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Subject: Post EQ Update - Our Situation/Work on the Ground - 34
Date: 30 June, 2016 EQ Update (monthly)

General:



June 3rd and 9th were strike days called by a Maoist group. It was surreal. Rains came earlier than expected and farmers had to busy themselves planting paddy seeds and with quickly preparing the fields for rice plantation, soon as the wheat crop was harvested. With great forbearance, the rice planting is well on its way and completed in some places. Not much positivity has moved on the State/political front.

Case Study/s:

1. Pabitra Thapa Magar is a single mother of 4 children (2 daughters and 2 sons). The earthquake destroyed her home completely leaving them in an unsafe temporary settlement. When she got an opportunity to be engaged in the Paurakhi Maheela Samaj, an organization formed with the initiative of the Tewa HTG volunteers, she was greatly relieved. She now has learnt new skills making handmade bangles. She borrowed a loan of Rs 50,000 to buy the raw materials and by selling the handmade bangles and ear studs she has already managed to pay back half the loan.



As her children grow, their needs/demands have increased. Previously she couldn't meet their needs for she did not have a regular source of income, but now she is very happy that she has the skills which is helping her to earn some money and support her family. Pabitra thanked Tewa for providing her with an opportunity to get the training, build her self-confidence, make her understand the value of being organized in a group.

Tewa/NA:

Tewa organized an orientation for all the HTG volunteers, by the Indigenous Women Legal Awareness Group (INWOLAG - a grantee partner of Tewa) to have an in-depth

understanding of the citizenship rights of women so that the volunteers are equipped with the emerging needs of the community women and can assist and guide them during their work.



The Tewa HTG volunteers have been working hard at organizing the earthquake survivor women in various livelihood options. Skills development training (like hand-made bangles and ear studs) was completed for 13 women earthquake survivors. Likewise, hand-made firewood stove training was given to 17 women. Apart from these skills building trainings according to local demands in different districts, financial literacy training on savings and credit, along with leadership enhancing training were also conducted. The Paurakhi Maheela Samaj in Ramechhap, was formed by the HTG to help strengthen the capacity of these women.

In terms of NA's recovery work with the youths, the Psycho-social Support Workers (PSW) have been engaged in ongoing follow-up work with their clients. PSWs cannot organize orientation session and other activities in relation to their work, because the everyone including they themselves are busy planting rice. The review/reflection refresher training has been planned to be conducted in the third week of July 2016. Regular contact and supervision of the PSW by the psycho-social counselor of Nagarik Aawaz is ongoing.



Nagarik Aawaz with CIEDP, conducted a case collection on the TRC. Nagarik Aawaz mobilised 20 volunteers from different districts to monitor and assist conflict affected people in filing the cases in the TRC and the disappeared/missing Commissions. Their findings were discussed in a workshop organized 9th June, and were presented to a common platform of the conflict survivors and the

representatives of the TRC and CIEDP on June 10, 2016. The main findings were as

follows:

- The process was not gender friendly.
- The need of psychosocial counseling for the armed conflict survivors is still there.
- There is a lack of awareness and information on the Commissions is not reaching people of rural areas.
- They need to increase the time frame for the case collections.
- The Peace Ministry staffs were not helpful and friendly to the conflict survivors.
- Some people just don't want to relive the pain, which they went through during the war.

This does not directly have much to do with the post earthquake situation, but it can demonstrate how much is pending from afore, and as such it has an implication on the earthquake survivors for many of them were also directly affected by the conflict from much earlier.

Conclusions:

Our volunteers are all busy helping with plantation these days. Accomplishing this is crucial so that people have food. Besides, much needed support and work as is needed is ongoing. Tewa and Nagarik Aawaz feel that little as may seem, their work in these six affected districts is invaluable for the local communities they serve.