Rapid Enterprise and Livelihoods Recovery Project (RELRP)
UNDP Nepal
In the wake of the devastating Nepal Quake in April and May 2015, nearly 9000 lives were lost and more than 22,000 injured. Out of 75 districts in Nepal, 33 districts were affected and 14 heavily damaged.

The disaster severely affected 12,059 Micro Entrepreneurs (ME’s) of UNDP’s Micro-Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP), a joint poverty alleviation initiative of the Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA) Programme of the Government of Nepal with financial support from the Australian Government.

What is RELRP doing

REL RP is working towards rapid revitalization of micro enterprises and restoration of livelihoods for the earthquake affected people.

Tea vendor, Dawa Ghale’s café was buried in the rubble following the earthquakes but she continues to serve using temporary shelter arrangements in Dhunche, Rasuwa.
In the immediate aftermath, MEDEP established help desks to provide counseling for enterprise recovery, collect data of enterprise losses and link affected micro-entrepreneurs (MEs) with organisations providing rescue and relief support. In June 2015, Australia donated an additional US$ 6.1 million to UNDP to implement the Rapid Enterprise and Livelihoods Recovery Project (RELRP).

The aim of RELRP is to provide quick enterprise recovery support to earthquake affected micro entrepreneurs in seven severely affected MEDEP districts: Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Dolakha, Ramechhap and Sindhuli.

RELRP builds on 15 years of MEDEP experience and success helping thousands of affected MEs get back to business. Affected MEs have a strong record of entrepreneurship, linkages to markets and the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to re-start their businesses.
UNDP Country Director Renaud Meyer and Charge d’Affairs of the Australian Embassy in Kathmandu Catherine Gill after signing the agreement at Kusadevi, Kavre.

**RELWBA Objectives**

1. To provide immediate support to earthquake affected MEDEP/MEDPA entrepreneurs to revive enterprises and stabilize their livelihoods

2. To promote social cohesion and local economic recovery by supporting selected earthquake survivors to establish new micro enterprises

**Results of MEDEP in seven districts**

- **13,700** Total MEs before the quake
- **12,059** Total affected MEs
- **70%** Affected beneficiaries are women
### RELRP Intervention Activities

**RELRP objectives will be achieved through the following seven main interventions**

1. **Psycho-social Counseling**
2. **Entrepreneurship skills and GESI Training**
3. **Enhancing Technical skills**
4. **Settling up Common Facility Centers and support with Productive Infrastructure**
5. **Marketing and Business Counseling**
6. **Appropriate Technologies / Equipment**
7. **Linking Micro-Entrepreneurs with Banking Institutions through Start up Business Support**

### RELRP Outcomes

| 12,059 affected MEDEP/ MEDPA Micro Entrepreneurs revived | At least 1,500 new micro entrepreneurs created | 71 Community Facility Centres repaired, 52 rebuilt and 22 new built | At least 16,000 new jobs created/recovered, which will benefit 80,000 family members. |
Five months after the devastating earthquakes in Nepal, RELRP’s intervention to revive the strawberry farms of 160 Micro Entrepreneurs in Kakani and Okharpauwa VDC’s of Nuwakot district is well underway. Entrepreneurs have returned to their fields, tilled the soil and planted new strawberry runner. They are keenly anticipating arrival of the winter harvest.

Due to strong aftershocks, entrepreneurs were not able to work on their fields, which resulted in millions of rupees worth of crops being lost. But now, with the help of UNDP and Australia, the entrepreneurs are slowly getting back on their feet.

In the coming months, entrepreneurs expect an average yield of 750kg. This will provide significant income to entrepreneurs and their families.

Entrepreneur Dolma Tamang, shared “We thought we might never revive our business, but with support from RELRP, we are slowly recovering. Now I hope the crops grows beautifully so I can earn money and support my children’s education.”