

A NEEDS ASSESSMENT - POST 2015 EARTHQUAKES

The effects of the two massive earthquakes in Nepal have left over 1/3 of the population homeless, over 8,500 dead and over 17,000 people injured. Tourism is the #1 source of income for the government and the local people and now all trekking routes are closed and are unstable due to landslide damage or potential landslide damage. In the Kathmandu valley, UNESCO has estimated that 60-80% of all monuments are in ruins or are unstable. The bustling tourist trade of artifacts, souvenirs, hotels and restaurants connected to tourist visits will be zero to minimal for some unknown period of time. The trickle down effect for the people of Nepal is huge and will undoubtedly throw thousands of people into levels of poverty unseen in a country that is already so poor.

Nepali people may be alive, have their home intact and yet have no current source of income and, at best, a compromised source of income in the next five years, due to the devastation of the country and the potential income loss through loss of tourism. This means that structural and economic devastation is going to be suffered by over 50% of Nepali people who are currently surviving. We can use Haiti as an example of how this has played out.

The current governmental infrastructure cannot deal with the crisis nor likely with most of the long term needs for even a minimal recovery. The large aid agencies and emergency relief programs will pull out of Nepal within the next month to six months, leaving the NGO's and small groups of Nepali people to organize and rebuild on their own. This will be a long and daunting task.

1. What are the immediate needs?

Dr. Sarita Shrestha, her daughter Dr. Monika, along with friends and the Devi Ma staff have been going to many remote earthquake-affected areas by request of the local Nepali people. Dr. Shrestha speaks a number of local languages and has a relationship with these villages through previous health camps and assistance programs. They have already gone to more than 12 remote sites with a medical camp and basic food supplies. Items

such as: rice, rice flakes, dalmod, snacks, cooking oil, salt, hand washing soap, sanitary napkins, buckets and locally made tents are the most needed supplies.

With each new situation and circumstance the needs are also changing.

Dr. Shrestha has been meeting with many people and many different organizations and trying to determine the current needs. Together, they are planning for immediate, mid-term and long-term help.

They have determined the following **immediate needs**:

- People need tents
- Food and hygiene items.
- Water and water purification methods
- Medical help for infections and general medical conditions.
- Medical help for physical casualties
- Hundreds of health camps to triage care
- Clothes
- School supplies

2. **Short / Mid-term needs:**

- People are looking for temporary structures made out of Zinc and Tin. This is a very high need and where Dr. Shrestha is compelled to help asap.
- Wheel Chairs
- Surgical needs in the village of Nuwakot (one of the highly affected areas). There are many village victims
- Ability to plant for the next harvest
- Concrete practical items needed to survive the monsoon (more of the first need supplies stated above)

3. **Long-term needs:**

- Educational support to orphans from the quake
- Financial adaptation: How to survive without consistent sources of income from tourists and agriculture and structural damage
- Commitment for the educational needs of thousands of children.
- Support for three schools in Sipadole; a village in which Dr. Shrestha works currently. All three schools are damaged.
- A housing rebuilding program

- Trauma programs to work with the psychological effects of the two earthquakes and the devastation and loss of life.

4. What state is the Devi Ma Ayurvedic clinic in?

The latest news is that the Bhaktapur clinic re-opened on Sunday, May 10th 2015. The glass front is destroyed and the four steps leading into the clinic are cracked but the clinic is functioning. No news of any other structural damage since the second quake happened this week is currently available.

COSTS:

Pre earthquake: a remote health camp was costing around \$160,000 to 200,000 Nepali rupee (\$1,600 to \$2,000 US for a team of five over two-3 days seeing 300 patients per day. This included staff time, meals and lodging, transportation and some medicines.

We assume the cost to be double because of the extra cost of more medicinal needs and basic supplies, like tents and food etc being needed now unlike before.