

Nepal: Rebuilding CUs, Communities, and Livelihoods

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One year after Nepal's worst earthquake in 80 years, hope looms on the horizon for the country's credit unions, known as Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOs).

Nearly 9,000 lives were lost and more than 900,000 homes damaged in the earthquake. The Nepal Federation of Saving and Credit Cooperative Union Limited (NEFSCUN) estimates more than 600 members died.

Although the earthquake damaged many SACCO buildings, greater challenges arose in conducting regular operational activities and transactions for members.

Thousands of members—who depend on livestock and agriculture—were devastated by the deaths of relatives and loss of land and farming equipment.

But with financial assistance from World Council of Credit Unions, CUNA Mutual Group, Irish League of Credit Unions Foundation, and Asia Confederation of Credit Unions, NEFSCUN and local citizens are rebuilding and rehabilitating SACCOs.

Despite delays from a national blockade on supplies, determination to serve SACCOs and members in need prevailed.

To date, NEFSCUN has successfully recovered

accounting systems, relocated 11 offices, and provided 127 SACCOs with new operational equipment, including furniture, computers, printers, and software.

Rehabilitation efforts include providing psychological counseling services to NEFSCUN staff and members.

In addition to providing construction training and financial literacy training, SACCOs are helping members rebuild their livelihoods and communities.



▲ NEFSCUN presents financial support to Nawadeep SACCO for rebuilding. (Photos courtesy of NEFSCUN)



▲ Volunteers gather for a photo at a mason training site.

► Professional engineers train community members on theoretical and practical masonry to improve rebuilding efforts.





▲ More than 100 SACCOs receive equipment, including printers and computers.



▲ In preparation for future emergencies, SACCO staff participate in a three-day training on community action for disaster response.



▲ SACCO staff receive training on financial literacy and counseling to increase members' confidence in economic activities.



▲ Many SACCOs continue their recovery from last year's devastating earthquake.



▲ Several SACCOs led by women in Makwanpur receive support for rebuilding, repairs, and maintenance.