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## MERS Workshop: Exercise - Restoring assets in post-earthquake Nepal

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### Context

A devastating earthquake hit Nepal on April 25th, 2015, causing large-scale destruction to lives and properties in the country's Gorkha district. Following the first phase of earthquake response, Emergency Without Borders conducted a needs assessment to inform the design of the longer-term recovery and reconstruction phase of the response.

Results of the assessment shows that livelihoods in the earthquake-affected areas of Gorkha District consist largely of subsistence agriculture and market activities linked to small-scale production. The earthquake caused a high level of damage to livelihoods throughout the district at the household level, affecting the quality and quantity of stored seeds and leading to some loss of productive livestock (5-10%), and damage to fields due to landslides, stones, and weeds.

The different agro-ecological zones in Gorkha District add to the complexity of the response. Each of these zones had very different characteristics and were affected differently by the earthquake. In contrast to areas further north, there are entire communities in the south that were not impacted at all, but there are pockets of extreme vulnerability. The densely populated area in the South has many female-headed households, widows, and families with partially and fully disabled members. Before the earthquake, many of these families relied upon neighbors to meet their basic needs, such as food support, but now community members must focus their limited resources on rebuilding their homes and are less able to support vulnerable neighbors.

While markets are somewhat functional, commodity prices have increased. After the earthquake, families have reported an increase in negative coping mechanisms, including reduction of meal portion size and number of meals per day, borrowing money from informal money lenders at high interest rates, selling more animals than usual, and decreasing dietary diversity. The cost of reconstruction is estimated to be upwards of \$5,000 per household.

Assessment findings indicate that people across the district report a high degree of interest in learning safer techniques to build earthquake-resistant structures. Widespread interest is similarly reported in bolstering livelihoods through increasing productivity, diversifying production, and restoring collective productive assets.

As technical advisor specializing in markets-based approaches for Emergencies Without Borders, you have been sent to design an emergency response that includes a recovery component, particularly to restore productive assets of people affected. The project is expected to start up quite quickly, within 3 weeks after your arrival in country.

## Instructions for the scenario

### Group Work:

- Identify which MERS standards apply to your scenario
- write up a 'proposal' on a flip chart, identifying how they used x part of the standard. Please use the template below
- Share out in Plenary

Standard	How relevant to this proposal	Specific activities in this proposal that reflect this standard