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Subject: Post EQ Update - Our Situation/Work on the Ground - 35
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General:

Oh dear – what a month of global violence and utter madness! France, Germany, Japan, USA, Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan! It has been painful and morally damaging to all of us – wherever we live in our globalized world.

Here in Nepal, we have also have had a fair share of trauma with floods and landslides with over 100 deaths, and over 500 families made homeless; strikes and demonstrations; and the sensational undoing of the 9 month long government by a vote of no confidence motion in the parliament signifying more unrest and instability. Honestly no one can keep up! On top of all this, we are only now breathing a



sigh of relief, when a medical doctor who went unto his fast unto death 15 day protest ended it on the 16th day after some negotiations were made with government officials. So mostly it has been demonstrating and biting our nails that doctor Govind KC will survive! On the 23rd some 10,000 strong protesters demonstrated in solidarity with GKC's demands of making health accessible to all Nepalis, and keeping it free of political interference and on the 30th GKC himself walked the streets with 100s of supporters! Follow-up demonstrations have been ongoing. The good can't be silent!



Case Study/s:

We have very good news! The post earthquake recovery research work Tewa/NA decided to undertake in the world heritage city of Bhaktapur is completed and is now being readied to go to the press!

The Tewa/NA team worked on this with miraculously timed volunteer help on editing by two American academicians Dr. Jennifer Rothchild and Dr. Jennifer Fish! A local cultural expert, Professor Purusottam Lochan Shrestha, wrote the background paper for this research. A sample size of 498 (significantly more women than men) were interviewed; 4 focused group discussions were conducted; theory on gender, culture, disaster & trauma were studied for relevance; and case studies were brought out; all within a year of starting this work. Since the recovery work has yet to take off in a significant way, all feel that this thoughtful work with empirical evidences will draw attention for a mindful and a gendered approach that can help on reducing further costs. We are working to launch the book sometime in August.

Tewa/NA:

Importantly, the **Tewa HTG volunteers** are taking Tewa's example of local resource mobilizing into the communities they serve. They even brought to Tewa a community gift of Rs. 3600 from Gorkha district! Similarly the community there has been coming together to raise substantive money for a cancer patient, and other community activities. The women's in all the districts with the help of HTG volunteers have also been able to get necessary legal papers for the community women which will facilitate their access to state benefits. Savings and credit groups run by 4 women's organizations in Barpak of Gorkha district have also raised substantive money to enable their own entrepreneurial activities.



Repairing of the community hall in Sindhupalchok (R);

completion of 3 month tailoring training to 20 community women in Jharuarashi, Lalitpur; and necessary rights-based training to earthquake affected women in Sanga, Sindhupalchok; have been noteworthy among other ongoing activities. Tewa with additional help from a gender and development expert has been monitoring the recovery work of the HTG volunteers and is also looking into the situation and condition of the affected local communities.

Nagarik Aawaz organized 3-day refresher training for the first-aid psychosocial supporters (PS) of the **BL/IH programme**, to further enhance their capabilities. A total of 20 youths participated in the 3-day training from 5 districts (Gorkha, Dhading, Lalitpur, Sindhupalchowk and Ramechhap). Five representatives from the district level coordinating organizations from these five district also participated in this training. Mr. Kedar Raymajhi was the resource person for the first 2 days of the capacity enhancement training, and the final day was spent in preparing a 6 month long joint action plan and finalizing the modality of this programme. Hari Devkota,



Himal Mahat who lead their respective organizations in Gorkha and Ramechhap (ex conflict affected youths of NA), Panmaya Tamang, Mankala Thapaliya, and Chandra Devkota respectively from Sindhupalchok,

Ramechhap, and Dhading also participated in this capacity building training to ensure that the youths would receive adequate support and that they also could understand emerging issues. In the upcoming six months the **Building Lives/Inspiring Hopes** program will be further strengthened. This training provided a truly reflective space for the first time to the youths and the district level coordinating organization's key representatives, from being perpetually in a coping mode earlier. Both the youths and the partner organization representatives expressed happiness and felt that their work will be even more effective in the future.

It was reassuring for NA to see how affected local youths who started out more than a year back in confusion and personal trauma, were getting confident in their work and in their own lives.

Conclusions:



This picture from Sindhupalchowk, says it all (note the makeshift classroom)! Just a little support and love will allow us to stand on our own feet and contribute to our communities. Tewa/NA could only do their share owing to the unprecedented and timely support they received from their donors. Much work remains since the government has not yet moved effectively with its

recovery work. At least in communities where Tewa/NA are present we know that many lives are changing for better.

