

Dear friends,

Our hearts go out to the numerous human tragedies that have happened over the past few months since Nepal's Earthquake. Human compassion is what enabled Nepal to begin to pick up the pieces after their disaster of 25<sup>th</sup> April – we wish the same for those families and societies who have been ripped apart as a result of unforgiving human actions.

The world's media and attention has turned away from Nepal but the devastation continues to escalate – the constant aftershocks (more than 300!) and the start of the monsoon has made rural life extremely fragile, with landslides and waterborne diseases a reality for many. We thank you all for your continued compassion and donations.

The Government of Nepal has published a 'Post Disaster Needs Assessment' which has provided the extent of the devastation. Some are summarised here: -

- 30% of Nepal's 27 million people are now affected, having either lost their home, their farm land and/or their cattle – detrimental to a population whose main source of income is their land and their cattle
- 9 out of 10 tourists cancelled their holidays to Nepal this year – another blow to a country which received nearly 800,000 tourists last year, bringing in Nrs. 46 billion (US\$4.5 billion) in revenue
- 31 of Nepal's 75 Districts are affected; with 14 of them severely affected.
- 20% of Nepal's strategic road networks are interrupted
- 23% of schools need rebuilding
- 25% of hydropower is affected
- The financial loss is huge: - US\$ 7 billion.

The macro economic impact is that 2.5-3.5% more Nepali's have been pushed into poverty – an extra 700,000 people living under the poverty line.

*Those of you working or visiting Nepal or who have family and friends there will have noticed that after decades of political instability the country was ready for development and there was a lot of indication of economic growth on the horizon. The earthquake has shattered any hope of this happening soon.*

**On a much brighter note - your continued support has enabled us to reach HK\$4.5 Million (US\$578,400)! Together with your support we have supported 45,000 people!**

Our expenses to date: -

- Phase I - emergency relief, counseling, health advice, anti-trafficking workshops and 3 months of food security = US\$115,000
- Phase II - temporary homes, health camps = US\$121,800
- Phase II - temporary schools - not yet spent but budgeted = US\$23,325

Balance remaining = US\$318,275 which is reserved for Phase III (permanent homes, schools, health post). To do Phase III properly would require around US\$1.2million. We are working with 2 other funding partners (FNEL Luxembourg & Freedom Matters UK) who will work with us to raise what is needed.

Detailed expenditure and beneficiary numbers are available for download [here](#). Please note this is a working document and a proper audit will be published later in the year.

On another positive note - The Government has been working hard to coordinate aid efforts and we have been extremely impressed with what they have been doing. Their priorities have been to ensure local and international organisations work together, to avoid duplication and to reach as many communities as possible. They are also working hard to secure large external funding to ensure families and communities receive grants to rebuild homes, schools, health posts and the infrastructure necessary for each area. We fully support this Government led rebuild initiative.

Another wonderful thing that has made our job easier and even more humbling is that the communities continue to be motivated to support one another.

*“We were able to hold constructive meetings and listen to the realistic needs of the people and their village representatives, but at the same time, observe the motivation and dedication shown by the villagers to rebuild their lives, their shelters, the temporary learning centres to replace the collapsed schools for their children (10 out of the 11 schools have either collapsed or beyond repair). I was so surprised at the sheer grit and togetherness of the people. I was awoken by lots of banging at 5.30am on our second day in Marpak. I crawled out of my tent, and I saw about 30 people rushing around with spades, axes, and sickles chopping wood and bamboo to size and digging holes and trenches. Others were taking out rock for rock from the semi-collapsed school walls and stacking them up to store for later use when rebuilding a new school. As I slowly got my senses together I walked up to one of the village men and asked what they were doing so early: “Today is our village-rebuild turn. We are from Marpak Pokhara, ward no.9 about an hour walk up the hill. Tomorrow and the next day is our turn too – a total of 3 days we are giving to support the set-up of the Temporary school secondary and high school. If we start very early we can get lots of work completed before the heat starts at 11am. So after that we will return and have our lunch. After that we can work in our own fields and continue building our own home shelters”. I asked him how many had completed their own shelters – “About 80%” he replied had completed building them, but the problem was that the tin for the roof was a problem as it was old and full of holes where the nails had attached the tin to the beams of the collapsed houses”. He reinforced that a donation of tin CGI sheeting would be so important for them to protect themselves from the approaching rains. The community spirit in this area is very strong and is such an important indicator for us to understand. This will be a valuable factor in whether our reconstruction project is successful or not, as we will never have success by coming into a village and doing the job for them. We remain facilitators and supporters but the leaders and implementers of the project are the village community people themselves, and as such they must take the full responsibility and ownership of the project!”*

*Douglas during a visit to Marpak*

#### **Follow up on any outstanding issues from PHASE I (27<sup>th</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> May)**

- Please find attached a detailed breakdown of finances and beneficiaries for Phase I which was emergency aid and food security for 3 months as well as counseling, health services and anti-trafficking workshops. Some data is missing from 1 partner and will be ready by 5<sup>th</sup> July.
- *The emergency shelter for injured victims and their families* operated at the JYOTI Vocational Training Centre has now successfully phased out as planned by end of June. It will now return to its role as a training institute for disadvantaged youth – this year the focused beneficiaries will be victims of the earthquake. We were originally concerned about some of the patients who may not want to leave – being too scared to return to their destroyed homes. However, our team of health workers and counselors have done a phenomenal job and all have moved on. You may remember some of the people I met there on my recent trip to Nepal. One was the teenage girl who had broken her back and pelvis – she is going back to school! A school in Pokhara (near the shelter) has agreed to waive her tuition fees so her parents have rented a small room in Pokhara. This means she can be close to health care and a good school. The parents had nothing to return to so the decision was an easy one for them once we had secured the schooling. The Doctor says she will eventually recover.

- Another lady who is still recovering from an injured pelvis has been referred to another Hospital for further care.

A women and her new born baby had nowhere to go as she was stigmatized by her family; we have referred her to our networking partner, Shakti Samuha, who will look after the woman and a local charity will provide care for her baby (they are not being separated).

## **Phase II (June – mid July)**

### **1. Village housing in 9 villages – US\$119,000**

- In partnership with Right4Children as implementing partner
- Paid for Corrugated Iron (CGI) sheets to build temporary homes for 9 villages in Marpak VDC (Village Development Committees) in Dhading District. (1,069 households & population of 5,270 people).
- Supply is low – we were lucky to get hold of what we did within a week of the order. We have now received 35% of the order and this was sent up in 4 trucks to the villages on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Sadly 1 truck got stuck in the landslide stricken roads and couldn't go any further.
- It is now very dangerous to travel to these villages and we have to lighten the load on the trucks – 60 bundles per truck rather than 70 bundles. The cost each trip is now HK\$2,000 rather than HK\$1,800. It is an 8 hour drive from Kathmandu – 3 hours on good road and 5 hours on dangerous road.
- Each household receives 2 bundles which is 18 sheets. With these they can build strong temporary shelters to last them through the monsoon and until they receive funding and material to begin building their permanent homes from October onwards.
- The sheets are used for the walls and the roofs – Examples can be seen below in the photo section.
- We hope to receive the remaining 65% of CGI this week – we have roughly one more week before the roads are deemed too life threatening to travel. The only option we will have to deliver the remaining stock is by helicopter which is costly.
- Everyone is frantically trying to get their hands on CGI sheets. Let's hope everyone gets what they need in the next few days.

Please click [here](#) to watch a short video of Douglas and Avi during and after the Markpak village recce

### **2. Temporary Schools in 15 villages – US\$23,325**

- In partnership with Child Welfare Scheme Nepal
- Providing temporary structures and educational materials in 15 villages in Bakrang and Taklung Village Development Committees in Gorkha Districts. 2,079 students are able to return to school.
- We will provide the CGI sheets and the village will provide the labour to build the schools which take 2-3 days only.
- All children will receive a school bag, stationary, exercise books and schools will receive white boards, stationary and exercise books

### **Health Camps reaching 36 villages – US\$2,800**

- In partnership with Child Welfare Scheme Nepal
- One health camp reaching 9 villages in Taklung VDC has been delivered and treated 326 people.
- Problems seen include abdominal issues, fever, skin allergies, leg and hand swellings, eye allergies, diarrheal and water borne diseases.

### **Planning for phase III (mid Sept and for 12-18 months)**

*“We remain facilitators and supporters but the leaders and implementers of the project are the village community people themselves, and as such they must take the full responsibility and ownership of the project!”*

Douglas and his team are very confident that together with the Marpak villages we can execute a very comprehensive project. The plan and specific services would include:

1. Community training in safe EQ resilient construction techniques
2. A start up pack for the construction of each individual home
3. The set-up of small mini construction companies in each of the 9 wards using the techniques they have learned and being supervised by an on-the-ground skilled team we have in place.
4. Supporting the villagers’ access to a micro loan scheme/system
5. Facilitating the villagers to access their promised grants from the local Government authorities
6. Supporting the total reconstruction of the schools (10 in total in the Marpak area), one health post, and preferably ensuring community centre rooms are available in each of these facilities so these can be used for other community learning purposes & opportunities, such as micro enterprising skills, and trainings. For example - safe motherhood training.
7. Strong social mobilisation support to keep this community of several villages together and allow them to flourish with these new opportunities that are hopefully coming their way!

An exact plan and proposal will be drafted and finalised before the end of August and then put forward to the government for their approval.

Apologies for such a long update, and thank you for your time in reading through this. If you have any questions or need an explanation on the attached document please do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience.

We thank you once again, from the bottom of our hearts, for enabling us to do so much!

For those of you travelling for the summer – have a great holiday! Don’t forget to start planning your next holiday to Nepal!

With very best wishes,  
Zein and all of us at CWS