Situation Report 6: Earthquake Emergency Response
11.06.2015

One of the two distribution sites in Piskar VDC. Getting ready for distribution of shelter and WASH items to 330 families; separate lines for women, males and people who need assistance (such as elderly people, people with disabilities and pregnant women) were set up to streamline the distribution.
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Even the rubble / packages of the distribution items in Piskar VDC are being put to good use. Here you see one of the children playing, dancing and singing and laughing – making their own toys out of them. Life goes on in Piskar and after a long day of distributions – it was such a joy to see these children having fun.
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HIGHLIGHTS

Overview of the situation in country*
The government reported a total of 505,745 houses destroyed and 279,330 damaged by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 25 April and the 7.3 quake on 12 May. The earthquake has killed 8,702 people (4,801 female; 3,899 male; 2 bodies remain unidentified) and injured thousands. The impending monsoon rains are expected to further isolate remote villages, making reaching them difficult. District authorities and humanitarian partners continue to prioritise distribution of shelter materials in the northern Village Development Committees (VDCs).
*Reference data and information: SitRep-OCHA, 3 June 2015

Situation overview of our work

- Relief Item Distribution

On 8 June Medair and Mission East successfully distributed shelter and WASH relief items to 610 families in Piskar VDC (in total Medair and Mission East now distributed items to 4,129 households), a remote south eastern VDC of Sindupalchowk which is a 5.5 hour drive from Kathmandu. Distribution was done from two distribution sites: Managalsen Secondary School and Jalpadevi Primary School. The distribution was conducted in a peaceful manner and without any major obstructions. General voice was that people were really grateful for all their materials and the equal distribution to all households. The next distribution we have planned will take place in Gati VDC, hopefully next week. Due to the remoteness of the VDC, both road and air routes will be used for reaching all of the households.
• **Local Partner Induction on Emergency WASH (9 and 10 June)**
  An induction program was conducted for twelve members of local partner Community Development and Environmental Conservation Forum (CDECF). The two day program in Chautara was focused on community-led emergency sanitation, an approach which will be used to enable rapid improvements in hygiene and sanitation in areas affected by the earthquake. The approach will build on a previous campaign by CDECF that achieved complete sanitation coverage in communities prior to the earthquake. Multiple stakeholders will now be involved in the community-led process to make safe use of emergency sanitation facilities.

**ASSESSMENT**

• **Program Monitoring and Needs Assessment**
  Between 2 and 8 June 2015, Mission East and Medair staff completed data collection for *Program monitoring and Needs Assessment* in the following four VDCs – Bhotechaur, Thakani, Haibung and Sindhukot. A total of 122 household interviews and 44 key informant interviews were conducted. Additionally, two focus group discussions; one in Haibung and the other in Sindhukot took place. The collected data is currently being analysed: the plan is to complete the Monitoring and Needs Assessment Report within the next two weeks.

• **Situation Analysis by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (DANIDA) representatives**
  Delegates from DANIDA, Mr. Thomas Thomsen, Senior Advisor and Head of Team Humanitarian Action and Mr. Eric Toft, Senior consultant conducted a situation assessment in two of VDCs we work in: Haibung and Thakani. The team of DANIDA and project partners in the VDC visited and interacted closely with some of the earthquake affected families. The interaction concentrated on the present situation of the damage and also on the communities’ future needs in light of the upcoming monsoon. The VDC secretaries of the respected VDCs were also present during this visit.

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**EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

Staff newcomers and goodbyes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newcomers</th>
<th>Goodbyes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Klasien Hoeve (Logistics Manager Medair)</td>
<td>Jeff Warnock (Logistics Manager Medair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Smith (Shelter Project Manager Medair)</td>
<td>Rita McIntyre (Shelter Advisor Medair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Miller (Shelter Project Manager Medair)</td>
<td>Alison Ely (Shelter Project Manager Medair)</td>
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**COMMUNICATION AND KEY MESSAGES**

• **Photos:** New photos and video of Piskar distribution available on the shared hard drive.
• **Updates** about Nepal on [Facebook Medair](https://www.facebook.com/Medair) and [Facebook Mission East](https://www.facebook.com/MissionEast).  
• **Impact in Nepal: 6 weeks later** – press release.

**GENERAL UPDATES**

• Complaints mechanism: In addition to having a desk at the distribution site (which is already in place) to physically receive complaints, Medair and Mission East recognise that it is very important to capture and record those complaints we hear so that we have a log/record of them and how they were addressed for purposes of beneficiary accountability. Therefore we are working on setting up a sustainable system, in which the following aspects are accounted for: information, accessibility, procedures, response and learning.
• The Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Ms. Lilianne Ploumen met with eight agencies of the Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA). Together they prepared eight short presentations. Monica de Graaf (Programme Funding Manager with Medair) presented on behalf of TEAR NL and shared the heartbreaking but hopeful story of one of our beneficiaries who received much needed relief items. Gyan Adhikari (Country Representative of Mission East) also attended the meeting. Medair and Mission East are the implementing partners of TEAR NL who is one of the eight NGO’S who is part of the DRA. The DRA will continue to meet regularly and coordinate among each other as much as possible to avoid overlap in distributing relief.

Contact
This SitRep will be produced weekly on Thursdays. If you have questions about the SitRep, or are in need of additional information or want to add anything for the next SitRep, please contact Wendy van Amerongen (Medair) and/or Shreeju Shrestha (Mission East).

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Some accounts / quotes from the people we serve
Piskar VDC Chairman and Secretary Dhana Bahadur Chand: “I only arrived here in my district six days after the earthquake. I was struck by the severity of it all. So many people lost their houses. I’m very happy and am a bit relieved now that you have come with tarpaulins and rope. And also all the other materials, you gave are such good materials. The line-up system is very good and the fact that you used local volunteers and organised this through the input of the local people is so good. You incorporated our/their participation. Also the complaint collection mechanism is a really good thing. I will definitely recommend other organisations to do it in the way you did it. It’s very efficient.”
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Chaur Maya Thami (woman carrying the relief materials back home) in Piskar (Sindhupalchowk): “Thank you so much for what you have done. I will use everything that I was given. It’s very useful.”
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Hari B. Karki, Programme Manager with Mission East: Explaining the distribution process to the community and showing them what is being distributed to every household.
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Mission East and Medair reached 610 families with relief material, training on shelter building and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion in Piskar VDC - the remote southeastern part of Sindhupalchowk.
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