



The Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town

Celebrating 26 Years in Rotary

RI District 3292, Club No 26776

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Earthquake Relief Assistance Report #2 23 July 2015

Introduction

This is the second in a series of progress reports on earthquake relief assistance provided by the Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town to people who have been affected by the recent earthquakes and aftershocks in Nepal. We submit this report to you, our very generous donors and partners, including our sister Rotary clubs abroad. We are very grateful for your solidarity and support at this time of great national calamity in Nepal. Your help has made a big difference in the lives of many victims of the earthquake, particularly women, children and the elderly.

In the text below we have tried to anticipate some of your questions and to explain a little bit of how we are working to help with the earthquake relief.

How do we identify where to donate earthquake relief items?

Our initial strategy was to first work with our three Rotary Community Corps areas and the villages where our Interact Clubs are located since we have a long-standing commitment to them. Good communication with these groups means that we were quickly able to assess their needs. This was the case with our RCC in Ramkot where we were able to deliver relief materials such as foodstuffs, tents and tarpaulins during the early days soon after the disaster. Similarly, we were able to work with our Special Area Projects in and around the schools where our Interact Clubs in Panga, and Kirtipur are located. Our youth force has worked in these areas for more than a decade and our good communication with them means that we were able to help set up the school grounds as temporary relief areas for the community. In other cases, as with our RCC in the village of Lele, we found that they had already received relief materials from other group so there was no need for us to be involved at this stage. The situation is somewhat similar in our RCCs Gorkha and Lamjung – we are continuing to communicate with them – for the moment they have already received immediate relief from other groups and the government - but we will continue to be in touch with them for the longer term. We also entertain requests from villages not too far from Kathmandu where our Rotarians have contacts – in the paragraph below we explain how we can be sure that there is no duplication of effort.

How have the needs of those affected changed since the earthquake first hit?

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster (end April to end May), affected communities urgently needed some form of protection from the elements – tents and tarpaulins, and blankets. In the second phase (June onwards) they needed to build temporary shelters to keep out of the monsoon rains. In some instances we gave corrugated galvanized iron (CI) metal sheets together with instructions on how to build 'tunnel shelters' (see photos). In other instances, the communities only wanted the CI sheets since this was more adaptable to their particular situations – sometimes farmers need to also shelter the animals that are their livelihoods or they use the sheets to mend existing structures that just need a roof, and so on. The third phase will be the permanent reconstruction phase. For the most part, communities are not yet ready to enter this phase yet.

The immediate challenge is that the monsoon rains are now full on and this makes attempting permanent structures very difficult. Some communities are awaiting clearance from government geologists to assure them that the land is now safe to build on; others still live in areas that are in constant threat of landslides and need to be given land to relocate since their land is no longer viable. All of this will take time. Another challenge is how and what to build – since the earthquake many foreign groups have been to Nepal to try to help with the reconstruction – each has advocated a different type of earthquake-proof structure. These will need to be tested both from the point of their resistance to any possible future earthquakes and also for their suitability for rural, mountainous, ethnically unique villages.



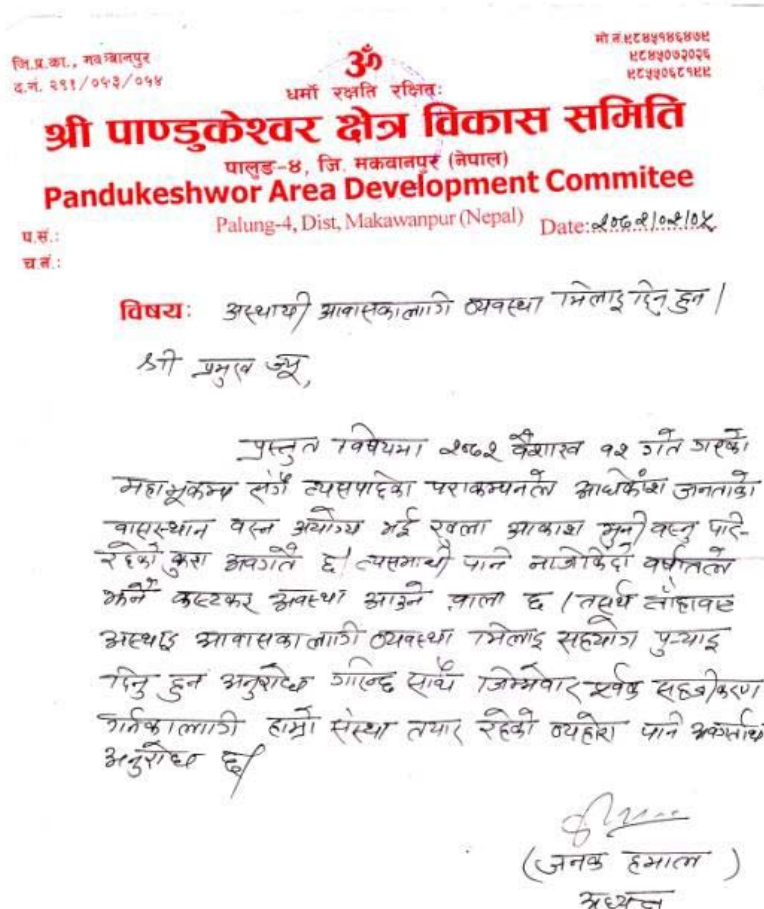
Above photo shows Mid-Town Rotarians helping to deliver CI sheets to Mahadevsthan in Kavre District

How can we be sure that there is no duplication of efforts with other groups?

In the first phase, our concern was immediate disaster relief; we worked to deliver tarps and blankets quickly to needy people who had just lost their homes. We distributed these relief materials keeping track of the communities who had received them but it was just not possible to note down the names of the particular individuals. In this second phase, we are distributing materials for temporary and semi-permanent shelters. First, we identify a community in need: our Rotarians visit the location and collect a list of names (with signatures) from the villagers who will receive relief materials. The list is then submitted to the CDO (chief district officer) or Village Development Committee secretary who then writes a letter certifying that these people have a genuine need and that they have not already received materials from other groups. The attached photo shows what a typical letter for a community looks like. The Government of Nepal has set up this system to help ensure that there is no duplication of efforts. Once we receive this letter from the CDO we purchase and deliver the relief materials. We do not ever give cash – this is the way that we can ensure that the materials are received. Also, this is much more practical because even though the corrugated sheets are in short supply, they are available but villagers do not have the resources to scout out suppliers and do not have the means to transport them. The third phase, the construction of permanent shelters will precede much the same as phase two with the exception that when we give materials for schools the approval process will need to go through the district education officer (DEO) and not the development officer. There are also other checks and balances that have been put into place by the UNDP and the government so that any disaster relief aid has to go through 'clusters' (in education, sanitation, etc...) whose job it is to see that aid reaches everyone and that there is no duplication of effort. Anecdotally, we have heard many heart warming stories of villagers

who, having already received help themselves, direct aid workers to communities farther up the road who have greater needs.

During normal times, in the case of schools and other public structures, when funds are donated they are usually handled by the school management committee who, for transparency, publically discusses accounts. In most cases, when building materials are donated, this committee and members of the community volunteer their labor, so that the whole village has a vested interest in the success of the project. Now, in the aftermath of the quake, this community approach is still in place but everything is taking just that little bit longer because individuals are also dealing with their own personal (often tragic) situations.



The figure above shows a letter submitted by the chief development officer and the Pandukeshwor Development Committee stating the needs of their community. It is shown here simply as an example – since letters like this can only be issued by the highest authority in the community- they go a long way to assuring that efforts are not duplicated.

How did RC KTM Mid-Town handle the distribution of in-kind items?

In the three weeks immediately following the earthquake, we received many items (tents, tarpaulins, solar lamps, water filters, and the like) a list is given in the table below. Where the donated tarpaulins and tents were not sufficient we also purchased some. We did our best to distribute these items and tried to limit the expense required for the rental of the delivery truck by using our own resources. In one case, where the roads were blocked and we heard the situation was dire, luckily we were able to deliver some 150 tents to the most affected areas in Sindupalchowk by sharing a ride on a helicopter destined for that area.

Relief in-kind items donated to the Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town April-July 2015	
Item	Quantity
Tarpaulins	
Donated by UNHCR	400
Donated by District 3292	195
Donated by CP Dr Roop	250
Tents	
Donated by Miss Suruchi Jyoti	52
Solar lamps	
Donated by UNHCR	150
PVC corrugated sheets	
Donated by CP Dr Roop	200
Oral rehydration salt	
Donated by CP Dr Roop	2,000
Generator	
Donated by CP Dr Roop	1
Blankets	
Donated by Rtn Shyam Thapaliya	50
Donated by RID 3292	95
Drinking Water Filters	
Donated by Shanti Lepafilfe, Dortmund e.V. Germany; (Mr Heiko Grosspietsch, Nepal Country Director)	3*
Donated by David Robbins	80**
* PAUL waterbackpack filtration systems with training. Transport provided by Dwarika's Hotel	
**portable pen-type water purification units	

What items are communities in earthquake-affected areas most in need of now?

Shelter is the biggest concern. Villagers tell us that the most appropriate and versatile building materials are corrugated galvanized iron (CI) sheets – since these can easily be incorporated into temporary structures and can also eventually be recycled into semi-permanent or permanent structures for the longer term. These standard 2ft.X 9ft. sheets are a common building material throughout Nepal as they are relatively easy to transport and are multipurpose. These sheets can be used to quickly erect semi-permanent shelters and can then also be recycled to eventually be part of more permanent structures. We are now actively involved in helping to purchase and distribute these sheets.

What type of help is Mid-Town considering for the medium term?

In addition to responding to immediate needs, our Action Committee meets regularly to see if we can anticipate needs. One idea that has been put forth is to focus on the needs of schoolchildren. As many schools, including those that our club had assisted in the past have been destroyed or seriously damaged, we plan to help in the rehabilitation, reconstruction and retro-fitting of these buildings with earthquake-resistant designs. We plan to work with District 3292 (who is offering matching funds) and we expect that our help in this area will begin to roll out within 6-12 months.



On 30 May Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town and Dwarikas Hotel, helped to deliver one unit of PAUL - Waterbackpack Filter (with training) donated by Shanti Leprahilfe Dortmund e.V. to the Vajra Varahi Health Care Clinic, Chapagaon. The Clinic will operate the Paul WF at its community centre, ensure that it is properly operating after and be responsible to keep it safely. The filtered water that will be available to all members of the community free of cost. (Note: the water filters bear the 'Lyons Club' emblem and indeed had been earmarked for them but we were lucky enough to acquire them when Lyons was not able to accept them. Please note that the poster clearly says 'in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town'.)

For the longer term, how do we help to 'build back better'?

The challenge that the government and all donors are facing at the moment is how to reach small, isolated and remote farming communities very many of which are not reachable by road (even before the quake) and how do we help these communities to 'build back better' by avoiding some of the pitfalls of the past. Nepalese farmers and villagers in general are very practical and ingenious, and on the whole, they build their own homes. Our concern is that help will be late in reaching them and, given only locally available materials (such as stones, mud and bamboo), that they will just rebuild in the same (not earthquake resistant) way.

To the best of our ability, we are trying to see that when we help communities that they have the materials and information needed for sturdy construction. We are trying to help by partnering with District 3292 to help rebuild schools and we are trying to 'build back better' by stipulating that the schools we support become more functional institutions which can provide better quality service to the earthquake affected communities. For example, in the case of schools, that they: 1) are built nearby an open area (for people to run out to in the case of another shock); 2) have accessible toilets (since in most cases the buildings that collapsed structures did not); 3) that they have dedicated computers room where we can provide age-appropriate computers and training (as discussed below).

As we move from relief to reconstruction phase, one of our focus areas will be assisting government efforts to "build back better" schools. The Ministry of Education has reported that over 32,000 classrooms need to be reconstructed. As part of the "build back better" theme, we will contribute to reconstruction of classrooms that are safer, stronger, and more earthquake resilient. In the true spirit of building back better – not just rebuilding the destroyed physical infrastructure, but also better and more functional institutions – a significant part of our program will be to leverage technology to create a more conducive learning environment and better learning opportunities for children in these schools. our plans to help improve the learning environment will begin in the temporary classrooms while

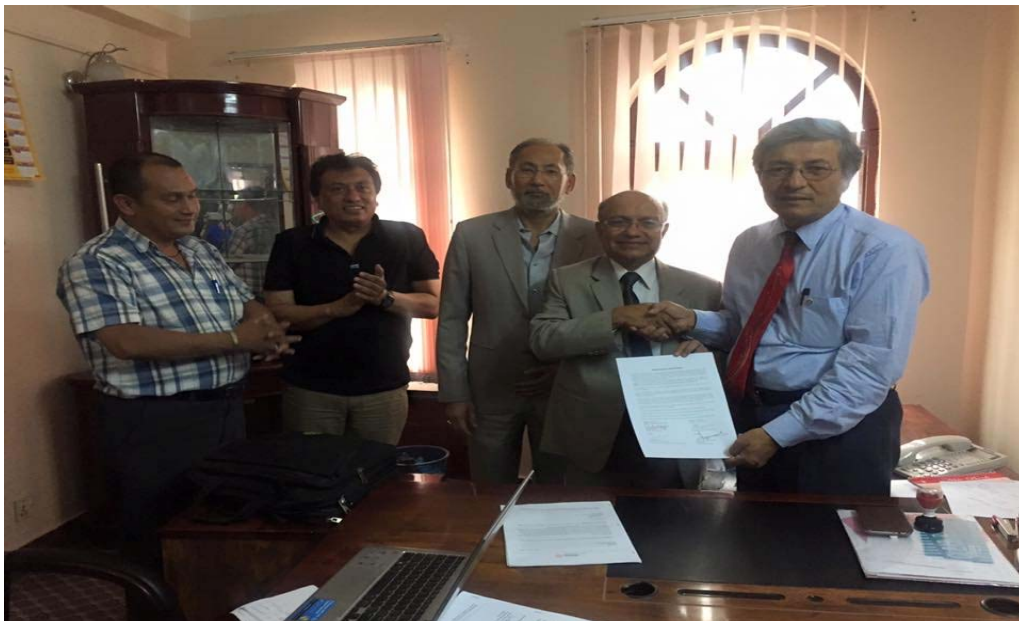
the schools wait for the permanent buildings to be constructed. In addition to providing the basic educational resources, we will introduce child-friendly and energy-efficient laptops loaded with a wide range of digital learning resources to engage children in fun learning activities. The content will include curriculum-based interactive digital materials covering subjects such as math, science, English and Nepali, and an education-focused free and open digital library containing books, audio-books, course materials, educational videos, reference materials, learning software that can be accessed through offline servers in the schools.

What is the condition of schools?

Nepalese parents are well aware of the benefits of education and schooling is a priority everywhere. Our Rotarians who have been to affected communities in Gorkha districts have noted that the new school year started more or less on-time in mid-May – even if to a large extent this was under tents and in temporary shelters. The school buildings which were built before 2005 have almost all collapsed but those built after that (using a 'truss-system') are mostly still viable – they may have some superficial cracks but these buildings are still useable and just need some repair.

How is RC KTM Mid-Town working with RI District 3292 doing to help with earthquake relief activities?

The response by individuals and by Rotary International to our District 3292 has been very generous. During the initial stages District 3292 was heavily involved in the distribution of tarps, blankets, tents and other in-kind items that had been received. As the situation normalized, the District received cash donations both from RI and from individual donors. As part of the donations that have been received, the District is offering matching funds to clubs for the building of 1000 temporary shelters and 100 schools. We are happy to report that the Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town was able to sign an MOU for the building of 100 temporary shelters. This means that the funds we have received at the Club level will extend even farther since they will be matched one for one by the District. We will eventually also partner with them for the rebuilding of at least two schools (more on this in subsequent reports). In the photo below our President 2014-15 Kul Chandra Gautam is seen sharing the MOU for the building of 200 temporary shelters with our District Governor Rabindra Piya.



Exchanging MOU with District Governor Rabindra Piya (right) and Club President Kul Gautam (left) to build 200 temporary shelter out of which 100 will be matched by District 3292. In the photo (left to right) DS Nugal Vaidya, DGND Sanjaya Giri, and Mid-Towner PP Gopal Kakshapati.

How are Mid-Town's Rotaracts continuing to be involved in relief effort?

We are very proud of our Rotaracts, and grateful to them for their unselfish dedication in the true Rotary spirit of 'service above self'. Rotaracts have been our manpower and our muscles they have dedicated their school vacation period in May to relief work and they are now continuing to work on weekends. They go where we cannot go and they have an unbelievably good fellowship. If the esprit de corps among these dedicated young people is any measure – they surely will mature into outstanding adults – we thank them (and their coordinator Past Mid-Town President Dr Chandra Lekha Tuladhar and District Rotaract Chair Mr Samir Nepal) wholeheartedly for their support and commitment.



Photo of Rotaracts helping to erect tunnel shelter using CI sheets– a Nepal armed police in blue camouflage looks on.



A happy moment at the end of the day – our Rotaractors sit with villagers by the completed tunnel structure.

What is our next big challenge?

The Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town is dedicated to continuing to work to help earthquake survivors until all of the money we have thankfully received has been spent – and even well beyond that. Our immediate challenge is the monsoon, the terrain is already muddy and sticky and will become even more so over the course of the next three months. Villagers need semi-permanent shelters and we have the funds to give them the materials but we also need to realise our own limitations: it is difficult to visit sites during the monsoon and at times the roads are impassable, even when we can deliver materials it is oftentimes difficult to erect structures in the rain. As we head into the fall, farmers will be involved in the harvest and will probably be putting off erecting semi-permanent shelters until this is over (maybe November?) Another limitation is that both we at RC Mid-Town and our Rotaracts have been engaged more or less every weekend since the beginning of the disaster – many of us are very close to burn-out and our families are beginning to complain. We need to find an alternative way to assess sites and to deliver relief materials – this is under consideration. More on this in the next report.

Why we cannot prepare individual reports.

As we indicated in our initial letter, and following the receipt of your generous commitment of financial support, we count on your understanding to accept this collective progress report, and several subsequent reports we will be sharing with you, as our formal accounting and report for your help. Given the heavy workload that our club members are undertaking in delivering the urgent life-saving and protecting work, we simply do not have the capacity to prepare individualized reports for each donor, contributor, and partner. But we will keep proper accounts of all income and expenses which will be subject to review by our club's Board and by our independent auditor in accordance with Rotary's standard norms in dealing with humanitarian assistance in the midst of an urgent and on-going crisis situation.

How much money has Mid-Town raised for earthquake relief (both internally and externally)? The table below shows our balance sheet.

Balance Sheet of Income and Expenditures for Earthquake Relief 2015 Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town		
Income (\$USD)		
Donated by members of RC KTM Mid-Town	6,238.82	
Others (not members of RC Mid-Town)#	3,897.99	
Donated by Rotary Clubs and friends abroad (as of 19 July 2015) (please see detailed list of donors in attached Annex)	61,939.00	
Expenditures (\$USD)		
Donated to RCC Ramkot*		923.70
600 tarpaulins		4,924.17
Miscellaneous transportation costs		187.12
Temporary shelters**		19,934.02
Balance (\$USD)	72,075.81	25,969.01
Exchange rate \$1 USD = 101.54 NPR #Donated by friends of Rtn Rabi Karmacharya (\$3,000); Mid-Town Spouses' Fund \$250; family of late Pratap Malla (\$708) *Provided immediately after the April 25th earthquake: foodstuffs and sanitation supplies, ropes, tape, etc. **Mostly CI sheets and building materials for temporary shelters- this will be matched by RID 3292 as per our MOU.		



The Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town would like to extend a hearty 'THANK YOU' to all Rotarians and friends who are helping with earthquake relief. Photo taken on July 3, 2015 on the occasion of our first meeting of the 2015-16 Rotary year. Let us be a gift to the world.

Yours in Rotary,

Kul Chandra Gautam (President 2014-15, Member of the Action Committee),
Paras SJB Rana (President 2015-16, Member of the Action Committee)
Rabi Karmacharya (Club Service Chair 2014-1016; and Chair of the Action Committee)
Isabella Bassignana Khadka (Secretary 2014-15, Member of the Action Committee)

Annex

Donations from Friends and Rotary Clubs Abroad; May-July 2015

Name of Club	Received \$USD (approx)*	Received NRS	Date Received 2015 (acknowledged)
Anonymous donor New York City	500.00	50,975.00	10-May
Salt Lake City Rotary Foundation	9,300.00	950,599.00	15-May
Rotary Club of Galveston, Texas District 5910, USA	2,000.00	202,600.00	15-May
Rotary Club of Portsmouth NH	1,000.00	101,350.00	15-May
The Rotary Club of Galveston Island	500.00	50,650.00	15-May
Rotary Club of Green Hills, USA	4,000.00	405,200.00	18-May
Rotary Club Higashiosaka-nishi, JAPAN	3,000.00	303,900.00	18-May
Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary Club	1,000.00	101,350.00	19-May
Rotary Club of Okehampton, Devon, UK	5,372.00	550,925.00	18 and 29 May 2015
Rotary Club of Bendigo Australia,	3,057.00	309,483.00	20 May and 6 July
Andree Bichon, Ottawa , CANADA friends of Isabella	200.00	16,482.00	20-May
Rotary Club of Chichester Priory UK	2,913.00	281,199.00	21-May
South Bay Sunrise Rotary	500.00	50,725.00	22-May
Eastbourne Rotary Club. England.	2,205.00	225,125.00	25-May
Lantern Projects	500.00	49,920.00	25-May
Family of late Pratap Malla and California Rotary Clubs	2,700.00	256,635.00	27-May
Anonymous donor Denmark	1,000.00	109,332.00	28-May
Napa Noon Rotary, USA	2,000.00	202,900.00	01-Jun
Rotary Club of Littlehampton in UK, District 1145	1,700.00	165,550.00	01-Jun
Rotary Club Of Auburn	1,625.00	164,865.00	01-Jun
Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Maine USA	1,000.00	101,650.00	01-Jun
RC Asolo e Pedemontana del Grappa, District 2060, Italy	1,500.00	154,196.00	03-Jun
Rotary Club of Stratford, Ontario, Canada, District 6330	1,598.00	163,060.00	15-Jun
Reno Rotary, USA	4,661.00	476,580.00	25-Jun
Rotary Club Milano	524.00	53,246.00	08-Jul
Family of late Pratap Malla and California Rotary Clubs	2,806.00	285,120.00	08-Jul
World Service Committee of Oakland Rotary Club #3, in Oakland CA. California USA and the Lantern Projects	2,626.00	266,652.00	08-Jul
Rotary Club of Reno Central (District 5190)	988.00	100,341.00	12-Jul
Rotary Club of Leatherhead, District 1145	1,164.00	118,222.00	15-Jul
Total	61,939.00	6,268,832.00	

* approx exchange rate \$1 USD = 101.54 NPR