



Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

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For Human Rights and Social Justice

Nepal Earthquake 2015 Update: Day 11

Date: May 5, 2015

Last Update: 2200 hrs

Human Casualties (Source: Ministry of Home Affairs)

Death: 7,616

Injured: 16,384

Collection of Details

Details regarding the loss of lives and property due to the devastating earthquake are being updated. Support for relief has been pouring in from inside and outside of the country. People of the unaffected districts have also raised funds and handed over to the relief fund through the local administrations. Efforts are on to deliver the relief materials to the doorsteps of the victims collected by individuals and different organizations. Untoward incidents of attack on stakeholders, looting of relief materials by irate victims in some districts have come forward. Nepal Army provided some relief materials of survivors of Gyangphedi in Nuwakot after they started feeding on carcass of cattle owing to the lack of food. Such incidents point towards more challenging days ahead.

The relief distribution has not been appropriate due to weak management. The relief distribution has not been service-oriented as priority has not been set regarding which areas need what kind of relief materials. Food items have been stored in heaps in Okhaldhunga headquarters. However, the locals are demanding tarpaulins for shelter and blankets to keep out cold.

The government has received 200,000 tents and tarps from different countries. The management flaw is evident as the victims have not received tents and tarps though they are also being distributed by locals. Likewise, the victims are made to suffer more as they have to go through difficult government mechanism in order to get the cost for final rites of the deceased. The victims have not been able to avail these services as VDC secretaries, who are required to get death certificate and certificate of relationship, are not involved in relief distribution process.

Indeed, the wish that government should carry out all activities in the massive natural calamity would be unnecessary. It is urgent that the government move ahead in coordination with different organizations keeping in mind that lack of government resources could be fulfilled through the citizen's level.

Informal Sector Service Centre(INSEC)

Syuchatar-4, Kathmandu, Nepal

Email: inseconline@insec.org.np

Phone : 977-1-4278770/ 4280591

Fax : 977-1-4270551

www.facebook.com/inseconline; www.twitter.com/inseconline



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Highlights

- In Ramechhap, relief materials have not yet reached Majhi community residing in Gaikhura of Manthali municipality-16, and banks of Tamakoshi and Sunkoshi rivers.
- Bodies of 33 persons killed in the earthquake in Gorkha district have not been identified. The district headquarters is crowded by individuals, mother clubs, private sectors, national and international NGOs.
- The food and other relief materials sent for the quake victims by different organizations have stuck at the district headquarters. The quake has rendered 17800 families homeless while only 5000 tarpaulin sheets have been distributed.
- The government of Indian state of West Bengal has handed over 35 truckloads of support materials for the victims to the Government of Nepal on May 5. The materials include 100,000 tarpaulin sheets and food items.
- There is lack of space for treatment of pregnant women who have been affected by the earthquake in the state-run Maternity Home in Kathmandu. This has led to the treatment of pregnant women in open areas outside the hospital.
- The technical team, which went to check the damages caused by the earthquake in the building of NHRC in Pulchok pasted a red sticker in the building, confirming it unsafe for use.
- The work at the Supreme Court has come to a half after the quake inflicted severe damaged to its buildings on April 25. A technical team, assessing the condition of the SC building on the fifth day of the quake, advised against using that building again.
- The DDRC began providing the funeral expense of Rs 40,000 each to the victim's families through the resources persons of District Education Office in Kavre. Bishwonath Dahal, VDC secretary of Saramthali and Keshav Dahal, VDC secretary of Mechhe VDC were beaten up by locals for not bringing the relief in time. Police rescued Tanka Prasad Koirala, VDC secretary of Chaubas VDC after locals locked him inside a room. Likewise, Kanchha Lama, VDC secretary of Sipalichilaune VDC and Mukunda Prasad Gajurel, VDC secretary of Baluwapati have been assaulted on charge of not visiting village and sending less relief.
- Despite the DDRC's claim of providing first round of relief in all VDCs, the remote villages of the Nuwakot are yet to receive any kind of relief. Locals complained that even ward no. 8 of Kakani VDC, which is easily accessible by road, has not received relief. Nepal Army sent relief materials in Gyangphedi through a helicopter after news of locals feeding on carcass of cattle killed during the earthquake came out.

For Details: <http://www.inseconline.org/>

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