

The Small Earth Nepal (SEN) Strategy for Nepal Earthquake Response

On 25 April 2015, a devastating earthquake of magnitude 7.8 Richter scale hit Nepal making its epicenter at the Gorkha District in central Nepal. The earthquake was followed by more than 300 aftershocks and some of them, for example 6.8 Richter scale on 12 May, were very strong. The direct human casualty from the earthquake exceeds 8600 so far but it is rising day by day. The districts namely Gorkha, Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, Nuwakot, Rasuwa and the Kathmandu valley were the hardest hit of the disaster. As the result, infrastructures including people's houses, official buildings, historical buildings (Dharahara, Durbar squares and temples), schools, health-posts were destructed. The quake caused glacier avalanche in Langtang valley in Rasuwa, which wiped away an entire Langtang village, which is now human-less. The impacts of damages are expected to remain for a long time. The ruptures in this fragile geology and the heavy rainfall in monsoon will trigger landslides, and soil erosion.

As an immediate relief program, we provided basic materials (tarpaulin, blankets, rice, lentils, sugar, salt, dry material like biscuits, milk) to the affected areas in Dhading and Gorkha (500 families). We conducted health camp at Gorkha where hundreds of affected families were treated and advised on household hygiene and sanitation practices. With the help of our friends in US and India, we donated few items of medicines to Gorkha and Sindhupalchowk district's hospitals and health camps organized by different volunteer groups. We volunteered in preparing chlorine solution for water treatment which was provided to different districts as disinfectant.

After the relief measure, it is now time to focus on reconstruction, rehabilitate and rebuilding programs that generate entrepreneurship and income. Now we are working with the principle of 'building back better'.

SEN has been working in environmental management activities particularly in climate adaptation and sustainable livelihood. We value building individual capacity do mitigate the impacts of environmental change such as climate change. SEN has been working directly in Dhading, Syangja and Kapilvastu districts, and has worked in past in Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Gorkha for several projects. Our strategy for next level of earthquake response program is to work with direct involvement of affected people to construct their schools, community building, micro-irrigation canals, health services, building with our previous networks in the villages. The strategy and activities have been provided below:

Reconstruction and Rehabilitation	Rebuilding (building back better)
<p>Water: Construction and maintenance of water sources and supplies (drinking and irrigation), rain-water harvesting system, multi-purpose use of water.</p> <p>Health and sanitation: Construction of health posts, school toilets, periodic health camps, drinking water treatment.</p> <p>Education: Construction of school buildings, toilets, libraries, providing teaching materials, scholarship programs to affected children.</p>	<p>Income and entrepreneurship: Agro-livestock entrepreneurship (milk, vegetable) for women; providing of drought resistant and nutritious fodder and vegetable species; micro and efficient irrigation systems; product processing, packaging and marketing.</p> <p>Landslide and erosion control: Tree plantation, bioengineering using economically high value species (Amliso, fodder).</p> <p>Earthquake resilience infrastructure: Training to local technicians for disaster resilience planning, designing and construction.</p>

We welcome for every support that fit to the above frame-work to be provided for the earthquake victims in Nepal.