

Post EQ Update - Our Situation/Work on the Ground - 6 25 May, 2015

General:

As of today Humanitarian Data Index says 8,633 dead, estimated 16,808 are injured, 191 IDP camps set up and running, and US \$ 262.3 million has been received in relief aid. During this period work has moved – but not fast enough according to the scale of the disaster, the geographic inaccessibility of Nepal, and the limited ability of the Nepali state, and its political leadership being in regression. This week has had ongoing 3/4 lesser strength earthquakes happening daily, so trauma is ongoing. To top this we had a very strong windstorm that took several lives and had much negative impact in several district. Also the couple of days scare created by a massive landslide completely blocking the Kali Gandaki river and threatening the inundation of all the villages along its path, was luckily lifted today owing to the opening of the blockade.

Tewa/NA:

Through the coordination efforts of Max Khatri of Share Nepal, and Tewa's support the CDO of Gorkha, Uddab Timilsina flew 9 times in a day to far-flung villages to ensure that the government allocated funds for the survivors reached them directly. Tewa/NA also will make a contribution of US \$ 600,000 to the PM Relief Fund to show support, solidarity, and cooperation for government initiatives.



NA/Tewa distributed relief support in terms of rice, daal, salt, sugar, oil, soap, and blankets to ward no 1 of Dukuchaap VDC covering some 43



households. Likewise on the recommendation of Fedo, Tewa/NA went to Lele VDC ward no. 1 & 4 providing provisions relief to 146 households and additional support to 12 young mothers. Besides Tewa's outreach work has taken them to Jawlakhel camp addressing the needs of 56 differently abled persons, displaced women and children from Rasuwa districts, and with maternity packages to ward 12 of Siuchatar, Kalanki in Kathmandu. Relief work has gone on unabated for NA/Tewa - going to Bhakundebesi, Kavre; Ranger Barrack, Chauni; Pharping VDC; Tewa grantee in Debichaur; and even today a grantee group

Sambridha, is being visited in Champi, Lalitpur. Planning for Dolakha, Rammechhap, Kavre, Nuwakot, and Makwanpur is ongoing. Tewa/NA Partnering/supporting with Mitini, Share Nepal, and national community radio group called ACORAB, and International Child Resource Institute (ICRI/Nepal). Work is ongoing thoughtfully and sensitively. Everywhere attention is being paid to pregnant and new mothers, children, the elderly women, and those who are differently abled in the VDC. Although everything so far has been peaceful, in some places, there are perceived to be a few "spoilors" and one can feel the pressure is building owing to political cadres moving in, people feeling the eminent monsoons, the damaging storm of 24th May, and the blockade of the Kali Gandaki river on the same night.

Case Study/ies:

The outpouring of love and support for Nepal has been huge. Probably everyone who is connected to Nepal and the Nepali people have reached out in one way or the other during our post EQ days. This is what is making our work possible here and keeping our hope and courage alive. Two small stories below will give us a sense of how invaluable these gifts are:

1. Peter Umunay was flying into post earthquake Kathmandu from New Haven, Connecticut. When his driver of Bangladeshi origin learned that he was going to Nepal, he was distraught at the devastation and suffering of the Nepali people. Expressing solidarity with his native Bangladesh, he requested Peter to carry \$ 15 from his side to gift any organization working for relief. The gift of money found its way to Tewa coupled with Peter's own unsolicited gift of \$50! The demonstration of global and people to people love, solidarity, and support has been tremendous!
2. Significant in their support to us and many other organizations in Nepal has been Anshu and team of Goonj in India. Their truck-loads of relief from all supporters in India has been noteworthy. Raj Banti (who hails from Rajasthan/India - has a Ph. D in social work & is 75 years) also came with all the support she could muster and has been on the go supporting physically and tangibly the affected districts through organizations she connected with including Tewa/NA. Inspiring for our parts of the world!

3. Kirsten Westby a longtime Tewa/NA colleague/sister wrote: *"Two weeks ago, six of us who have deep connections to Nepal started e-mailing each other with heavy hearts and a desire to help. We began throwing around the idea of a*



Boulder FR Event organizers - Kirsten Fourth From Left

"Chiya¹ Hour", a gathering at someone's house to come together around the tragedy in Nepal,

¹ Nepali Tea

*while raising awareness and money for organizations we trust on the ground. What emerged was beyond our wildest imagination and a true testament to the power of Nepali culture and community to have positively impacted so many of our lives! Nearly 100 people gathered in the Bonetti's back yard this past Sunday afternoon. As the sun emerged for the first time in days, a Tamang lama led us in a special prayer for Nepal and all that is lost, putting all of our hearts and minds in the right place. We gave an update about the current situation on the ground in Nepal (broadly), and spoke more specifically about the work of the three organizations we would support with people's donations. I spoke briefly about [TEWA](#)'s current efforts in response to the earthquakes, their credibility and why it's important to approach relief work with a gendered lens, then I read some words from Tewa's founder Rita Thapa (included below for those who missed it). Shannon Harriman spoke about [Himalayan Quests](#), which is distributing urgently needed relief supplies in the hardest-to-reach villages, and Dr. Greg Rabold spoke about the work of the [Himalayan Medical Foundation](#), which is operating seven free medical clinics in the Kathmandu valley and has been for 22 years! An incredible Nepali folk band performed afterward, while people danced, enjoyed delicious Nepali chai and snacks, made prayer flags to send to Nepal, bought raffle tickets and other donated items, and gave generously! **As of this morning, we have raised \$19,216!** Which just blows me away!" Kiri as she is fondly known, sent news later that she may now be able to send US \$ 10,000 just to Tewa/NA! So much outpouring/outreach of love and support is coming our way. Goonj, Shashi, Chrishanti, Dr.Banti/Chhaya, Meredith/Kunga/Barbara, Ranjani Murthi, Fareen Walfi, Pooja Sainju, just to name a few – but to many of us at Tewa/NA - the list is endless.*

Status of Funds/Finances:

So far Tewa has received a pledge of approximately US \$ 575,000. Out of this it has received US \$ 280,000 in its banks. So far Tewa has disbursed US \$ 340,000. The ERF Committee additionally approved US \$ 45,000 for disbursements during the coming days/week. Local donors are increasing in numbers. Today a regular elderly donor of NA walked through the heat and dust and came to hand in RS 18000 (US \$180). Our relief communities have given over US \$ 800 so far. We now need the pledged amounts quickly. Also we will need ongoing support – but we will use it for the direct benefit of the survivors. The scale of this disaster is simply unfathomable!

Others:

A code of conduct has been passed by the Board of both the organizations, emphasizing on the general behavior and practices of the members/staff/volunteers engaged in relief work (e.g. no meat/fish during office hours or on official work). The boards of both organizations met separately on the 24th. The EFQ committee met on the 25th passing over US \$ 45,000 for various relief activities. The weekly briefing of allies and supporters of Tewa/NA was also carried out on the 25th. It is a month since the earthquake struck. Tewa/NA have learnt that their approach and work has been correct and invaluable for the survivors. The need is so big and urgent – how can both move rapidly covering as much ground as they can is the challenge!