Situation Report 11: Nepal Earthquake Emergency Response 06.08.2015

Overview of the Situation: Three months have passed since a devastating earthquake hit Nepal that was followed by another quake on 12 May. Medair and Mission East have been working hard to bring aid to the affected communities in Sindupalchowk District and the Relief Phase is now coming to an end. To reach communities who are not accessible by road, we have needed to utilize innovative aid delivery methods, such as the deployment of porters, as even air lifting is not always reliable due to unpredictable weather conditions. Politically, the government of Nepal is finalizing the process of drafting a new constitution. Regularly we are confronted with activists protesting in the streets of Kathmandu. The protests have not hindered any of our distributions.

Situation Overview of Shelter and Water Relief Items: Last week we managed to start our activities in Listikot, one of the last remaining VDCs to finalize our distributions. Over 110 households have been served so far, and with the deployment of porters who will carry the items up hill (more than 17,500 kg) we hope to be able to finish distributions to a total of 1240 households this week, distribution sites. Teams also managed to come to an agreement with the VDC committee in Bhotefnour regarding the final household numbers and follow up distributions of blankets and hygiene kits will

HIGHLIGHTS

Hundred and four Tool Kit Distribution at Haibung VDC benefiting 722 families. The tool kit contains 14 items useful for the demolition of damaged houses.

A porter rests after 5 hours long walk from the road head in Listi of Listikat VDC, from where distribution of sanitation materials will take place on Friday, 7th of August.

6833 HHs Reached
take place next week. To date, we have reached 6833 households total since the start of the project through many distribution points across the VDCs. Presence of representatives from SIS, our local partner for inclusion of disability in these distribution points was one step towards ensuring inclusion for all. We will use porters again to reach the remote VDC of Fulpingkatti to do a follow up distribution of blankets. Gati VDC has requested solar lanterns. As households have moved to living near the forest in open land and bushes where they feel safer, they lack electricity and suffer during night time from insects, leeches, etc. Procurement of extra solar lanterns for provisioning to these communities is in progress.

**WASH activities:** A considerable achievement has taken place in Sindhukot VDC, where it is reported that open defecation has been eliminated. The VDC has returned to 'ODF status' (Open Defecation Free), signifying a major accomplishment in sanitation has been made by the community with support from Mission East/Medair and partners. Support for the construction of 400 temporary toilets was provided, enabling a healthier environment for the VDC of more than 5000 people. Materials for over 1800 household toilets have been distributed in communities so far, with toilets having been rapidly constructed in communities. Community action plan which were a basis for number identification of these toilets, included accessibility for elderly, persons with disabilities, children, women as a major selection factor. Follow-up support and hygiene education was conducted in the areas of Gati VDC, which was earlier reported to have low levels of awareness and improper use of water purification including community meetings and door-to-door visits by CDECF staff providing instruction on the benefits and correct use of water purification. We have fully completed 5 VDCs with follow-up distributions. With only partial distribution, still remaining are Fulpingkatti, Bhotechaur and Listikot.

**Toolkit distribution:** The distribution of toolkits for demolition and rubble removal has begun with distributions in the VDCs of Haibung and parts of Bhotechaur. With the start of the distribution of 144 sets of toolkits serving 722 households, we move further into the Recovery & Rehabilitation Phase. The toolkits (comprising of shovels, pickaxes, hoes, hammers, tin snips, saws, sledge hammers, galvanized steel buckets, tie wire and roofing nails) are being distributed to groups of 7 households to share amongst themselves. The distribution of the toolkits was accompanied by messaging around safe demolition and on the use of the individual tools. The groups of 7 households are agreed by the Ward Citizen Forum after consultation with individual households.

### GENERAL UPDATES

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Database is being set up of household-level information about our beneficiaries from all eight VDCs. Included in this are information about the caste/ethnicity, gender, children, elderly, persons with disability, and impact of earthquake, specifically loss of family members and livestock. This database would facilitate in making our programs and activities more inclusive. Thus far, we have completed data collection and data entry of household-level data from Gati and Piskar. Field data collection and data entry for other VDCs is in progress.

- **Training on Inclusion:** The Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist of Mission East prepared a training for ME/Medair and staff of partner organizations to promote an inclusive approach in the Emergency and Response phase after a disaster. In total, 18 people participated of 5 different organizations: Mission East, MEDAIR, NNDSWO, CDECF and SIS and the training was well received. The main focus of this joint activity was the ACAP (Accessibility, Communication, Attitude and Participation) framework as utilized successfully by Mission East to achieve “inclusion for all” within development activities, including DRR and Emergency Response. During this training, the participants could experience several tools that would enable them to approach their work in an even more inclusive way.
• On the 10th of June, the government diverted 8600 blankets and 5850 pieces of rope from Medair during the customs processing to distribute in other districts. We have requested written confirmation from the Nepali government on where and when materials were distributed. We finally received signed waybills that those items went to the districts of Kavre, Dhading, Nuwakot and Ghorka to be distributed by the government to the affected communities.

Some Photos /Story

Walking to Fulpingkatti VDC and Flying Out
Tek Maya Thami, a 23 year old Social Mobiliser of CDECF (one of the partner organizations) shared her big thanks to a MAF helicopter which was needed to avoid the dangerous landslide prone track and safely get back to Kathmandu in a mere 25 minutes, while returning back from the Distribution site at Fulpingkatti VDC- a geographically isolated VDC of Sindhupalchowk District. Here we have reached 1045 families with emergency relief items. Previously, she had traveled 8 hours of intensive via road and trekked past new landslides, which was very dangerous. She adds MAF is doing a very good job by joining hands with helping the earthquake affected communities of the VDCs in Fulpingkatti, where road access is very difficult and has been made even more difficult due to the onset of monsoon.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newcomers</th>
<th>Goodbyes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James McDowell (Country Director, Medair)</td>
<td>Alexandra Svoboda (HR/FIN Manager, Medair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon Bird (Shelter Advisor, Medair)</td>
<td>Alex Miller (Shelter Project Manager, Medair)</td>
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<td>Katharina Hackstein (Cash Consultant, Medair)</td>
<td>Alberto Livoni (Head of Country Programme, Medair)</td>
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CONTACT
This SitRep will be produced every two weeks on Thursdays. If you have questions about the SitRep, are in need of additional information, or want to add anything for the next SitRep, please contact Monica de Graaf (Medair) and/or Shreeju Shrestha (Mission East). The next SitRep will be published on Thursday the 3rd of September 2015.

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