

Tuesday 28th of April - 13.30 HKT:

Thank you for your concern and support. The realities on the ground are getting worse each day and will get a lot worse before they get better. In desperate situations like this we are glad we can help. We are working hard to get accurate information and will be updating our website daily.

As of this morning, 4,000 people have been killed and 7,000 injured and millions displaced. The epicentre was 20kms from Pokhara, right in the heart of our working area and damage and fatalities have been seen all the way through to Kathmandu 70kms away.

In less than 24 hours our friends have given so generously; total raised is now just over HK\$560,000! We are committed more than ever to ensure these funds are well spent. We have been in Nepal for 17 years and plan to be there a lot longer so we are dedicated to ensure the aid you so generally gave will help in the relief efforts and also ensure long term development and recovery. It will take the communities we work in years to recover from this. If aid is applied poorly it will take even longer.

Our network of partners are working together to ensure each team plays to its strengths, the referral network is strong.

- We have teams working help desks in hospitals to help beneficiaries have access to the services they need.
- Another team working on providing much need counseling at hospitals in Pokhara, Gorkha & Kathmandu. This same team is distributing emergency food and local medicine in Pokhara and Gorkha.
- Our Asha medical team is now a member of the Special Rescue Coordination Committee and providing medical care to victims in and around Pokhara.
- Our JYOTI Vocational Training Centre which is now vacant due to the semester break is being used as a hostel for injured people who need to stay a bit longer in Pokhara for recovery. Bedding, medicine and food is provided.

Many friends have asked how they can help and we understand many want to donate items to Nepal and even go to Nepal to volunteer. We understand this all comes from the desire to help those suffering but we hope our friends can understand that donations of items and unskilled labour will only hinder the recovery process. These 2 articles explain very clearly why.

Please see these 2 great articles explaining why giving items and volunteering will just hinder the recovery process: -

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/haiti/100113/haiti-earthquake-aid>

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/apr/27/earthquake-nepal-dont-rush-help-volunteers-aid>

The BBC reported that congestion at Kathmandu's airport led to an Indian relief flight being forced to turn back! So we need to relieve this pressure and not send more people and more stuff; money really is the best right now. This may change in the coming weeks but for now, cash is the best way to help.

Some friends may want to give to larger organisations and we fully support that. Larger organisations have the logistical support and infrastructure to get goods in. Smaller organisations on the ground have the community knowledge and local staff and expertise to provide hands on support. Both are vital for Nepal.

Thank you for your kind thoughts. It is unbearable to think of the situation on the ground so your kindness of the past 24 hours has really lifted our spirits.

Please feel free to call us on 2526 8810 and keep visiting our website for updates – <http://www.cwshk.org/Donate/NepalEarthquakeEmergencyAppeal.aspx>

Thank you,
CWS team