural techniques
1,198 received agricultural inputs
10 irrigation canals built



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

WASH INFRASTRUCTURE

687 latrines built
20 drinking water systems built or repaired

Story 5: Post-Earthquake Mental Health Rehabilitation

April 25, 2015 was a terrifying day for thousands of people throughout Nepal. What began as a normal Saturday morning – with some families praying at the temple and others doing housework – quickly turned into utter despair as the ground started shaking and people were crying out for help. Deepak* was taking a short nap at the time, when his house suddenly collapsed leaving him buried underneath. While he was eventually rescued, some of his neighbors were not so lucky.

Deepak emerged from the rubble unconscious. When he gained consciousness, he was in a state of utter fear and panic. Day after day his fear and restlessness increased. He began to hear noises that became so loud he would again drift into a state of unconsciousness.

His family did not know what to do. They were not familiar with mental health issues, and having lost their home and all their animals in the earthquake, they were barely managing as it was. They took Deepak to a traditional healer, but his condition continued getting worse. Neighbors began noticing his unusual behaviors, and one of them recommended KOSHISH.

KOSHISH, a partner organization of MCC Nepal, had recently opened a new rehabilitation home for people diagnosed with mental illness after the earthquake, with the support of MCC's earthquake funding. The organization's multi-faceted approach includes short-term residential care in a rehabilitation center, reintegration into home communities whenever possible, community-based awareness about mental health, and advocacy.



People diagnosed with severe mental illness receive rehabilitative care at KOSHISH's homes, where they have access to counseling, medicines, nutritious food, psychiatric check-ups, and therapeutic activities like dancing and making beaded jewelry.

Deepak was assessed and admitted to the KOSHISH rehabilitation center where he received comprehensive treatment, including counseling and psychiatric care. He quickly became involved in the center's various therapeutic activities. After his mental health stabilized, he was able to be reintegrated back into his family and home community. Deepak commented: "My family had dreamed of my recovery and KOSHISH has made it come true."

* not his real name

Story 6: Rebuilding Earthquake-Safe Homes

The Majhi community of Khandadevi, Ramechhap subsists primarily on small plots of land and fish traps for food, with only periodic income. The 2015 earthquake significantly compounded their situation; within minutes, many became instantly homeless. Community members did not know where to begin in rebuilding.

With the support of MCC's implementing partner, Sansthaat Bikas Sanjal, the community was selected to participate in an MCC-funded earthquake rehabilitation effort aimed at providing safe shelter by providing resources for families to demolish what remained of their damaged homes, training masons in earthquake-safe construction, and assisting families to connect to the district National Reconstruction Authority office from which they received government subsidies for housing reconstruction.



Bam Bahadur Majhi helps rebuild a house according to earthquake-resistant construction methods.

Through support from Sanjal and its member organization, Community Development Society (CDS), community people were able to organize themselves and make a collective effort toward rebuilding their homes. They met together monthly to share their progress and learnings with one another, and the newly trained masons worked closely with communities throughout



Sukumaya Majhi describes the progress of her new home.

Ramechhap to ensure that the new homes were built to resist future disasters.

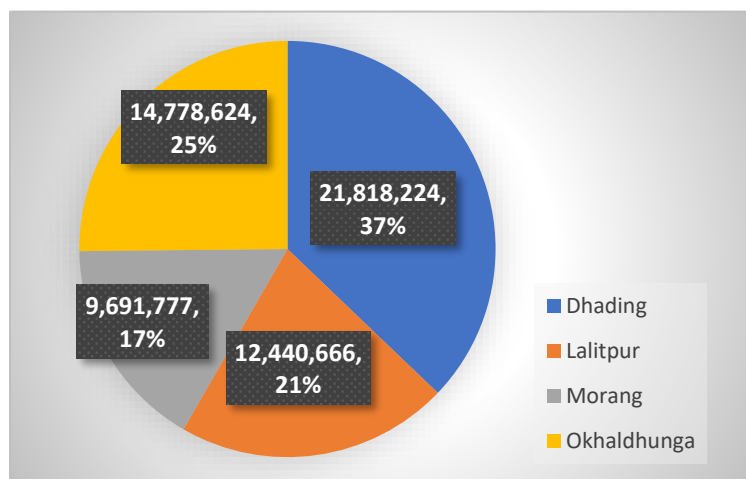
Khandadevi residents now proudly showcase their 41 safe houses. They have also started earning more regular income through income-generating activities supported by MCC, like vegetable farming training, and an irrigation system that boosts farmers' efforts at semi-commercial production.

FISCAL YEAR OVERVIEW 2018-2019

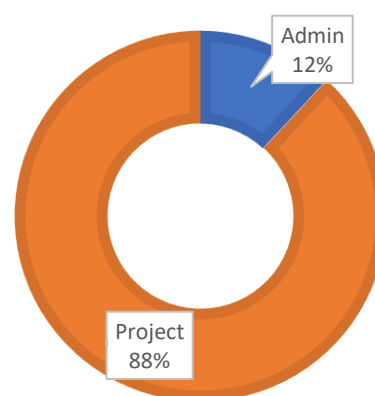
Summary of Project Agreement Expenses

	April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019 Expenses	
	Nepali Rupees	U.S. Dollars
Administrative Costs	7,935,654	\$73,476.24
Food Security and Livelihoods Projects	41,788,851	\$386,923.06
Health and WASH Projects	9,266,430	\$85,797.89
Education and Youth Projects	6,755,010	\$62,544.65
Disaster Relief and Preparedness Projects	913,410	\$8,457.27
Project Costs	58,723,701	\$543,722.87
Total Expenses	66,659,355	\$617,199.11

Allocation of Expenses by District:

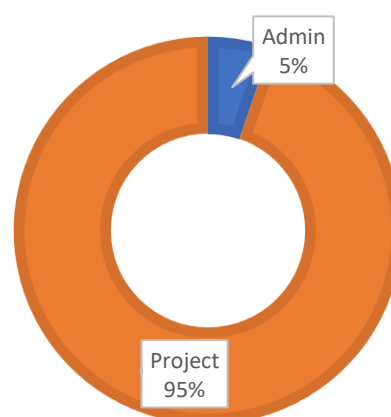
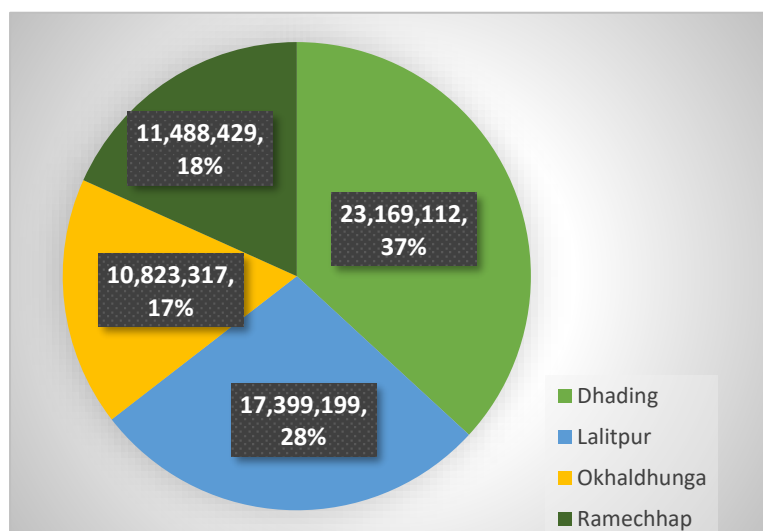


Admin/Project Percentages:



Summary of Earthquake Project Expenses

	April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019 Expenses	
	Nepali Rupees	U.S. Dollars
Earthquake Administrative Costs	3,476,007	\$32,184.36
Earthquake Project Costs	62,880,059	\$582,206.60
Total Expenses	66,356,066	\$614,390.96



BUDGETED AND ACTUAL EXPENSES SUMMARY TABLE

	Development Projects (SWC)		Earthquake Projects (NRA)		Total Expense
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	
Admin Costs					
Staff Salaries & Benefits	6,880,412	6,497,600	1,897,938	1,651,864	8,149,464
Project Monitoring	463,917	508,538	206,186	264,861	773,399
Capacity Building & Conferences	803,505	609,961	545,773	550,017	1,159,978
Occupancy	565,979	501,443	565,979	572,791	1,074,234
Equipment & Supplies	181,855	308,993	121,237	271,622	580,615
Communications & Publications	146,494	98,394	135,361	119,852	218,246
Insurance & Fees	210,206	1,654,437	45,464	45,000	1,699,437
Other	50,518	39,199	0	0	39,199
Gain/Loss on Exchange Rate	0	-2,282,911	0	0	-2,282,911
Total Admin Costs	9,302,886	7,935,654	3,517,938	3,476,007	11,411,661
Project Costs by Sector					
Food Security and Livelihoods	40,002,887	41,788,851			41,788,851
Health	2,577,319	3,644,406			3,644,406
WASH	3,608,247	5,622,024			5,622,024
Rural Education and Vocational Training	5,217,010	6,796,864			6,796,864
Emergency Disaster Relief	467,217	444,523			444,523
Disaster Preparedness	2,328,247	468,887			468,887
Community Institution Building	2,576,701	-41,854			-41,854
Earthquake Recovery Projects	0	0	59,819,484	62,880,059	62,880,059
Total Project Costs	56,777,628	58,723,701	59,819,484	62,880,059	121,603,760
TOTAL MCC NEPAL EXPENSES	66,080,514	66,659,355	63,337,422	66,356,066	133,015,421
TOTAL EXPENSES IN USD		\$617,199.11		\$614,390.96	\$1,231,590.07