

Disaster Relief Response



Five weeks have already passed since the devastating earthquake that hit Nepal on April 25. Since that time, numerous aftershocks, including 2 major ones measuring 6.7 magnitudes and 7.3 magnitudes on April 26 and May 12 respectively, caused further destruction and loss of lives. According to Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Portal (NDRRP), total death toll has reached 8692, with 22,221 people injured, 800,000 family homes uninhabitable. Nearly 45,000 school classrooms have been destroyed and beyond use, after the two major earthquakes causing the education of 1 million children in jeopardy. In the aftermath of the earthquake, Nepal Youth Foundation launched a major relief effort to provide emergency help for those worst affected, as well as temporary solutions and long-term rebuilding.

UPDATE AS OF JUNE 1

DISTRICTS NYF COVERED: NINE

- Sindhupalchok,
- Dolkha,
- Kavre,
- Nuwakot,
- Gorkha,
- Dhading
- Kathmandu,
- Lalitpur,
- Bhaktapur

REACH:

- 12,000 families
- 75,000 people

WORK DONE

1. HOSPITAL SUPPORT:

Within hours after the earthquake, the hospitals in Kathmandu were swarmed with casualties. NYF met with hospital authorities and immediately provided US\$80,000 worth of medical and surgical supplies, beds, blankets and food for three major hospitals (TU Teaching Hospital, Patan Hospital and Dhulikhel Hospital). This included a C-ARM machine worth US\$ 28,000 - used for rapid assessment of fractures-for Patan Hospital, as the inflow of orthopedic cases was overwhelming. NYF turned its Nutritional Homes in Kathmandu and Pokhara into recovery homes with complete medical care for patients discharged from hospitals but unable to return home. 150 patients (including pregnant women, new mothers and babies) and an equal number of caretakers have received shelter at the recovery homes. There are still 40 patients (and their caretakers) remaining and receiving medical care. NYF also provided inter-hospital ambulance services and provided transportation for an additional 100 plus discharged patients to return home from different hospital.



2. EMERGENCY RELIEF:

In addition to this, NYF reached out to 3,500 families with emergency supplies of food, clothes, hygiene supplies, tarpaulins, community tents, corrugated GI sheets and construction tools. We have also distributed 400 water filters and 10,000 mosquito nets in the worst affected districts.



3. DAY CARE AND LEARNING CENTER:

NYF's Day Care and Learning Centers for earthquake affected children, which – provide a comprehensive program for education, recreation, nutrition, and psychological counseling, are becoming a huge success. We are currently running 17 centers in Kathmandu valley and Dolakha, benefiting over 1,200 children. In a context where nearly 1 million children are out of school and their families are short of adequate food and a child friendly environment at home, NYF's Day Care concept has proved to be extremely effective and is getting a very positive response from the community.



4. PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS:

NYF has developed a psychological support mechanism for earthquake survivors focusing on children, teachers and parents. As part of the program, psychologists from NYF's Ankur Counseling Center have already trained 165 teachers, staff and volunteers on how to provide psychological first aid and support to the children, and counsel parents about how to help their children to overcome the insecurity surrounding the earthquake. Relaxation and self help techniques were also included in the training. In the next few days Ankur will be busy conducting trainings for more schools.

Working within the Health and Protection Cluster under the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Ankur is conducted 2 days intensive Training of Trainers (TOT) on (June 2 and 3) on the topic 'Psychosocial Support and Self Help' for the psychosocial working group who are now mobilized in the affected communities for counseling and psychological support for the earthquake survivors. Since our lead counselor, Chhori Laxmi Maharjan, was in San Francisco studying for her PhD, we called her back to Kathmandu immediately after the earthquake. She took time off from her studies, and her presence has added great strength in Ankur's work.



T-SHELTER FOR FAMILIES:

Given the fact that monsoon is fast approaching, everybody suddenly realized that creating shelters stronger than just tarpaulins is the most urgent need to protect people. The only reasonable and quick alternative to tarpaulins is corrugated sheets, from which people can make a temporary shelter (T-Shelter) using bamboo or lumber, whatever they find locally. The government is urging NGOs and aid agencies to provide T-Shelters. Taking this genuine call into consideration, NYF is all set to provide T-Shelter for 1,700 families in the districts of Gorkha, Kavre, Sindhupalchok and Kathmandu Valley (Lalitpur) and it will be done before June 15. Likewise, we have already distributed 50 community tents to affected families. Each tent is good enough for 20 people to sleep in. Altogether 200 families are getting a peaceful sleep in these tents.



TRANSIT HOME FOR CHILDREN:

At the request of the Central Child Welfare Board of the Nepal government, NYF has launched a program to set up transit homes for children who lost their parents and guardians during earthquake, are unaccompanied, and in a vulnerable conditions. As part of the project, a Transit Home has been set up in Gorkha District. We will open more transit homes in other districts as needed. These children are provided, protection, nutritious food, health care, education/temporary learning center, recreation and psychological counseling.

Initially, we plan to run this program three months, but the time can be extended (or shortened) as per the need, and we are prepared to serve all the children orphaned or victimized one way the other by the earthquake. Once the situation is normalized and the transit home is not to continue, the children who have relatives who are willing to shelter them will be reunited with them, but NYF will bear the cost of their support, education and health care. The children who are orphaned and do not have any one to care for them will be taken care by NYF in coordination with Central Child Welfare Board and other organizations involved in child protection in Nepal.



COMMUNITY NUTRITION KITCHEN:

Soon after we learned from relief workers in Sindhupalchok District that children are already suffering from malnutrition, NYF assigned our nutrition team to visit the area to gauge the problem. Many of these children haven't been able to get a single good meal since the earthquake hit in this poverty-stricken areas, and malnutrition is inevitable. NYF is preparing to establish Community Nutrition Kitchens based in local primary schools, focusing our services on children below 10 years of age. This kitchen will feed children a nutritious mid-day meal, prepared in the same way as we do at our nutritional rehabilitation homes, which is very inexpensive but extremely effective. The kitchen will have cooks to whom we will provide nutrition training at our Kathmandu NRH. We plan to open 10 kitchens in ten different villages to start with. There will be a supervising Community Nutrition Officer (CNO) who will be trained at our NRH about community nutrition, family hygiene and safe motherhood. Her job is to provide training to the mothers of the children who attend these schools and eat the mid-day meals at our Community Nutrition Kitchen. The mothers can assemble at their children's classrooms once a week in the morning or on Saturdays for a couple of hours; this training will continue for one year. In one year's time, they will learn about nutrition best practices that they can apply in their own kitchens. One CNO will be able to supervise 10 Community Nutrition Kitchens and train 10 mothers' groups simultaneously. Between 1000 - 1500 children and equal number of mothers/household will directly benefit from this program.

LONG TERM SOLUTION: REBUILD

FAMILY HOMES:

Then, NYF will focus on large scale reconstruction project. We will support the construction of semi-permanent structures in rural villages where poverty is at its worst, choosing to help families who have no means to rebuild their homes. As far as possible, we will follow the same families to whom we provided corrugated sheets for T-Shelters, when we start rebuild, so that they can use the sheets for reconstruction. We will primarily support the Nepal Government's resettlement and rebuilding efforts the planning for which is underway right now. Because rural Nepal is filled with clusters of a few homes spread far apart, it is difficult for the government to provide services such as water, electricity, roads and education. The government is planning to resettle many families in flatter areas nearby, and the structures we are funding will last for a decade or more, until the resettlement is completed. Aligning with NYF's already existing vocational training program, we will train young people as well as home owners from the villages to enable them to build their own houses to withstand natural disasters, rather than the mud and brick/stone construction prevalent in the countryside. We have already come up with a tentative design, incorporating government recommended size and measures in rebuilding homes. We aim to build at least 1,000 homes and the cost per home has been estimated to be \$1000.



SCHOOL ROOMS:

As mentioned earlier, nearly 45,000 school classrooms have been destroyed and beyond use, after the two major earthquakes. Schools opened a few days ago, but the classes are running literally under the trees or under a tarpaulin or even in half broken school buildings, risking lives. Some villagers have built temporary learning centers using bamboo and straw, but these facilities won't last for more than six months. NYF has come up with a classroom design which can be built very quickly. In fact we have already started constructing eight classrooms as a test project in one of the schools in Gorkha district. We aim to build at least 250 classrooms in these earthquake affected areas and the cost per classroom has been estimated to be \$2,500.



Front View

Back View