



## The Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town

*Celebrating 26 Years in Rotary*



RI District 3292, Club No 26776

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Venue: Fridays at 7:30AM, Hotel de l'Annapurna, Kathmandu, NEPAL

### EARTHQUAKE RELIEF ASSISTANCE REPORT #3 9 NOVEMBER 2015

#### Introduction

It has now been almost exactly six months since the devastating earthquake that shook Nepal on 25 April. Our Club's commitment to help with relief and rebuilding efforts remains as strong as ever and the support from our generous donors has been overwhelming. To date the Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town has now received almost \$84.5K USD from Clubs and friends abroad to support our earthquake relief and recovery needs. With the kind help of donors and with in-cash and in-kind contributions from our own members, our Club has been able to undertake much needed relief work.

This report summarizes what has taken place over the past three months since our Report #2 of July 25, 2015. It also gives details and photos that have now become available of work conducted earlier; moreover, it explains how the shortage of building materials and fuel caused by the recent embargo is impacting our work; it also gives some indication of our future directions.

#### To date how has RC Mid-Town contributed to the earthquake effort?

The members of Mid-Town worked with a wide range of groups to identify and reach areas that most needed help.

##### 1) *Distribution of tents*

We were involved in the distribution of tents and other purchased and donated items; these were listed in Report #2. In the table below we detail exactly how these were distributed. When we disseminated tents we made a special effort to ensure they reached those who needed them most in the affected marginalized areas.

<b>Table 1 Detailed distribution of 1,300 tents in seven districts.</b>	
<b>Name of District</b>	<b>Number of tents distributed</b>
Sindhupalchowk	450
Gorkha	350
Kavre	170
Nuwakot	94
Makwanpur	50
Kathmandu	75
Dhading	100

## 2) Distribution of other in-kind items

The list of in-kind items was given in Report#2. Below we share some photos of the distribution of tarpaulins and solar lamps.

## 3) Distribution of corrugated galvanized iron (cgi) sheets and help with the construction of temporary shelters.

Our earlier work with the donation of cgi sheets and the construction of temporary shelters is covered in Report #2. The table below summarizes all of our work to date. RC Mid-Town has completed the construction of 219 transitional shelters in five earthquake affected districts at the total cost of NRs. 23,51,100 (approximately \$23,000 USD). The location, cost and principal contacts are listed in the table below.

Our biggest challenge at this time was finding vendors for the cgi sheets. Since so many sheets were required throughout the affected areas the vendors found it difficult to keep up with the demand; this scarcity caused prices to go up. We did our best to assure that we purchased quality sheets – this was not always easy as vendors tried to make up the shortfall by selling sheets of lower gauge and inferior quality.

<b>Table 2 Donation of corrugated iron sheets and construction of temporary shelters</b>				
<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of shelters</b>	<b>RC Mid-Town Contact Person</b>	<b>Cost* of corrugated sheets (in NRs.)</b>	<b>Value in \$USD**</b>
Dandagaun VDC, Dhading	40	Rtn. Komal Chitracar	498,600	4,910
Tarkeshwor, Kathmandu	36	Rtn. RR Shrestha	448,740	4,419
Mahadevsthan VDC, Kavre	36	Rtn. William Ma	453,260	4,463
Dadhikot, Thimi, Bhaktapur	19	Rtr. Samir Nepal	245,000	2,412
Lamatar VDC, Lalitpur	20	Rtr. Samir Nepal	263,500	2,595
Thaiba, Lalitpur	10	Rtn. C Lekha Tuladhar	60,000	590
Panga, Kirtipur	10	Rtn. C Lekha Tuladhar	55,000	541
Kavre	48	Rtn. C Lekha Tuladhar	327,000	3,220
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,51,100</b>	<b>23,154</b>
*the cost per bundle varied slightly from place to place, also the quality and gauge of the materials also varied.				
** approx exchange rate \$1 USD = 101.54 NPR				

## 4) How our Rotarians and Rotracts were involved in earthquake relief efforts

Our Rotaractors were vital in helping us offer assistance and in reaching the more remote communities. The list below details how our Rotarians and Rotracts were involved.

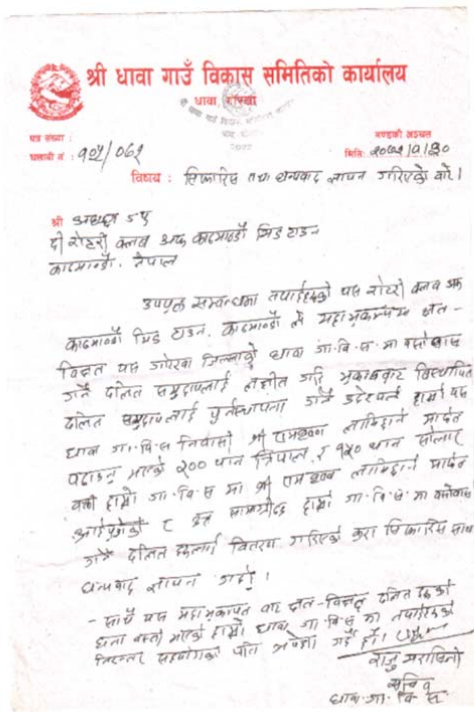
- In Sindhupalchowk, we sent about 150 tents by helicopter, while Rtn Komal helped identify 150 households of Danuwar and Majhi communities in Ghirachaur, Bansbari VDC. The Rotaracts also took 150 tarps to two other communities, along with other relief items.
- In Kavre, our member Rtn. Shyam took relief materials and 50 tarps to Koshidekh VDC near Palanchowk, while Rotaracts brought more than 100 in Lapsetar and Kausaltar VDC.
- In Gorkha, our RCC members picked up 150 tarps we got from UNHCR, as well as 2000 packets of oral rehydration salt donated by CP Roop. We were also able to

identify 200 Dalit households in Dhawa VDC in Gorkha, and we sent 200 tarps and 150 solar lights from UNHCR.

- In Nuwakot, our member Deepak along with his daughter Sharareh walked a couple hours from the roadhead to bring 94 tarps to outlying communities in Kafalsanghara. They also traveled to Bhimdhunga and Ramkot with visiting Rtn Jay Malla to distribute 75 tarps and food items.
- Rtn Navyo (in Tisthung, Mawkanpur) delivered 50 tarps, and assessed the needs. He has commitment from various Italian groups to help the community in Tisthung.
- Rtn. Pramod distributed tarps that we received from the RI District in Dhading.

### Photos: distribution of materials

In our Report #2 we reported that soon after the earthquake we had been involved in both the distribution of in-kind items both purchased by our Club and donated by various agencies as well as the distribution of corrugated galvanized iron sheets that we had purchased with the money we had received. We have recently received photos from the Sri Dhawa Village Development Community (VDC) in the District of Gorkha a village where we were able to deliver 200 tarpaulin sheets and 150 solar lamps donated to us by the UNHCR. See Figure 1A and 1B below. We have also received photos from the Ghar-dhuri village of Sangla, (Ward # 3) at Tarkeswor Nagarpalika where we were able to donate 54 bundles of cgi sheet to 36 households (Figure 2) as well as from Dandagaun village in Dhading District where we donated 60 bundles of cgi sheets (Figure 3).

	<p><b>Figure 1A</b></p> <p>This handwritten note is a statement by Mr Raju Marasini (Secretary of the VDC) confirming receipt of the items donated by UNHCR and delivered by our Rotary Club. The note is dated on the Nepali date of 30 Baisakh, 2072 (i.e. mid-May 2015).</p> <p>Letters like this one ensure that there the claimants are victims of the earthquake and that there is no duplication of effort i.e. the recipients cannot claim the same materials from different sources.</p>
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**Figure 1B Sri Dhawa Village Development Community (VDC) in the District of Gorkha**



Note in the foreground that in spite of the destruction the farmers were still able to put in some maize and potato crops.



Dalit villagers receiving tarpaulins and solar lamps donated by the UNHCR.



The lady in the green blouse is Saraswoti Pariyar who lost her husband (Bhul) during the first earthquake. She has five children; the youngest is two years old.

The boy at the center of the photo 12 year old Avishek BK whose arm was broken during the first earthquake.



**Figure 2 Dandagaun Village in Dhading District**



Our contact person in Dandagaun Village is Dr Anita Manandhar. She tells us that in this village 50 homes in a cluster were destroyed. The rubble shows that the homes had been built using very rudimentary techniques and building materials gathered from the nearby woods. There is no evidence of the rebar metal reinforcement that is so crucial to making structures earthquake resistant.



In this subsistence village the lack of modern building materials is understandable since access is so difficult. In order to deliver the 60 bundles of corrugated sheets donated by RC Mid-Town it was necessary to hire a sturdy truck for the long ride up the mud road off Simle after Mahadevbesi (the closest little town) and then a bumpy three hours ride up to the village.



The photos above show how villagers used the corrugated iron sheets to provide temporary roofing for themselves and their livestock during the Monsoon months. The roofing is secured temporarily using locally available bamboo poles and stones. During the winter months the farmers will have more time to erect permanent structures and will be able to recycle these sheets into their new constructions.



**Figure 3 Ghar-dhuri village of Sangla, (Ward # 3) at Tarkeswor Nagarpalika**



RC Ktm Mid-Town was able to donate 54 bundles of corrugated galvanized iron sheets to 36 households.

Both men and women are involved in the rebuilding and it is not uncommon to see women carrying construction materials and to be actively involved in construction work.



During the winter months some members of Mid-Town will be conducting an inspection visit to follow-up and to see how the villagers are managing.



**What are Mid-Towns plans for the longer term?**

Discussions are now underway with our Action Committee and all of our RC Mid-Town members on how we can help communities to 'build back better'. In general, there is almost unanimous agreement that RC Mid-Town should concentrate its efforts in the education sector. The Ministry of Education has reported that over 32,000 classrooms need to be reconstructed since the school buildings which were built before 2005 have almost all collapsed; this provides an opportunity to build back better using improved technologies and with added features that will elevate the standard of learning. Our discussions on this are still ongoing and we will give details and budget projections in the next report.

**How is the Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town working with RID 3292?**

Our Club enjoys a good working relationship with our Rotary District; several of our Past Presidents are active at the District level and Past President Yogendra Pradhan is a Past District Governor. District 3292 received generous help from Rotary International and has pledged to use these funds to match those used by individual clubs used for cgi sheet temporary shelters. Now that we have completed more than 200 shelters we are applying for these matching funds offered by the district. The paperwork for this is in progress.

**How much money has Mid-Town raised for earthquake relief?**

Since the date of the earthquake to present we have kindly received donations from 39 Rotary Clubs as well as from our own members and other individual donors. Since Report#2 an addition \$24,543 has been received. Please see Annex1 for a detailed list of new donors. The table below shows our balance sheet as of Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.

<b>Balance Sheet of Income and Expenditures for Earthquake Relief 2015 Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town as of Nov 1, 2015</b>		
<b>Income (\$USD)</b>		
Donated by members of RC KTM Mid-Town	6,238.82	
Others in Nepal (not members of RC Mid-Town)#	3,897.99	
Donated by Rotary Clubs and friends abroad (as of 1 November 2015)	85756.32	
<b>Expenditures (\$USD)</b>		
Donated to RCC Ramkot*		923.70
600 tarpaulins		4,924.17
Miscellaneous transportation costs		187.12
Temporary shelters**		23,154
<b>Balance (\$USD)</b>	<b>95,893.13</b>	<b>29,188.99</b>
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.		

## What were the biggest challenges to reconstruction and rebuilding during the months of August-November 2015?

In Nepal during the months of August and September construction is typically slow because these are still Monsoon months, it is still raining and the ground is waterlogged. Traditional wisdom at the village level considers that this is generally not a good time to be laying foundations or carrying on building of any kind. In October and November farmers are engaged in bringing in the harvest, this time also coincides with the high holidays of Dasain and Tihar where everyone enjoys a month-long break. In addition to these two factors which tend to slow down construction during these months, this year we have had to contend with a virtual economic blockade which has halted the import of construction materials and has restricted the import of fuel to the extent of making all but the most vital transport prohibitive. It is important to put into context the prevailing situation in Nepal especially since it has not been widely covered by the international media. Since the end of September, Nepal has been in the throes of political unrest that has already cost a few lives and has triggered a blockade along the India/Nepal border that is hampering every aspect of daily life. As a landlocked country Nepal depends entirely on imports for its essential goods and especially for its fuel and building materials. This virtual embargo means that there is now a serious shortage of petrol, cooking gas, and other major necessities (including building materials) throughout the country. This embargo itself is crippling but coming as it does, so soon after the devastating earthquake, means that people are suffering inordinately and that the whole country is at a virtual stand-still. The extended blockade by India has crippled the economy of Nepal and has led to great human suffering. Vital social services have been disrupted, hospitals have run out of essential drugs and supplies, and UNICEF estimates that more than 1.6 million children have been deprived of schooling over the past two months. Please see the attached news clippings in the box below.

While some supplies are available, the prices have become exorbitant since we are the mercy of black marketeers. Transportation is everyone's main concern and even just getting across town is a challenge as commuters continuously weigh the benefits of using what precious little petrol they have. We are fully committed to resuming our activities as soon as conditions and circumstances permit and in the meantime we are limiting our activities in an attempt to conserve scarce resources.

### Fuel crisis adds to misery of quake-displaced

ARJUN POUDEL

NAUBISHE, Rasuwa, Oct 28

Chi Mendo Tamang, a quake victim of Haku VDC-9, Mailung, of Rasuwa district has been struggling to feed herself and two of her remaining children. Tamang, who ran out of cooking gas two weeks ago, complained that locals would attack her if she went to collect firewood at the nearby community forest even though the fuel crisis has been getting worse.

"Locals will attack us if we entered the community forest," complained Tamang, who has been living at the makeshift camp built for people displaced by earthquake from Mailung, Naubishe of the district. She said that locals have been chasing away quake-displaced people who enter the community forest and warning

them not to set foot in the forest.

Tamang lost her husband, 14-year-old son as well as her home and properties in the devastating earthquake of April 25. Along with other villagers who survived the quake, Tamang and her remaining two children have been forced to migrate to safer zone. Authorities had airlifted Tamang and other villagers to Naubishe as their whole village remains buried in the landslide triggered by the devastating earthquake.

Some NGOs assisted the displaced villagers to be settled in the makeshift shelter and provided them with stove, cooking gas and other utensils.

"I don't know how long I can keep my children alive," Taman said looking at the empty cylinder. "Firewood is not available even in the

local market," she said.

Ashmita Tamang, 24, another quake-displaced, said that she, too, has been worried about the shortage cooking fuel, as she said that she has ailing children and elderly in-laws living in the makeshift shelter. "We have nine members in our family and a cylinder of cooking gas does not last more than a month," complained Ashmita.

Almost all the quake displaced people of the settlement have been hit hard by the fuel crisis resulting from the harsh economic blockade imposed by India against Nepal since more than two months. Fifty-nine people, including children and pregnant women, of Mailung settlement were killed and dozens went missing after the massive earthquake, which killed about 9,000 people across the country.



# Economy chokes as blockade drags on

China fuel won't foster environment for industries to reopen: Industrialists

RUDRA PANGENI  
KATHMANDU, Oct 30

Unrest in the Tarai for the past two and a half months coupled with an Indian blockade since over a month have pushed Nepal's economy to the brink of collapse, industrialists and private sector leaders said.

Almost all industries have shut down either due to shortage of raw materials or the inability of staff and workers to get to their workplaces for lack of transport. The transport sector has already suffered losses worth billions as a direct impact of the fuel scarcity. Dinesh Bhandari, chairman of the Federation of Nepalese National Transport Entrepreneurs, informed that around 80 percent of vehicles are off the roads and around 900,000 transport sector workers have



A man reads a newspaper as he sits on top of empty cooking gas cylinder as he waits in a queue to buy cooking gas along with other customers during the ongoing fuel crisis that has been continuing for over a month now in Kathmandu, Nepal on Friday.

NAVESH CHETANAR/REUTERS

- Government to lose Rs 46 billion in revenue by mid November if crisis persists
- Economic impacts of earthquake visible but that of blockade is more pervasive
- 150,000 tons of imported goods languishing at Birgunj dry port
- 80% transport services stalled

remained idle.

Likewise, the tourism sector, already hit hard by the earthquake and was just recuperating, has again foundered because of the Tarai unrest and the Indian blockade. New bookings have largely dropped and hopes of a recovery have been dealt another blow, according to tourism entrepreneurs. "The number of foreign tourists visiting the country is likely to see a decline by half -- to around 400,000 in 2015 compared to 800,000 last year," said Binayak Shah, secretary general of the Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN). They also say that five-star hotel occupancy is below 30 percent in the current tourist season.

Imported goods of around 150,000 tons remain stuck at Birgunj dry port for

MORE ON PAGE 3

## Fuel blockade hits Valley hospitals hard

ARJUN POUDEL  
KATHMANDU, Oct 29

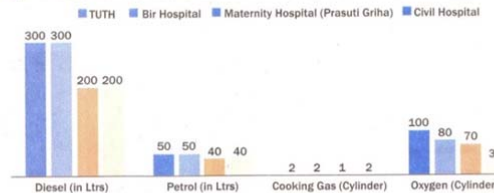
Hospitals in the capital have been hit hard by the ongoing fuel crisis resulting from the brutal economic blockade imposed by India on Nepal since the past 39 days.

Bir Hospital, which has been providing meals to its in-patients free of cost has stopped providing them morning and afternoon meals. The hospital administration said that it has been compelled to do so.

"It is not our choice but a compulsion," said Rajeshwori Pandey, dietician at Bir. She further informed that the hospital has stopped providing breakfast to patients since over a week and has been using firewood to cook meals.

According to Pandey, the diet section of the hospital has asked the hospital administration for cooking gas and it has also approached the gas company, but to no avail.

### Daily fuel needs of Kathmandu's major hospitals



"We even requested the gas company but they expressed their helplessness," complained Pandey. She said that the diet section has been using broken wooden furniture to cook food with. The hospital has also brought firewood from the home of a staffer and this has helped for a few days. The home was destroyed in the big earthquake.

"We have now bought 1,000 kg of firewood but I don't know how long this will last," she said. The hos-

- Oxygen cylinders also scarce
- Bir Hospital starts using firewood to cook meals for in-patients

pital needs two cylinders of cooking gas every day.

Meanwhile, nine public hospitals in the capital have demanded 1,700 liters of diesel, 200 liters petrol, 18 cylinders of cooking gas

and 245 cylinders of oxygen from the government. A meeting of the nine hospitals held on Sunday has sought assistance from the prime minister for procuring vital supplies, including fuel.

Big hospitals like Bir, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH), Patan Hospital, Maternity Hospital, Kanti Children's, Shahid Gangalal National Heart Center, Manamohan Cardiothoracic Vascular

MORE ON PAGE 3

## Fuel blockade...



A man at the Bir Hospital canteen cooks food for patients using firewood on Thursday. He said the canteen has run out of cooking gas.

DEWESH GOUL/REUTERS

and Transplant Center (MCVTC), BP Koirala Lions Center for Ophthalmic Studies and Civil Servants Hospital have submitted a written letter to Prime Minister KP Oli about the urgent problems faced by them.

TUTH said that it needs 300 liters of diesel, 50 liters petrol and two cylinders of cooking gas every day. Similarly, Bir Hospital said it needs 200 liters of diesel, 80 cylinders of oxygen, about 50 liters of petrol and two cylinders cooking gas. "We had requested PM Oli to see to the supply of essential needs at the hospitals," said Dr Swayam Prakash Pandit, director at Bir.

Dr Jagdishwor Gautam, director of the Maternity Hospital, informed that the hospital needs 200 liters of diesel, 40 liters petrol and around 75 cylinders of oxygen every day and 10 cylinders of cooking gas a month. TUTH and Patan Hospital have their own oxygen plants.

Director at the Civil Servants Hospital said that the hospital needs 30 cylinders of oxygen, 100 liters of diesel and two cylinders of cooking gas a day. He informed that the hospital does not have problems of any kind and has only drawn the attention of the prime minister to the general crisis.

The figure above shows recent articles from our Kathmandu newspaper 'Republica'. The blockade is causing hardship at every level of the society but when even the city's main hospitals have to depend on firewood, the situation is really dire.

In closing let us reiterate that we are very grateful for your solidarity and support. Your help is making a big difference in the lives of many victims of the earthquake.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of our donors and friends a very happy Tihar. This festival, which is widely celebrated throughout Nepal, will take place on Nov. 11-13, 2015. It is punctuated by firecrackers, oil lamps and bright colors everywhere as Hindus worship Laxmi, the goddess of wealth. People buy new clothes and gifts and adorn their homes. The figure below shows a 'rangoli' it is a traditional temporary design made of colored rice flour that is used to decorate the threshold and welcome the goddess on the day of Laxmi Puja.

Yours in Rotary,

*(in alphabetical order)*

Kul Chandra Gautam (Past President 2014-15, 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)

Paras SJB Rana (President 2015-16, Member of the Action Committee)

Shankar Sharma (President Elect 2016-17, Member of the Action Committee)



## Annex

<b>Donations from Friends and Rotary Clubs Abroad; July- October 2015</b>			
	<b>USD**</b>	<b>NPR</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Balance from Report #2 on 15 July 2015</b>	<b>61,213*</b>	<b>6215586*</b>	
Lantern Projects	1,350	137,067	17-Jul
Salt Lake City Rotary Foundation	3,263	331,337	24-Jul
Rotary Club of San Lorenzo Valley	1,511	153,450	2-Aug
Donation by Kirstie Margaret Nicol	712	72,278	9-Aug
Los Gatos Rotary Charities- Los Gatos Morning Rotary	4,338	440,522	13-Sep
The Rotary Club of Hunt Valley MD James W. Houck Foundation, Inc.	2,066	209,781	15-Sep
Rtn Pradeep Wagh (note money received 17 June 2015 but acknowledged by bank on this date)	156	15,864	24-Sep
Dr Chaudhary (note money received 15 May 2015 but acknowledged by bank on this date)	331	33,600	24-Sep
Rotary Hilfe EV Leonberg Weil (contact Rtn Gerhard Pees) (note money received 30 Sept. 2015 but acknowledged by bank on this date)	10,816	1098,212	30-Oct
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>85,756</b>	<b>8707,664</b>	
<p>*note the balance was given as \$61,939 and NRs 6,268,832.00 in Report#2 because a donation of \$524 by the Rotary Club of Milano was incorrectly attributed.</p> <p>**currency exchange varies, a rate of 101.54NRs/\$USD is used for the purposes of this report.</p>			