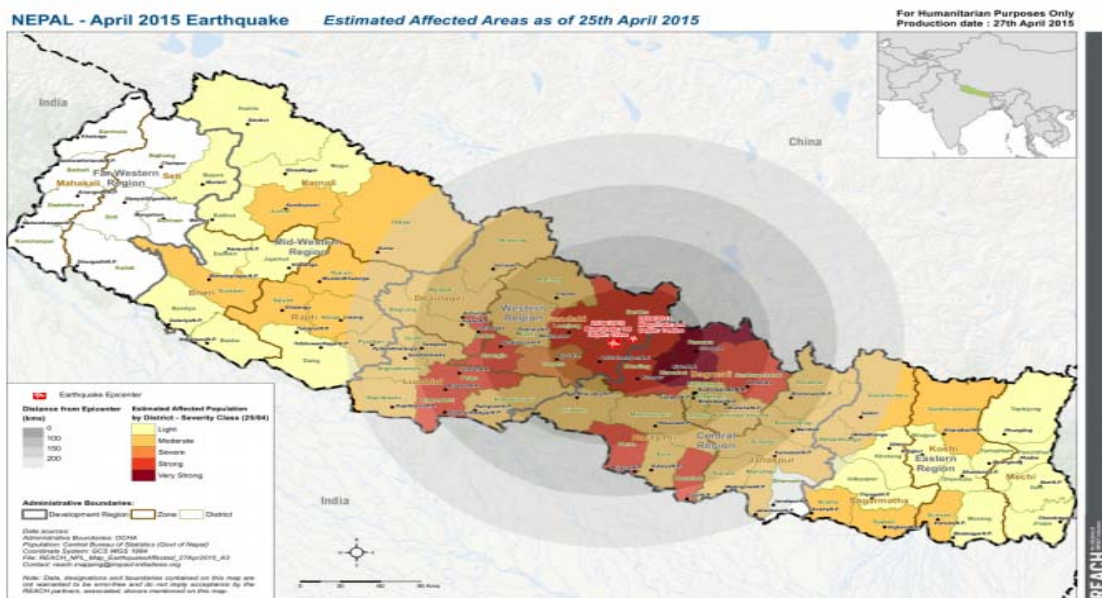


Waiting for “Justice in Response”

Report of Initial Findings from Immediate Needs Assessment and Monitoring Responses towards Affected Dalit Communities in *Nepal Earthquake 2015*



Dalit Civil Society Massive Earthquake Victim Support and Coordination Committee, 2015 & ASIA DALIT RIGHTS FORUM (ADRF) and National Dalit Watch - National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, India

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**NATIONAL DALIT COMMISSION, DALIT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND BADI
DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

COORDINATION BY

**Dalit Civil Society Massive Earthquake Victim Support and
Coordination Committee, 2015**

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

**ALLIANCE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES (DANAR), ASSOCIATION FOR DALIT
WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT OF NEPAL (ADWAN), DALIT WELFARE ORGANIZATION
(DWO), DALIT AND YOUTH DALIT CONSISTENCY CENTER, DALIT WELFARE
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WELFARE ORGANIZATION (NNDSSWO), RASTRIYE DALIT NETWORK (RDN) and
SAMATA FOUNDATION**

IN COLLABORATION WITH

**ASIA DALIT RIGHTS FORUM (ADRF) and National Dalit Watch - National
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ABSTRACT

The catastrophic earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015 will remain imprinted in the memory of the people forever. The destruction left scores dead, rendered millions hungry and homeless, flattened lakhs of houses and buildings, orphaned and dislocated many more.

Two weeks later, when the earthquake-hit populace limped back to life, they were in for another shock. The world around them had changed dramatically. In some places, there was no sign of the past at all. Amid heaps of rubble and ruins, the harried victims began picking up the threads of life all over again. As it was, life was hard for a majority of the affected populace even before. The second round of agony struck them without a respite in the form of the second quake on. Death, disease, hunger, deprivation, dispossession, distress migration, rural indebtedness, and unremitting poverty are now stalking them relentlessly. This study explored the issues around *non-discriminatory and equitable access to rescue and relief provisions by Dalit communities in the immediate post quake relief operations in 37 villages in 10 worst affected districts.*

In the needs-assessment survey, discrepancies came to light with regard to rescue and relief operations done in the process of post disaster response.

- Whether they were able to access the rescue services and shelter on time, 65 % of the respondents replied 'no', while only 35 % said 'yes'.
- Asking about the relief and further immediate support as announced by the Government merely 20 % have said that the relief has reached them, 80% of the Dalits felt there has been wilful negligence in providing the relief and immediate support.
- The local officials, Party leaders, and people in power have favoured people of their interests.
- In addition to the proper relief and rescue dalit communities have complained that there was discrimination based on caste while distributing the relief material, providing shelter and doing the loss assessment.
- It was found that loss related to Dalits have been completely ignored in enumeration by the officials and government team. The main reasons behind this dissatisfaction is
 - * Lack of proper survey of Dalit villages
 - * Lack of scientific and professional assessment of the damage caused by the Earthquake and
 - * Large-scale influential processes at Village and District level.
- When asked if they thought Dalits had not been treated on a par with people from other castes because of caste prejudice, 70% of the respondents said 'yes', while 30% said 'no'.
- whether they had experienced any discrimination in relief and rescue services in comparison with the dominant caste communities, 60% said 'yes', the rest said 'no'.

The testimonials from the affected communities in this report reveal how Dalits have been treated during the completed process of Rescue, Relief and Post Disaster Care. The said narratives also shows how children, women, elderly, especially those who have lost their houses, are struggling without basic facilities and living in despair. The massive earthquake

Coupled with hunger and lack of privacy has landed the Dalit communities in a seemingly perpetual mess. .

This process of immediate needs assessment and monitoring post disaster response has brought the issues of social marginalisation of Dalits and its role in getting “Just Aid” even during the time of disasters. This report highlights the challenges and pavements for Humanitarian Actors to feel, recognise and work towards “Inclusive Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation process” in Nepal

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NEPAL EARTHQUAKE 2015

Background

On Saturday April 25th, a magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck the Gorkha District of Nepal, and more than 100 aftershocks have also struck the region including a 5.2 in the mountains causing a landslide. It was the biggest earthquake to strike the country in 80 years. The earthquake was felt across the region from India to China and left immense destruction, flattening sections of Kathmandu and triggering avalanches in Mount Everest. Initial government reports confirm that 30 out of 75 districts in the country have been affected in the Western and Central Regions, including Kathmandu Valley districts. This includes mountain and hilly areas, in areas where rural populations are dispersed, as well as some very densely populated districts and Nepal’s two largest cities – greater Kathmandu and Pokhara. The worst affected districts include Sindulpalchowk, Kavre, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Dolakha in the CR and Kaski, Gorkha, Lamjung in the western region¹.

Post Earthquake Damage and Loss as on May 08, 2015

Number of Deaths	8659
Number of Injured	21952
Number of Houses Completely Destroyed	288,798
Number of Houses Severely Damaged	254,112
Office & Schools completely	10,445
Office & Schools partially damaged	14,201
Total Population Affected	136,52,804
Districts Affected	31
Severe Affected Districts	14
Number of VDCs Affected	Final figure not known till date
Number of the Children affected ²	9,40,000
Road / Bridges collapsed	4,555(appro x)

(Source: UN Resident Coordinator's Situation Report 6th May, 2015 and compiled from various media/ internet reports)

¹ <http://humanityroad.org/apr25nepalquake/>

² http://www.unicef.org/media/media_81696.html

PRE-EXISTING OBSTACLES IN ACCESS TO *JUST RESCUE, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION*: RATIONALE FOR IMMEDIATE NEEDS ASSESSMENTS AND MONITORING RESPONSE

In Nepal, Dalits communities have been traditionally excluded and subjected to several forms of inhuman treatments due to the caste based stigma. There are many recorded forms of discrimination, untouchability and exclusion by the so-called 'high/upper castes'³. Several study reports also states that the Dalit communities face social and economic discrimination in diverse fields like denial of entry into the temples, not served food with others in social gatherings like festivals and wedding parties, not purchasing milk from Dalits and many more. Due to such routine forms of discrimination and exclusion, the socio-economic status/conditions of the Dalits are low in comparison to the other (higher) castes. Illiteracy is extensive among Dalits and exceptionally low percentages of the community have accessed and received higher education. Land ownership is negligible among the Dalits.⁴ About 85 to 90 percent of the Madhesi Dalits⁵ are landless. Among the Musahar⁶, only 3 to 5 percent of them may have ownership to piece of land. Some major issues of Dalits have been incorporated in the Interim Constitution but many issues raised by the Dalit movement of Nepal are left out as usual. The Nepal Government has generally ignored to implement the positive constitutional rules strictly and effectively. Nepal is a signatory state to a number of international conventions with regard to the Dalits, but there are problems in its implementation. During 12 years (1990-2002) of parliamentary process, no legislation related to Dalits was tabled and passed⁷. No government till now has initiated any effort to make laws against caste- based discrimination through the legislative body. Dalits' representation in the Interim Legislature-Parliament is only 5.4 percent as against the demand of the Dalit movement for proportional representation and special rights. Dalit scholars have identified 58 laws that are discriminatory against Dalits in terms of exclusion, untouchability, restriction and segregation. (Tamrakar, 2005).

Adding to the existing situation of Dalits in Nepal, the present Humanitarian crisis has substantially increased the vulnerabilities of the community. Dalits usually live in separate settlements away from the dominant caste habitations⁸. In the general context, these places are mostly unsafe, low-lying areas and are vulnerable to floods, cyclones, epidemics etc. They are usually Landless⁹, leading to bonded labour, Child labour and share-cropping causing dependence on dominant communities. Hunger, malnourishment, highly prone to epidemic and diseases are often found in the community¹⁰. Lack of quality healthcare and education have negatively affected their social empowerment and awareness resulting in inability to act against existing discriminatory factors like; the non implementation of minimum wage standards, lack of access to social security measures and Violence¹¹.

³ Existing Practices of Caste-based Untouchability in Nepal and Strategy for a Campaign for its Elimination, Action Aid, 2003

⁴ Dalit in Nepal. Kathmandu: National Dalit's Commission, 2005.

⁵ People from Madhes region, a major excluded group in Nepal are treated like second class citizens and often treated like non-Nepalese. Prior to 1950, Madhesis needed permission for entry in the Kathmandu Valley

⁶ Their traditional occupation is Collecting food grains from holes in the farm; animal grazing, the surname they use are Sada; Sadaya; Rishidev; Rishikul; Raut; Tirhutiya; Madhaiya; Kharpuria; Satnapuria; Kauchh; Gharmunta; Pachharu; Mudi; Macharu

⁷ "Dalit's Inclusion and Empowerment for Integration in the National Mainstream: Strategy for Influencing Policy and institutions." Final report prepared by Krishna B. Bhattachan (Team Leader), Tek Tamrakar, Yam Bahadur Kisan, Ratna Bahadur Bagchand, Pavitra Sunar, Sadananada Pasawan and Bishnu Pathak and submitted to Dalit Empowerment & Integration Project (DEIP), August 6, 2004.

⁸ Gurung, Harka. From Exclusion to Inclusion Socio-Political Agenda for Nepal, Kathmandu : Social Inclusion Research Fund, 2003.

⁹ National Human Rights Commission. Human Rights in Nepal. A Status Report 2003. Kathmandu: National Human Rights Commission, 2003.

¹⁰ Robertson, Adam and Mishra, Shisham. Forced to Plough. Bonded Labour in Nepal's Agriculatural Economy. Kathmandu: Anti Slavery International and Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC), 1997.

¹¹ ILO. Dalits and Labour in Nepal: Discrimination and Forced Labour. Series 5. Kathmandu: ILO, 2005

In the current situation of post earthquake destroyed Nepal, the socio-economic vulnerabilities of Dalits may create hindrances in receiving rightful entitlements. Under these circumstances there are huge chances of Dalit being left out from the complete set of Rescue Relief and further services.

OBJECTIVE OF THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING RESPONSES TOWARDS AFFECTED DALIT COMMUNITIES

- Identifying worst affected Dalits villages for immediate needs assessment and monitoring of immediate rescue ,relief response services being provided
- Identifying, orienting and deploying a dedicated vigilance task force spread across the affected VDCs / Districts and Municipalities.
- Facilitating the people to connect for proper relief and rehabilitation entitlements
- Connecting with the political representatives, government officials and other humanitarian actors at the village, district and national levels Immediate Needs Assessment of Dalit Communities in affected Districts
- Connecting service providers with ‘Left Outs’ communities
- To come out with a joint assessment report on the findings for Policy level work and engagement with Humanitarian Actors

Socio Economic Condition of Dalit Community:

Socio Economic Condition	Dalit Situation	National Average
Poverty	42%	23.80%
literacy	49%	59%
Landlessness (Possession of Agricultural Land)	Tera Dalit 55.1%	22.10%
	Hill Dalit 15%	
Population living in good house	11.10%	28%
Population using latrine	Hill Dalit 30.6%	41.70%
	Terai Dalit 5.5%	
Use of LP Gas/Bio Gas	Hill Dalit 15.4%	23.4
	Tera Dalit 13.3%	
Professional and technical employment	1.40%	6.10%
Life Expectancy	67.17 yrs	68.8 yrs
Human Development Index	Hill Dalit 0.446	0.49
	Terai Dalit 0.400	

Source: Bishwokarma, Hira (2015), "Situation of Dalits and their Human Rights", paper presented Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Kathamandu, NDC

SITUATION OF DALITS IN EARTHQUAKE AFFECTED NEPAL

Percentage of Dalit population in some of the most affected Districts:

	Name of the District	Percentage of Dalit Population
1	Lamjung	17.98
2	Gorkha	16.33
3	Sindhuli	11.97
4	Dhading	11.69
5	Dolakha	8.78
6	Sindhupalchok	7.40
7	Kavrepalanchok	6.08
8	Rasuwa	3.15
9	LalitPur	3.01
10	Kathmandu	2.86
11	Bhaktapur	2.14
12	Nuwakot	7.01
13	Makawanpur	4.28
14	Remechap	8.89
15	Solukhumbu	7.82
16	Okhaldhunga	10.41
17	Sunsari	11.46
18	Chitwan	7.74
19	Bara	8.87
20	Parsa	12.69
21	Moranga	11.24
22	Bhojpur	9.87
23	Kaski	15.48
24	Taplejung	7.34
25	Dhanusha	16.86
26	Sarlahi	14.11
27	Rautahat	13.04
28	Nawalparasi	13.46
29	Tanahu	16.36
30	Rolpa	7.22
31	Rukum	21.29

(Source: Population as per 2011 Census)



Number of the Kutcha Houses (outer wall- Mud bonded bricks/stones) in some of the most earthquake affected Districts:

	District	Nos of Kutcha Houses
1	Lamjung	31,793
2	Gorkha	57,492
3	Sindhuli	29,469
4	Dhading	62,986
5	Dolakha	42,107
6	Sindhupalchok	60,276
7	Kavrepalanchok	66,442
8	Rasuwa	8,453
9	LalitPur	32,342
10	Kathmandu	65,556
11	Bhaktapur	26,044
12	Ramechhap	41,483

(Source: Household types as per Census 2011)

METHODOLOGY:

COVERAGE OF THE RAPID ASSESSMENT

District	Municipality/VDC	Villages/Ward No
Dhading	1. Sunaulo Bajar VDC	Ward No. 6
	2. Dhading Besi Municipality	Pipalchap and Piapal Chap village
		Dhading Besi
Gorkha	3. Gorakha Municipality	Dhad Gau
	4. Bidur Municipality	Manepani
Nuwakot	5. Tucho VDC	Ward No. 6 Bharabtol
Kavrepalanchok	1. Panchkhal VDC	Ward No. 1 Maidan
	2. Deupur VDC	Ward No. 1 Deupur
	3. Gairi Bisauwan VDC	Ward No. 3 Dadathok
Sindhupalanchok	4. Melamchi Municipality	Sindhukot Ward No. 4
	5. Bhotechaur VDC	Bhotechaur bajar
Rasuwa	1. Lahara Pauwa VDC	ward no: 2 and 3
	2. Ramekhadka VDC	Kalika Sthan
	3. Manthali Municipality	Ward no 4
Ramechhap	4. Kunchok VDC	Dadakharkha village, 3 Wards
		Ward No. 6 and 3
Lalitpur	1. Mahalaxmi Municipality	Ward No. 9, Lagankhel
Bhaktpur	2. Changunarayan Municipality	Sankhu
Kathmandu	3. Kathmandu Metropolitan City	Kalimati Sunar Gau, Dharmasthali, Lagankhel
		Godawari, Lele, Dhunibesi, Kapan, Pachkhal
	4. Dachinkali Municipality	Bhisenkunarayan, Ward No. 6
10 Districts	18 VDCs and Municipalities	34 Villages and Wards of 10 Districts



TASKFORCE FORMATION

Taking the cognizance of situation and also the pre-existing vulnerabilities of Dalits in the earthquake and to assist the communities, a rapid task-force was formed with various Dalit Rights Organizations taking initiatives to recognize the extent of the calamity and mapping the need assessment in the Dalit households in the country. Dalit Civil Societies initiated the process on May 01, 2015 during the meeting in Jagran Media Centre – Kathmandu after several rounds of consultations and interactions, for assisting and serving to victims from Dalit community as we though Dalit, children, elder people and other poor people of society are more vulnerable after shock.



The initial task force members were from Dalit Civil Society Organizations, Political Parties, National Dalit Commission, and former Constitutional Assembly (CA) members. After the initial round of engagement/field visit, several volunteers were brought in to strengthen the Rapid need assessment process. The initial task force members called as "Dalit Civil Society Massive Earthquake Victim Support and Coordination Committee, 2015"

TOOLS OF RAPID ASSESSMENT

- ✦ Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) with affected community
- ✦ Interviews with survivors
- ✦ Meetings/ interaction with political party leaders
- ✦ Meeting with CSOs
- ✦ Interviews with VDC secretaries and CDOs

ORIENTATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RAPID ASSESSMENT TEAMS

After the formation of Initial Taskforce, a orientation programme was organized at FEDO-Meeting Hall on 4th May 2015 for the assessment team. The purpose of the orientation was to monitor inclusion in Earthquake responses and find out immediate need of the Dalit communities in Nepal. More than 25 participants attended the orientation programme including experts from Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF)The complete process of Task force formation was helpful in defining a clear cut road map on the process of

Immediate Needs assessment and monitoring post disaster response . As result of Task force orientation following objectives have been attained

- 1- Formation of District wise Groups and scheduling of Visits
- 2- Check List for the meeting pointers for FDGs and Discussions in the affected villages
- 3- Preparation of different task groups for coordination, Documentation and advocacy

DETAILS OF INFORMATION COLLECTION:

As per the needs of the completion of immediate needs assessment and monitoring post disaster response the team has followed a complete set of interventions which has undergone 65 Focused Group Discussions (FGDs), 30 Meetings with officials in 34 Villages and Wards of 10 Districts of earthquake affected Nepal.

Although there have been obstacles in reaching extreme remote locations due to lack of communication and transport facility. Despite these challenges, the team of volunteers and leaders from different organizations has undergone a comprehensive process of capturing the people narratives, their needs and follow up relationship building with the affected Dalit Communities.

The findings of the field assessment and interactions are based on the people narratives and community sharing in most affected Dalit population in the earthquake affected areas the teams have tried their best to take efforts of identifying the needs and immediate challenges pertaining to the communities living in despair in post earthquake scenario. In this process special care has been taken to have a separate attention and focus towards identifying the needs of Women, Children and Elderly.



**INITIAL FINDINGS OF MONITORING POST EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE AFTER NEPAL
EARTHQUAKE 2015**

**A- DISTRICT WISE OVERALL LOSS OCCURRED (DEATH, INJURED, LOSS OF
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSES) AS ON 8TH MAY 2015**

S.N	District	Total Houses	Total Pop	No. of Deaths	No. Injured	No. of Govt. Houses Fully Destroyed	Govt. Houses Partially Destroyed	Private House Fully Destroyed	Private House Partially Destroyed
1	Sindhupalchowk	66688	287798	3107	859	0	0	44310	18991
2	Kathmandu	436344	1744240	1222	4634	9990	12915	27640	33215
3	Nuwakot	59215	277471	1000	1311	16	0	30000	15000
4	Dhading	73851	336067	719	702	200	28	20000	15000
5	RASUWA	9778	43300	543	753	0	0	8000	1000
6	Gorkha	66506	271061	410	1030	40	14	44607	13236
7	Bhaktapur	68636	304651	319	1861	0	0	7000	2000
8	Kavrepalanchowk	80720	381937	317	2780	2	93	30000	18545
9	Lalitpur	109797	468132	176	2529	252	259	16344	5851
10	Dolakha	45688	186557	77	304	6	0	5000	35000
11	Makawanpur	86127	420477	33	127	0	0	363	497
12	Ramechhap	43910	202646	27	34	0	0	17072	23149
13	Solukhumbu	23785	105886	22	80	21	13	2483	6176
14	Okhaldhunga	32502	147984	19	53	11	12	8000	10000
15	Sindhuli	57581	296192	12	148	18	166	4159	8545
16	Sunsari	162407	763487	7	25	1	50	2	21
17	Chitawan	132462	579984	7	95	5	6	2046	3217
18	Bara	108635	687708	5	29	5	2	7	49
19	Parsa	95536	601017	5	23	0	14	16	20
20	Lamjung	42079	167724	5	31	32	95	7430	0
21	Morang	213997	965370	2	48	0	23	2	40
22	Bhojpur	39419	182459	2	8	13	25	1309	2195
23	Kaski	125673	492098	2	30	0	55	174	700
24	Taplejung	26509	127461	1	4	0	53	3	338
25	Dhanusha	138249	754777	1	19	0	0	1	0
26	Sarlahi	132844	769729	1	50	0	0	56	313
27	Rautahat	106668	686722	1	26	0	32	24	170
28	Nawalparasi	128793	643508	1	13	0	0	17	68
29	Tanahu	78309	323288	1	21	0	21	3377	12927
30	Rolpa	23013	136948	1	5	1	15	42	80
31	Rukum	19303	108921	1	1	10	16	61	120
	Total	2835024	13465600	8046	17633	10623	13907	279545	226463

(Source: Compiled from various media reports on Nepal Earthquake)

B- A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF POST DISASTER RESPONSE SO FAR BY NEPAL GOVERNMENT

The Government of Nepal has done a very good job in terms of rescue and emergency relief to the affected people. Though the disaster is massive, the Government of Nepal responded to the situation with all its personnel, infrastructure and resources. Some of the responses are highlighted here

- ✦ Over 100,000 National Security personnel were and are engaged in the aftermath of the earthquake under Operation “Sankat Mochan”
- ✦ Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, in its Operational Guidelines issued on 30th April, 2015, stated that a committee coordinated by Village Development Committee Secretary or Municipal Ward Secretary should spend more than Rs. 452 million within 30 days through the Ward Citizens Forum and Citizen Awareness Centre.
- ✦ Over 2,500 children have been immunized so far by the Ministry of Health and Population and over 39,000 people injured in the earthquake have been treated.
- ✦ Around 2, 60,799 tents and tarpaulins have been distributed to the survivors.
- ✦ Along with this, nearly 96,236 quintals of rice, 1, 81,134 cartoons of noodles and food items, 620 quintals of sugar, 574 quintals of salt have been distributed to the survivors.
- ✦ A Joint Secretary has been appointed to the Chief District Office in the most affected districts to support with monitoring and coordination.
- ✦ The Government has appointed a Joint Secretary to each electoral constituency and each district.
- ✦ The Government has assigned focal points in each district to assist the local development officers to implement funds released for relief and recovery assistance as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development.
- ✦ Volunteers have been mobilized to support government engineers to assess structural integrity of houses and public buildings to facilitate the return of the displaced and resumption of basic social services.
- ✦ According to the Government news, from the National Reconstruction Fund Rs. 200 billion have been allotted for relief and rehabilitation.
- ✦ The Government of Nepal has shown its resolve to engage in recovery and reconstruction and has directed the schools to be opened on 15th May, 2015.

(Source: above information have been collected from various sources; media reports, bulletins, GOs etc)



C- SALIENT FINDINGS FROM THE FIELD ASSESSMENT AND INTERACTIONS WITH AFFECTED DALIT COMMUNITIES

RESCUE

Even though the rescue efforts by government and international agencies have been continuous, and rescue teams have tried their best to save all lives in affected communities, from the observation of Assessment Team teams and communities have shared their experiences of negligence and discrimination by rescue teams mobilized by government. In conversation, both Dalit and non-Dalit communities stated that rescue team gave a slight priority to those affected houses which were cemented which were belong to non-Dalit.

In the number of sharing meetings, our assessment team shared the information that Dalit residences in the affected areas are mostly made of by mud brick house, whereas a high number of cemented houses belonged to non-Dalit people. From the observation of assessment Team and media report, it was found that the rescue team, in some districts of Nepal, sidelined Dalit community while rescuing.¹² The two



“WAITING FOR JUSTICE IN RESPONSE” – NEPAL EARTHQUAKE 2015

Because we are Dalits

We have not received any relief because the only reason is that we are Dalits! And the next thing is only Big people know when the relief is coming. They do not distribute it by making an announcements. First they will distribute it among their near and dear once and leftovers will be distributed to Dalits. Nobody distributed Tents to us. We have seen one person receiving 3-4 Tents. And also Large families needing 3-4 tents have received only one Tent. Nobody given attention to this

incidences occurred in different districts in assessment teammate the same. One of the members of the assessment team shared his information that government authorities with international rescue team at Gongambu discriminated a Dalit family while rescuing. The international rescue team was trying to take buried Dalit family members out from the house but the government authorities take them next to the big house. Example two: **One of the key informant interviewee stated to the assessment team that the police and local non-Dalit youths ignored her when she was begging help to retrieve her daughter who was buried under rubble.** The reason, as she shared to the team, was that she belonged to the Dalit community and had been born into a poor family.

As a result of discussions and interactions with the communities to the rescue services being provided to affected dalit communities the monitoring team has following findings

- ⊕ According to the affected communities in most of the village/wards the rescue operations were only focused in rescuing the people living in municipalities , town centres and people living in Concrete houses and on the edge of main highways
- ⊕ Out of 65 focus group discussions held with the affected communities more than 70 % of the respondents have unanimously shared that although the destruction of mud houses is massive even after there has been a wilful negligence in providing the evacuation services to severely damaged houses of Dalits. On the other hand rescue services have been provided to the people of dominant caste and people who owned concrete houses
- ⊕ Out of 65 focus group discussions held with the affected communities approximately 65 % of the respondents that the keeping the predefined notion of “Nothing to lose” towards Dalits the rescue team and volunteers have ignored and neglected the Dalit Locations and mostly visited the locations near highways , places of dominant caste locations .
- ⊕ Due to less stake with “All party committee” (Local Cadre and Leaders of all political parties) there has been a greater neglect in selection of the places and families for Evacuation and rescue. This is primarily due to government negligence as well as discrimination in the selection of a Dalit member for District Disaster Risk Reduction Committee and implementing policies and programs written in Interim Constitution (2007)
- ⊕ During the discussion with communities in the affected locations it has been found that most of the shelters are far away from the dalit villages. Due to the long distance and lack of transportation facilities they are bound to live in their damaged locations. (For example villagers of Laherepauwa ward no 2, VDC of Rasuwa they have shared that since the relief camp is 7-8 kms far away from the village, with lack of transportation facilities, have forced them to stay in open sky at their damaged locations).
- ⊕ It was evident and shared through in almost 80 % of FGDs that about 50-60% dalit families could not shifted to safer place after the deadly Earthquake
- ⊕ Massive destruction of the public places like school, hospitals and has forced the dalit communities to live in cracked houses or under the open sky .On the other hand people from dominant caste had several opportunities to stay back in houses belonging to their relatives ,nearby hotels etc.



Relief is for Powerful and by powerful....

A lot of stuff has been brought as relief. When we went there again and again old them that the others have received relief, they have told us that they will distribute to us next time. Relief has been coming here but there is much negligence during the distribution. The politicization of relief distribution excluded us from getting Relief- *Villager from the affected Dalit Community in Sindhukot Ward No. 4, Sindhupalchowk Dist.*

“WAITING FOR JUSTICE IN RESPONSE” – NEPAL EARTHQUAKE 2015

IMMEDIATE RELIEF

After the earthquake on 25th and numerous aftershocks, the govt and non govt (INGO and others domestic NGOs) machinery has taken the mammoth task of helping people with relief , emergency support and other supplementary systems for immediate survival of the affected communities in 31 Districts . It is matter of pride that the government of Nepal have been successful in getting more substantive support from international agencies, cooperation etc.

Although the process so far was one of the remarkable and fastest for the affected population but during the visits and focus group discussions in the affected dalit villages / wards and VDCs, the team has noticed that the following observations which is as follows



PROVISION OF SHELTER

- ✦ During the discussion in the affected dalit villages the team has found that 60-70 % of the affected families have not received the immediate shelters.
- ✦ Even the families who have received the shelters they have received after 7-8 Days of the deadly earthquake.
- ✦ On the other Most of the villagers have complained that most the shelters facilities i.e. Tent/tarpaulins , Safer Locations etc have been given to adjacent villages and people from Dominant caste and having link with political parties.
- ✦ 60-70 % Dalit families living in the condition of despair are still waiting for the shelter facilities i.e. Tent/tarpaulins , Safer Locations etc



- ✦ There has been deliberate discrimination in providing shelter facilities to the families who have lost mud houses
- ✦ It has been found that in almost 80 % of the villages the provision of common shelters / relief have been provided to Dominant caste people and in most of the cases they have not allowed the families and individuals from Dalit Locations .
- ✦ Most of the affected Dalit families are landless and their houses belong to non-Dalit communities. The government has been offering opportunities to make temporary settlements for affected people, but this type of assistance will be based on land ownership. It seems that landless Dalits will not have the opportunity to participate in such government programs and will become even more vulnerable and excluded due their landlessness.

PROVISION OF FOOD ITEMS

- ✦ During the village visits and entailed discussion, its has been found that merely 10 % of affected dalit population has received food support after the earthquake within 3 days of earthquake.
- ✦ 40 % of the dalit population have not received any food support (Rice , Pulses , Oil , Sugar , Salt , Cooking Oil etc) even after the 2 weeks of earthquake
- ✦ Additionally to the huge gap in relief distribution, the communities have also complained about non-equal distribution of food items (Rice, Pulses, Sugar, Salt, Oil, Biscuits) to the affected Dalit locations.
- ✦ Additionally to the huge gap in relief distribution , the communities have also complained about non- equal distribution of food items (Rice , Pulses , Sugar , Salt , Oil , Biscuits) to the affected Dalit locations. To be more specific, we are informed that Dalits were distributed low quality goods and junk foods such as biscuits, beaten rice (Chiura in Nepali) etc which were lasting for few days. But, rice, Dal, oil, salt , sugar were distributed to Non-Dalit communities



One a positive note it is very interesting to note that non-Dalit communities in Rasuwa have provided generous support to Dalits in the area. The assessment team assessed that out of every 10 packets of rice, non-Dalit communities provided 8 packets of rice to Dalit households, saying that they were aware that Dalits are landless and thus there is nothing for them to eat.

- ✦ There have been cases of differences of quantity, numbers and frequencies in the distribution of food items in the affected dalit locations. In one instance it came to our notice that cases authorities and relief workers have distributed 1 packet (50 Kg approx) packet in 56 dalit families and in the same village they have given 2 packets 50 kg of rice packet for 20 odd Non dalit families (Laherepauwa VDC ward number - 2)
- ✦ In majority of the instances the relief provision of food packets etc was only reaching in case of any left outs after distributing to non dalit families. (For example villagers in Sindhupalchok, Ramechap have expresses that despite the majority of losses were of Dalits even after that the relief they have received was very less and they received into only when all other dominant caste people have taken the same)
- ✦ In most of the cases it has been found that is no fixed criteria for relief distribution in the affected areas it has been found that the responsible agencies and leaders have distributed unequal relief.



PROVISION OF DRINKING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE FACILITIES:

- ✦ In 80 % of the locations visited the team came to know that there was no adequate provision of Drinking water. Mostly the distribution of water bottles, supply of water has happened nearby the highways and market places.
- ✦ In this serious and grim situation villagers from Dalit locations are forced to contaminated water and there is serious threat of



**Bound to Drank
water meant for
Chicken**

We buy a kilo or so rice by borrowing money from some relatives and are managing to eat. We even stayed hungry sometimes. Before that we stayed hungry. Due to lack of water, we drank water meant for Chicken. This is how we survived. A villager in Kunchowk, ward No. 6, Sindhupalchowk

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NEPAL EARTHQUAKE 2015**

water borne disease.

- ✦ Most of the public sources of drinking water are destroyed and villagers are bound to walk an average of 2-3 km to collect Water
- ✦ Out of 35 villages interactions more than 60 % of the villagers have shared that the dominance caste persons have refused to take water from the sources owned by Non-Dalits or in the dominant locations
- ✦ There has been total neglect in taking care of the Sanitation and Hygiene needs i.e provision of temporary toilets, hygiene / menstrual kits for affected dalit women.

PROVISION OF IMMEDIATE HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

- ✦ In most of the villages the team has found that there was no immediate medical services been provided to any of the affected dalit locations.
- ✦ Most of the Public health service centers and sources are damaged and dependency of Dalit Communities is astronomically increasing day by day.

On the other hands people from Dominant caste and well off families are moving towards good private hospitals.

- ✦ During the visits to the affected Dalit Locations the team has also found that there has been scarcity of Medical facilities and basic health support systems.

PROCESS OF RELIEF DISTRIBUTION

Most of the relief AID / ITEMS are dumped in locations which are far off from the Dalit Locations and Dumped in non dalit locations.

- ✦ During the distribution of relief there has been priority to the families from families having concrete houses, people having connections with political parties etc.
- ✦ On one hand affected people from Dalit communities have been waiting for the relief on the other hand non-affected population due to their influential capacity have diverted and capture the relief items.

No Sign of Relief, Only Meetings & Aerial Survey

We have seen only meetings / planning and aerial surveys When the Relief will come we don't know.....

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The selection of beneficiaries and the quantity has been decided by the local party representatives, VDCs and Government officials.

- ✦ In the discussion with the affected dalit communities it has been noticed that most of the relief teams have focused on the areas belonging to Dominant caste Locations and areas having concentration of Concrete structure.
- ✦ Most of the Dalit families living in the condition of despair are still waiting for temporary shelter and relief provisions (food and non-food items) from the government. This is because of dominant castes' sound relationships with government officials and relief distribution committees, civil society organizations, and their dominant social position. For example, out of 57 Dalit families in Dandakhark in the Manthali Municipality of Ramechhap District, only 36 Dalit families have received tents. In contrast, almost all non-Dalit households received tents. It is important to share here is that the assessment team observed that the tents being used by Dalits in the area were tarps, whereas non-Dalit households had sophisticated tents.
- ✦ Most of the relief distribution has happened in places near to highways and places on the basis of easy access.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND IMMEDIATE COMPENSATION OF THE POST DISASTER LOSS

It's very fortune that Nepal Govt along with a mammoth team of volunteers has started the process of assessing the damages and enumeration of the compensation based on the losses occurred as the result of recent earthquake in Nepal.



We are not Brahmins, Rajputs, rich or political leaders, Why they will come to help us....

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Taking the pre existing vulnerabilities of Dalits in affected districts of Nepal and consequent losses the team has found following observations as a result of interactions and discussion with the Affected Dalit Communities on the process of damage Assessment and Immediate Compensation of the post disaster loss.

POST DISASTER RESPONSE FROM AUTHORITIES

- ✦ In most of the villages visited there were very few instances of visits of government officials to analyze the loss in dalit locations.

- ✦ Most of the government officials have visited the locations which are dominated by Dominant caste peoples and households.

In some of the cases even if the officials had come they refused to list out the losses occurred in Dalit Locations / HH.

- ✦ The overall focus of the assessment team was on mainly Concrete Houses and the locations belonging to Non dalit households.
- ✦ In most of the places dalit households have complained about the “willful negligence” of government and other agencies of assessing the losses occurred to Dalits.
- ✦ As per as the compensation related to Deaths and Severe Injuries are concerned families are still waiting for the complete announcements and proper compensations.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF DALIT COMMUNITIES

FOOD

- ✦ Due to the low coping capacities of affected dalit communities there is an urgent need of Food packets for at least 3 month to the affected dalit families in all affected areas.
- ✦ Additionally there is a need to have separate nutritional kits for the pregnant mothers and children.
- ✦ There should be effective mechanism for storage of food materials in the affected locations So that the communities can fully utilise the food resources

SHELTERS

- ✦ Urgent supplies of tents and shelter materials for the affected dalit locations and HH.
- ✦ Urgent need of semi permanent shelters for proper well being in upcoming rainy and winter season.
- ✦ Immediate provision of Household Items, Blankets and other items for the families who have lost their complete houses and Belongings.

HEALTH

- ✦ Immediate provision of Mobile health care unit for provision of medical assistance to the affected dalit households.
- ✦ Supply of basic health kits to the affected dalit population to save them from any disease.
- ✦ Proper attention, nutrition and care to the Pregnant women , Children and Elderly in the process of revitalising the affected communities.

- ✦ Adequate nutrition to children based on their age and need.
- ✦ Special measures to support lactating mothers and pregnant women.
- ✦ Special needs of women to address menstrual hygiene.
- ✦ Immediate restoration of all the public health facilities to stabilize the health.
- ✦ Special provision should be made for the women children for early recovery from any health diseases.

EDUCATION

- ✦ Most Dalit children go to public schools, which have been totally destroyed by the earthquake. It may take a few months for schools to be reconstructed; therefore, the access of Dalit children to education has been negatively impacted
- ✦ Immediate provision of Temporary Schooling for Children in Affected Dalit Locations through provision of Mobile Schools in the affected areas.
- ✦ Immediate Distribution of study materials to all the students.
- ✦ Immediate restoration of the schools and associated facilities in the remote locations to save the children and youth from High risk of Child Trafficking.
- ✦ Identify community youth that can provide learning environment to children – which will also address their fear and trauma.



My dream may be unfulfilled...

I have given SLC Exams, so not going to school now. I was thinking to study nursing but now it seems impossible. My house has been destroyed. So I do not think I can study any further ...Dalit Girl in Affected District

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WOMEN, CHILDREN, ELDERLY AND DIFFERENTLY ABLE PERSONS

- ✦ Effective provisioning of Health facilities to women, children and elderly should immediately start with proper follow up.
- ✦ Immediate activation of paramedics and make sure weekly health checkups and nutritional facilities for



Nobody gives attention to Single women

I am a single women and my thatched house has been totally collapsed, staying in the VDC building since day of earthquake. I do not know when VDC members will throw me out. I came to know that tarpaulins has been distributed, but nobody gave me a sheet of PAL (tarpaulins). Lahara Pauwa VDC, Ward No-2, Rasuwa

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women and children.

- ✦ Immediate hospitalisation of all the pregnant women in government hospitals and nearby Pvt hospitals.
- ✦ Shift all the Elderly people in hotels or good shelter homes so that they can be safe and secure during any upcoming tremors.
- ✦ Separate identification and immediate attention to all differently able persons and make sure all the relief and post disaster help.

PSYCHO SOCIAL CARE

- ✦ Regular Trauma Counselling for the severely affected Households should be organised in the affected dalit locations.
- ✦ Immediate organising condolence meetings and programmes of grief sharing for effective trauma relief within the communities from Dalit villages.

IMMEDIATE COMPENSATION

- ✦ Immediate disbursement of Rs 25000 per family for purchase of household items lost during earthquake.
- ✦ Immediate setting up of a district level for enumeration of losses occurred to Dalit Families

There should be separate window for disbursement of adequate Compensation for the losses occurred to Dalit Households.

- ✦ In the post earthquake scenario there has been a major loss to the daily wages and dependent livelihood of Dalits, taking that in concern there should be a special relief package for the lost livelihood opportunities

- ✦ There should be additional relief announcements for the loss of Caste Based occupations (Black Smith , Tailoring , Leatherworks and Bamboo workers etc)



RECOMMENDATION FOR DIGNIFIED RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL

- ✦ Provision of Concrete earthquake resistant houses to all the dalit families who have lost their houses in Earthquake in time bound manner.
- ✦ Immediate restoration of the entire public infrastructure in affected Dalit Location on priority basis.
- ✦ Sustainable livelihood support of Rs 500000 to the families of deceased persons.
- ✦ Family pension of Rs 20000 per month to the family of deceased persons.
- ✦ Creation of Community Shelters resistant to earthquakes in the affected dalit locations for their future safety during any disasters.
- ✦ Restoration of all the Schools, health, public buildings etc on priority.
- ✦ All the loans pertaining to affected Dalits families should be waived off. Interest free loan to all the affected families without any mortgage
- ✦ Regularization of small farmers living in earthquake prone areas should be done to ensure direct access of compensation in case of loss of crops and further livelihood.
- ✦ The housing construction and allotment should be done with a time bound action plan with adequate budget allocations at disposal.
- ✦ Provision should be made for every victim to register his complaint on the government website and getting a receipt for the same and assurance of relief within the prescribed time frame.

All the Earthquake Prone Districts should have inclusive and active District Disaster risk reduction Plans.

Proper accessibility to public infrastructure facilities public buildings i.e Schools, Colleges, Shelter and Others is needed for the better sustainability of the communities living in Earthquake Prone Areas.

- ✦ Proper Representation of Dalits in all the DDRC teams at districts

PRACTICE LEVEL

- ✦ Involve community people and community level organization especially of Dalits and indigenous peoples in all efforts of rehabilitation and reconstructions.

✦ Initiate multi-stake holder and rights holder dialogue with the authorities including the central and local governments, private sector, civil society, media, financial institutions and international aid agencies.

✦ The government should appoint a committee to look into the matter to investigate the reasons as to why Dalits were most badly affected in the earthquake; why there was a delay in providing relief and rehabilitation to the Dalits and thereby, recommend measures to address and prevent caste based exclusion in earthquake management in future

POLICY LEVEL

- ✦ Immediate Creation of National Level Task force to review the current actions towards disaster risk reduction.
- ✦ There should be a separate cell at vulnerable districts to see any cases of Discrimination on the name Caste and Religion during Rescue, Relief and Rehabilitation.
- ✦ Proper pre assessment of the assets and belongings Dalits Communities living in the Earthquake Prone Areas.
- ✦ There should be mandatory representation of Dalits in District and National level task force for post recovery processes after Nepal Earthquake
- ✦ Urgent initiation of task force to strategize the “Actions towards inclusive disaster risk reduction” at National District and Village level
- ✦ There should be proper grievance mechanism in place to ensure proper relief and rehabilitation of disaster affected. Urgent legislate the National Disaster Management Act and make sure inclusion of Dalits in Implementation to Policy Level



Annexure- I
Some Cases of Neglect in Response towards Dalit Communities.....

Caste based discrimination in Dalit livelihood during the distribution of earthquake Relief

It is fact that the livelihood of people were damaged and houses of the many districts of country were collapsed from the notorious undesirable earthquake constantly been from date of 2071 - 01 -12 BS. In this situation, the relief and rescue operation is being doing from the Government of Nepal as well as various government organizations and donor agencies. It is noticed that the Government of Nepal has been adopted the one door policy for the distribution of relief to earthquake affected and relief materials donated from various organizations and donor agencies must be distribution in accordance with the direction of Chief District Officer's was implemented as per the decision of Government of Nepal

It is informed that the Dalit communities are being discriminated in their locality during the distribution process of the relief and rescue operation such of crucial situation, Therefore, the team of four members are moved to Gorkha, Dhading and Nuwakot by the leadership of Mr. Sitaram Gale Pariyar, Hon Member- Secretary of National Dalit Commission of Nepal with the purpose of monitoring of probable post- caste based discrimination. As per the spot observation and inquiry to affected people of some Dalit livelihood about the situation relief distribution, following caste based discriminations have to be founded.

1. Caste based discrimination upon 42 Dalit households in Dhading district, earlier Sunaula Bazar V.D.C. of Pipalchhap.



The date of 2071/01 / 22

It is found that only one truck relief have sanded in their locality after the disastrous event of earthquake but Dalit Communities were deprived to get relief and only a single tent has been given for 18 livelihood of Dalit. The role of secretary of V.D.C. seems silence and the complaint of no more relief provided from the government side is noticed. Furthermore it is found that the number of 42 people from affected areas of Dalit used just single tent. As per the observation,

more damages have made of Dalit livelihood than non Dalit community and Dalit houses were in the condition of high risky to live though they are partially damaged. But the relief materials has provided only for those non Dalit livelihood who are near the road facility and Dalit are deprived from relief all in all time by pending manner of next time

2. Caste based discrimination upon 39 Dalit households located in Gorkha District, Gorkha Municipality Ward no 5 and 6



The date of 2071/01/23

It was observed that Second time, one truck relief materials was distributed to community after the earthquake where 80 peoples were attendance in this place from the ward No 5 and six. Discriminative behavior was seemed at the time relief distribution and the question was raised as why discriminating the Dalit ? Then the answer was given as we distribute it turn by turn and Dalit will get their relief in their turn but there have a strict segregation between Dalit and Non Dalit people where Dalits were in queue for a long time but doesn't got the relief food and clothes as much as non Dalit and who are unregistered in record are deprived from the relief. The role of Ward Secretary of municipality seems silence and no more relief provided from the government side was noticed. It is found that more than 20 peoples have shares the one **Pal** and the relief material are distributed by the cadres of political parties. In Some villages Political discrimination was seen where relief was distributed through the political accessibility likewise religious discrimination was also seen where churches have distributed their relief only the circle Christian believers and deprived to the Hindu fellow.



Date of 2071/01/24

3. Caste based discrimination on Kathmandu District, Nagarjun Municipality Ward No.8 Ramkot.



The World Vision International has distributed the relief of two **Mandis** and two **Pals** on 2070/01/28 at above locality and it was supplied from the single place to ward no 7, 8 and 9. During the relief distribution time, Mr. Deepak Bhattarai, acting as collector of victim name list, has not registered the name of Dalit people and the relief of Dalti name of Narayan Bishwakarma (Dalit) was given to Parbhaker Bhattarai in a double manner. Likewise the relief in Dalit name of Saraswati Sunar and Khadga Bahdur B.K was given to Nayaran Giri and Menuka Tamang respectively. During the time, Saraawati Sunar was attacked by Deepak Bhattarai, Prabhakar Bhattarai, Dipesh Bhattarai and Ganga Bhattarai and others when she was raised the voices against the discriminatory distribution of relief as Mr. Khadga Bahadur B.K was in queue from last six hour and his house is collapsed so relief have to be given to him and no one have right to make caste based discrimination in such of manner. At that time her vital bone of left hand was broken and was admitted in the Bir Hopital for treatment, located at Kathmandu and Ram The above-mentioned cases should be investigated properly and recommended to concern authorities for appropriate punishment of the perpetrators.

ANNEXURE- II

TENTATIVE DISCUSSION POINTERS FOR IMMEDIATE NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING POST DISASTER RESPONSE

Section 1- Basic information

Name of the District -

Name of the Village –

Name of the VDC –

Total Households –

Number of Dalits Households –

Distance from Highway –

Distance from District Headquarters –

Section – 2 Overview of the loss

Number of death – Dalits and Non Dalits (Women , Children and Elderly)

Number of Injured – Dalits and Non Dalits

Number of Houses Collapsed - Dalits and Non Dalits

Number of the Children affected –

Public Infrastructure –

Road / Bridges / School etc

Live Stock Loss –

Section - 3 Earthquake Response

Rescue – a- Name of the Agency b- when

Relief – a- Name of the Agency b- when

First Aid - a- Name of the Agency b- when

Relief - a- Name of the Agency b- when

Section- 4 – Status of the Affected Population

Current location of the affected population

a- Where they are staying

b- Who have organized the shelter

Section – 5 – Visit of outside Agencies

NAME –

Services if Any –

Section 6 - Immediate Needs

Area	Needs
Shelter	
Health	
Food	
Children and Women	

Overall Observations

- Rescue
- Relief

Glimpse of Post Earthquake News Coverage

This village in Nepal has just 5 sacks of rice and some dal to survive

May 08, 2015 10:27 IST

<http://www.rediff.com/news/report/this-village-in-nepal-has-just-5-sacks-of-rice-and-some-dal-to-survive/20150508.htm>

With relief yet to reach them after 13 days since the devastating earthquake, villagers of Pikhel claim the government is unconcerned about their well-being, since they belong to the Dalit community. Anusha Subramanian reports.

Also read: [Inside Nepal: Escaping the avalanche to feed puri-bhaji to survivors](#)

As we entered Bhaktapur in Nepal, we witnessed a huge ceremony called Chema Puja taking place at the Bahari temple – dedicated to goddesses Durga. The temple committee, along with the residents of the city, had come together to pray for the well-being of all those who have survived the devastating April 25 earthquake.

As we moved further in, Bhaktapur, the historical city with numerous temples dating back to the 16th and 17th century, where Malla kings ruled, is partly in ruins. The one consolation, locals say, is that compared to Kathmandu, most of the historical monuments and temples here have not sustained much damage though homes – made of mud and stones – have been destroyed.

About three km from the main city on the outskirts of Bhaktapur, we arrive at Pikhel, a village where a cluster of 52 Dalit families reside. The earthquake has reduced the entire village to rubble. Each family has five to six members and as on Thursday the entire village had just two sacks of rice and some dal to survive on.

We need ration and shelter but we have not had anyone from the district headquarters come here,” says Rajendra Bailloti. The villagers had pooled around NPR 1,000 to 2,000 each to buy sacks of rice, dal, vegetables, salt, oil and spices to cook ‘dal bhat’. “We are a total of 250 people here and we exhausted that supply in about five days,” says Sonoj, a young man who spoke Hindi and English.

The villagers somehow managed to get a few tarpaulins and have built seven community shelters and three kitchen shelters where food for the entire community is prepared.

A Chinese medical team also visited the village and has held a medical camp to assess the health of the villagers. No ailments have been found as yet.

When asked if they have gone out to seek help, one villager says, “We are from the low caste so we are not a priority. Nobody has come here to find out what has happened to us. We have gone out to seek help but nothing has happened, we only got some packs of rice from Patanjali, run by Baba Ramdev.”

Locals say that in Nepal the caste system is deeply rooted in society.

“Right now we are not looking for individual help. As a community we need help,” says Bailloti.

When no relief was reaching them, the men from the village went to the district headquarters and submitted a letter stating their plight and what they need. They were assured that somebody would be sent to assess the situation in the village.

But the villagers say that no one from the government has come to the village.

“We have no hope of the government giving us anything,” say the villagers unanimously.

It has been 12 days since the earthquake struck Nepal. While search and rescue operations have ended, the daunting task now is of supplying relief to the people. Relief is trickling in bits and pieces. The affluent locals who have the wherewithal to provide for the needy are doing so in their individual capacity.

Biju Shrestha is one such local school teacher from Bhaktapur who is doing his bit to help the Dalit families. He has so far got them some dry food, but that is barely sufficient for them. He is now trying to contact agencies that provide relief. While Shrestha continues to look for help, the community waits anxiously.

Anusha Subramanian is a mountaineer and independent journalist who has worked on disaster relief in Uttarakhand, Kashmir and Nepal. She is currently helping in the earthquake relief work in Nepal.

Anusha Subramanian in Bhaktapur, Nepal **Tags: [Anusha Subramanian](#), [Pikhel](#), [Nepal](#), [Biju Shrestha](#), [Rajendra Bailloti](#)**

2- Dalit Village Wonders if Modi Govts relief help will ever reach us.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/world/neighbours/dalit-village-wonders-if-modi-govts-help-will-ever-reach-us/>

Though only one person died in this village due to the Saturday's earthquake, most stone and brick structures here have developed cracks beyond repair.

Written by [Santosh Singh](#) | Bhaktipura | Updated: April 29, 2015 5:45 am

We have heard that the Modi sarkar has helped our government. But, we wonder would the help filter down to this Dalit basti of cobblers," says Nakul Roka, a resident of Sarki village atop hills under Bhaktipura. Though only one person died in this village due to the Saturday's earthquake, most stone and brick structures here have developed cracks beyond repair.

Nuvan, who dropped out of school after Class V, says he knows [Narendra Modi](#) is the Prime Minister of India and that he has reached out to the Nepal government. Other villagers shared Nuvan's view as they remain skeptical of any help coming from the government.

"People on the foothills are most benefited by any government compensation," says Hari Bahadur Roka, a cobbler. He complains that no government official has reached out to them with food or tents. "They are busy saving people in towns. They have not ventured into the valleys to take a stock of actual damage," Roka says, pointing towards at least 30 badly damaged houses atop hills. Ram Bahadur Roka, a cobbler who earns around Rs 300 per day, says the villagers have no faith in politicians who offer them only "assurances". It's an irony that Ram is wearing a T-shirt printed "Happy time" on it. The only "assets" left with the villagers are goats and poultry.

Stone stairs lead up to hill top from where there are several villages having either collapsed structures or houses beyond repair. The only source of water for these villages is a stream. Women here grow vegetables on slopes, but only for personal use. No one is sleeping inside the cracked homes as aftershocks have not stopped yet. Even in the villages on the foothills, the better-off farmers, who too have suffered heavy damages, are complaining about no help from the government. Tilak Mahat's family is out living in a tent. His wife Sapna said: "I need to rebuild my house that has cracks at four places. But, no government official has reached us."

First Published on: April 29, 2015 2:04 am

- See more at: <http://indianexpress.com/article/world/neighbours/dalit-village-wonders-if-modi-govts-help-will-ever-reach-us/#sthash.6fJ3kkP0.dpuf>

3-Don't you know that I am a untouchable dalit ? Searching for A heart of Gold – Nepal Times

<http://nepalitimes.com/article/from-nepali-press/people-who-have-little-are-sharing-nepal-earthquake,2248>

Dambar Krishna Shrestha in Himal Khabarpatrika, 10-16 May

Ten days after the earthquake, my colleagues and I headed to parts of Rasuwa, Makwanpur and Nuwakot that hadn't received any relief at that time. We went there as both journalists and relief workers, carrying supplies bought with funds collected from friends and families.

As our car drove into Gerkhu village of Nuwakot in the mid-afternoon on 6 May, we saw an elderly woman (see pic). "I have no one left in the world," she said, her face at the window of the car. Although our initial plan was to eat first, and then begin distributing the supplies we had brought, our hunger subsided after seeing her. Handing her a packet of instant noodles and two packs of biscuits, I told her: "Eat these for now, we will come back to you later."

“Why are you giving me so much, please give these to others,” she said and returned the biscuits. When our driver Sanu Kancha Tamang tried to give her money, the woman initially refused to accept saying, “Why do you have to give me money when I don’t even have a purse.” She later accepted the money, tucking the notes inside her patuka.

Himal’s photojournalist Devaki Bista tried to hug her but the woman threw her hands away saying, “What have you done, girl? Don’t you know that I am an untouchable Dalit?”

“Aama, what is your name? How old are you?” I asked. “I don’t remember my name. I was four during the 1934 earthquake,” she replied.

My eyes welled up, Devaki was also tearing up. Sitting behind us, stand-up comedian Manoj Gajurel looked sombre. Never had I seen the man who is always making others laugh so serious.

The great earthquake has brought Nepalis together. A lot of individual Nepalis not affiliated to any charity or the government have come forward to help with rescue and relief. Thousands of Nepalis living abroad have returned home with supplies, while those who are still outside continue to donate generously. Amidst the sense of shared humanity in the aftermath of the earthquake there are, however, some who are so greedy they see the tragedy as an opportunity to profit. They are usually the ones who are already well off.

In Kathmandu we saw people with luxurious apartments and bungalows fight with homeless people over tents. A well-to do store owner in Nuwakot had no shame telling us to leave our supply of mosquito nets with him reasoning there were no mosquitoes higher up the mountains in Rasuwa. Relief materials collected by a group of young entrepreneurs from Pokhara meant for distribution to remote villages in Rasuwa was seized by those who didn’t need it. In Sindhupalchok looting relief supplies by young musclemen is common. There are also people who claim they haven’t received any help and continue to take packages meant for those in need.

In Gerkhu too there were people who had already received tents, and food demanding they be given as much as another villager who had received nothing so far. People who were bedecked in gold necklaces and rings were giving relief workers a list of things they needed. I kept searching for the elderly woman in the crowd. But I didn’t find her. We set aside food supplies and a blanket for her and left them with a local youth, Damodar Ghimire. We didn’t have to give her a tent because we heard she lived with whoever gave her a place to sleep for the night.

When the angry crowd started getting unruly, we took the remaining supplies back to the car. As our car drove back to Kathmandu, I kept thinking of the grandmother with a heart of gold who despite being in need herself thought of others first.

4- Quake Victims hurt for having to beg for sustenance

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/05/09/top-story/quake-victims-hurt-for-having-to-beg-for-sustenance/405001.html>

LAMJUNG, MAY 09 - Even as most [earthquakevictim](#) s remain on the lookout for relief materials while in a state of fear that another major quake could destroy their houses anytime and possibly take their lives, one Lalumaya Adhikari of Tarachok, Bhulbuhle-9 is no longer afraid of the quake. Surprisingly enough, Adhikari, who had walked for three hours downhill to receive relief materials, is worried as to how she would be able to pay back the agencies that provided many quake [victim](#) s like her food and other relief materials. Upon receiving the relief materials after queuing up for four hours, Adhikari was unable to keep her tears from rolling down her cheeks. She sobbed for a while. "The fact that we had to beg for sustenance is the thing that hurts me the most," Adhikari said. Living under a makeshift hut she and other quake [victim](#) s built using the tents they had received during the initial relief distribution, Adhikari said that they have managed to survive despite such dire conditions. She also expressed her gratitude to Nepal Police Wives' Association, Western Committee for distributing relief materials in her area. The Committee had distributed relief materials comprising of tent, blankets, food supplies in Simpani VDC which is located in the northern part of the district, and Bhulbuhle VDC. Meanwhile, local Gautami BK of Simpani-1 asked as to how long they would have to depend on the generosity of others for their survival.

"I urge the concerned authorities to take special care of marginalized communities and Dalits during this difficult time as they are the most vulnerable," said BK, who had walked one and a half hours to get the relief materials. "We've heard that financially well-off families have been given priority during rescue and relief distribution, leaving us poor and marginalised to die of hunger and lack of shelter," BK complained. "We carried out the relief distribution programme by coordinating with VDC Secretaries and local political parties," said Deputy Superintendent of Police Pawan Kumar Giri, assuring that there has been no foul play during relief distribution as it would only create chaos if the relief is not distributed evenly to all the quake [victim](#) s.

The association informed that they had distributed food supplies to 115 households in Phenam, Gorkha before Lamjung.

Posted on: 2015-05-09 02:00

5- An earthquake exposes Nepal's political Rot

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/04/30/an-earthquake-exposes-nepals-political-rot/>

The disaster could spur urgently needed democratization. But don't hold your breath.

Nepal is in the headlines this week — for all the wrong reasons. It's not just the April 25 magnitude 7.8 earthquake, with an epicenter located 80 miles northwest of the overcrowded urban sprawl that is Kathmandu, that devastated the country and left more than 5,500 dead. It's also the shambolic response of the country's leaders.

For Nepal, one of [the poorest](#) and most corrupt countries in Asia, this catastrophe has laid bare its [political dysfunction](#).

For Nepal, one of [the poorest](#) and most corrupt countries in Asia, this catastrophe has laid bare its [political dysfunction](#). Many of those left homeless or injured have been waiting in vain for any form of government assistance. There were no pictures of political leaders visiting stricken citizens, no words of empathy or consolation. Nepalis had to content themselves instead with TV appearances of officials like Communication Minister Minendra Rijal, who merely [acknowledged](#) "some weaknesses in managing the relief operation." While some foreign countries have already started supplying humanitarian assistance (albeit on [a fairly limited scale](#)), the corrupt government machinery is already reportedly seizing much of what they have brought.

In Kathmandu, dozens of people have been [demonstrating](#) outside parliament, demanding better distribution of help for those in need. In the village of Dolakha, locals [smashed](#) the windows of a local administrative building in protest. A *New York Times* reporter interviewing residents of a tent camp in Kathmandu [noted](#) broad anger at the government's feeble response. The ineffectiveness of Kathmandu's response to the earthquake — and the indignation it caused — help explain [the bewildering spectacle](#) of desperate villagers blocking convoys bringing relief supplies to victims. (The photo above, taken on April 29, shows police holding back people in Kathmandu protesting a lack of buses to bring them home to their villages.)

During its recent past, Nepal's national tragedies — royal coups, a ten-year civil war, the slaughter of the entire royal family — have catalyzed change. Yet Nepal still remains a deeply fractured and failed society. Will the same thing happen now? Or could this earthquake lead to positive, long-lasting reform?

Nepal's political problems are deeply rooted in the country's history, shaped by centuries of entrenched feudalism and compounded by hundreds of years of British colonial rule of the subcontinent. After the British left India in 1947, Nepal briefly flirted with democracy. But then King Mahendra launched a military coup in 1960, got rid of representative institutions,

and installed himself as the unchallenged ruler. A popular uprising in 1990, prompted by the collapse of communism in eastern Europe, succeeded in placing some

constraints on the royal reign, the king's eldest son and successor Birendra continued to wield considerable power. Capitalizing on the countryside's endemic poverty, in 1996 Nepalese Maoists launched a civil war that lasted for a decade — at their peak

they **claimed** to control roughly 80 percent of the country. And then in 2001, the crown prince went on a rampage and **massacred** nine members of his family, **including** the king and queen.

That tragedy prompted yearnings for fundamental change. In April 2006, one-third of Nepal's 30 million people took to the streets for 19 days to depose the slain monarch's brother Gyanendra, who became king and staged a coup in 2005. Soon after, Nepal became a republic. Gyanendra is now a citizen — a rich citizen, but a citizen nonetheless. He was seen in the streets right after the earthquake, taking stock of the situation, even as the elected political leaders were conspicuous by their absence.

Nepal has changed so much over the last two decades, yet it remains in desperate need of change.

Nepal has changed so much over the last two decades, yet it remains in desperate need of change. Perhaps the biggest question looming over Nepal's fragile democracy is that of federalism, one of overwhelming importance in a place marked by an astonishing ethnic and cultural diversity.

There are the Khas, who form the ruling elite – a bit like Saddam Hussein's Sunni supporters, who ruled Iraq even though they represented a small minority of the population. There are the Janajatis, who include the Sherpas of Everest fame and the various groups who make up the Gurkhas, sent by Nepal's rulers to fight in foreign wars over the centuries. And then there are the Madhesis (like me), people from the southern plains who have a strong ethnic and cultural affinity with the Indians in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The Khas (Bahuns, Chhetris), the Janajatis (Sherpa, Tamang, Magar, Gurung, Rai, Limbu), and the Madhesis make up roughly 20, 30, and 30 percent of the population respectively. Another 10-15 percent of Nepalis are Dalits, who occupy the lowest rung in the Hindu caste system.

In 2008, two years after the war ended, Nepal got its first constituent assembly, an unwieldy beast, dominated by the Maoists, that **boasted** 601 members — bigger than the national legislatures in the United States or India. A **second** followed four years later. The assembly's leaders claim to have reached agreement on all issues except the big one: the nature of Nepali federalism.

In short, while the country's diversity has many positive aspects, it has also become a major obstacle to political development.

In short, while the country's diversity has many positive aspects, it has also become a major obstacle to political development. The continuing absence of a constitution has stymied further moves toward democracy. Nepal had its last popularly elected local governments two decades ago.

Corruption remains worrying. As recently as March, London **threatened** to cut its roughly \$132 million aid budget unless Kathmandu improves its poor governance and fights

“endemic” corruption. Few outside of Nepal picked up on the news. But the dismal response to the earthquake, including [reports](#) about the misappropriation of relief supplies, means that

Kathmandu can no longer pretend the problem doesn’t exist. There are perhaps thousands of people who died because help never came, or came too late.

Right now, it’s imperative that Nepal’s friends do whatever they can to alleviate the immediate pain and suffering of the earthquake’s immediate victims. But once Nepalis have had time to catch our breath, perhaps we should then consider what all of us – Nepalis and non-Nepalis alike – can do to build a sustainable democracy.

6-Braving disaster to reach Barpak

KATHMANDU, MAY 25 - Eleven days after the April 25 earthquake, a team of 20 volunteers, from [Kathmandu](#) braved unsafe roads marred by fissures, landslides and rubble to walk to Barpak, the epicentre of the devastating quake.

“Apart from army personnel and a few journalists from Nepal and India, no one had reached there,” one of the volunteers, Mithila Jariwala, said, claiming that theirs was the first group to take relief to the village. “Locals had begun to build temporary shelters by themselves after their wait for outside help turned into frustration,” she observed.

More...<http://www.ekantipur.com/2015/05/25/earthquake-relief/braving-disaster-to-reach-barpak/405644.html> Posted on: 2015-05-25 07:03





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