



INTER AGENCY COMMON FEEDBACK PROJECT

FLOOD PERCEPTION SURVEY MAY 2018

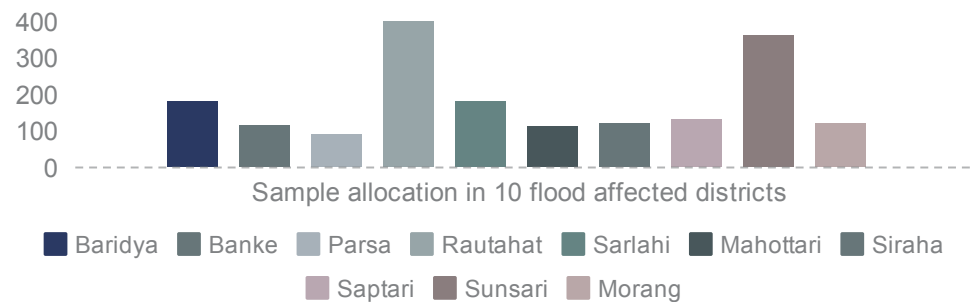
Round- III



Survey Methodology and Demographics

To carry out the Flood Perception Survey, 30 trained enumerators are deployed throughout the ten most heavily flood affected districts to collect data over the course of 10 days from a total of 1800 respondents using a probability proportionate to size (PPS) methodology. All data collection is completed with mobile tablets using KoBo Toolbox.

The top ten districts were selected based on damage data released by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) on 31 August 2017. The total affected population of each district was used to proportionally distribute the sample of 1800 among the affected districts.

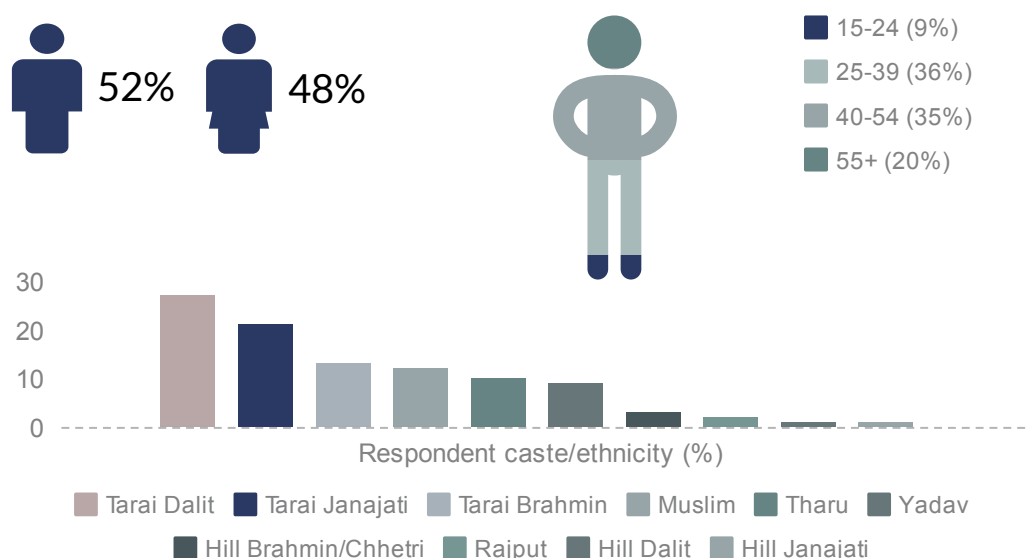


Because not all VDCs within affected districts were flood affected, Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) post-flood data was used to identify VDCs which were classified as highly food insecure, as a proxy for flood affectedness. VDCs from NeKSAP Phase 3 or 4 post-flood were then randomly selected, using an online list randomizer.

The number of VDCs selected in each district was determined based on the sample size and CFP's regular methodology of sampling two wards per VDC, with ten samples per ward. Wards are also randomly selected within VDCs.

Once wards are selected enumerators identify an entry point to initiate the individual interview process. They will then spin a bottle, and walk in the direction the bottle points until a home is found to take the first interview. The first house will form a basis to select the next house, as enumerators will exit, turn right and skip two houses, completing the next interview at the third house. This process continues until the required 10 samples are collected.

After entering the household, enumerators interview an individual above 15 years of age. The enumerators select respondents of different genders and age groups in each household in order to ensure the sample is demographically diverse and reflective of the population from the survey area. In addition, Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) staff were deployed to Provinces 2 and 5 to oversee the initial surveys.



Key Findings

In March 2018, the Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project completed 1800 Community Perception Surveys at the household level with community members randomly selected throughout 10 priority flood affected districts. This was the third round of data collected in flood affected districts. The quantitative data collection was augmented by focus group discussions (FGDs) to gather qualitative insights.

Of the 1800 respondents, 97 percent reported being impacted by the flood in August 2017. Additionally, focus group discussion (FGD) participants across 10 FGDs in Banke, Baradiya, Sunsari, Saptari, Siraha, Mahottari and Saralahi all reported being heavily flood affected. Both quantitative and qualitative data pointed to the main impacts of flood being: household damage (66 percent), household asset loss (59 percent), farmland damage (53 percent) and food/grain/seed storage loss or damage (53 percent). This clearly illustrates that the non-housing sectors have also been heavily impacted and should be considered as a key component of the post-flood recovery, alongside housing rehabilitation.

When asked about their engagement in flood recovery decision making processes, 64 percent of respondents felt they are excluded from the decisions that are being made about their own recovery. Qualitative findings also showed that the feeling of exclusion is high among the majority of FGDs participants. The main reason behind not being engaged in these processes was cited as a lack of political connections (58 percent). In fact, participants in more than one focus group claimed that their local representative openly stated he would not provide support to their community because they had not voted for him. This highlights the extremely politicized environment that recovery decisions are being made within.

Only half of those affected by flood reported to have received any form of post-flood assistance or support. Additionally, among geographical areas vast variation exists, with 98 percent of respondents in Saptari reporting having received support, versus only four percent in Parsa. The most commonly received support, among those who received assistance, was short term food (77 percent), followed by household items (51 percent), shelter kits (21 percent). Furthermore, only 18 percent received the 70 rupee per day cash relief package. Only 55 percent of respondents felt that support is reaching those most in need in their community.

Eight percent of respondents who received assistance reported being asked to do or give something in exchange for support. Among those the majority (90 percent) were asked to provide a vote or political support in exchange for relief. This further highlights the worrying impact of politicization on what should be impartial humanitarian assistance.

Finally, 79 percent said they have not personally taken any actions to reduce the impact of future floods. With the 2018 monsoon season around the corner, the fact that so few communities have taken any actions to mitigate their future flood risks should be cause for concern.

Recommendations

Flood recovery plans need to consider the priorities of the people most affected by the flood as critical. This includes the prioritization of livelihood recovery, which has not had as central a role as housing recovery, as well as the resettlement needs of a select few communities.

With the 2018 monsoon fast-approaching, humanitarian actors need to reflect on the types of support that reached communities, as well as those types that did not, and consider what barriers prevent access to essential assistance to ensure those barriers can be circumvented during any 2018 response efforts.

Humanitarian and recovery partners must also remain conscious of the highly politicized environment and ensure that humanitarian decisions are being made on the basis of need. It is the responsibility of all humanitarian actors to ensure their assistance is not being used for political gain.

Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project
funded by:



Flood Perception Surveys
conducted with:





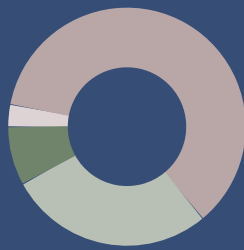
Were you affected by flood in August 2017?

Across 10 districts and 1800 respondents, 97 percent reported being impacted by the flood in August 2017. Additionally, focus group discussion (FGD) participants across 10 FGDs in Banke, Baradiya, Sunsari, Saptari, Siraha, Mahottari and Saralahi all reported being heavily flood affected.

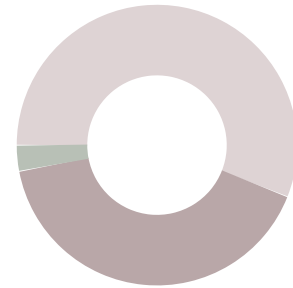
In terms of caste and ethnicity, in FGDs nearly all Dalit participants mentioned that they suffered from floods every year as a result of belonging to a vulnerable group as well as being economically poor and landless.

With regards to the impact, both quantitative and qualitative data showed the household damage (66 percent), household asset loss (59 percent), farmland damage (53 percent) and food/grain/seed storage loss or damage (53 percent) were the main impacts of the flood for affected communities.

Have you begun to recover from the damages?



Completely yes (3%) Somewhat yes (61%)
Not very much (28%) Not at all (8%)



Completely yes (56%) Somewhat yes (41%)
Not very much (3%)

How were you impacted by the flood?



Household damage (66%)



Household asset loss (59%)



Farmland damage (53%)



Food/grain/seed storage loss (53%)



Livestock shelter damage (25%)



Are your main flood recovery concerns being addressed?

Across 1800 respondents in 10 districts, only one percent felt that their main flood recovery related concerns are being completely addressed. An additional 40 percent mentioned that their concerns are partially addressed. This leaves 61 percent of respondents who feel their concerns are not being addressed. Nearly all FGD participants stated that none of their flood recovery concerns were being addressed.

As in past survey rounds, those respondents in the 15-24 age category were the least likely to feel their main problems are being addressed.

Among respondents whose concerns were not addressed, 19 percent had concerns about reducing the risk of another flood. In terms of gender, male respondents were more likely to express their concern over risk reduction than female respondents (53 vs. 47 percent). Analysis by caste/ethnicity reveals that Muslim (19 percent), Terai Janjati (18 percent) and Tharu (16 percent) respondents are most concerned about risk reduction. Further, respondents from Rautahat (31 percent) are the most concerned with risk reduction among the 10 districts.



Completely yes (1%) Somewhat yes (38%)
Not very much (39%) Not at all (22%)

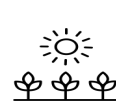
What are your main flood recovery needs?



Short term shelter (47%)



Financial support (34%)



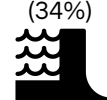
Crop recovery/rehabilitation (34%)



Livelihood recovery (21%)



Household recovery (19%)



Reduce risk of another flood (19%)

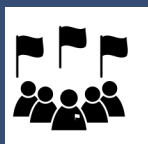
Do you feel you are included or engaged in the flood recovery decision making process?

Sixty-four percent of respondents across 10 districts felt they are not included or engaged in flood recovery decision making processes. Women were even more likely to feel excluded from such processes than their male counterparts, at 68 percent saying they are excluded vs. 61 percent of men. In a later question, respondents of both genders reveal that they perceive women to have less access to information. It is possible that this gender difference stems from women having less information than men about the ways in which they could be better included in the recovery process.

By caste/ethnicity, Muslim respondents were the most likely to feel they are not engaged in flood recovery decision making processes, at 77 percent.

FGDs findings also showed that the feeling of exclusion is high among all participants. And the reasons behind such feelings also matched the quantitative findings.

Why do you feel you are not engaged?



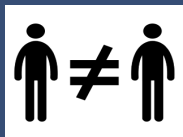
No political connection (58%)



No leader to help community engage (37%)



Lack of information (36%)

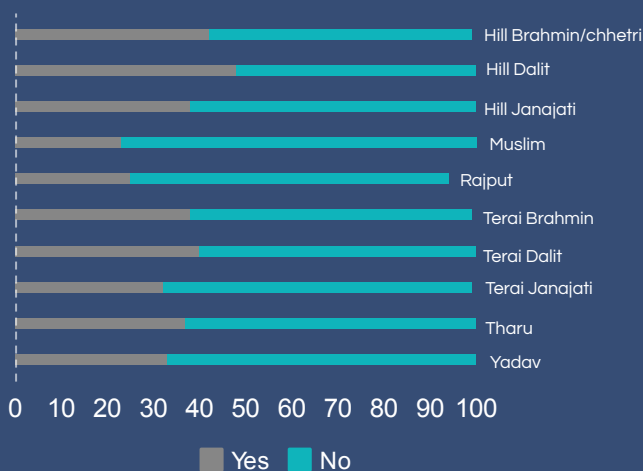


Caste discrimination (18%)



Gender based discrimination (6%)

Engagement by caste/ethnicity

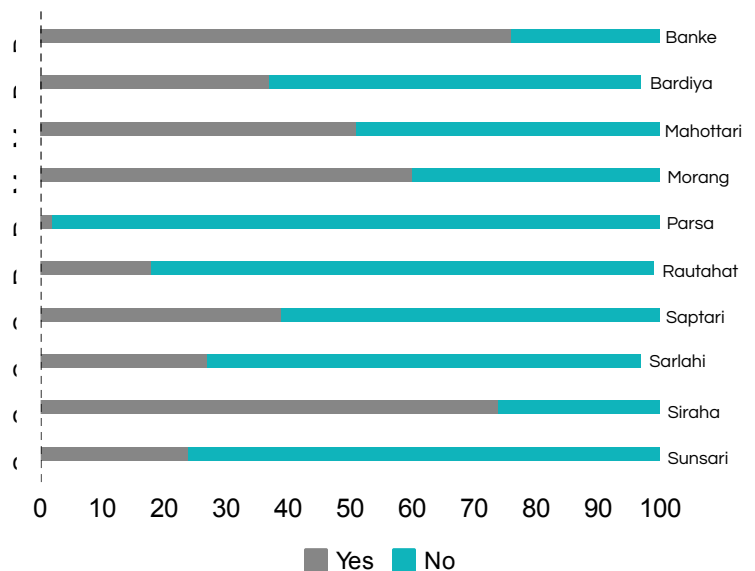


Engagement by gender



Yes (31%) No (69%) Yes (38%) No (62%)

Engagement in decision making by district



"We know that everything is politicized. The elected representative even said not to provide support to our community because we did not vote for him."

Female and male focus group discussion participants Mahottari district



Do you have the information you need to access support?

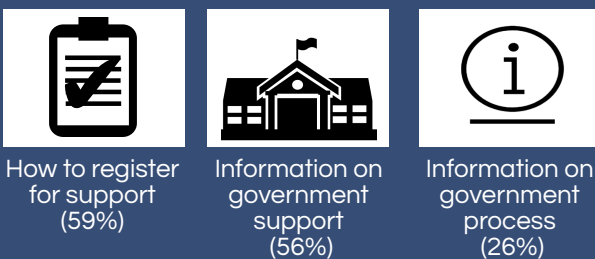
Across 1800 respondents in 10 districts, 66 percent of respondents felt they have the information they need to get relief and support. However, significant differences are observed between male and female respondents, with 60 percent of female respondents feeling informed, compared to 71 percent of male respondents. Confirming, as in all other previous perception surveys, that women have less access to information than their male counterparts.

Muslim respondents were the least likely to feel informed, at 43 percent, followed by Hill Janjati and Terai Dalit at 38 percent each. FGDs confirmed these findings, with the vast majority of participants stating that they do not have adequate information on how to receive post-flood recovery support.

The CFP took a closer look at the communication preferences of those who felt they do not have access to the information they need. It was found that while the top sources remain the same, there is a greater emphasis on family members (49 percent), and a much lower emphasis on mobile phones (13 percent). Community members remain the top information source at 63 percent. This indicates that if humanitarian partners want to reach out to those who are being left out of important recovery information, they need to communicate with affected communities through face to face methods, in their own communities.

Additionally, 41 percent of respondents feel that certain groups are being regularly excluded from information provision. This sentiment is particularly strong in Siraha (70 percent) and Rautahat (49 percent).

What are the most important things that you need information about?



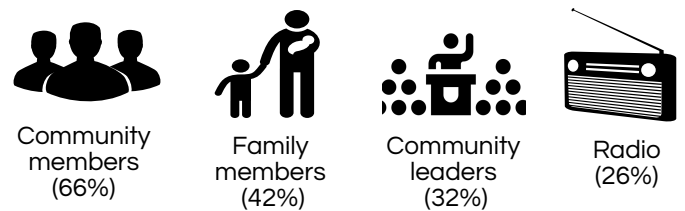
"We have no access to information. People like you need to visit us to provide information face to face. We are not educated so we need support to understand various information related to flood issues."

*Female, landless, Dalit
Focus group discussion participants
Siraha district*

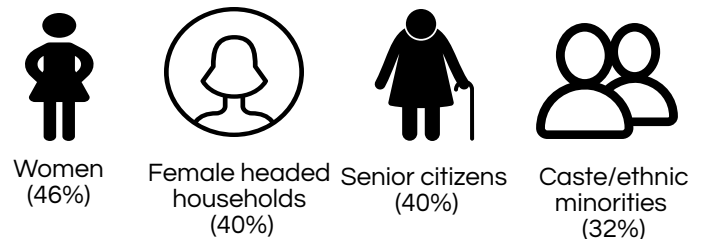


Completely yes (10%) Somewhat yes (56%)
Not very much (25%) Not at all (9%)

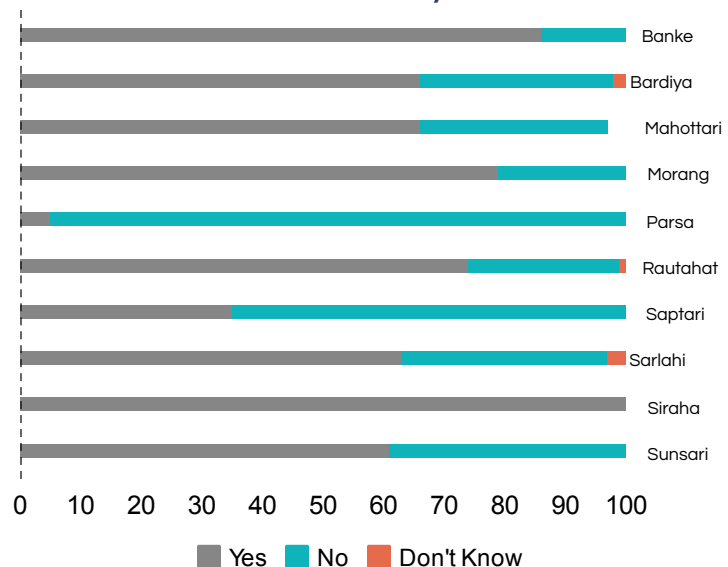
Main sources of information



Who is unable to equally access information?



Information access by district



LAJANI THARU'S STORY



Lajani Tharu, a 35 years old married woman, lives with her three children in Guruagau ward-4 in Bardiya district. Her husband is disabled and unable to work; therefore, she works as a laborer to sustain their livelihood.

"Sometimes I have to go to another district in search of work."

Lajani and her family were affected by the flood in August 2017. They sheltered in one of the nearby schools during the inundation. After the water receded they managed to return home. But her house was badly damaged.

Lajani managed to shift her belongings to a safer place before the flood, thanks to a community based early warning system in her village. But she could not save her harvested crops and some of her livestock.

She has received food and clothes from the government and various other aid providers in the aftermath of flood. Lajani has now constructed a temporary house made of mud. She has to buy food and grains from local shops as she lost all her harvested crops during the flood.

"When I came back home, I found that I have nothing left. I have to restart everything again."

Guaruagau is affected by flood every year during monsoon. Most of the people are forced to flee to safer places and come back once the water recedes.

Lajani thinks that the government should make a long-term plan for her village. She hopes the government will relocate all the people living in Guaruagau to safer place to solve the flood problem in the future.

"I need long term solution to solve the flood problem. Government should provide us land in a safe place. Otherwise I have to spend my entire life recovering from flood every year."



Have you received any kind of post flood assistance?

Fifty-percent of respondents reported having received some form of support after the flood. Across 10 districts, respondents in Saptari (98 percent), Banke (83 percent), Morang (77 percent) and Siraha (66 percent) were most likely to report having received post-flood support. Alternatively, only 4 percent of respondents in Parsa claimed to have receive any form of support. Among caste/ethnic groups, Hill Dalit's were the most likely to report having received support, at 71 percent, whereas Muslim respondents were least likely to report having received any form of support, at only 39 percent.

A total of 94 percent of respondents who received support said that what they received was useful to them. FGD participants expanded on this, by largely claiming immediate support was useful, though insufficient to meet needs.

Eight percent of respondents had been asked to do or give something in exchange for support. Among them, 90 percent were asked for a vote or political support.

What kind of support did you receive ?



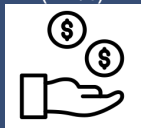
Short term food (77%)



Household items (51%)



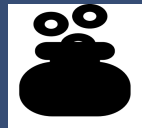
Shelter supplies (21%)



70 rs./day cash package (18%)



Mid-term food (16%)



Other cash support (15%)



Hygiene kit (12%)

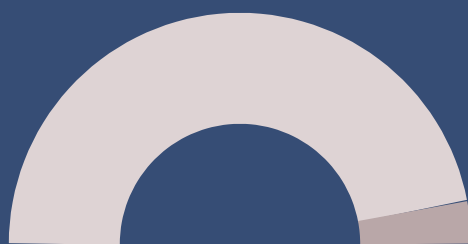


Sanitation supplies (10%)

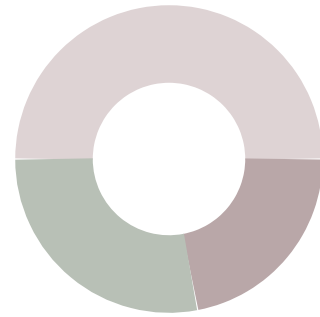


Dignity kit (5%)

Was the support provided useful to you?

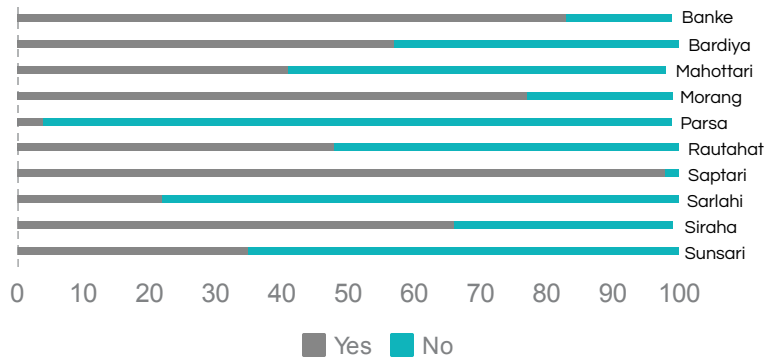


Yes (94%) No (6%)

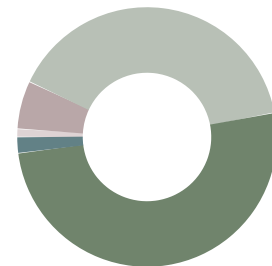


Somewhat yes (50%) Not very much (22%)
Not at all (28%)

Post-flood assistance received by district



Have you ever been asked to do or give anything in exchange for support?



Completely yes (1%) Somewhat yes (6%)
Not very much (40%) Not at all (51%)
Don't know/refused (2%)

"We have approached the Chief District Officer, police, District Development Committee and Nepal Red Cross Society and have become tired of visiting them many times. None of them listen to us. We are really frustrated by them. No one assist us in these hard times. We heard that we were supposed to get NRs. 70 per day during the flood period, but we did not get a single rupee. What happened to that money and support?"

Male
focus group discussion participants
Sarlahi district



Do you think support is reaching those most in need in your community?

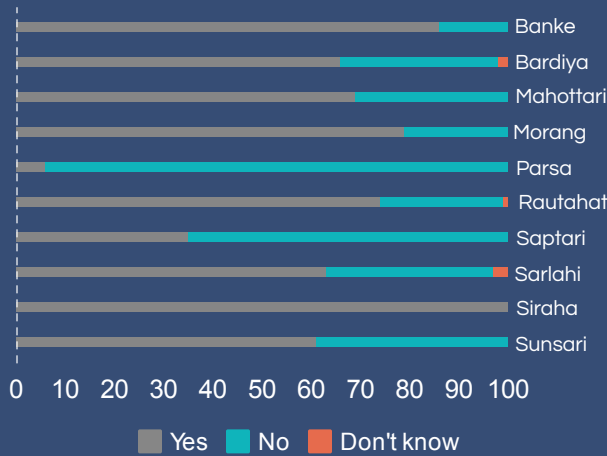
Fifty-five percent of respondents felt that support is reaching those most in need in their community.

Significant differences among districts are observed, with 86 percent of respondent in Siraha feeling support was reaching to those most in need, whereas only 2 percent of respondent in Parsa felt the support was reaching those most in need.

A difference in perceptions is observed between genders, with 58 percent of men feeling support is reaching those most in need in their community, versus only 51 percent of women. Among caste/ethnic groups, Hill Dalits were the most likely to feel support was reaching those most in need, at 74 percent, whereas Muslim respondents were least likely to feel support reached those most in need, at 31 percent.

FGDs findings indicated that the majority of participants felt assistance did not reach those most in need in their community.

Disaggregation by district

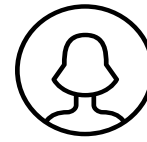


Completely yes (4%) Somewhat yes (51%)
 Not very much (25%) Not at all (16%)
 Don't know/refused (4%)

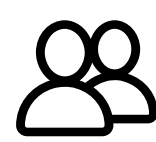
If no, who has been left out?



Women (46%)



Female headed households (31%)



Caste/ethnic minorities (28%)



Senior citizens (27%)

"We have no access to higher authorities. We landless, poor and Dalit are being excluded from information provision. We know that the real victims were left out, while the rich people have access to support. We have an example that even more than three/four members from the same family received support. We know people came to write our names, but nothing will come of that for us."

Female and male, Dalit
 focus group discussion participants
 Saptari district

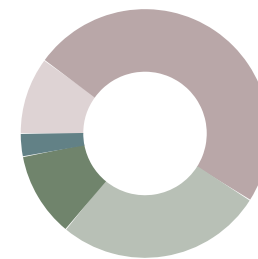
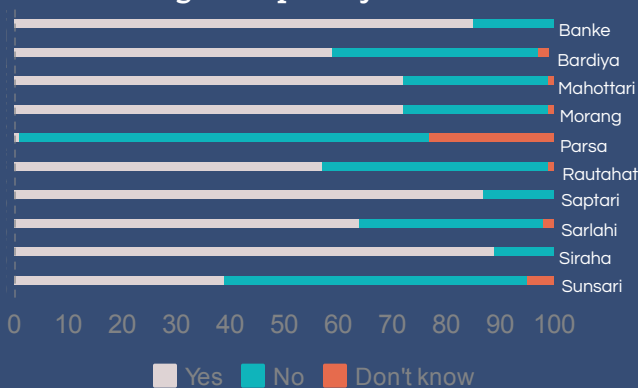


Do you feel respected by aid providers, including the government and I/NGOs?

Among 1800 respondents across 10 districts, 60 percent said they felt respected by aid providers, including the government and I/NGOs, local organizations, and others. This finding is relatively consistent between genders and among age groups; however, there are some noticeable differences among both caste/ethnic groups and districts.

Only 40 percent of Muslim respondents reported feeling respected by aid providers, followed by Hill Janjati, at 43 percent. This is in stark contrast to Terai Brahim (73 percent) and Hill Brahmin/Chhetri (65 percent).

Feeling of respect by district



Completely yes (10%) Somewhat yes (49%)
 Not very much (27%) Not at all (11%)
 Don't know/refused (3%)

If no, why do you not feel respected?



Not enough assistance (68%)



Not fairly distributed (53%)



Lack of information (30%)



Distribution based on caste system (17%)



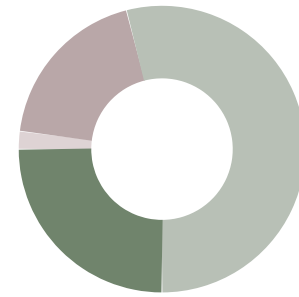
Are there any actions being taken to reduce the impact of flood?

Among 1800 respondents across 10 districts, 79 percent of said they have not taken any actions or done any activities to reduce the impact of future floods. Eighty-two percent do not think the local community or government is taking any action to mitigate the impact of flood.

Gender wise data shows that women are less likely than their male counterparts to have taken any risk reduction activities, at 81 percent vs. 76 percent.

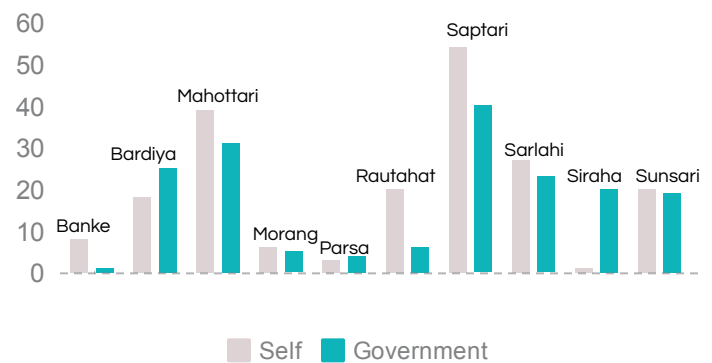
Muslim and Hill Janjati (86 percent each), Hill Dalit (84 percent) and Terai Dalit (82 percent) are the most likely, among ethnic groups, to not have taken any action to mitigate the impact of floods. Some significant differences between different survey districts emerged, respondents in Siraha (99 percent), Morang (94 percent), Banke (92 percent), and Parsa (90 percent) were the least likely to report doing anything to mitigate future flood impacts. Whereas 54 percent of respondents in Saptari reported they are taking action to mitigate flood impacts, as are 39 percent of respondents in Mahottari and 27 percent in Sarlahi.

FGDs findings also revealed that the vast majority of participants in all 10 FGDs have not taken actions/activities to reduce the impact of flood. Moreover, the consensus among participants was that they felt this was the government's responsibility, not their own. However, they do not see the government or local community taking any actions to mitigate flood risks either.

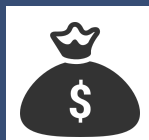


Completely yes (2%) Somewhat yes (19%)
Not very much (54%) Not at all (25%)

Perception on action taken by you and action taken by local communities/government



What actions are you taking?



Savings (44%)



Preparedness plan (42%)



Safe storage for food/grain (30%)

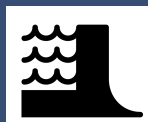


Safe storage for assets (25%)



Safe storage for food/grain (19%)

What do you need to be prepared for the coming monsoon?



Construction of dam (26%)



Cement house (21%)



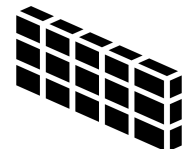
House on higher ground (13%)



Construction of dam (79%)



Forestation (16%)



Gabion/retaining wall (15%)



Preparedness plan (13%)



Resettlement (11%)

"We think that is the role and responsibilities of local government. We do not have enough economic resources to manage such issues ourselves. We are taking care to make our assets safe that's all we can do."

Female and male focus group discussion participants Mahottari district



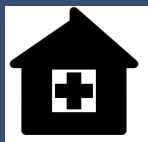
Are there any problems particularly affecting children in your community?

Fifty-eight percent of respondents felt there are particular problems affecting children in their community.

Terai Brahmin and Terai Dalit respondents were most likely to feel there are problems affecting children at 64 percent each, followed by Terai Janajati with 59 percent and Hill Janjati at 58 percent.

Significant differences among districts were also observed, with 96 percent of respondents in Morang, 74 percent in Rautahat and 64 percent in Siraha reporting particular problems affecting children in their community. Conversely, only three percent of respondents in Banke and 34 percent in Saptari share those concerns.

Biggest problem affecting children



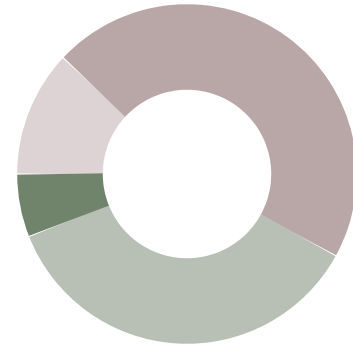
Lack of health care
(71%)



Lack of clean water
(34%)



Lack of food
(27%)



Completely yes (12%) Somewhat yes (46%)
Not very much (36%) Not at all (6%)



Are there any problems particularly affecting women in your community?

Fifty-five percent of respondents felt that there are particular problems affecting women in their community.

Terai Brahmin and Terai Dalit respondents were most likely to feel there are problems affecting women at 62 percent each, followed by Terai Janajati at 55 percent and Hill Janjati at 52 percent.

Significant differences among districts are also observed, with 92 percent of respondents in Morang, 72 percent in Rautahat and 69 percent in Saptari reporting to feel that there are particular problems affecting women in their community, while only two percent of respondents in Banke and 34 percent in Sunsari felt the same way.

Biggest problem affecting women



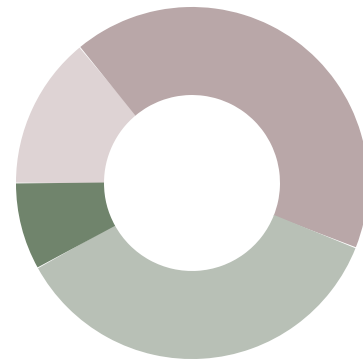
Lack of health care
(50%)



Lack of clean water
(24%)



Lack of food
(21%)



Completely yes (14%) Somewhat yes (42%)
Not very much (36%) Not at all (8%)



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