



Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

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For Human Rights and Social Justice

Nepal Earthquake 2015 Update: Day 24

Date: May 18, 2015

Last Update: 2200 hrs

Human Casualties (Source: Ministry of Home Affairs)

Death: 8,604

Injured: 16,808

Stop Repeating Mistakes

There has been a need to shift the people of some villages, where they have been living for generations, to other places. The cracks emerging after the quakes in Gorkha, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchok, Dhading, Dolakha and Makawanur among are prompting people to request for their settlement in safer places.

In the villages of Dumsidanda, Todke, Jhirghari of Namtar VDC-1, Basanta of Tistung VDC-6 and Baundanda of Agra VDC-7, the houses have collapsed and the cracks have appeared in the land. People of Todke in Namtar are not even able to retrieve their belongings. The village has several landslides.

District Disaster Relief Committee, Dolakha has written to the Home Ministry to relocate the people of 14 VDCs of the northern area. It is reported that there are 6880 households in these VDCs. DDRC said that the earthquakes of April 25 and May 12 have flattened most of the houses there and landslides are occurring. District Development Committee is also looking for safer place to shift these affected villagers.

While the effort is a welcome, the choice of location for the new settlement without proper research would be like repeating the early mistake. The new settlements should have easy access to, even during the emergency, road, health facilities, drinking water, power supply, schools and birthing centers. Article 11 of the ICESCR should be kept in mind while setting the standard for those planned settlements.

Highlights

- The quake of April 25 and following aftershocks damaged 20 government office buildings and four health facility buildings and their compound walls in Saptari.
- Local Peace Committee, Khotang has begun monitoring of the distribution of relief after it received several complaints of victims not getting the relief. It is said that only those with access to power are taking the relief. The LPC said that it would recommend for the relief to the actual victims after monitoring.
- NC leader and CA member Gagan Thapa led team has constructed temporary shelters for the quake victims in Kamari VDC. In two days, 48 such shelters were built.
- The Bhojpur Prison with the capacity of 25 male and five female inmates is holding 70 male and 10 female inmates at present. The quake has made the prison building uninhabitable.

Informal Sector Service Centre(INSEC)

Syuchatar-4, Kathmandu, Nepal

Email: inseconline@insec.org.np

Phone : 977-1-4278770/ 4280591

Fax : 977-1-4270551

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- The relatives of the inmates at District Prison in Banke wrote to the President Ram Baran Yadav through CDO asking for the safety of the inmates after its building suffered cracks due to the earthquake.
- Earthquake victims of some VDCs of the Makawanpur have become anxious as the earthquake has cracked open the land they had inhabited since years. The April 25 earthquake and its aftershocks have damaged their houses and caused cracks in ground. Houses in Dumsidanda of Namtar VDC-1, Basanta in Tistung VDC-6 and Banundanda in Agra VDC-7 have been damaged and grounds in these areas have cracks.
- DDRC has begun distributing relief materials to quake victims in Okhaldhunga. In the first phase, 3 million rupees has been sent for distribution in the worst-affected VDCs of Rawadolu, Bhusinga, Khijikati, Khijichandeshwari, Khijipalate and Ragani. Ragani VDC would get Rs 1 million while remaining others will get half a million rupees each.
- District Administration Rolpa has confirmed that quake claimed nine Rolpals in different districts.
- A fund of 4 million rupees was collected in Baitadi for quake victims.
- In Rasuwa, 569 people have died in the quake while 234 remain missing, most of them buried in the landslides.
- The VDCs of Lamabagar, Guarishankar, Bolung, Orang, Khare, Marbu, Changkhu, Suri, Jhyaku, Laduk, Chilanga, Bigu, Alampu, Khopachangu, Kalinchok and Babare have been cut off from the road access due to several landslides making transportation of relief materials difficult, CDO Premlal Lamichhane informed. He said the efforts were being made to take the relief materials in the helicopters.
- Sudarshan Subedi, the chairperson of the National Federation of Disabled Nepal said that 29 people with disability died in the Great Earthquake.
- Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development issued a circular to District Development Committee, Municipalities and sub-Metropolis and Metropolis on May 18 asking to stop issuing permission for construction of any house.

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

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