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**Subject:** Post EQ Update - Our Situation/Work on the Ground - 33  
**Date:** 31 May, 2016 EQ Update (monthly)

**General:**

The dryness, forest fires, and the destructive fires in many villages were worrying until with the pulling of the chariot of the Red Machendranath (Buddha of compassion worshipped for bountiful harvest), when pre monsoon rainfall began, wetting the parched dry earth but also causing some landslides and flooding and loss of lives.

The Madheshi agitation (remember the crippling undeclared India blockade this winter and the ongoing black market which grew because of this?) continues to brew. The Maoists have consolidated their strengths by 10 splinter parties coming together – whatever this may mean. The interests to topple the left government led by K. P. Oli by the Congress and the Maoists may be ongoing. Who knows, for what is made explicit is often it seems is not necessarily the case.

Be it city roads, or something as serious as recovery work, they are not moving forward with the urgency that is required. On the part of the state, impunity, sycophancy, nepotism, black markets, and corruption continue to reign. The finance minister painted a bleak picture of the economy citing energy crisis, earthquake, blockade, and the Tarai unrest (as though we did not know!) where the GDP is all time low in 14 years, and the official inflation is 9.5%. On the part of the citizens there are amazing initiatives and accolades – all against the currents. This is what keeps the Nepali people going!

**Case Study/s:**

1. On the 9-10 May, a strategic planning workshop was held at the Kamla Hall, Tewa Center for the HTG volunteers. This recovery programme is now going on a long-term plan,



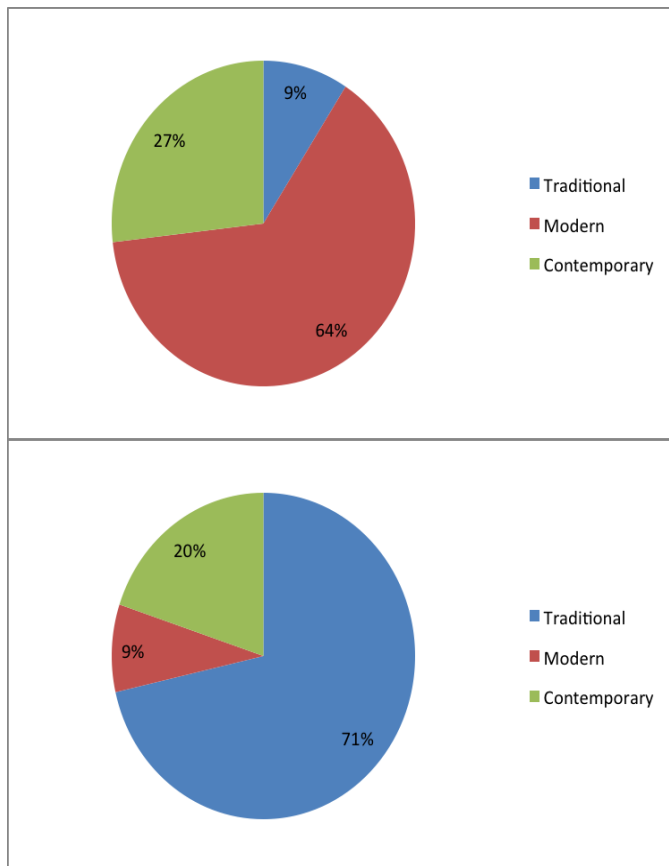
on the basis of the felt needs of the community and the identified needs seen

by the volunteers. However it was concluded that the approach as well as the ToR would be different for the volunteers for their forward-looking work. The following approaches and strategies were identified:

- The need for them to reflect on themselves and keep reasonable objectivity and professionalism in a very emotionally charged and volatile environment
- Identifying emerging issues as well as reaching out to the most vulnerable amongst the affected communities
- Coordination with the government agencies and ensuring that they are visible/included in all the related government activities
- Ensuring that the HTG volunteer's own organizations are also strengthened simultaneously, and
- Sharing the stories of the work of the HTG volunteers, to all grantee organizations so that there could be spontaneous rapid response teams if/when disaster arose at various districts/regions.

All the volunteers felt that they want to continue their work. They felt that out of all the work that they had done in the past, this was the most rewarding in terms of their sense of satisfaction and sense of service.

**Tewa/NA:**



The joint initiative on the applied research **Supporting Out Heritage - Bhaktapur** has now reached the final pulling together of information and writing stage. The data has been tabulated. The value of this pilot research for the ongoing recovery work at heritage sites may be significant by just a little example of seeing here the way people are thinking of rebuilding their homes: if you look at the pie charts on the left, 71% people lived in traditional homes before the earthquake, but now we can see that 64% of the people are planning to build modern homes. This was a representative sample of 498 respondents.

NA youths (PSW) are providing the support to the community for reconstruction process of Government in Ramechhap and Sindhupalchock districts. Their key task is the registration of household details of the local communities. Their core skills as psycho-sociological first aid healers is proving to be useful even in this work, as

people become angry, nervous, or anxious while filling the forms. 2 of these youths - one from Sindhupalchock and another from Gorkha, go the opportunity to participate in a disaster management training organized by the Center for Resource and System Management (on the recommendation by Tewa). A monitoring visit was made to supervise PSWs and consult with concerned stakeholders regarding the livelihood activities of Ramechhap and Sindhupalchowk districts. Guidance and encouragement were given to the youths after listening to their activities and updates.



Tewa went on a monitoring visit on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016 to Ramechhap Districts' HTG Volunteers. Urmila Shrestha, Program Manger, Smita Dhungana Sharma, Communication Officer, and Shova Shakya, Gender and Development consultant, when on this visit. This visit was filled with

interactions with the direct beneficiaries of the Earthquake Recovery program Hamro Tewa Gaon Gharma (HTG) was made. Focus group discussion was conducted with the direct beneficiaries of the training in 3 three groups: 1) with trainees of different skill development program, 2) another with members of women' groups on women reproductive health, and 3) with members of the Kid Clubs. The finding showed that survivor communities still lacked very basic human needs, human rights continues to be violated, many lacked essential needs for survival, and incidences of violence and violations of human rights are ongoing. Therefore the support from Tewa was felt to be invaluable.

Having received support during the EQ, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) invited Sadhana, The Executive Director of Tewa, to present the work of relief/recovery work of Tewa/NA during their annual **Stewardship Circle Meeting** held 19 – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016, in Santa Monica, CA. On return Sadhana reported that Tewa's work and values matched the UUSC's own philosophy. Tewa work was well received and appreciated.

### **Conclusions:**

Both the organization's ongoing work and the recovery work are going on smoothly – this is definitely happening with some level of stretch. The important thing is that the recovery work will continue so as to be able to proving the little support that has been so valuable to the communities being served. Listening to Sadhana, this would not have been possible without the ongoing support of all our donors!

