

A Study on the Impact of Nepal's Earthquake on Women's Livelihood, Housing, Land and Property Rights and Citizenship Rights

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1 Introduction

This study was commissioned by UN Women to contribute to the gender-responsiveness of post-disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts of the Government of Nepal by producing evidence-based findings on the issues of gender equality and women's empowerment. Findings from this study are expected to benefit law and policy makers as well as development practitioners, including civil society organizations. It will support them to adopt and effectively implement gender-responsive programs related to post-disaster recovery and reconstruction as well as disaster risk reduction. This study addresses the empowerment of women through the protection and promotion of women's rights to livelihood, housing, land, property and citizenship in all development initiatives.

The main objective of this study was to assess the impact of Nepal's 2015 earthquake on the socio-economic status of women in affected districts, including issues related to land, property and citizenship that contributed to or hindered their progress in recovering from the disaster.. agencies (government and other development agencies) to address the detrimental impact of the earthquake on women's livelihood, housing, land, property and citizenship rights.

2 Materials and Methods

2.1 Study location

Six districts out of 31 earthquake-affected districts were selected from the district categorization list prepared by the National Reconstruction Authority, 2016.6. Three districts, Gorkha Lalitpur and Sindhupalchowk were selected for from severely affected districts. Similarly, Chitwan and Lamjung from moderately affected districts and Nawalparasi from slightly affected districts were selected for the study.

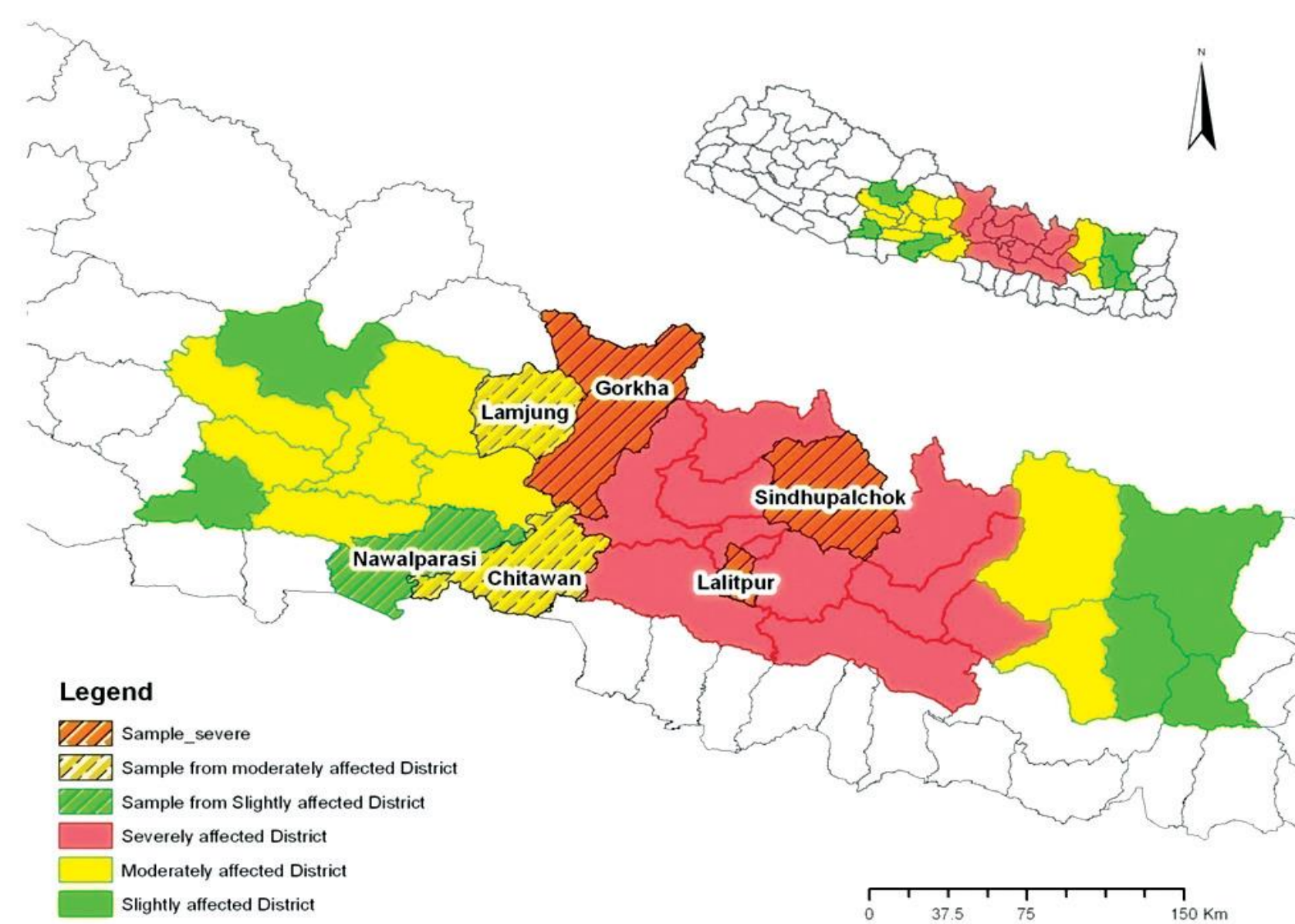
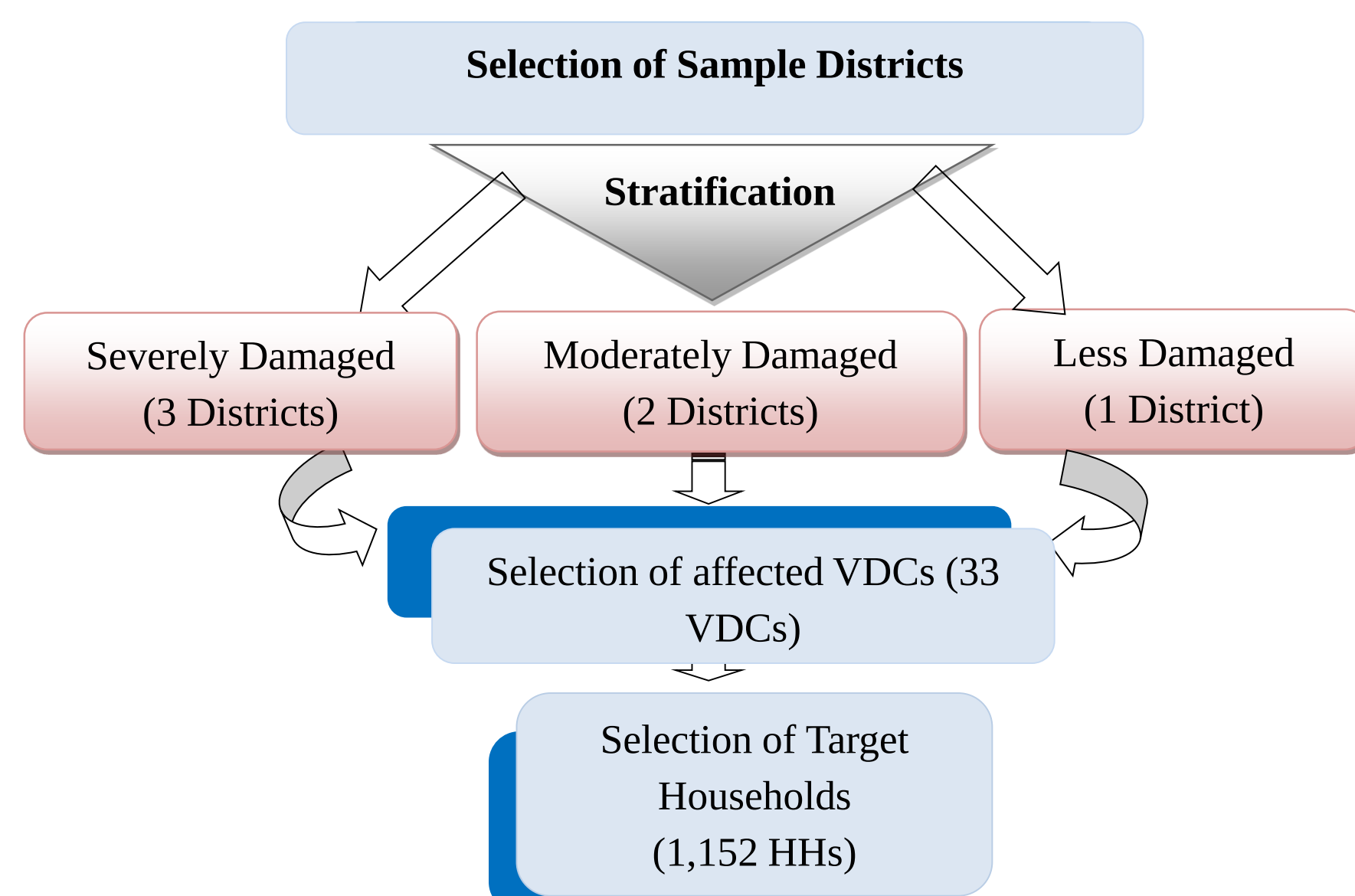


Figure 2.1: Location of the research

2.2 Sampling Strategy

Two-stage stratified and purposive sampling design involved in the selection of six districts from earthquake-affected. Regions, and the selection of VDCs and wards from each of these districts. Sample size calculations for drawing representative samples of respondents from each district were undertaken.



2.3 Indicators

Area of inquiry	Indicators	Area of inquiry	Indicators
Livelihoods	Access to livelihood assets (5 capitals: N, F, S, P & H)	Citizenship rights	Access to/holding of citizenship certificate
	Income (Remittance, local)		
Vulnerability context	Landlessness	Housing, land, & property rights	Access to and control over land
	Gender-based violence (GBV)		Access to and control over housing/shelter
	Displacement		Access to and control over livestock heads
	Change in traditional & non-traditional roles		

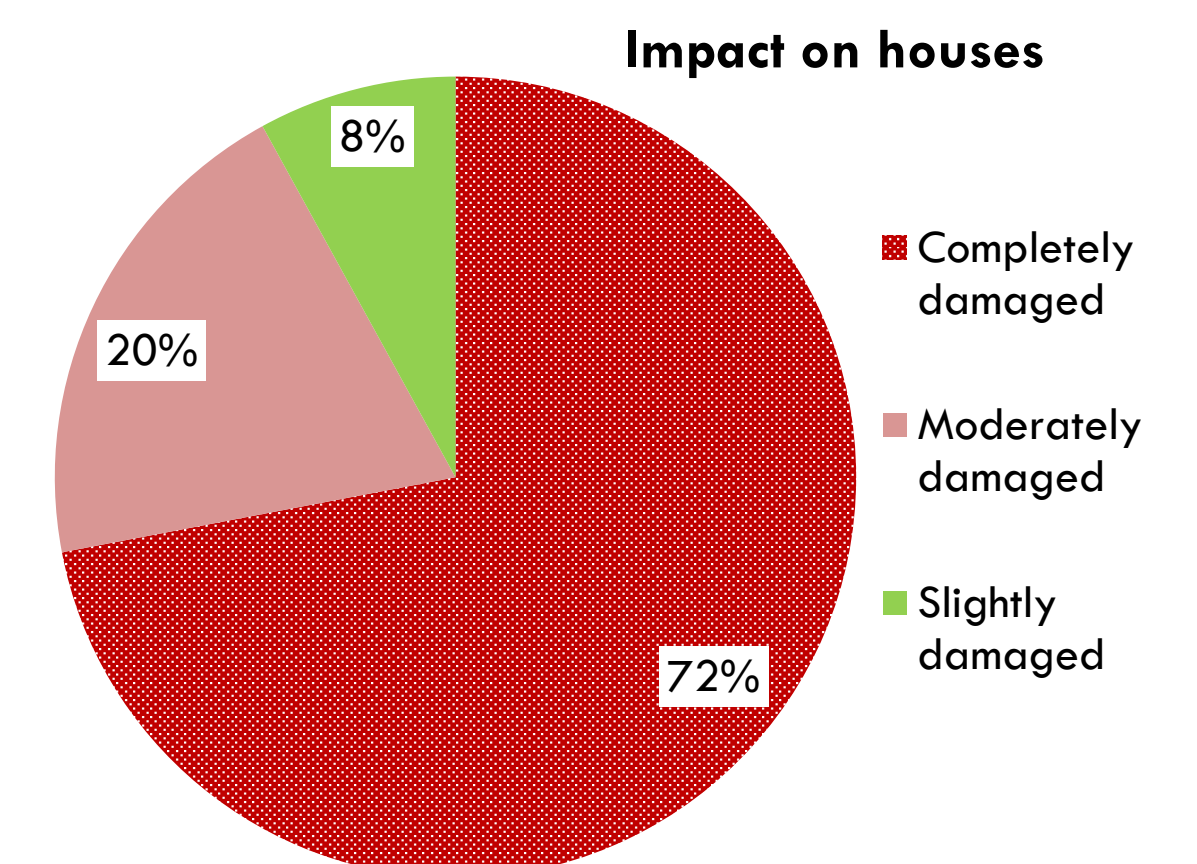
2.4 Sample distribution

Strata	Sample districts	Total VDCs (a)	Total sample VDCs (10%) (b)	Total damaged HHs* N (c)	Damaged HHs in sample VDCs** (d)	Proportion (p) (e)	No. Sample HHs (s) (f)
Gr A: Severely Damaged	Gorkha	67	7	66,506	8,145	0.26	299
	Sindhupalchowk	79	8	66,688	7,796	0.25	286
	Lalitpur	42	4	11,939	5542	0.18	204
GR B: Moderately Affected	Chitwan	38	4	132,462	6,065	0.19	223
	Lamjung	41	4	17,275	2,322	0.07	85
GR C: Slightly Affected	Nawalparasi	55	6	4,093	1,496	0.05	55
Total		322	33	546,325	31,366	1	1,152

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Impact of earthquake on houses & human casualties

Human casualties	No
Men	13
Women	15
Total	28



3.2 Impact on different dimension of livelihood after the earthquake

Majority of respondents mentioned that the major impact of earthquake that they have found were; lost of key assets i.e. land/house and reduction in income of the people.

Impact Type	N	%	% of Cases (n=1145)
Lost job	261	11.2	22.8
Death of bread winner	21	.9	1.8
Impact in business	144	6.2	12.6
Lost key assets	1026	44.1	89.6
Fewer family members able to work	3	.1	.3
Addition of more members in a family	9	.4	.8
Income reduced	626	26.9	54.7
Lost remittance	8	.3	.7
Divert in pre-plan	209	9.0	18.3
Other	18	.8	1.6
Total	2325	100.0	203.1

3.3 Occupation status after earthquake

- Agriculture (>50% HHs)-before earthquake (decreased by only 1.7 % after earthquake)
- Unemployment rate (Non-agriculture sector) increased by 47% after EQ (returnees)
- <1% HHs depend on remittances. (Before EQ=17%)
- Wage labor increased by 9%.

3.4 Ownership of land and house

- No significant change in ownership of property was found before and after EQ.
- Change in ownership of house (5.1%) and land (3.1%) due to splitting up of family members.

3.5 Impact of the earthquake on citizenship rights



4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusion:

The earthquake has affected more women, as they are more vulnerable and still struggle to cope with and bounce back from the effects of the earthquake. Their high dependence on agriculture and lesser access to other livelihood opportunities, coupled with poor social, financial and physical capital, has led many women to a vulnerable state. Furthermore, their lower education levels, limited decision-making powers and poor access to and control over property has made recovering from the earthquake challenging for women from women headed households.

4.2 Recommendation:

- Women HHs, including those with marginalized women are the most vulnerable in terms of income, land ownership and control, food security and access to economic opportunities. These groups should be given priority in self-employment initiatives and shelter construction work during construction of permanent housing.
- Joint ownership (wife and husband) of property rights should be encouraged by formulating a gender equality policy to ensure women's property rights and increase their decision-making power at household and community levels.
- Raise awareness on women's property & citizenship rights and importance of citizenship certificates through mass media, campaigns and legal literacy initiatives.

Acknowledgement:

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