

## Post EQ Update - Our Situation/Work on the Ground - 7 1 June, 2015

### General:

As of today Humanitarian Data Index says some more dead at 8,673, the same as last week for the injured and IDP camps, at 16,808 injured and 191 IDP camps respectively, and some increase in relief aid received now at US \$ 281.3 million. The heat has suddenly risen, and monsoon looms large, approaching Nepal in less than 10 days. There is no time to lose.

### Tewa/NA:

ED/Tewa Sadhana and CEO/NA Susan met Lidovic & Jean of the Foundations de France. They have provided a smaller support for the ERF and indicated that considering the good good of Tewa/NA, there is possibility of an ongoing support. Both Team leaders also met with Dr. Shashi Praetorius (Germany) for a possible water treatment instrument for Nepal's EQ affected districts. We have also met with Tulika and Anisha from SWAF, Saito (Japan),s Hashami (Sri Lanka) and Masaharu (Japan) of the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management, and with the inspiring and indefatigable Dr. Raj Banti (75 years old) of Sanjhi/Rajasthan, who came personally to help Nepal.

So far Tewa/NA have mobilized over 195 volunteers, partnered with 18 organizations, have reached out to over 33 grantee groups in the affected districts, and directly benefited some 2043 elderly, pregnant, new mothers, and differently abled people. They have visited Bohra goan in Chapagoan, Lalitpur, two trips to 2 places in Dolakha District, ward no 1 of Chahatredeurali of Dhading with a mobile health camp of Nepal Orthopedic Hospital, Jorpati, and Dharmasthali Basnettar with maternity relief package (accompanied by LOOM/Nepal). With grantee partner Mitini Nepal, NA/Tewa went to Dapcha VDC, Kavre district. They went to Dolakha Charikot at the request of Tewa grantee Maiti Manch Nepal, where Bhimeshwar Nagar Palika had suffered most. The team led by Deepak Dewan was told that a place about 3 hours drive from Charikot was flattened by the earthquake. The members of the grantee groups were from ward nos, 1, 2, 10 and 11 and each one had walked 2/3 hours to collect the relief. A team also went to Chalal VDC of Kavre, at the request of Saraswoti Naari Chetana Kendra – distributing cash support and corrugated tins and



maternity kits affecting over 500 households just in these three VDCs. Just the NA Team went three times to the most affected district of Gorkha at the request of an NA peace ambassador Hari, to the villages of Manbu and Labu to distribute mattresses, quilts and provisions. NA separately and proactively with Rama of NDWA, also

went to meet with the differently abled in Gorkha to provide cash to 65 and 45 differently abled activist whose homes were completely destroyed.

Tewa organized a meeting for its volunteers (19 came) to get them more engaged (withdrawal owing to fear) in relief work and in soliciting financial support for the survivors although this is so difficult while we continue to be rocked by tremors in an ongoing way. Besides the volunteers also brainstormed on what is the way forward for NA/Tewa. A trauma-healing tool was also shared by Keepa and Neeva (Tewa donors trained in this art) and practiced by all the staff of Tewa/NA as a part of their self-care.

**Case Study/ies:**

1. A 4-month lactating mother, Sharmila, was feeding her baby boy in her kitchen at the time of the earthquake. While trying to run away, the house collapsed and falling stones left a deep wound on her leg. Fortunately she was able to save her baby. Now her wound is recovering although she still needs a daily dressing. She was delighted to have her relief maternity package and the corrugated sheets for her temporary roofing.



2. A training participant of Nagarik Aawaz from program New Voice/New Leader: Women building Peace and Reshaping Democracy, Rita Rimal (an ex-combatant), who was also a local from Sundrawati, Dolakha requested NA to bring relief to her village. The villagers had only received few kilos of rice and small cash amount, government had not brought any relief, and they were having a hard time. She coordinated with relief committee formed in her village of ward 5 to identify the need for 170 households. They identified the immediate need for rations. NA with the help of 11 Peace Volunteers packed the 170 sacks of 15 kgs of rice, which alone took more than 3 hours. Added to this, were lentils, oil, and salt. Despite a



breakdown of the truck and a tremor on approaching Dolakha, the rations were distributed after a brief grounding session. Local youths were very helpful and the whole process went smoothly. The relief items were distributed without any conflict among the villagers. The

community was very thankful to receive the provisions and they were

surprised that Rita could bring such big amounts of relief! On the occasion, an elderly woman, spontaneously sang gratitude for the relief team! In this ward people had already built their tin sheds without anyone's help. Accompanying Arpita from Goonj (*which has helped local organizations with over 30 truck-loads of relief provisions from India*) participated in this relief event of NA and was very satisfied with the relief distribution.

### **Funds/Finances:**

Tewa received more funds in its bank this month from the pledged sums of money. This has enabled it to use as much as possible so this money does not sit in the bank. By a rough estimate, Tewa/NA have the ability to spend up to US \$ 350,000 – US \$ 400,000 in a month for a while yet. As monsoon arrives it will be interesting to see how spending will shift. We have received funds with feeling and love, and here are just a few examples: from Abigail & Gertrude of the African Women's Development Fund, Linda To/Her Fund, Hongkong, personal gifts were received from Slavica Stojanovic, of the Reconstruction Women's Fund in Serbia, and Marina Tabukashvili of the Taso Foundation, Georgia, for the ERF. In the meantime, Nepali donors too have increased. We will provide a clearer status of funds on the following report.

### **Others:**

We are realizing that one of the fundamentally important things is not to underestimate the enormity of this disaster, but to also not allow someone to blow it out of proportions. We need to carefully examine who tells our story/ies and with what intentions. There are many tragic or sad tales, but there are also stories of fortitude and strength, of compassion



and kindness. The entire Nepali people, it feels like, are working as one and for each other. Friends and allies, please ensure that this spirit is maintained for it is critical for our wellbeing now and to help maintain the same for the long haul. Some supposed to be nutritious packaged food called RUFT is being promoted by the Ministry of Population and Health. Dr. Aruna Upreti states "*that in the long run this will have a very negative impact on child health. I oppose it strongly when we can prepare home grown nutritious food for the children*". Just imagine – this must be contractually lucrative for a few people – even at the cost of Nepal's future!

Assessing our work a month after the disaster struck, we should all pat ourselves on the back, and work harder the coming week. We have had a very good response on local community philanthropy – the affected people are just as hospitable and gifting as they always were – make no mistake! We have learned the most! Please continue to support Tewa & NA! We need all of your support!

