

Thursday 7th of May - 07.40 HKT

Dear friends,

12 days have now passed since the powerful earthquake devastated Nepal. The government has officially announced that the search-and-rescue phase is over and the focus now is on retrieving the dead and providing relief to those affected. Sadly, the death toll is now at 7,365 with 14,366 injured, 200,552 homes destroyed and millions displaced.

Aftershocks continue and on Monday 4th alone, 9 aftershocks were recorded throughout the day – one was an earthquake measuring 3.8 on the Richter scale - people are living in constant fear.

CWS is not a relief organization but given the need and the lack of help reaching communities we have decided to continue to provide emergency supplies and services in Nepal. Though we are not a trained group of relief experts like MSF, or USAID, and we clearly acknowledge this, the systems we have in place are making such a huge difference, even if it is a drop in the ocean. When local systems are working better we can withdraw from emergency relief and focus on the rebuilding of schools and homes.

Douglas and our partners are working around the clock to help – so far we have reached 28,000 people by coordinating and funding the following local partners - Child Welfare Scheme Nepal, Right4Children, Child Nepal, Kopila Nepal, Karma Flights, Paddle Nepal and Sano Paila. Together we are covering 8 Districts that have been severely affected including Kaski, Gorkha, Lamjung, Kathmandu, Dhading, Sindhupalchock, Nuwakot and Kavre. Teams have been providing health care, counseling as well as over 7,000 kilos of survival supplies including tents, tarps, rice, noodles, beaten rice, medical supplies, water containers, purifying tablets, blankets and clothes.

As of today; CWS has sent a total of US\$115,000 to Nepal. Broken down as below: -

- US\$15,000 has been sent to Child Welfare Scheme Nepal to provide shelter, food, counselling and care to injured people recovering from operations carried out at government hospitals as well as caring for children who have lost their families.
- US\$46,000 has been sent to Right4Children to buy tents, food and medical supplies to Gorkha, Dhading, Nuwakot & Sindhupalchock as well as to coordinate help desks at Government Hospitals in Pokhara.
- US\$16,000 has been sent to Kopila to cover the costs of transportation and staff to provide counseling and emergency supplies to communities in Kathmandu and the remote areas of Gorkha, Lamjung, Kaski and Kathmandu.
- US\$12,000 has been sent to Shakti Samuha to provide medicine, tarps, emergency lights, clothing, sanitary pads & food to extremely hard to reach areas of Sindhupalchock. One of their shelters for rescued girls was destroyed and all girls have been transported to Kathmandu where they are safe and provided for.
- US\$26,000 has been sent to Sano Paila to pay for medicine, tarps and doctors to Gorkha. Today they reach out to Sindhupalchock.

Each partner will provide a full report and detailed expense sheet as soon as logistically possible.

Total raised is now at US\$230,000! Thank you for your overwhelming response. We are now no longer accepting donations for the emergency relief but we hope you will continue to support us as we begin the long journey to rebuild communities in Nepal. We are committed to rebuilding homes and schools. Costs are unknown but our teams will begin working on this as soon as possible.

CWS has always focused on providing protection, education, health care and opportunities to women and children in Nepal. Below is a summary of the realities facing the social sector there. Also below are a few testimonies from Nepal. We hope you will take the time to read on.

Many thanks from the bottom of our hearts; your donations, kind words and endless support means so much.

All the best,

The CWS team

Health section

The health sector has been badly hit and it will be months before many of the health facilities are up and running. A rapid assessment by the World Health Organisation and the Ministry of Health and Population shows that the district hospitals and primary health centres in Sindhupalchok, Nuwakot, Ramechhap, Gorkha and Dhading have sustained severe damage, presenting a daunting task of providing medical services to the injured and the sick. Overall, at least 90% of the health facilities outside the headquarters of the worst-affected districts have been damaged.

Education section

A preliminary report from various District Education Offices shows schools are destroyed in 36 districts. The report shows that 668 public schools have collapsed while 2,228 are damaged. Similarly, over 7,000 classrooms are reported to have been destroyed so far. The Department of Education has decided to halt classes until May 14.

Protection issues – trafficking & post-traumatic stress

Nepal already has an unforgivable rate of child and girl trafficking with over 200,000 Nepali's working in brothels across the border and many in corrupt orphanages locally. With families separated and homes destroyed many vulnerable victims will become prey to traffickers.

Post-traumatic stress disorder will be a huge problem in post-earthquake Nepal. Not a high priority now as people are struggling to feed themselves and find shelter but Nepal needs to develop a strong network of counseling and support to millions.

Nepal's future

Nepal received nearly 800,000 tourists last year, bringing in Nrs. 46 billion (US\$4.5 billion) in revenue. 80% of hotel bookings have already been cancelled for the coming season and it is expected that tourists will stay away for at least 6 months. This has huge repercussions for a country that relies heavily on tourism.

Words from Nepal...

When we asked Douglas whether a recent truck load made it through to a remote area his reply was "thank goodness it got through OK. It's a tough logistics puzzle, as special letters are needed from the government to get the goods through, we need security on the way, and of course people want the aid when going through their village as it is the first glimmer of hope they have had for over 10 days. It's very hard and heart-wrenching to pass them as it feels like you are ignoring them and don't care. It is a killer, and I had tears in my eyes when I did that on Saturday in Gorkha. You also feel threatened as well and your vehicles can also get stoned. We had another truck get through to Dhading yesterday as well. It's all happening. The next load is going up soon to another area of Sindhupalchowk, one of the hardest hit VDC in the whole of Sindhuplachowk. In fact about 200 people died in one village alone! 99% of houses gone, including two Day Care Centres that we helped Child Nepal build."

Our wonderful Deependra who has been working with us for over 10 years has just returned to the office having dropped everything to visit his relatives the day after the quake as they live in a severely affected village near the epicentre. When Deependra reached there he was left in total shock as everything was leveled to the ground, and sadly he lost one of his relatives. They spent days digging out bodies, and salvaging whatever food stock and livestock they could; it was a traumatising experience. *“There are about 650 households in this village, and the neighbouring ones. But they are totally collapsed. There is the lack of drinking water, no electricity, no toilet. The farm land has been cracked in many places and people have a big fear of the upcoming rainy season which will cause huge landslides. Many people including cattle have been killed. Those who have survived have been staying in the open sky, just under the salvaged corrugated iron roof and the plastic tarps. About 50 – 60% of food stock has been buried. People are in a big trauma as they have no idea what tomorrow will bring and how they will survive day to day. They feel totally hopeless, and just gaze into empty spaces. At the moment, there is a problem of manpower also because most of the young people are working abroad. They share the food they recover and eat together”.*