

NEPAL VISIT REPORT MAY 2015

A massive earthquake measuring 7.6 magnitude struck Nepal on 25th April 2015 causing large-scale damage to lives and property in 14 districts of Central Development Region including Kathmandu valley. The after-shock has caused severe damage too. It is estimated that earthquake has caused death of 8691 persons, injured 22054, destroyed 503485 houses and damaged over 2,77,243

HomeNet South Asia (HNSA) with its 6 Member organizations- Saathi, Women for Human Rights (WHR), SABAH Nepal, Homebased Workers' Concern Society (HBWCN), Khonkana Women Awareness Society (KWAS), and Class Nepal is working in Nepal for Homebased Workers whose reach is to around 14,000 hbws in different districts of Nepal.

Home based workers (HBWs) form an informal force that has played an important role in the production sector in Nepal for decades. Home based women workers face triple disadvantage as they have lost their "home", which was also their "workplace"; and their very means of "livelihood", i.e. looms, tools along with raw materials and finished products stored inside their homes. In addition, some members have lost their own lives, some have been injured many have lost their family members and loved ones. Most HBW being Tenants, are not entitled for habitat compensation for their living place. It is estimated that out of 3500 members' houses more than 30% are totally destroyed, and more than 70% of members are without habitat.

To assess the situation of Homebased Workers in terms of their loss in homes, tools/equipments and job orders; HomeNet South Asia team visited Nepal from 23rd May – 30th May, 2015. Also, to explore livelihood opportunities for the affected homebased workers; one of the livelihood expert from HNSA's Member Organization in India also accompanied HNSA to Nepal.

The team covered four affected earthquake districts of Nepal – Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Nuwakot and Kavre and covered 13 clusters – Godawari, Ramhiti, Jaagritinagar, Pathibhara, Mulpani, Bungamati, Khonkana, Dhulikhel, Machhegaun, Sunakoti, Sankhu, Khanikhola and Buddha of its 6 members organizations. To assess the situation, Focussed Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted in these clusters mainly around the trades they are engaged in and the effect of earthquake on their livelihood. Details about the FGDs can be checked as **Annexure 1**.

Homebased Workers in these clusters were mainly engaged into below mentioned trades which are categorized into piece rate & own account workers




Piece Rate Workers: - Stitching; Carpet Weaving; Knitting; Dhup Making; embroidery; carpet making; Buddhist Handicrafts; Butti Making; Radi Weaving

Own – Account Workers: - Food Stall; Chatai Making; Drying of Palak; Retailer & Agarbatti Shop; Furat Dana Making; Briquette fuel;

GROUND FACTS:-

1. Groups organized with member organization are of *mixed trades and are very less* in numbers
2. In many of the clusters; it was found that the shops are closed from where the homebased workers were getting orders. ***Reason:- Either the shopkeepers are Indian or at places the shopkeepers have lost their houses or shopkeepers themselves are not getting orders from other bigger shops***
3. At places; hbws were getting orders or raw materials from the Indian Shops; but after the earthquake Indians have returned to their country.
4. Hbws are still in trauma and they fear to live their kids back home and buy raw materials from the market
5. Main Priority for Hbws was to rebuild their homes; as home is workplace for homebased workers
6. For Hbws engaged into Food Processing have lost their home from where they were running small shops and therefore they don't have place to work and restart their food stall. ***Around 20-25 Hbws are engaged into running food stalls.***
7. Homebased Workers also don't have enough capital to buy raw material and restart their work
8. Homebased Workers engaged into Furat Dana Making have lost their equipments in Sunakoti. ***Around 20 hbws are engaged in making of furat dana; but other WHR members- i.e. 60 members also have this skill***
9. Homebased Workers engaged into Embroidery have lost Embroidery Tan in Sunakoti. ***Around 10 hbws are engaged into embroidery***
10. Homebased Workers engaged into Buddhist Handicrafts are not getting orders as the Nepal-china border is closed due to earthquake
11. Homebased Workers were ready to restart their work if they get orders because as of now their source of income has stopped completely
12. Stitching:- Hbws engaged into Stitching require additional skills of making table covers; Cushions, etc so that they can earn more income
13. Hbws also demanded to learn new skill of construction work because it has high demand as of now and opportunity to learn new skill.
14. None of the members organization is able to focus on livelihood for homebased workers.

MEMBERS ORGANIZATION OBSERVATIONS:-

1. SAATHI: -
 -  Saathi had done excellent work in Relief work and Setting up of Women and Child Friendly place.
 -  In Godawari the most affected area of Hbws, Saathi had already set up women and Child Friendly Place –where more than 75 children were present
 -  Saathi has very minimal number of hbws i.e. 20 hbws in each group and cluster. And also the hbws are of mixed trade, so need to discuss with them to increase number of hbws which can be tradewise

2. WHR:-Main focus of the organization is single women- unmarried until age of 35; widow; separated, divorcee
 - ✚ Hbws were not found to be well organized in areas visited.
 - ✚ Hbws are of mixed trades so bit difficult to work with them
 - ✚ Hbws in Dhulikhel were making the products-chatai and drying of Palak for themselves only

3. HOMEBASED WORKERS' CONCERN SOCIETY
 - ✚ Hbws are well organized into trade wise groups and also group of SHGs are then registered as co-operatives
 - ✚ Groups are doing proper savings and doing proper inter loaning system
 - ✚ HBWCN have done proper relief work and has also linked co-operatives with other organizations to get some sort of help. For e.g. In Khanikhola; HBWCN had linked the members with organization named Tema who supported 102 members with NPR 7000/- for temporary shelter

RECOMMENDATIONS:-

1. Embroidery:- If equipment – embroidery tan which costs NPR 7000 -8000 is given then they can start their work
2. Furat Dana:- If Chula, cylinder and other required utensils which costs NPR 15000 – 20000 are given to them then they can start their work
3. Community Centre: - Also, if a small place is set up in Sunakoti then these hbws can restart their work again.
4. Market of briquette fuel is high and all the hbws have the skills of making the same. So we can invest to set up cfc and tools; and in turn can increase livelihood of Homebased workers
5. Buddhist Handicrafts:- Hbws engaged in Buddhist handicrafts should be given embroidery training and equipment so that they do it themselves which as of now is outsourced. More hbws can be linked with the same trade as market is sufficient; Raw material can be explored in bulk buying for 6 months (as of now buying raw material from china)
6. In Sakhu (Most affected area):- Common Facilitation Centre is required to be set up immediately as they don't have place to work and they are getting orders which they are unable to work; Proper Counselling should be given so that they can gain their confidence back.; Should help them with more relief material or link them with other organizations as they are most affected & can give them knitting machine which can help them to increase their production

NOTE: - Discussion with Class Nepal, WHR and Saathi is required regarding whether they are interested to include homebased workers in their agenda and accordingly need to discuss on expansion and outreach of hbws.

Recommendations by Ms. Leela Vijayvergia:-

1. **Motivational Support:** - After the earthquake, still the communities are in trauma and scared of regular aftershocks which calls for regular counselling. Member Organization should regularly visit the communities and do personal counselling to give them moral support. This can also be done by giving them relief material and giving them snacks etc during the counselling sessions.
 2. **Common Facilitation Centre:-** Common Facilitation Centre is as of now most important requirement for hbws as they have lost their houses. For e.g. In Sankhu; hbws engaged into knitting were getting orders but as entire area is damaged there is no place for them to restart their work
 3. **Equipments & Raw Material:-** Hbws engaged into furat dana making, briquette fuel making and Embroidery have lost their equipments. Therefore, they can be supported by providing them equipments and raw materials. Also, there is local market of furat dana & briquette fuel making; so it would be really helpful to support hbws with the equipments
 4. **Marketing Support:** - Hbws engaged into bead work, embroidery, dhup making, etc are not getting orders. So need to help them to get orders and link them to market. Or can check with funders, if they can help us to link them to market
 5. **Skills:** - Product Diversification in Stitching is required; additional skill of embroidery is required for hbws engaged into Buddhist handicrafts.
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FOCUSSED GROUP DISCUSSION AT RAMHITI:

- ✓ Saathi has one group of 20 members in Ramhiti
- ✓ Earthquake Effect: - In Ramhiti; houses have got cracks so it is difficult to stay and therefore people of this area are staying in tents. Also, their tents have either flown away or torn because of severe rain and thunderstorm on 23rd May
- ✓ Homebased Workers in Ramhiti are engaged into Butti making, Wick making, Food processing and Radi weaving
- ✓ Butti Making:-
 - ✚ 7 Hbws are engaged into Butti Making
 - ✚ Hbws take the orders from nearby shop and that shopkeeper gets order from other big shops
 - ✚ Monthly Earnings of Hbws from Butti making is maximum NPR 6000 – 7000/-
 - ✚ Due to the earthquake, the shopkeeper himself is not getting orders and therefore further can't give work to hbws.
 - ✚ Hbws here mentioned that they are the main contributing members in the family and as they don't have source of livelihood since last one month they feel that they won't get food in coming days
- ✓ Radi Weavers:-
 - ✚ 2 Hbws are engaged into Radi Weaving
 - ✚ Radi weavers get the job orders from Indian shop; and also the raw material is available in Indian shop
 - ✚ Hbws here get job work for 5 -6 months a year and earn NPR 15000 - 20000 in 5 – 6 months
 - ✚ It takes 4 days to make one carpet and per carpet they earn NPR 1500 -1 600.
 - ✚ Due to earthquake; Indians have returned to their country and therefore the hbws here are not getting orders
- ✓ Wick Maker:-
 - ✚ 4 -5 Hbws are engaged into wick making
 - ✚ Hbws buy the raw material from shopping space in Durbar Marg. But the place from where they buy the raw material is very narrow
 - ✚ Because of regular tremors; they are scared of going to buy raw material leaving their children behind alone at home
 - ✚ Also, these hbws don't have regular work
- ✓ Food Stall:
 - ✚ 15 -20 hbws are engaged into food processing and running small shops nearby their homes
 - ✚ Hbws make aloo roti; chowmein, momos,etc
 - ✚ Earlier, they use to earn NPR 2000 daily but due to earthquake they merely earn NPR 600 daily as there are not much customers

- ✓ **Stitching:-**
 - ✚ 6 -7 hbws are engaged into stitching
 - ✚ Hbws mainly stitch Apron, for which they get NPR 8/- per piece and monthly earn NPR 4000 – 4500/- per month
 - ✚ Hbws get the orders from a shop in Gaurighat. But the person, who use to give orders to these hbws have lost his house during the earthquake. Therefore, hbws are not getting any orders as of now

Needs:-

1. **Stitching:-** Need product diversification training i.e. stitching of cushion, table covers, etc
2. Require orders
3. Need proper place to leave in and work

FOCUSSED GROUP DISCUSSION AT KHONKANA:-

- ✓ Sabah Nepal has 240 members in Khonkana; and during the FGD – 9 members were present
- ✓ Population of Khonkana is 7337 and no of houses are 857
- ✓ Members are scared of coming and working in SABAH CFC; as it has got cracks
- ✓ Out of the 9 members:- 6 worked in CFC and remaining were working in village cafe
- ✓ During the earthquake; houses have completely collapsed in Khonkana
- ✓ As this is the most affected area; and almost all houses have collapsed. Therefore, people are scared of moving out of their tents and work.

Need:- Need training about earthquake, why earthquake and what should we do to save ourselves from earthquake.

FOCUSSED GROUP DISCUSSION AT GODAWARI:-

- ✓ Saathi has one group of 20 members in Godawari
- ✓ **Earthquake Effect:-** Around 40 houses have been collapsed in Godawari and remaining have got cracks. Because of which people fear to go into their houses and are staying in tents
- ✓ Homebased Workers here are engaged into knitting, bead work, food stall, carpet making and farming.
- ✓ Husbands here are either helping in food stall work or are working in Malaysia; Hongkong, etc
- ✓ **Bead Worker:-**
 - ✚ Contractor comes and gives order to the leader and leader distributes the work to other members in the community
 - ✚ Monthly Income is NPR 6000 – 7000/-
 - ✚ Due to earthquake, contractor does not come and there is no contact with him.
- ✓ **Food Stall:-**
 - ✚ Hbws cook and run food stall around their own home
 - ✚ They earn around NPR 400-500 per day

- ✚ As their houses have fallen, so no place to cook and sell
- ✚ Also, they don't have enough capital to buy raw material and start the food stall again
- ✚ Even there are no customers; there is nearby picnic spot but due to earthquake nobody is coming to the spot and therefore there is no earning since last one month
- ✓ Carpet Weaving:
 - ✚ Contractor comes and gives orders
 - ✚ Monthly earning is NPR 5000 – 6000/-
 - ✚ After the earthquake; there is no contact with contractor

Need:-

1. New Training skill of labor required

FOCUSSED GROUP DISCUSSION AT JAAGRITINAGAR:-

- ✓ No of houses:- 500
- ✓ Saathi has group of 20 hbws
- ✓ Trades:- Embroidery, Dhup making and Domestic work
- ✓ Embroidery: - 10 hbws are engaged into embroidery, they get the orders from nearby shop. After the earthquake, the shop is closed and therefore they don't have job orders. But they are hopeful that the shop will open soon and they will get back to their routine life.
- ✓ After the earthquake, almost all people are staying in tents because of cracks in their houses and regular tremors.
- ✓ These hbws also do poultry farming in free time

FOCUSSED GROUP DISCUSSION AT PATHIBHARA:

- ✓ No of houses:- 174
- ✓ Saathi has group of 20 members in Pathibhara
- ✓ This settlement is settled since last 20 yrs
- ✓ After the earthquake, people of this settlement are staying in tents because there are big building around there cluster and because of which they are scared that the buildings mall fall on their houses due to aftershocks
- ✓ Trades:- Candle Making; Chappal making, beads maker, incense stick roller, weaving, stitching; etc
- ✓ Homebased Workers here are willing to get back to their normal life again but are not getting any orders

FOCUSSED GROUP DISCUSSION AT DHULIKHEL:-

- ✓ No of houses:- 132
- ✓ Out of 132 houses; approximately 20 houses have been collapsed
- ✓ WHR is working with 95 hbws in this area

- ✓ Homebased Workers in this area are basically engaged into chatai making of grass, drying of palak and stitching. Also, during monsoon most of the hbws are engaged into agriculture work
- ✓ Husbands are mostly engaged into agriculture work
- ✓ Chatai Making:-
 - ✚ Hbws make chatai of grass which takes 2 days to make one chatai and earn NPR 500
 - ✚ All the hbws in this area have skills of making chatai
 - ✚ There is no much market of chatai making.
 - ✚ Also, it seemed that hbws were making chatai for themselves only
- ✓ Drying of Palak : (local name- ghunghroo)
 - ✚ Hbws bring the raw material from the field and dry it which takes almost 7 days for the drying process
 - ✚ For 1 kg; Hbws get NPR 200 -300 and it is sold in nearby local market
 - ✚ Almost all the hbws know this process of drying palak
 - ✚ Average Monthly Income in this is NPR 5000/-
 - ✚ As of now hbws were making this ghunghroo for themselves only as there is no market and also they don't have enough money for transportation to go and sell in the local market
- ✓ Stitching:- Around 10 hbws in this area are engaged into stitching but they work for people around in the community only. But as of now as people don't have money these hbws are also not getting work

FOCUSSED GROUP DISCUSSION AT MACHHEGAUN:-

- ✓ No of Houses:- 700
- ✓ No of Hbws in the community:- 600
- ✓ No of hbws in group with WHR:- 50
- ✓ Houses of Hbws Collapsed:- 20 houses of hbws have collapsed completely and remaining have got cracks
- ✓ Trades of Hbws:- Knitting- 15; Retailer & Agarbatti Shop- 10; Agriculture – 10; Tailoring – 10 and Incense Dhup Making- 4
- ✓ Knitting:-
 - ✚ Hbws get orders from Kirtipur which is nearby market
 - ✚ Leader goes on scooter and gets raw material for which she is paid some cost
 - ✚ Product made these hbws mostly goes to international market and sometimes local market too
 - ✚ Monthly Income is NPR 2000 – 3000
- ✓ Dhup Making:-
 - ✚ Hbws get raw material from nearby shop
 - ✚ Dhup is sold in nearby local market
 - ✚ Daily Income is NPR 50- 60 as they can make 50 -60 bundles everyday and each bundle contains 10 pieces each
 - ✚ Hbws here get regular work i.e. entire year

- ✓ **Stitching:-**
 - ✚ Hbws work on orders and also for themselves
 - ✚ Monthly Income:- NPR 4000 – 5000
 - ✚ Get regular work
 - ✚ As of now, WHR have given them stitching of 1000 bags for dignitary kits donated by Un Women
 - ✚ WHR is paying Rs 8 per bag

- ✓ **Retailer & Agarbatti Shop:-**
 - ✚ Hbws sell vegetables, tea and grocery from the shop
 - ✚ Have started their 5 days back after the earthquake
 - ✚ Earlier the daily income was NPR 500 -600, but now the income is reduced as there are no customers

FOCUSSED GROUP DISCUSSION AT SUNAKOTI:-

- ✓ No of houses:- 1200
- ✓ No of Hbws:- 200- 300
- ✓ No of hbws in group with WHR:- 60
- ✓ Houses of hbws collapsed:- 41
- ✓ Trades of Hbws:- Making of furat dana, Embroidery, Knitting, Carpet Making, Briquette and Dhup Making
- ✓ **Furat Dana:-**
 - ✚ 15 Hbws are engaged into making of Furat Dana
 - ✚ It is sold in nearby area only
 - ✚ It is sold at NPR 50 for ½ kg
 - ✚ Monthly Earning:- NPR 1800 – 1900
 - ✚ Due to the Earthquake, hbws here have lost their equipments
- ✓ **Embroidery:-**
 - ✚ 8 Hbws are engaged into embroidery work
 - ✚ Hbws do embroidery on saree, kurta, shawl, etc
 - ✚ Monthly Earnings:- NPR 2500 – 3000
 - ✚ Due to the earthquake; their embroidery tan is broken so can't work anymore
 - ✚ Contractor comes and gives order, but due to the earthquake contractor's house is also collapsed and therefore there is no contact with the contactor
- ✓ **Knitting:-**
 - ✚ 10 hbws are engaged into knitting
 - ✚ Hbws make sweaters, mufflers, hand gloves, socks, etc
 - ✚ Hbws get orders from nearby shop
 - ✚ Monthly Earnings:- NPR 5000 – 6000
 - ✚ Hbws get work for 10 months in a year only
- ✓ **Carpet Making:-**
 - ✚ 25 Hbws are engaged into carpet making
 - ✚ Hbws here work in garment factory and do the labour work

- ✚ Monthly Earnings:- 2000 -3000
- ✚ After the earthquake, factory is closed so hbws are not getting any work

✓ Briquette and Dhup Making:-

- ✚ 8 hbws are engaged into Briquette and Dhup Making
- ✚ Hbws sell it in nearby area
- ✚ Monthly Earnings:- NPR 1500 per month
- ✚ After the earthquake, there are no customers

Recommendations: -

7. Embroidery:- If equipment – embroidery tan which costs NPR 7000 -8000 is given then they can start their work
8. Furat Dana:- If Chula, cylinder and other required utensils which costs NPR 15000 – 2000 are given to them then they can start their work
9. Community Centre:- Also, if a small place is set up in Sunakoti then these hbws can restart their work again.

FOCUSED GROUP DISCUSSION AT KHANIKHOLA (NUWAKOT DISTRICT)

- ✓ No of houses in Khanikhola- 130
- ✓ No of Hbws:- 80
- ✓ No of Hbws with Homebased Workers' Concern Society:- 80
- ✓ Trades:- Briquette fuel-40 hbws; Dhup – 20 hbws and Candle making – 20 hbws
- ✓ Around 70 houses have collapsed and others are cracked
- ✓ 8 years ago started as group & got registered as NGO 6 years back
- ✓ Group is doing regular savings and have done savings of more than 2 lacs with Krishi Vikas Bank.
- ✓ HBWCN has helped the group in opening the bank account
- ✓ Group follows system of inter loaning of amount ranging from NPR 10, 000 – 45000 at 12% rate of interest. Also, loan is given only after proper verification and in consultation with the group members
- ✓ Briquette Fuel:-
 - ✚ 40 hbws are engaged into Briquette fuel making
 - ✚ Briquette work is seasonal which is for 8 months; demand is more in winter. In monsoon, they do agriculture work.
 - ✚ Hbws do the Briquette fuel work partly together in the collective place they have and partly is done at their own homes
 - ✚ They get orders from nearby organizations and also from nearby shop
 - ✚ Hbws get NPR 15 for one piece of Briquette Fuel but in market 3 pieces are sold @ NPR 90
 - ✚ Also, at times if HBWCN gets order then they give the same to this group. Leader keeps the record of the work and then gives money to the group members
 - ✚ Monthly Earnings:- NPR 2000 – 3000
- ✓ Dhup Making:-

- ✚ 20 hbws are engaged into dhup making
- ✚ For dhup making, hbws get perfumes from India
- ✚ After the earthquake, there is no market
- ✚ Monthly Earnings:- NPR 1000

- ✓ Candle Making:- Raw material is very expensive so as of now hbws are making candle for themselves only

Observations:-

- ✓ Members are well organized and their co-operative is running successfully
- ✓ Members have unity and work jointly
- ✓ Briquette fuel work is profitable and other dhup and candle making works are not profitable
- ✓ All the hbws in the co-operative know how to make briquette fuel
- ✓ Demand of Briquette fuel is high

Need:-

10. Need to establish CFC which can be used for making briquette fuel.
11. Require one mould for making briquette fuel which of NPR 7000 – 10000
12. Require one grinding machine for grinding char which of two types- electric grinding machine- NPR 80,000 & Manual – NPR 25000 (as of now they grind on stone which has hard labor work because of which they get health problems)

Recommendation: - Market of briquette fuel is high and all the hbws have the skills of making the same. So we can invest to set up cfc and tools; and in turn can increase livelihood of Homebased workers

FOCUSED GROUP DISCUSSION AT BUDDHA (KATHMANDU DISTRICT)

- ✓ No of Hbws with HBWCNN:- 78 members (2 self help groups with 39 members each)
- ✓ Trades:- Buddhist Handicrafts
- ✓ One small centre is already set up where 17 hbws come and work and other hbws work in their homes.
- ✓ Hbws in Buddha are staying on rent; but their own homes in Nuwakot district have been completely collapsed
- ✓ Hbws work here are getting work since last 2-3 days.
- ✓ They get orders from nearby by Buddhist shops and the products are sold at China border; so once the border opens they will get more orders.

Observations:-

- ✓ Members are well organized and their co-operative is running successfully
- ✓ Demand and Market of Buddhist Handicraft is good; sometimes hbws are not able to complete the orders

Need:-

13. Embroidery Machine (as of now they are outsourcing embroidery work)

14. Cutting Machine

Recommendation:-

15. Product diversification is required
16. More hbws can be linked with the same trade as market is sufficient
17. Raw material can be explored in bulk buying for 6 months (as of now buying raw material from china)

FOCUSED GROUP DISCUSSION AT SANKHU (KATHMANDU)

- ✓ No of houses in Sankhu:- 1000 (ward no-9)
- ✓ No of Hbws:- 82
- ✓ No of Hbws with Homebased Workers' Concern Society:- 82
- ✓ Trades:- Knitting since last 10 -15 yrs
- ✓ Co-operative has been set up since last 3-4 yrs
- ✓ Get order easily from Bhaktapur factory
- ✓ Monthly Income:- INR 1500- 2000/- per month
- ✓ All houses have collapsed completely; 114 people have died in the village

Observations:-

- ✓ Members are well organized and their co-operative is running successfully
- ✓ This group is most needy as they have lost everything completely
- ✓ They get orders easily as they get export orders.

Recommendation

18. Common Facilitation Centre is required to be set up immediately as they don't have place to work and they are getting orders which they are unable to work
19. Proper Counselling should be given so that they can gain their confidence back.
20. Should help them with more relief material or link them with other organizations as they are most affected
21. Can give them knitting machine which can help them to increase their production