

Disaster Relief Response

July 3, 2015



Photo: Nayan P. Sindhuliya



Two months has 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. Total death toll has reached 8,841 with 22,309 people injured, over 868,000 family homes uninhabitable¹. 52,000 school classrooms have been destroyed², causing the education of over 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 July 3, 2015

9 DISTRICTS COVERED:

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

REACH:

- 13,000 families
- 80,000 people

¹ Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Portal (NDRRP), 6-25-2015

² Nepal Earthquake Post Disaster Need Assessment Report published by National Planning commission, Government of Nepal

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 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.



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 1st earthquake causing 300 bed spaces to be unusable.



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 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, become 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. After the schools have resumed, the day care centers have been closed but NYF is still supporting some schools to continue some activities.



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 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.



MID-WAY SOLUTION: ONGOING AND UPCOMING PROGRAMS

T-SHELTER FOR FAMILIES:

Given the fact that monsoon is already at the door, NYF is supporting families to build temporary shelters. 1,700 families have preliminary been identified in Gorkha, Kavre, Sindhupalchok and Lalitpur. Upon the recommendation by the Government, NYF already distributed Rs. 15,000 per family for 648 families of Pandrung VDC of Gorkha district so that the families could purchase the most needed corrugated sheets to make a temporary shelters which can protect them from the monsoon rain. Further, NYF has distributed corrugated sheets to 537 families in Kavre district.



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 where 38 children have already received the services. We have opened another one in Kavre, and will set up more in other districts as needed. These children are provided, protection, nutritious food and health care, education/temporary learning center, recreation and psychological counseling at the transit homes.



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:

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 is now preparing to open Community Nutrition Kitchens in local primary schools to serve nutritious meals to kids under the age of ten. We are working on setting up 10 kitchens in different communities which will provide mid-day meals that will be similar to those provided in our highly successful Nutritional Rehabilitation Homes (NRHs) across Nepal. The kitchens will be run for 1 year.



The cooks for the kitchens will be trained at our Kathmandu NRH. Community Nutrition Educator (CNE) will provide trainings on best nutrition practice and family hygiene to mothers of the children who attend these schools as well as other village people on Saturdays and off school hours at the school premises. In one year's time, they will learn about nutrition best practices that they can apply in their own kitchens. One CNE will be able to supervise 10 Community Nutrition Kitchens and train 10 mothers' groups simultaneously. 1,000 children and 1,500 mothers and village women/households 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. Rebuilding work has been halted by the government for the period until the declaration of the guideline.

In the meantime NYF is working on R&D for the rebuilding project: focusing on the design, material selection, per unit cost, material procurement, and identification of target areas and households. R&D will be completed by the end of July. The reconstruction work will most likely be permitted by the government soon after the monsoon (end of August).

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 for small family and \$1500 for large family.



Family Home - Small



Family Home - Large

SCHOOL ROOMS:

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 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.

