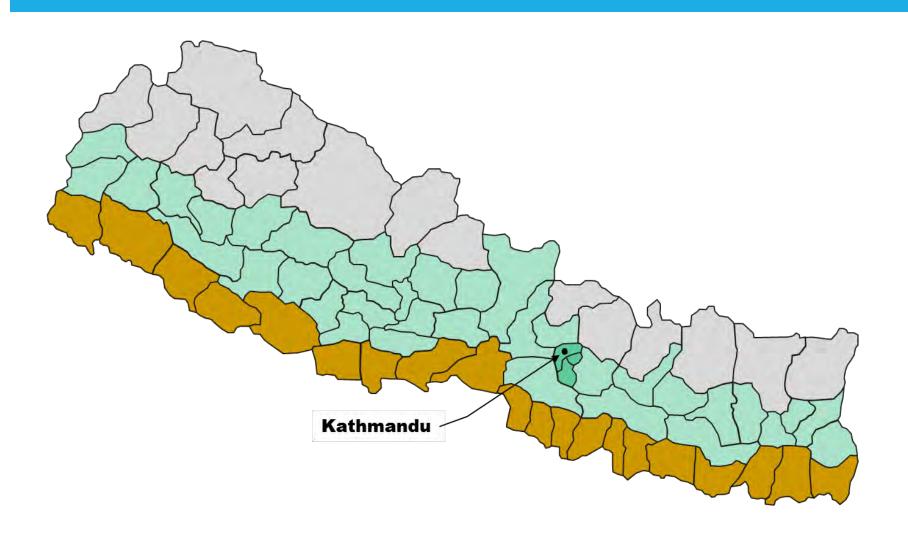
# CASH TRANSFERS AS A RESPONSE TO THE EARTHQUAKE AND A CATALYST TO CONSOLIDATE NEPAL'S SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

NICHOLAS MATHERS, SOCIAL POLICY AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS (SPEA) SECTION UNICEF NEPAL



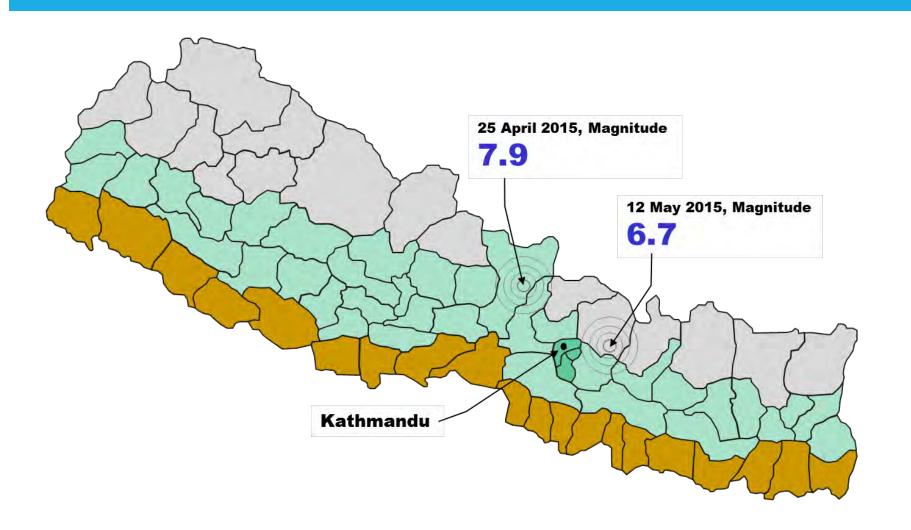


# NEPAL AND THE 2015 EARTHQUAKES





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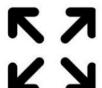
# ORIGINAL PROJECT OBJECTIVES - 'THE ROAD TO RECOVERY'



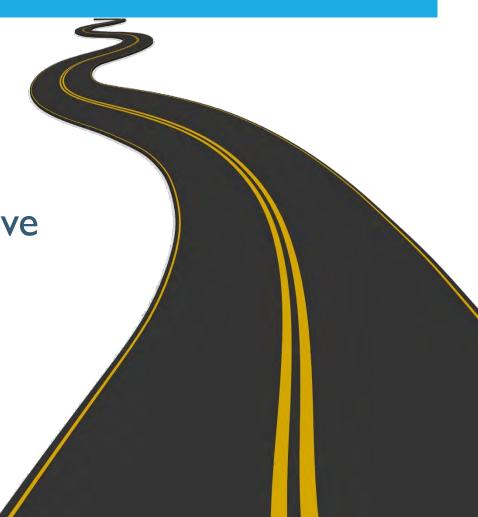
Immediate relief



Model building for shock-responsive social protection



Longer-term strengthening of the social protection system for children in the country



#### WHY DID WETAKETHIS APPROACH?

Why Cash?



Functioning markets



Complements other interventions



Responds to needs of vulnerable groups



Existing system for delivery

Why through the social protection system?

Support existing systems, but



Trade-offs between...



Benefits and opportunities



Limitations and risks





## PHASE I - VERTICAL EXPANSION

EMERGENCY TOP-UP CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME (ETCTP) FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS



#### EMERGENCY TOP-UP CASH TRANSFER - SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

Provide short-term relief and recovery to vulnerable people and their households in earthquake affected districts through existing social assistance schemes

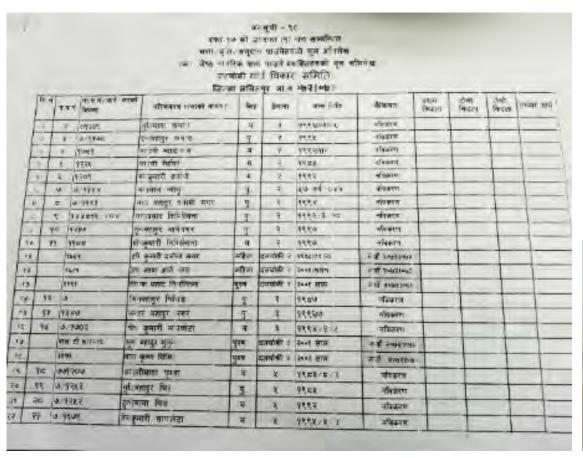


Provision of an unconditional cash transfer of NR 3,000 (US\$30), with at least one tranche planned



Communication of complementary messages that promote positive behaviours for children's well-being and reduction of vulnerability to future disasters

#### INTENDED BENEFICIARIES



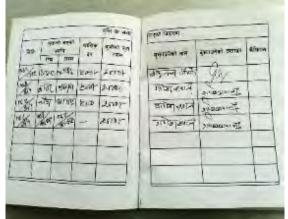
- Recipients of existing government social assistance schemes
- Directly supporting more than 400,000
  people in the 19 worst affected districts



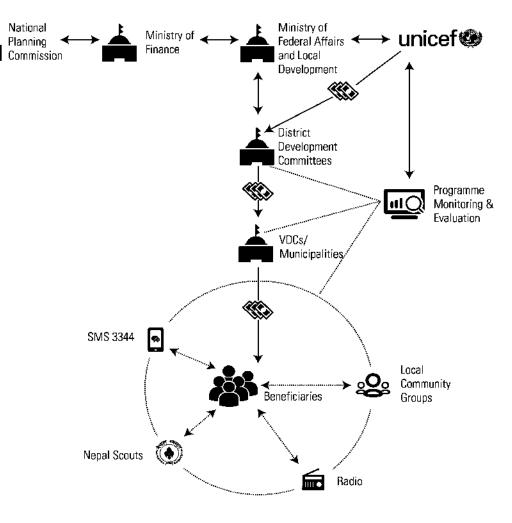
#### INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND DELIVERY MECHANISM













### PHASE 2 – HORIZONTAL EXPANSION

EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME (ERCTP) FOR UNDER-FIVES



### RECOVERY CASH TRANSFER (ERCTP) - SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

Support the food-security, well-being and civil rights of 350,000 children under 5 years old during the period of recovery and reconstruction in 11 districts



Provide an unconditional cash transfer of NRs 4,000 to mothers or guardians of under-fives to support their nutrition and well-being



Ensure near universal Birth Registration of children under five years

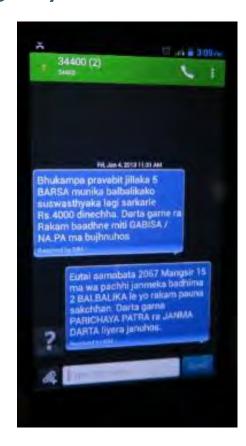
# ADDITIONAL IMPLEMENTATION COMPONENTS FOR RECOVERY CASH TRANSFER FOR UNDER-FIVES

- Census of all children under-five for planning and to create initial registry
- Registration process
- Use of SMS to send programme information and promote good nutrition













# **OUTCOMES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

FROM RELIEF AND RECOVERY TO A STRONGER SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN



#### **OUTCOMES**



434,000 beneficiaries

19 districts

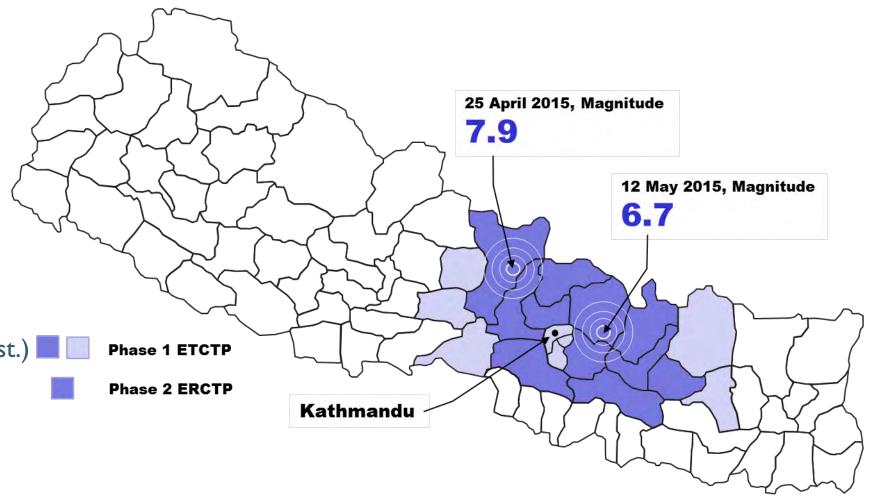
**I 2.5** US\$ million

**Phase 2 Recovery** 

350,000 beneficiaries (est.)

districts

13.5 US\$ million



#### LESSONS LEARNED

#### Strengths

- Social protection as disaster response mechanism an option
- Political and public buy-in
- High coverage and efficient implementation
- Vertical expansion comparatively timely
- Real opportunities to build on and strengthen systems

#### Weaknesses

- Expanding Social Protection not part of Disaster Management Framework
- Coverage gaps due to design and weaknesses in existing schemes
- Rigidity of existing system
- Local capacity limited and overloaded

#### WAY FORWARD IN NEPAL

- Integrate social protection expansion as a response mechanism into the national disaster management framework
- Improve local capacity through both regular systems strengthening and contingency planning for front-line surge capacity
- Develop complementary standard operating procedures for emergency contexts
- Identify ways that non-governmental humanitarian actors can support or complement disaster response through existing systems

