



**Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)**

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For Human Rights and Social Justice

## **Nepal Earthquake 2015 Update: Day 26**

Date: May 20, 2015

Last Update: 2200 hrs

Human Casualties (Source: Ministry of Home Affairs)

Death: 8,622

Injured: 16,808

Along with the loss of the lives, there has been a huge loss of food grains. The grains stored by the families also vanished when the houses collapsed. Some survivors are trying to salvage the grains from the rubbles but that would not be sufficient.

Home Ministry claims that there is plenty of stock of food but in reality the county might face severe shortage of food. Even the Parliamentary Committee on Disaster Management, Monitoring and Directive has drawn government's attention towards this issue. The committee, during its monitoring of storage of Nepal Food Corporation and National Trading, found that the stock there is sufficient for only immediate distribution in the quake-hit districts raising concern for long-term supply.

There has no assessment yet on impact of the quake on food production and need until the winter crops are harvested. Along with finding that answer, the government should also focus on providing employment to agriculture laborers. The workforce can also be used for the purpose of reconstruction. Utilization of available local workforce not only facilitates quick reconstruction of damaged structures of schools, police stations and health institutions but it also triggers an economic stimulus by increasing economic activities.

### **Highlights**

- President Ram Baran Yadav has approved the cabinet decision of mobilization of army until July 16 for disaster management.
- Parliamentary Committee on Disaster Management, Monitoring and Directive has instructed the government to submit a report on formation of all-party mechanisms from central to village level being formed for disaster management.
- Government has provided Rs 40,000 as funeral expenses per quake deceased to 3230 families. However, the government staffs have not been able to go to three VDCs of Tatopani, Listi and Phulpingkatti of Sindhupalchok district to provide such allowance for the families of 183 deceased persons due to risk of landslides.
- Local Community Forest will provide timber and District Development Committee the corrugated iron sheets for construction of temporary structures for 35 schools completely destroyed in Pyuthan, District Education Officer Narayan Prasad Bhattarai informed. He added even with that contribution, it will take Rs 80000 to construction one school.

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- The Gorkha Earthquake has damaged 10 community school buildings, 46 individual houses, two government buildings, two police stations, two temples and three water tanks in Jumla, DSP Balram Rai said.
- Nima Tamang of Yarsa VDC-5 in Rasuwa informed that Sangyul, Doklang and Bachha villages of Yarsa VDCs, which are not connected to road, are yet to receive any relief materials. Tamang said there are 65 households in Yarsa VDC-4 and 95 families in Yarsa VDC-5 who are awaiting support. Yarsa VDC secretary Chitamani Acharya claimed that food relief reached the villages late because of their remoteness and that the relief fund for damaged houses will be distributed soon.

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

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