

## Post EQ Update - Our Situation/Work on the Ground - 8 8 June, 2015

### General:



As of today Humanitarian Data Index says some more dead at 8,712, 394 IDP camps, 2.8 people needing assistance, and an increase in relief aid received now at US \$ 307.7 million. Nepal Government wakes up after a month and tightens its girdles to clamp down on NGOs and any direct outside donations causing some concern and worry.

This week a record high temperatures up to 35C, has been recorded. Besides government, efforts for outreach to inaccessible, affected, and isolated villages by youth groups, local organizations continue. The coming and going of Nepali diaspora as well as foreigners with connections and heart are ongoing providing much hope. EQ devastations are still unveiling e.g. Langtang district, where the post EQ avalanche swept off the entire Langtang valley killing over 200 people out of a total 700 population – over 57 bodies from there were recovered just on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Tewa/NA:

While continuing the necessary relief work, Tewa/NA has been assessing and evaluating the best way to tail off into the long-term rehabilitation work. As such through team consultations, and the past month context & work assessments, the two organizations have come to 3 main conclusions:

1. Mobilization of local youths for long-term socio-psychological counseling and healing.
2. Mobilization of "bare-foot" grantee volunteers (from unaffected districts) in partnership with women's organizations & grantee partners in the affected districts, and
3. Creation of a center for peace and philanthropy (in 3 – 5 affected districts) as a pilot initiative to be widely replicated after ongoing monitoring & review.

We had already initiated our work with number 1. The wonderfully skilled, compassionate, young man who was going to coordinate this initiative and was already making assessments with our team, **Raj Karki** alias Sher B. Karki, died tragically in the helicopter crash of 2<sup>nd</sup> June. We have no words, but offerings of flowers/gratitude for **Raj**, as we learn to pick up the threads again from this irreparable loss to us, our work, and for Nepal

Relief teams visited Panauti, Kavre; Kapan in Kathmandu; Sunakoti and Kupundole in Lalitpur; and Galtang 1-9 VDCs in Rasuwa. Besides, Deepak led the team to Bhurtang VDC in Gulmi District on an 11 hours precarious bumpy road, although they flew up to Bhairawa. Deepak working with our staff Dhurba (who comes from the area) returned to Kathmandu very satisfied (photo DD). The only cause for concern was that no Government relief had reached the community even after a whole month. Local people had gathered their own money to buy tents.



Sadhana led a team to Sindhupalchok district to meet with two local grantee organizations, Gramin Mahila Srijan-sheel Pariwar and Adhivasi Janjati Mahila Utthan Kendra. She reported that she *"was amazed at the resilience and determination of our grantees. They had taken a space on lease and begun a makeshift office in tents right by the roadside, with computers, desk/tables, and chairs. Work was in full swing. We met with the Founder President Devi Adhikari, President Radhika Poudyal, as well as program staff. All of them said there was too much to do in the district, villages, and wards. They are doing all they can especially focusing on women and children, adolescents and elderly, disabled and excluded groups since they are the ones who have been most affected in the 10 villages of the district – by mobilizing volunteers. The amazing thing was that they are doing all this while their own homes have collapsed!"*



A volunteer orientation programme was conducted on the 5<sup>th</sup> trying to engage and encourage the volunteers for relief work and in raising funds for the EQ. A Tewa/NA consultation meeting to review and assess Tewa/NA one month long review work took place on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Sadhana and Susan facilitated the meeting with a SWOT analysis at the beginning and team reflection, at the end. 34 staff and members participated. After summarizing the SWOT, participants did a small groups work in each of the areas to see what needed done as we moved forward. One the earlier day, a SWOT was conducted among the support

staff by Susan and Aruna. The output from this workshop was consolidated. It was felt that this was a necessary exercise at where we had arrived.

### Case Study:

1. Aiselu-chaur is just a few km from the center of Kathmandu Valley. Along with the vice-chair of Nagarik Aawaz, Dr Chatra Amatya, a six members team arrived at the destination to be greeted with warm smiles. This VDC was recommended by NA staff Sudip Sigdel belonging to this area and one of the survivors of the earthquake. On arrival, we gave a brief introduction of Tewa and NA and further shared the philanthropic concept that has been ingrained into our relief outreach. The community immediately supported the idea. One elderly woman told us *"we have been taught how to give from early childhood, and have been practicing this all our lives – "ek thuke suki – dherai thuke nadi"* – a Nepali idiom literally meaning: "one spit dries, many spit/s can turn



into a rivulet". Promptly a man stood up to give Rs 100 note saying *"I am content and satisfied because I am not just a receiver but I too can give"*. 160 households were served, and over Rs 7,350

received as donations from the affected community. Dr Chhatra Amatya noted that *"with the right approach, even seemingly impossible donors feel inspired to give"*. This outreach once again validated that philanthropic attitude is critical to the wellbeing of all survivors as well, and that even a destructive earthquake cannot take this value away. The day ended with blessings and appreciations from the local community for the Tewa/NA team.

### Funds/Finances:

The ERF Committee met to approve over US \$45,000 for upcoming relief operations. There was concern about government policies for relief operations and what this may mean for the work. Also the ERF Committee agreed that until we have more pledges and financial support we need to go slow on our relief outreach work. So far Tewa has received US \$ 578,285.02 in cash and pledges out of which US \$ 316,067.82 has come to our banks. Out of this Tewa/NA has released US \$ 418,424.73. So far nationally, we have received a little over 5000 dollars from local donors, and we have received US \$ 1570.60 from the community people – who received our relief support.

### Others:

These are times when there is no time to even grieve or mourn. There is little time for words – the important thing is to move the work as fast and as far as we can go!

*Photo courtesy: Ganga Sagar Rai/NA & Deepak Dewan/Tewa*

