



## Welcome to the Purnima newsletter!

This special edition of Purnima's quarterly newsletter gives an insight into our recent work and shares stories of some of the community members the programme has supported.

*Enjoy reading*

### In this edition...

- ❖ Pivoting from post-earthquake recovery to pandemic relief - Purnima's COVID-19 response
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  - Supporting economic recovery
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# Pivoting from post-earthquake recovery to pandemic relief

Purnima newsletter  
COVID-19 response special edition

## Ensuring no one is left behind

The COVID-19 pandemic has most affected those Nepalis who were already socially and economically vulnerable, including the extremely poor, people with disabilities, the elderly, single-women-headed households and internally displaced persons.

Through direct support and collaboration with Palikas, Purnima has ensured that the most vulnerable groups receive immediate relief, were able to access essential services and were supported to restore their livelihoods.

We engaged and collaborated with local governments to adapt and implement COVID-19 related policies, processes and procedures required by the federal government and we are helping them to integrate a COVID-19 strategy into their longer-term planning and budgeting. We also continued to provide water, sanitation and hygiene facilities to communities and supplemented this with radio messaging around health, hygiene and COVID-19 control.



Purnima is providing essential technical and financial support to rural communities in Nepal and ensuring no one is left behind in the COVID-19 response and recovery. It is focusing on four key areas:

1. Supporting economic recovery
2. Communicating health information
3. Assisting the local government response
4. Strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene

Read more about our COVID-19 response on the [Purnima website](#)

# Pivoting from post-earthquake recovery to pandemic relief

The UK aid-funded Post Earthquake Recovery Project, known as Purnima and managed by Mott MacDonald, has assisted with Nepal's planning and rebuilding efforts in rural districts since 2017. As a post-disaster programme, Purnima was well-placed to pivot its activities and initiate new ones with the sudden onset of the pandemic.

## Purnima is ensuring no one is left behind by focusing its COVID-19 response and recovery in four areas

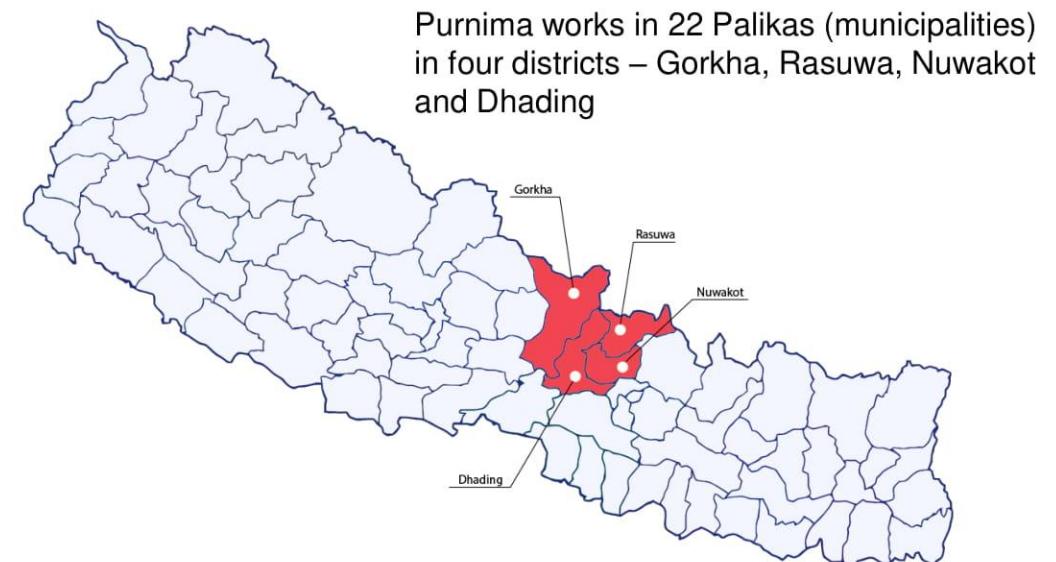
	<b>Supporting economic recovery</b>
<b>230</b>	MSME's given business restart and continuation advice
	<b>Communicating health information</b>
<b>50</b>	Radio programmes with life-saving messages broadcast throughout Nepal
	<b>Assisting the local government response</b>
<b>22</b>	Palikas have established COVID-19 sensitive policies and procedures
	<b>Strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene</b>
<b>114</b>	Health centres provided with handwashing stations
<b>81</b>	Quarantine centres provided with WASH facilities*

\*Including touchless handwashing stations, water system extensions for drinking, bathing and toilets water, toilets, bathrooms, waste management systems, hygiene kits, toilet cleaning materials, hygiene awareness messages and disinfection of surfaces.

Purnima is led by the Government of Nepal through the National Reconstruction Authority and managed by Mott MacDonald – a global engineering, management and development consultancy. It is funded by UK aid from the UK government.

## Supporting the most vulnerable

<b>4,080</b> supported through livelihood and income recovery activities	<b>4,081</b> linked with Palika relief programmes
<b>4,101</b> accessed social benefits and services from Palikas	<b>5,346</b> reached through Palika's COVID-19 prevention and protection activities



## Supporting economic recovery

Purnima has provided business recovery advice and psychosocial counselling for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) including support with implementing safety measures to protect employees and customers. We have adapted our helpdesks to disseminate information about accessing food and essential supplies. Relief materials like masks, water and food for front line workers were also provided through the helpdesks. Vulnerable people were supported with on and off farm activities for livelihood recovery.



Photo by CCI Gorkha

## Communicating health messages

Purnima's effort to increase public awareness by disseminating COVID-19 risks and control measures including messaging in coronavirus risk and transmission, misinformation, protection, symptoms and care, stigma and discrimination, healthcare systems and psychosocial support is being carried through radio programmes. We have partnered with BBC Media Action and district based radio stations to deliver life-saving behaviour change messages in local languages which are being broadcast throughout the country over multiple stations.



Photo by BBC Media Action

## Assisting the local government response

Purnima worked with 22 gaupalikas to establish COVID-19 sensitive policies, and programme and operations procedures, focusing on improved service delivery. This has strengthened the capacity of local government helping them focus on providing immediate relief to the most vulnerable.



Photo by Arjun Bishwokarma/Mott MacDonald

## Strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene

Purnima, in partnership with CARE Nepal, CDC Nepal and DanChurchAid, provided 43 quarantine and isolation centres with WASH facilities that exclusively included touchless handwashing stations, water systems extension for drinking,



Photo by CARE Nepal

bathing and toilet usage, toilet cleaning materials, construction of bathrooms and toilet, hygiene kits distribution, awareness messages to prevent transmission of the virus. Additionally, 114 health centres were also supported with hand washing stations.

Find out more about how we have been supporting the COVID-19 response on the new [Purnima website](#)



## Building back better

As a post-disaster programme, Purnima was well placed to pivot quickly to initiate new pandemic relief activities while continuing existing earthquake-recovery ones. Integrating a COVID-19 strategy into longer-term planning and budgeting will prove critical for protecting people's health, supporting the most vulnerable, restoring livelihoods and putting Nepal's long-term recovery plan back on track.

Purnima is ensuring vulnerable people are receiving the support they are entitled to during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read [87 year's old Dhamaya's story](#) as she feels relieved in receiving the social security allowance with facilitation support from Purnima. "I do not know what I would do for living without these allowances during the pandemic and lockdown," she says.

## Supporting the most vulnerable

We are working closely with local governments in 12 Palikas to provide relief for those most in need and plan longer-term support if it is required. We are also supporting livelihood and income activities for the most vulnerable groups to cope with the impact of COVID-19 on them. Health and hygiene messages were communicated for raising awareness among communities of additional care and safeguarding requirements for vulnerable groups.

Check out the [photo story of Kancha](#), a vulnerable community member whose life now is in a better path with support from Purnima.



- ❖ [Supporting vulnerable populations in Nepal](#)
- ❖ [Rights brings relief during pandemic](#)
- ❖ [A bright future with tomatoes](#)
- ❖ [Access to clean drinking water in Odare](#)
- ❖ [Strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene facilities](#)

Impact  
Stories  
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For more information on Purnima, visit our website at [www.purnimanepal.com](http://www.purnimanepal.com) or contact Simon Howarth, Team Leader at [simon.howarth@mottmac.com](mailto:simon.howarth@mottmac.com) and Kiran Wagle, Deputy Team Leader at [kiran.wagle@mottmac.com](mailto:kiran.wagle@mottmac.com)