

# Disaster Relief Response

## SEPTEMBER 2015



The 7.8 magnitude earthquake on April 25 and the subsequent aftershocks- including 2 major ones measuring 6.7 magnitudes and 7.3 magnitudes on April 26 and May 12 respectively-caused unprecedented destruction and loss of lives in Nepal. Total death toll reached 8,841 with 22,309 people injured, over 868,000 family homes uninhabitable. 52,000 school classrooms were destroyed, causing the education of over 1 million children in jeopardy. By the third day of the earthquake, Nepal Youth Foundation had launched an emergency relief effort, followed by major disaster relief response offering temporary solutions and long-term rebuilding.

## UPDATE AS OF SEPTEMBER, 2015

### A. Summary of Work Completed

NYF's emergency relief activities, which have now been completed successfully, included the critical medical support for hospitals; operation of a recovery shelter; delivery of emergency supplies of food, clothes and sanitary materials; and distribution of tarpaulins, community tents, CGI sheets, construction tools, mosquito nets and water filters for temporary shelter. Day Care Centers for children affected by the earthquake were also operated till schools resumed.



Altogether 80,000 people and 13,000 families were reached through these programs, covering 9 severely affected districts (read below for more detail)

## B. Ongoing Projects

NYF is now engaged in rehabilitation and rebuilding projects focusing on child nutrition, education, protection and reconstruction of schools and family homes in 5 districts: Sindhupalchowk, Gorkha, Rasuwa, Kavre, Gorkha, Dhading.

### COMMUNITY NUTRITION KITCHEN

It is hardly surprising that the April 25 earthquake exacerbated the already widespread problem of malnutrition in rural Nepal. When the NYF nutrition team surveyed the living conditions in the most affected areas a month after the main earthquake, we found many children who had not even had a single proper meal since that fateful day. The children were fed on ready to eat food with poor nutritional value provided by relief agencies. As a solution, the NYF has opened Community Nutrition Kitchens in local primary schools. 9 kitchens has been set up in different communities, providing nutritious mid-day meals similar to those provided in our highly successful Nutritional Rehabilitation Homes (NRHs) across Nepal.

The cooks for the kitchens have been trained at our Kathmandu NRH. A Community Nutrition Educator (CNE) and an assistant has been deployed in the field and monitors the 9 kitchens and provides trainings on best nutrition practices and family hygiene to the mothers every week. Over 1,000 children and 1,500 mothers and village women/households are directly benefiting from this program. The program has already started making positive impact in children's nutrition level as well as in their learning and school retention. Team from NRH Kathmandu and 9 enumerators recently conducted nutritional screening of children in the schools and KAP for mothers, assessing their knowledge, attitude and practice regarding nutrition. These kitchens will be run for 1 year.



## EDUCATION AND PROTECTION

NYF is providing special scholarships for children and youth severely affected by the earthquake in the 5 districts: Rasuwa, Dhading, Kavre, Sindhupalchowk and Gorkha. We are working in close coordination with the government disaster relief committees and education offices in the respective districts. The selection process is underway: announcement for scholarship was made in the national newspaper, and dozens of field workers have been deployed in the districts for application collection, case studies, and



interviews. We aim to give out 230 college scholarship for the 10+2 course (two years course - junior college) and 1,000 scholarships under NYF's 'Kinship Care' model which will ensure educational as well as living expenses for children. We have already received more than 8000 applications for these scholarships. For children who have been orphaned or whose parents are unable to take care of them, NYF will find foster families amongst their nearest kin and pay for the children's education and upbringing - what we call it Kinship care.

## REBUILDING

### SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

52,000 school classrooms have been destroyed after the two major earthquakes. Schools have re-opened 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. We have already constructed eight classrooms as a test project in one of the schools in Gorkha district. We aim to build at least 250 classrooms in rural villages.



*School Constructed by NYF at Gorkha*



*New Design of School building*

## FAMILY HOMES

The government has made a policy that NGOs aren't allowed to build individual family homes as it creates discrimination between families in a village. Instead, government is encouraging NGOs train home owners in technologies on safe home construction. NGOs are allowed to construct public buildings such as schools, health posts, etc. The home owners will receive some cash support from the government from which they can purchase the construction materials. If not sufficient, then they can borrow from financial institutions for negligible interest rate offered by the government. However, NYF can donate some construction materials to families that are super poor and cannot find money instantly to buy construction materials. NYF has come up with different models of home as well as school designs that can be built using seismically safe materials. Therefore, instead of building homes for them, we aim to train as many home owners as possible. We have now an architect, a civil engineer, and a Training Coordinator with several other junior technicians on board in "Rebuilding Project". I have attached home designs that are developed by the NYF team including a mock home that we built.



*Small family home design*



*Large family home design*

NYF aims to train 1,000 home owners and young adults in Skills for Reconstruction who may use their skills to build their own homes as well as their neighbors'.



*Mock home built by NYF*

## CONSTRUCTION SKILLS TRAINING

Aligning with NYF's already existing vocational training program, we will train 1,000 young adults from the villages in construction skills for building seismically safe structures. Construction related training in masonry, house wiring, welding and assembling pre-fabricated building materials will be provided. The training will be delivered in intensive apprenticeship model by mobilizing training team in villages.



## TRANSIT HOME FOR CHILDREN:

At the request of the Central Child Welfare Board of the Nepal government, NYF launched a program to set up transit homes for children who lost their parents and guardians during earthquake, are unaccompanied, and in vulnerable conditions. A Transit Home was started in Gorkha District in June where 56 children have already received the services. The second one in Kavre has served 17 children since it started operation in July. These children are provided safe shelter, nutritious food, health care, education, recreation and emotional wellbeing. They are sent to local school. Counselors from NYF's Ankur Counselling Center regularly visit these homes to provide psychological counseling and therapies for the children to help them heal faster from the trauma.



The transit homes will be in operation until all children are rehabilitated one way or the other. The children who have relatives willing to take care of them will be reunited with them-in fact many have already been reunited. 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.

# WORK COMPLETED

## 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 30 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.



*Check handover to hospital*



*Ventilator handover to hospital*

NYF also provided US\$ 20,000 - for reconstruction of a birthing center at Paropakar Maternity & Women's Hospital, in Kathmandu (Thapathali) which had collapsed during the 1<sup>st</sup> earthquake causing 300 bed spaces to be unusable. Most recently, 2 ventilators worth US\$35,600 was handed over to the hospital on Sept 5.



## 2. EMERGENCY RELIEF:

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 family filters and 70 community 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, providing a comprehensive program for education, recreation, nutrition, and psychological counseling, became a huge success. We ran 17 centers in Kathmandu valley and Dolakha, benefiting over 1,200 children. In a context where education of nearly 1 million children is affected and families are short of adequate food and a child friendly environment at home, NYF's Day Care concept proved to be extremely effective and received a very positive response from the community. The day care centers have been closed after schools resumed.





#### 4. PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS:

NYF 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 trained 300 teachers, staff and volunteers on self -help, Psychosocial Support and Psychological First Aid. 800 children received psychosocial support, including those in NYF run Day Care Centers, transit homes and NYF's regular programs (children's homes and New Life Center). Additional 150 people staying at NYF's recovery shelter at NRH Sunakothi also received regular counseling. Ankur is continuing to provide its services at these places.



Working within the Health and Protection Cluster under the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Ankur conducted 2 days intensive Training of Trainers (TOT) on (June 2 and 3) on the topic 'Psychosocial Support and Self Help' for 25 members of 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 added great strength in Ankur's work.

#### 5. T-SHELTER FOR FAMILIES:

Given the fact that monsoon was fast approaching, NYF came up with temporary solutions for shelter before moving on to its rebuilding plans. Upon recommendation by the Government, we provided 537 families in Kavre district with 2 bundles of CGI sheets per family for building temporary shelters, and distributed Rs. 15,000 per family to 648 families of Pandrung VDC of Gorkha district for the same purpose. Additional 300 bundles of CGI sheets are ready to be delivered to Sindhupalchowk.

