

**Friday 22nd of May - 13:00 HKT**

Dear friends,

Thank you for your continued support towards CWS' earthquake relief, recovery and rebuild efforts. We are motivated more than ever thanks to the amazing support you have all shown with your kind words, endless passion, donations, charity concerts, football tournaments, cocktail evenings, special dinners, bake sales and more. Together we have raised over HK\$3.5 million to date – 100% for Nepal to get back on its feet.

A total of 248 aftershocks of over 4-magnitude have been recorded since the 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated many parts of Nepal on 25<sup>th</sup> April. People remain terrified of the unknown, always expecting another earthquake and worrying for their lives.

At the beginning of the week Douglas, our Founder and Director on the ground, revisited Duwachaur in Sindhupalchowk (east of Kathmandu), an area badly hit by the first earthquake on 25<sup>th</sup> April. This was his first trip back since the 2<sup>nd</sup> earthquake of 12<sup>th</sup> May so he was extremely worried about what he may discover. Douglas decided to stay in the village for 3 nights to try to get a better understanding of their needs.

*“My visit up in the Duwachaur VDC villages was a very mixed bag of emotions. A 4-5 hour 4WD jeep journey on a very rough and risky mud track with landslides all around, and I hate to think how this turns out once the monsoon rains have been around for a month once the soil is fully drenched. Monsoon rains kick in at the beginning of June. I was not looking forward to seeing how the little bit that was remaining in the area after the first earthquake of 7.8 magnitude that hit on April 25th, would look now since the second EQ of 7.3 had hit, of which the Epicentre was very close to this area, on May 12th. My feeling came true and nothing is left, as it is all pretty much flat now. Wherever you turn when on top of one hill or another, and look 360 degrees around, you just see village hamlets left in entire rubble or houses so badly cracked that they cannot be lived in. All schools are so badly damaged or flattened like the two day care health centres we had built some years ago, that they are beyond repair. I've never experienced anything of this scale. I walked around the whole VDC area for the entire day and in between, distributing the aid when the trucks arrived from Kathmandu, and it is a total wipe-out. It is something out of a WWII film when a city is bombed out, but then worse as nothing is really left standing.”*

*Yet the people are so amazing, something so incredibly humbling. They were terribly grateful for what we are all doing as a joint effort to get supplies to them. We continued our systematic approach by covering one Ward (= a large borough village area) at a time, and whilst I was up there over the days, we covered two entire wards – no. 5, and 6. Like in the previous wards, we distributed the following to each household: 2 bags of 30kg rice; 1 bag of 25kg lentils; 1 bag of 25kg beaten rice; and one packet of 1kg salt. The first ward had 157 houses, and the other 236 homes. Near to the end of the distribution a man walked up to me and took my hand and said “Your giving is saving us and giving us hope. You are blessed as you have been granted the capacity to help us with your own hands. It is a blessing few receive”. And he gave me a hug and walked off. He was right, as this was exactly how it felt to the whole team. We all feel so honoured to do this work and to get the fulfillment from it.”*

We hope our friends can also be encouraged and feel honoured and fulfilled because what you have enabled us to do is incredible.

It is now 1 month since the first earthquake hit. Our teams have been busy distributing emergency supplies so families have food, shelter and medicine as well as counseling. Typically emergency aid distribution lasts 1 month and then the Government and NGOs need to move on and help communities to

rebuild their lives. Unfortunately, in this situation, the 3 month monsoon has created a barrier. Communities cannot rebuild until the monsoon is over at the beginning of September so we have had to look at introducing a mid-way plan – creating strong temporary structures that can withstand the monsoon while ensuring communities keep to their plantation schedules so their food supply won't be affected next season.

CWS cannot do it all. We are a small organization and what we are doing is only a drop in the ocean but we are focusing on creating 2 model Districts so that other organisations can follow. If NGOs and Governments coordinate well then all areas can be supported. There are 75 districts in Nepal with just over 4,000 VDCs. 31 Districts are affected by the earthquake and approximately 12 are seriously affected with most houses and schools damaged or collapsed. All can be rebuilt if the Government and local stakeholders work hand in hand, in an organized manner, through a one-door approach, to avoid duplication and ensure no one misses out.

The 2 Districts we are focusing on are on the worse affected Districts list where nearly every single house, health post and school has been destroyed. These are the 2 Districts CWS will focus our mid to long term rebuilding efforts on: -

- Duwachaur VDC in Sindhupalchowk District, north east of Kathmandu (population = 8,164)
- Darkha VDC in Dhading District, north west of Kathmandu (population = 7,984)

*(VDC is a Village Development District that typically consisting of 7-9 Wards (villages)*

Now that emergency aid is distributed and temporary housing is being secured the villagers are worrying about the safety of their children in the village. During his stay in the village Douglas realized what is really needed most now is safe temporary structures (schools) where children can learn and play during the day. This way parents will know their children are safe and they can begin farming and getting their lives back together again. We are now looking into this together with the Government and local village representatives to assess needs and costs.

For the coming 3 months CWS will focus on counselling as well as anti-trafficking activities. It is extremely important we focus on educating communities on how to protect their children from the criminal human trafficking gangs who trick families during these vulnerable times. With hundreds of thousands of children out of school until June (all schools closed till 29<sup>th</sup> May) there is justifiable concern that many children will become easy prey.

We will continue to work hard, leveraging the skills and knowledge of our local partners in Nepal to deliver effective emergency aid and to rebuild villages for thousands in Nepal. Thank you for working with us during these heart-breaking times.

Below is a summary of activities carried out and brief plans going forward. Next week we hope to be able to share with you the detailed expenditure breakdown of step 1 & step 2A and hopefully a rough budget for step 2B.

Thank you so very much!

Best wishes,

CWS Team

## **A summary of CWS' response to Nepal's earthquake:**

### **Step 1 = Phase 1 of Relief - Cost = HK\$1.1 Million**

25<sup>th</sup> April – end of May - provided emergency relief to over 28,000 people in 8 Districts through 5 partners (tents, medicine, food, counselling, medical support).

### **Step 2 = Phase 2 of Relief - Cost = HK\$800,000 estimate**

A). Food & temporary shelter (18<sup>th</sup> May – end of May) - focusing on 2 Districts and providing 3 month's supply of food as well as strong temporary shelters that will last the monsoon. Piggy backing this is also the distribution of rice seeds to ensure they don't miss plantation season and therefore can feed themselves next year.

A total of 1,584 households in 2 Districts have received: -

- 95,040 Kg of rice
- 39,600 Kg of lentils
- 39,600 Kg of beaten rice
- 1,584 Kg of salt
- 600 households with Tarpaulins

Each household is given a coupon and distribution is extremely well organised and coordinated with the village head and District office.

B). Temporary schools/village shelters – (June) so children can learn and play safely while parents work the fields.

**Step 3 = Rebuild homes** – budgeting and planning taking place now and rebuilding will commence in September. We will be rebuilding homes, health posts, schools and water supply systems and it will take 12-18 months to complete.

**Throughout all steps above we have 2 partners focusing on counseling and anti-trafficking activities.**

### **To donate: -**

- Cheques – made out to 'Child Welfare Scheme' and sent to: CWS, Unit 804, 8<sup>th</sup> floor, Causeway Bay Centre, 15-23 Sugar Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
- Bank transfer – in any major currency to HSBC account 'Child Welfare Scheme', account number 400-279451-838 (Swift Code: HSBCHKHHHKH, Branch – Des Voeux Road, Central, Hong Kong)
- Credit card via paypal link which is displayed on our website <http://www.cwshk.org/Donate.aspx>