



Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

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For Human Rights and Social Justice

Nepal Earthquake 2015 Update: Day 28

Date: May 22, 2015

Last Update: 2200 hrs

Human Casualties (Source: Ministry of Home Affairs)

Death: 8,636

Injured: 16,808

Need of Special Attention towards Children

Children are the most victimized, be it in internal external conflict, domestic or social violence, or natural disaster. The loss of lives and property in the Great Earthquake of April 25 is increasing.

According to Nepal Police, more than 32 percent of those killed in earthquake are children. The number of injured children has not come out yet. Moreover, the number of children missing after the earthquake has not been listed yet.

The fear that has gripped children, who are under open sky and tents with little food, can be easily empathized. However, the deed to make them free from such fear is equally difficult. Please see Photo Feature (Childhood under Tarpaulin) <http://www.inseconline.org/index.php?type=news&id=15983&lang=en>.

There are many children undergoing treatment in hospitals who have unfamiliar faces around them instead of their relatives. They have not received care of their families. They are worried where and in what condition their parents are.

Many children have lost their parents. The Prime Minister has already expressed government's commitment to take care of these children in the Legislature-Parliament. Being a party to the Convention on the Rights of Child, this responsibility rests upon the government. As children are not ready to face such situation, the society should provide them all support.

Most of the relief and support are focused in urban parts and areas with facilities. Some organizations are seen active in creating child-friendly environment in temporary camps in the capital. Meanwhile, the remote parts still lack enough food.

There are possibilities of child trafficking as criminal groups might take advantage when the parents are busy in seeking measures for support and to earn livelihood. Some incidents have already taken place.

According to UNICEF, one million students have not been able to resume schools due to the earthquake. Special attention should be given to children as they are at risk of trafficking, sexual abuse, forced labor and mistreatment when not attending school.

The Central Child Welfare Committee has been working upto its capacity. It can carry out various tasks, including collecting data of children who have lost their parents in the quake-hit areas, providing them shelter in District Child Welfare Committees and other NGOs. There are no two opinions that The NGOs will implement such task taking it as their responsibility.

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

- Northern parts of the Dhading, Tenchet, Tengchet, Chapangchet of Lapa VDC-2 is slowly transforming into a deserted village owing to the earthquake and landslides. 51 houses out of 58 in Tenchet have been displaced near the district headquarter. They have been living together in Sangkosh under tarps. 117 children are living together in Sneha Center operated by Sahayatrki Samaj with support from UNICEF Nepal.
- Earthquake victims will get subsidized housing loan at an interest rate of 2% for 10 years from various banking and financial institutions.
- Ilam Municipality has made strict implementation of building code after the Great Earthquake of April 25 and aftershock of May 12 rendered 102 buildings in the area uninhabitable.
- At least 74 people are still missing in Sindhupalchok district following the devastating earthquake that struck the nation on April 25.
- INSEC Executive Director Bijay Raj Gautam along with its Mid-Regional coordinator Krishna Gautam and Documentation and Dissemination Department manager Madan Paudel has visited Sindhuli district on May 22 to monitor the impact left behind by April 25 quake. During its visit, INSEC team interacted with the families of the deceased who had arrived in the district headquarters Sindhulimadi to collect relief materials. The team also talked with Women Development Officer Durga Bhandari regarding the situation of women at present and discussed the situation of relief distribution with Local Peace Committee coordinator Prahlad Pokharel and Relief Distribution Management Committee Coordinator Homraj Bishta.
- The Great Earthquake of April 25 and its aftershocks on April 26 and May 12 have completely destroyed a historical town of Those Bazaar. Not a single house of the Bazaar remains standing after May 12.
- District Disaster Relief Committee of Ramechhap has informed that a total of 53830 tarps were distributed in the district for the quake survivors. The DDRC distributed 27055 tarpaulin sheets while VDCs and Municipalities distributed 3726 and 23623 tarps were distributed by individuals.

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

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