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Subject: Post EQ Update - Our Situation/Work on the Ground - 38
Date: 31 October, 2016 PEQ Update (monthly – Last but 2 remaining)

General:



Yes, peace has been contained so far despite the earthquake and the blockade. Political resolutions are going through the litmus test through the impeachment of the Chief of the Investigation of Abuse of Authority Commission, the Constitution amendments for implementations, and the long overdue local elections. All these have a profound bearing on the

Nepali people's ability to sustain peace. Will those who wield and negotiate power stand up for what is right or will they prove themselves totally inapt? Time will tell. But for sure those of us building peace we have no choice but to work even harder. This month saw Nepal's two main festivals Dasain and Tihar. NA held its monthly Dasain Lunch for over 300 people off the streets. This is telling enough of the suffering of the people who fall off social safety nets here in the capital city - Kathmandu.

These consolidated works of myriads of hands, is our hope and also our dream for a progressively peaceful future. But for now it is holding the safety net – or just about.

Case Study:



Praise and appreciation were flowing from the survivor women who attended the literacy program in Jharuwarashi, Lalitpur. One of participants, Brinda Tamang, 36, thanked Tewa as she is now able to read and write in both Nepali and English language. She now wishes for knowledge on mathematics. Nitu Tamang shares a similar story



where she is now able to read and type text into her mobile, enhancing work and communications. Training on the preparation of healthy snacks was given to 22 women since increasingly it is reported that the market sweetmeats are contaminated with harmful chemicals. The trainees are now looking forward to preparing all the sweetmeats for the Tihar festivals.

NA/Tewa:

Following are some of the updates of BL/IH for the month of October 2016: All the youths Psychosocial Supporters (PS) are providing counseling services to the clients and doing follow-up sessions regularly. Youths are also supporting the community people by providing the psychosocial awareness orientations, coordinating with other stakeholders as per their needs, and disseminating the publications of an IEC material of which 5000 booklets are already sent to Sindhupalchowk, Ramechhap and Gorkha districts. It is planned to send these to the remaining two districts of Dhading and Lalitpur.

Hari B. Dhimi and counselor Antina Ranjit conducted multiple orientations, training, and Sindhupalchowk and Ramechhap districts. They also went to Barpak and Laprak of Gorkha district to provide guidance to the youths Psychosocial Supporters (PS) and to conduct the psychosocial awareness session.

Both organizations successfully completed a joint field visit of Sindhupalchowk, organized by Tewa and NA for experience sharing with volunteers of HTG and Psychosocial Supporters (PS). This visit was organized especially for Jenny Hodgson, Executive Director of Global Fund for Community Foundation. Susmita and Neesha (HTG Volunteers) coordinated the activities for the visit in Sindhupalchowk in the absence of Panmaya Tamang (due to demise of her mother). We also visited a working site of HTG's volunteers in the place called Ranathok, of Sanga Chowk, Sindhupalchowk. Susan Risal, CEO of NA, and Shadana Shrestha, ED of Tewa accompanied Jenny.

Following are some of the updates of the HTG for the month of October 2016: HTG volunteers supported seed money towards purchasing land for Bhagabati Secondary School in Gorkha district. Now they have successfully collected 300,000 rupees from the community network and they are in the process of building the school premises. HTG Volunteers in Sindhupalchowk continue to work for women empowerment. A monthly meeting with Single Women' Group and Maheela Jagaran Samuha (women's group formed after the earthquake) is ongoing which is providing space for local women to come and talk about their issues and rights.

One-day workshop on Women Empowerment and Gender Discrimination was conducted where 35 participants, mostly those from the indigenous community were present.

A One-day workshop on empowerment of adolescent girls and boys was conducted where issues like trafficking and gender equality were discussed. Likewise, 3 HTG volunteers took a 3-days training on Disaster Management Risk Reduction from District Development Committee (DDC), where they were informed about the rebuilding criteria for the houses, which were destroyed during the earthquake. The government had provided 17 designs for the houses, and the earthquake survivors were free to choose any one of those designs. In addition to that, it was also informed that a qualified engineer was required to oversee the re-construction of the houses. The training aimed to deliver the message widely within the community and they were also informed that if the criterion stated was not followed, the government could dismiss the state service and facilities provided to them. The HTG volunteers shared this information to 24 earthquake survivor women of the community. Apart from that, new clothes were distributed to 350 women and children from marginalized communities.

Jenny Hodgson, the Executive Director of **Global Fund for Community Foundation**, a longtime supporter and an ally of Tewa, visited Sindupalchowk with Nagarik Aawaz and Tewa team to learn about rebuilding lives and community through our work with the Adibashi Janajati Maheela Uthan Kendra, a grantee of Tewa, where the HTG volunteers and the NA, Building Lives Inspiring Hopes (BL/IH) psychosocial counselor are also working.

Among others, the experience shared by the HTG volunteers whilst dismantling the 42 houses right after the earthquake, has set an example in a patriarchal society where gender roles were challenged. Positively the volunteers shared how this act has now enabled for joint efforts to work together in similar work requiring hard labour.



The visiting team also met with the women's and the Dalit group in Ranathok. Jenny was impressed by the resilience, passion and the drive to work collectively to mobilise assets and capabilities.

Conclusions:

The above is just a brief glimpse of the PEQ work still going on and the issues and the complexities. Substantive rebuilding and recovery work on the part of the government, is sadly still missing.