

Report: Nepal Earthquake Relief Support

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA | July/August 2015



TRADE UNION VOLUNTEERS ARE SELECTING AND PREPARING SITE FOR TEMPORARY SHELTER

The April 25th and May 12th earthquake in Nepal resulted in 8,676 people killed and 21,952 injured. About 500,717 houses were completely destroyed. It has had multiple effects on the economy, culture, social fabric and political landscape. The poor and workers are the most affected by the quake as they lost their jobs, houses, and belongings. With no social security to fall back on, and no surplus cash to rebuild their houses, treat injured family members and restart life; they have experienced the worst situation of all. In addition to the impact on human beings, countless animals have been killed or severely injured, thereby affecting the subsistence economy which relies on the produce of these animals.

The first quake struck on the 25th April at 11.56 am of 7.8 magnitude. It lasted for 57 seconds and the second major quake struck on the 12th May at 12.50pm of 7.3 magnitude. There have been hundreds of aftershocks and as of 18th July, 342 aftershocks which registered above 4 on the Richter scale have been recorded.

SOME STATISTICS

Total human death: 8,676

Injured: 21,952

Houses destroyed: 500,717

Cattle and Buffalos lost: 15,850

Pigs and Goats: 36,000

Poultry and Ducks: 450,000

Total Population affected: 8million

APHEDA Support

APHEDA, in partnership with the General Confederation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT) and the Union Network International Nepal Liaison Council (UNI NLC), has provided relief support to earthquake survivors as follows:

1) Food relief

A total of 1,011 families were provided with immediate food relief packages containing rice, lentil, salt and sugar sufficient to provide for 5 people for at least 2 weeks. This immediate relief was important while they wait for the Nepal government relief supplies to arrive.

2) Medical assistance

A total of 9 medical camps have been organized in the worst earthquake hit villages. These medical camps were not only vital to treat the injured but also to provide moral support to the affected community. In the camp, specialized doctors and nurses worked in a mobile makeshift tent. It was found that many pregnant women had miscarriages or delivered prematurely as a result of the earthquake. Those who suffered from mental trauma were referred to other doctors.

3) Temporary Shelter

A total of 250 households were supplied with tents and 38 families with zinc roof housing. The zinc roof housing was put up in collaboration with the engineers union in Nepal. In addition, 3 community water supply tanks, 2 public toilets, 1 community centre and solar power station was also built. Solar power station has been very practical for mobile phone charging in the village.

4) Lobbying and advocacy

In addition to direct food packet distribution, health camp and temporary shelters, the trade unions have also lobbied on behalf of, and assisted the village committees and district offices for better relief distribution.

Future Plan

UNI NLC is going to build 70 temporary housing for a poor, working class community in Danuwar village in Sindupalchowk district. The international community has responded well to rebuild Nepal. About USD 4.5 billion has been pledged for rebuilding. Nepali trade unions are keen to make sure that the earthquake rebuilding process will help to create jobs and that those jobs are decent. The ITUC has proposed to organize a workshop on decent jobs for the reconstruction of Nepal in the first week of September 2015 in Kathmandu.



TEMPORARY HOUSE AND A COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY TANK IN CHATURE VILLAGE, KAVRE DISTRICT.



NEPAL EARTHQUAKE TEMPORARY SHELTER - BUILDING A HOUSE ON SITE