Situation Report #14:
Earthquake Emergency Response
05.11.2015

Overview of the Situation:
Six months have passed since two significant earthquakes hit Nepal in April and May. Mission East and Medair have been working together to bring aid to the affected communities in Sindhupalchowk District. Notably, to reach communities who are not accessible by road, we have continued to use innovative aid delivery methods, such as porters and helicopters. Following the promulgation of the new constitution and the reformation of the government in early October, subsequent strikes and unrest in Terai (southern plains adjoining India) which started in September have still continued this month. This prolonged unrest has delayed procurement of some of our relief items. In addition, unofficial blockade at the Indian side of the border since last month has prolonged shortage of fuel and essential supplies. The fuel shortage has limited some of our vehicle movements, delayed delivery of items and has obstructed distribution schedules. In keeping with the changing situation in earthquake affected areas, Mission East and Medair are now moving from Relief to Recovery and Reconstruction programming, aiming to support vulnerable households in the challenge of safeguarding lives and re-establishing livelihoods.

Distribution Summary:
- Six months on, we have already reached 8480 families of Sindhupalchowk District with emergency relief items access to clean water and sanitation, and support in shelter.
- Distributed 8,480 households with hygiene Kits covering all household in 8 VDCs.
- Completed the distribution of 1,142 sets of Toolkits. Final distributions took place in Listikot and Phulpingkatti.
- Additional to the previous distribution, in this month, we distributed blankets to 1253 families in Bhotechaur and 1045 in Phulpingkatti VDCs were covered to meet the winterization needs of the people. Every family received 3 blankets each.
- Distribution of foam mats by December planned for the four eastern VDCs - Gati, Piskar, Listikot & Phulpingkatti.
- Distributions have employed trucks, helicopters and porters to reach the most remote beneficiaries. Notably, porters are individuals mobilised from within their own communities.
WASH Activities:

- Construction of sanitation facilities is completed in 48 institutions. Accessible latrines, bathing spaces and hand washing corners are installed in various institution of the 8 VDCs covering Temporary Learning Centres, Health Posts and VDC Office.
- Mission East with its partner SIS, also distribution 184 sets of assistive devices (wheel chair, crutches, white cane, simple cane and commode chair) to people with disabilities to increase their access to temporary toilets.
- A total of 23 Community Water Supply Schemes have been successfully rehabilitated and handed over to the communities. The rehabilitation work included construction, repair and maintenance of water supply infrastructure including water storage and distribution tanks, pipelines and tap stands which had been destroyed by the earthquakes.
- Materials for establishing household level hand washing facilities are provided to 4132 household in all four of our eastern VDCs- Piskar, Gati, Listikot and Fulpingkatti. Establishment of hand washing corners is expected to improve beneficiaries’ access to sanitation and hygiene.
- The distribution of over 4000 household water filters in 4 eastern VDCs remains obstructed with the items still held up in the Indian border due to the political unrest in the Terai plains of Nepal. The distribution dates now depend on the lifting of the blockade.
- Further assessment is planned to establish detailed WASH requirements for recovery programming, including in Ramechhap and Okhaldhunga Districts which currently have a high level of under-served needs.
Cash-for-Work (CfW) Demolition:
- CfW demolitions and site clearance that started the middle of September concluded on 30 October. In total, 222 buildings were demolished and 485 sites were cleared.
- In total, 2,086 community members from the 4 eastern VDCs had signed up as Cash-for-Work (CfW) labourers. This was broken down as follows: Gati = 791; Listikot = 586; Phulpingkatti = 227; Piskar = 482.
- 592 of those registered as CfW labourers were “skilled”, meaning they had practical experience with construction, engineering or demolition. Disaster Waste Recovery (DWR) provided additional training and experience to some of these skilled labourers in order to build local capacity for further demolitions.
- DWR managed the technical demolitions while the Community Development and Environment Conservation Forum (CDECF) followed behind each demolition with teams of community CfW labourers to clear the rubble from each site. No major injuries were reported during the implementation.
- Medair is currently calculating and checking data for the cash payments and plans to distribute the cash before 11 November. The CDECF team in the field continues to finalize all data and mobilize the community for the cash payments.
- Demolition decisions were community led and priority was given to households of the more vulnerable and buildings that are public hazards.
- Notably, VDC communities used the demolition toolkits that we had provided, and our CfW workers were also given additional safety gear (e.g. helmets, safety glasses). Remaining technical tools and safety equipment will be allocated to VDC offices.

Shelter Activities:
- Medair Shelter Advisor, Mimz Diño, met with Shelter Cluster/CARE and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) technical consultant for possible joint partnership in shelter reconstruction in Sindhupalchok, Ramechhap, and Okhaldunga Districts.
- Concept on reconstruction project plans and budget estimates were submitted to Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) and DDC for review and approval.
- Distribution of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on reconstruction to communities to coincide with the distribution of insulation foam mats for shelter improvement assistance.
- Shelter Cluster Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) training for partner organizations will be offered from 3 to 7 November. Two Medair staff members will attend to be trainers in the field for project team and local partners.
- Shelter cluster REACH second round assessment on household shelter recovery. Monitoring began in October to cover 14 districts and Lamjung where Medair was part of the technical working group. First draft of the assessment report will be released on 4 November and final report on the 10 November.
- The Government of Nepal’s “Procedures for the Flow of Grant/Assistance for Reconstruction of Houses Completely Destroyed by the Earthquake” released on 9 October providing details on eligibility and process of releasing government subsidy and loan for shelter reconstruction.
GENERAL UPDATES

Monitoring and Evaluation:
- Post distribution monitoring has been completed in all 8 VDCs. The monitoring data is based on 344 household interviews, 87 key informant interviews and 6 focus group discussions. A final report of overall findings is being prepared and will be completed by the end of November.

Beneficiary Feedback System:
- In October, we received feedback from our beneficiaries regarding our work in earthquake response via our Toll Free number (1660-01-16606) dedicated for receiving feedback. Many of the feedback reflected concerns on the differences in the quality of the distributed items. The system ensured that the callers have been responded with clarification within the reasonable timeframe. Mission East will retain this method of beneficiary feedback system from its program in immediate emergency response to longer-term recovery. The beneficiary feedback system is a positive step forward in making us accountable for our actions and is also appreciated by the beneficiaries.

Donor Visits:
- **Field Monitoring Visit by John Buijs, ZOA on 6th-7th October:**
  Manager of Disaster Response Unit of ZOA, John Buijs, visited communities of Piskar VDC together with Mags Bird (Country Representative), John Allen and Bibek Karki of Mission East. ZOA is a member organization of the Dutch Emergency Relief Cluster and have contributed funds to the emergency response. The field visit provided an opportunity to speak with the beneficiaries, hear about their earthquake experiences and present challenges and also to see how the funds had been utilised at the community level.

- **Tear Netherlands Visit to Medair on 2nd and Mission East on 5th of October:**
  Representative of Tear Netherlands, Claire Burger made a visit to Medair and Mission East Office this October. We were able to update her on the progress, accomplishments and challenges during its six months of emergency response, and also clarified our plans for completion of the activities the emergency response phase.

**From the Field**

Happy beneficiaries of Gati VDC show items received for household level hand-washing corner establishment. © Mission East/Padam Kattel

A latrine constructed at a temporary learning centre in Phulpingkatti VDC. In the background is the old latrine damaged by the earthquakes. © Mission East/Bibek Karki

The homeowner of a damaged house in Listikot VDC joins the Medair CFW team working to demolish and clear his house. © Medair / Phil Vice

A beneficiary returns with smile as he receives shelter and WASH items at the Mission East and Medair distribution in Phulpingkatti VDC on 28 Oct 2015. © Medair / Hester Sanderman

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

**Goodbyes:**
James McDowell, Country Director, Medair
Tanja Kisslinger, Asia Regional Communications Officer, Medair

**Newcomers:**
Nishee Shrestha Adhikari, Gender and Social Inclusion Coordinator, Mission East
Joe Harbison, Country Director, Medair
Viren Falcao, Project Coordinator, Medair
This is the final SitRep jointly published by Mission East and Medair. We have come up with 14 editions of SitRep focused on earthquake emergency response between April and October 2015. We extend our cordial thanks to our donors, beneficiaries and partners for their immense support. Mission East and Medair will continue to coordinate closely to ensure a complementarity of Shelter and WASH responses through ongoing programmes in the targeted and additional VDCs in the continuing recovery phase. If you have questions about the SitRep, or need additional information, please contact:

**Medair**
Prasun Singh  
Communications Officer  
Mahalaxmisthan, Lalitpur, Nepal  
Cell: +997 9810297366  
Email: comms-npl@medair.org  
Web: www.medair.org

**Mission East**
Shreeju Shrestha  
Project Officer  
Jawalakhel, Lalitpur, Nepal  
Cell: +997 984 154 0524  
Email: shreeju.shrestha@missioneast.org  
Web: www.miseast.org

**Funded by**
- Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
- USAID
- Läkarmissionen
- Integral
- SWISS SOLIDARITY