

Saturday 2nd of May - 15.55 HKT

We have now raised HK\$1.3 Million – thank you! With this funding we are able to do so much more than we first expected. Our teams are working day and night to get emergency relief to those in desperate need. Thank you for enabling us to do so.

We have had to act fast to get support to communities before the monsoon hits; otherwise disease will be a problem in the overfilling camps in the cities and the flattened villages. We have sent HK\$500,000 in the first week to purchase tents, tarps, mattresses, blankets, dry food, water purifying tables & medicine. We will continue to provide these items until the monsoon starts in early June or until the large international relief agencies are able to step in and take over. When this happens we will then be able to focus on the mid to long term redevelopment and rebuilding of the communities we work in.

The Funds raised for CWS' relief operations are ring fenced for relief aid only and 100% will be spent on this. Financial accountability and transparency is being ensured and finances will be shared with all.

As of today, over 6,600 people are confirmed dead, nearly 15,000 injured, thousands still missing, 400,000 homes damaged and millions without proper shelter and supplies. People are dying a slow death as many villages have still not received help.

Having provided his support to the Pokhara area and coordinated with other partners on how to distribute supplies, Douglas is now on his way up the remote areas of Gorkha, with a truck load of supplies today to see firsthand how we can do more in this area. For the past 5 days we have sent people with trucks to help and more supplies are needed.

What we have done so far: -

- Converted our Vocational Training Centre into a transit home to support non critically injured people and those released from 5 local Government hospitals (everyone is being released too early in order to free up beds for new patients coming in. The Vocational Training Centre is acting as a post-operative care centre, staffed by our experienced health workers and social workers.
- Designated our Asha Health Care Centre as a home for children who have lost their parents and their homes.
- The Vocational Training Centre vehicles (a school bus that seats 26 people) is being used to carry emergency supplies to the villages and the Asha

Health Care's ambulances are being dispatched to bring injured people to Government Hospitals and to the centre for post-operative care.

- Set up help desks at the local hospital and set up a help hotline to assist the injured and missing.
- Paid for trucks of materials to reach remote villages; once these trucks are emptied they are filled with injured people and brought back to Pokhara.
- Providing key trauma support and services to hundreds in Pokhara and thousands in Kathmandu.

Issues we face:

- The rains are affecting relief efforts.
- In some of the villages only 10% of houses remain; 62 schools have been destroyed in East Lamjung. 400 tents together with 450kg of food have reached the area but they need 3,000 more tents. Those waiting for tents are using rusty nails and broken wood to create makeshift shelters – many are being injured in the process and cannot receive health care.
- Some local communities are anxious and angry when we arrive; having received no aid yet they are angry at their government for seemingly neglecting them. When we set off for a particular village we must ensure we have enough supplies to provide to all the villages along the way.
- The biggest challenge right now is the supply of tents – most tents within Nepal are now sold out; tents coming from India are being charged with 14% tax and local mafia are buying up whatever tents are available then selling them for 10 fold the price. The Government is launching a large/coordinated effort this coming Tuesday to combat looting and make tents more accessible.
- We need to act quick and set up the tents before the monsoon hits – sadly the way the land has shifted means that when the monsoon hits there will be many landslides. Villagers will lose their farm land and delve deeper into poverty.
- Communities all around are reaching out to Douglas and our partners for help. We are trying our best to help everyone but some roads are blocked by landslides and we are unable to get hold of helicopters to fly the aid in.
- The Government yesterday announced that all money coming into the country must be sent to the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund. Douglas

met with the government officials and press yesterday to address this appalling decision of the Government and we hope that with enough local pressure this will not happen. Luckily CWS were quick to send the money so our money reached our partners before the government announced this. If they do not change their mind we have other options; rest assured we will not send our relief money to the Government; all money will go directly to the communities.

Our plan

- Immediate to short term plan - continue to work to provide emergency relief, supplies and counseling to those affected in Pokhara, Lamjung, Gorkha and Kathmanu.
- Mid term - June – July - provide longer term shelter and support in Pokhara and in some villages we are currently reaching out to in the mentioned 4 districts.
- Mid term – long term – Sept onwards – develop plans with a network of partners to focus on rebuilding communities, schools and homes and continuing with counselling, rehabilitation, reintegration of children and families who have been displaced (IDPs).

It is going to be a long road to recovery and we cannot do this alone. We need the government, non-profit, and profit sector and our wonderful pool of donors to achieve this.

We will send another update in a few days' time.

Thank you for your support,

The CWS team