



Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

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For Human Rights and Social Justice

Nepal Earthquake 2015 Update: Day 27

Date: May 21, 2015

Last Update: 2200 hrs

Human Casualties (Source: Ministry of Home Affairs)

Death: 8,633

Injured: 16,808

Credibility of the Monitoring by Parliamentary Committee

A team of Disaster Management and Parliamentary Monitoring Special Committee has monitored the quake-affected areas to assess the damage incurred by the Great Earthquake and its aftershocks. The attempt made by those elected by the people to understand public grievances and to make recommendations for addressing those grievances is a part of the democratic process. However, it is noteworthy as how meaningful are those monitoring visits conducted by the parliamentarians.

The recent monitoring visits conducted by the members of the parliamentary committee did not give an impression that parliamentarians were aware of the gravity of their work. They apparently did not have any idea about where the monitoring could begin and how to prioritize the VDCs to be visited.

The visit of Kavre by the parliamentarians is an example. The team returned to Kathmandu after conducting its 5-day visit. It went to the VDCs of Panchkhal, Mahadevsthan, Jyamdi, Baluwapati Kasikhanda and Dapcha Municipality. All of these VDCs are near from Kathmandu and easily accessible by road.

The team did not venture into remote VDCs and worst-affected VDCs. Most of its time was spent on meetings in the district headquarters. The team did not set its foot in Bhimkhori VDC where 60 people were killed, 600 homes were completely destroyed and 433 houses were partially destroyed. The parliamentary team has now prepared its report without even going to the places where there has not even reached the first phase of relief. Such report will be highly questionable. Please click here (<http://www.inseconline.org/earthquake/Report-of-Victims-vdc-Data-2072-01-23.pdf>) to see the damages occurred in the VDCs of Kavre.

Highlights

- Bodies of three people whose whereabouts were unknown since the earthquake were recovered from Yarsa VDC of Rasuwa on May 20. The death toll has reached 584 in Rasuwa district in the earthquake with the death of these three.
- The devastating earthquake of April 25 has damaged 1325 physical infrastructure in Pyuthan, according to District Police Office. The earthquake has destroyed 72 private houses and incurred partial damages to 1154 houses, said DSP Tul Bahadur Karki of DPO.
- Almost all schools in Rasuwa District have been damaged by the devastating earthquake. As per the District Education Office, 97 government schools and nine

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private schools were destroyed by the earthquake. A total of 644 classrooms of the district were destroyed and only 324 classrooms can be used.

- Earthquake victims from Samlang in Golche VDC and many other remote villages of Sindhupalchok are still waiting for relief as relief can be provided in these areas only by helicopter.
- Two temporary huts were constructed at Jateshwar Secondary School in Thumki VDC-6 in the initiation of INSEC Western Regional Office, Kaski. Three rooms of Jateshwar Secondary School were destroyed in the devastating earthquake of April 25.
- INSEC staffs contributed labor to a quake-affected Rabi Bhattarai and family of Syuchatar in Nagarjun Municipality on May 21 by helping to clear the debris. Bhattarai's home collapsed in the quake.
- The landslide caused by the earthquake has added difficulty in operating Manaslu trekking route in northern part of Gorkha District. Nepal Army has been trying to clear the obstructed route; however, the continuous landslide has created difficulty. Vehicles are in operation up to Arughat which is 42 km from the district headquarter.
- WFP is calling back rice it distributed through Nepal Red Cross Society to quake-affected people. WFP said that that the rice is not substandard but is mainly broken rice.
- Several families in Solukhumbu are spending nights in the open as their homes were completely flattened in the earthquakes of April 25 and May 12. The CDO and coordinator of DDRC, Jhangkanath Dhakal said informed that 8555 homes were completely destroyed in the VDCs of Salleri, Tamakhani, Gorakhani, Taping, Chaurikharka, Bung and Tingla. He added 8828 homes were partially damaged. CDO Dhakal said that though the teams had been mobilized to collect information of loss and damages, the difficult terrain was delaying the work.
- An organization has provided metal sheets for construction of temporary shelters along with other relief materials to Hayu people in Manthali Municipality, Ramechhap. It provided metal sheets, 30 kgs of rice, lentils, salts and utensils to 181 families of Hayus and Dalits. An endangered ethnic group, there are only 2925 Hayus in Nepal among whom 1520 speak their language. Hayus are found only in Ramechhap and Sindhuli.
- A team of INSEC including its Executive Director Bijay Raj Gautam has visited the home of a woman who was featured in an INSEC reporting on the quake victims. Following the publication of the feature news on her, many people had expressed their wish to support Ambika Poudel, 71, build a temporary house at her place Chasidol in Mahalaxmi Municipality-5, Lalitpur.
- The government has formed National Reconstruction Consultation Committee for the resettlement the victims of the deadly earthquake. A Cabinet meeting on May 21 formed the committed led by Prime Minister Sushil Koirala in order to expedite the relief distribution, rehabilitation of the victims and reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure.

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

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