



IN BRIEF



# COMPREHENSIVE RELIEF PACKAGE

UN WOMEN NEPAL

## Background

As Nepal grapples with a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lives of people in Nepal have been drastically impacted. The most severe consequences are being borne by women, as well as vulnerable and excluded groups.

In order to respond to the ongoing humanitarian crisis, UN Women Nepal Country Office (NCO) has adopted a developmental lens across its programming areas. This approach stems from UN Women’s commitment to the principles of feminist leadership, leaving no one behind, and adaptive programming. UN Women recognizes that the health impacts of COVID-19 have been accompanied by socio-economic impacts and that ongoing efforts are needed to save both lives and livelihoods. UN Women firmly believes that a collective, rights-based response must prioritize the needs of those made most vulnerable by this crisis.

Thus, UN Women Nepal has developed a comprehensive relief package to support women from excluded groups in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Objectives:

- Address women’s practical needs as the crisis evolves – in terms of food and non-food items
- Address specific gender-based vulnerabilities and barriers, such as gender-based violence, unpaid work and care work, and lack of access to information, services, and resources
- Strengthen women’s networks for political engagement and advocacy to challenge gender discriminatory norms and harmful practices

## Project Details

**Duration:** May 2020 – Ongoing

**Location:** Province 2, Bagmati Province, Lumbini Province and Sudurpaschim Province

**Budget:** USD 750,000

### Project Partners:

**Government:** Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) and local governments

**UN Agencies:** World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

### Development Partners and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and/or private sector service providers:

SAARC Business Association of Home Based Workers (SABAH) Nepal, Women’s Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), Nagarik Aawaz, Maiti Nepal, Women for Human Rights (WHR), Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO), Women Acting for Transformative Change (Women Act), Koshish Nepal, Youth Thinkers Society, The Story Kitchen, and the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (ACORAB), MANDWI

### Donors:

Government of Finland, Fondation Chanel, UK Aid

### Target Beneficiaries:

The initiative targets excluded groups, including sexual and gender minorities, single women, adolescent girls, women with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS, pregnant and lactating women, Muslim women, indigenous women, Dalit women, returnee women migrant workers, sex workers, domestic workers, trafficked women, survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), homeless/destitute women, women home-based workers, and women involved in wage work and daily labour.

# OUR STRATEGY

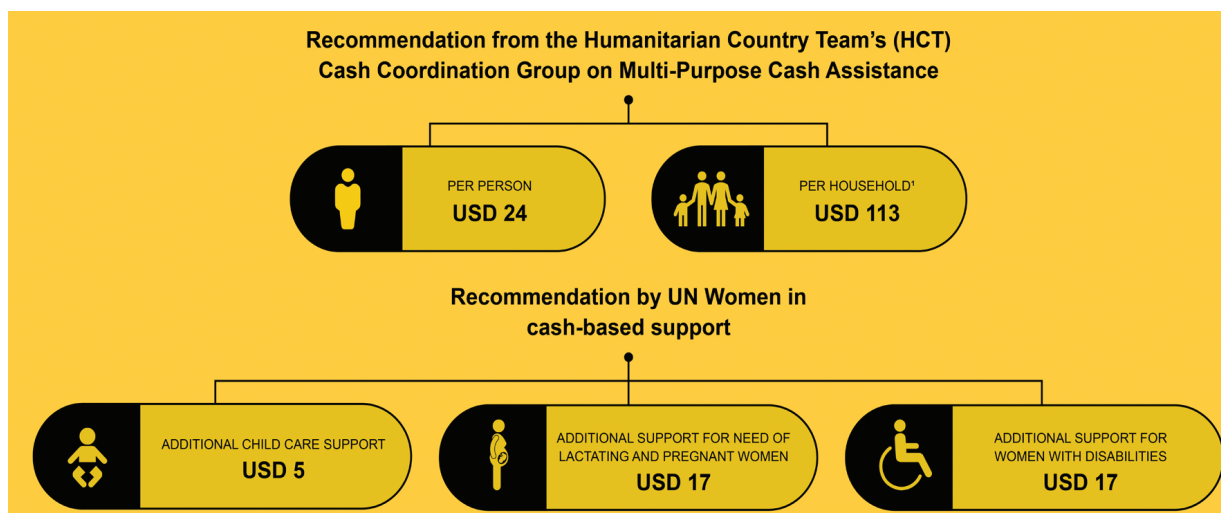
The successful rollout of UN Women's Comprehensive Relief Package, which began in May 2020 and is ongoing, has addressed the immediate needs of women and excluded groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. The package is strengthening Nepal's long-term agenda to achieve gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) by helping women and vulnerable groups bounce back from shock and take self-directed steps to resilience and recovery. This approach has ensured that Nepal's COVID-19 response leaves no one behind. A total of 4,359 women and excluded groups received the comprehensive relief package. Those who received the package said it was lifesaving. The comprehensive package, which consists of food and non-food items, as well as information and communication support, enabled them to think and explore options, raise issues with local authorities, and regain confidence to live productively during the crisis.

The well-thought-out gender-responsive design and the empowering, inclusive method of delivering it, make the package a replicable model for other humanitarian responses. The engagement of feminist organizations and vulnerable groups in delivering the packages, as well as the buy-in from local governments, were key factors to its success.

## Results of UN Women's Comprehensive Relief Package:

- **In-kind support to women from excluded groups:** The items included food items; induction stoves and cooking gas; health and hygiene supplies; mobile phone and data cards; seeds, fertilizers, and poultry feed; and information on key services.
- **Cash-based support:** Cash assistance was given to 600 female-headed households, with an additional amount given to women with multiple vulnerabilities, such as women needing childcare, pregnant or lactating women, women with physical disabilities, and GBV survivors. See the figure below to learn how UN Women factored in the intersectional needs of women.

- **Access to information:** UN Women developed and helped broadcast radio programs and public service announcements related to accessing services for GBV, mental health support and the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on women and marginalized groups. It was aired through 506 radio stations, which reached 8.2 million<sup>1</sup> listeners nationwide in partnership with the MoWCSC, the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal, and UNDP.
- **Psycho-social support:** To enable women and excluded groups maintain their mental and emotional well-being, UN Women piloted a podcast series that provides online counseling through social media platforms. Telephone counseling and remote case management support was received by 150 women and people from excluded groups (84% were women). In total 30,000 women, youth, and members of the general public were reached through the podcast series.
- **Legal Aid and Psycho-social support:** A dedicated intervention to deliver psychosocial support to persons with disabilities and GBV survivors is also being implemented. Forty-seven female GBV survivors received emergency legal assistance.
- **Livelihood support:** UN Women supported a total of 350 female home-based workers in producing and distributing protective supplies, such as soaps, sanitizers, protective gears, and face masks.
- **Community Kitchen:** UN Women established six women-managed community kitchens in Provinces 3, 5 and 7. These kitchens served a total of 95,298 meals and an additional 30,859 people from marginalized groups were able to access food and nutrition from them. The kitchens provided income to women who managed the cooking and distribution of food, built trust in the community, and helped alleviate women's domestic care burden.



<sup>1</sup> The reach is calculated as per the total nationwide radio listenership of 28.9 per cent, according to Media Landscape Survey 2020.

# QUOTES FROM THE FIELD

“

I work as a vegetable farmer to sustain my livelihood. However during the lockdown, my income reduced as the demand for vegetables decreased in the market. I got the opportunity to expand my livelihood options when I participated in a hand sanitizer-making training. As a result, I was able to produce 25 liters of hand sanitizers and earned NPR 12,500 (\$107 approximately). The project helped me develop a linkage with buyers in the market and earn a living during the pandemic.

- Jaymoti Chaudhary, Dhangadi, Kailali

“

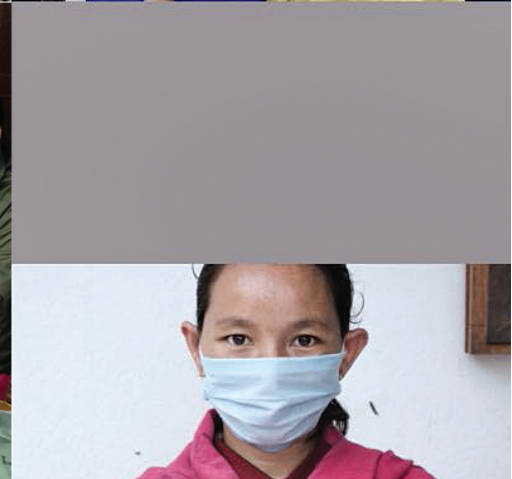
Lockdown has completely stopped daily wage work. There is no one to earn in the family. We do not own any land, so growing food to feed the family is impossible. Usually, we eat one meal in the morning and go to bed with an empty stomach. Right now, we are receiving some food and non-food items. It is solving our hand-to-mouth problem.

- Batahi Sada, Rampur, Saptari

“

The relief package includes food items, gas stove and an LPG cylinder, medicines, a mobile phone, and non-food items for daily use. It feels like this help has come from God to feed and save my family. This monthly food package has removed a huge burden of securing food daily.

- Basmati Maut, Nepalgunj Metropolitan



# HOW WE MADE A DIFFERENCE:

## Project Highlights

**A total of 4,359 women and excluded groups received the comprehensive relief package across four provinces: Province 2, Bagmati Province, Lumbini Province and Sudurpaschim Province**

### CASH SUPPORT

A total of **600 women heads of households** from Provinces 2 and 7 received cash support from UN Women in coordination with the World Food Programme.



### ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND SERVICES

**Around 8.2 million individuals** received timely and clear information about the available services, through radio programmes and public service announcements. In addition psycho-social counseling services were also provided.



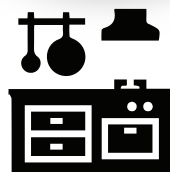
### LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

**350 women home-based workers** were supported in producing and distributing protective supplies, such as soaps, sanitizers and face masks.



### COMMUNITY KITCHENS

**95,298 meals** were served. In addition, 30,859 individuals from marginalized groups were able to access food and nutrition from six women-managed community kitchens.



### IN-KIND SUPPORT

**More than 2,000 women from excluded groups**, including returnee migrant workers, received protective equipment.

