
Nepal Earthquake Relief Mission to Rasuwa District

Report

16 June 2015

From 7-9 June 2015, Rotary International and the National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF-Nepal) set out to the villages of Ward No. 4 in Chilime, Rasuwa, Nepal to provide relief materials following the destruction caused by the series of earthquake that began on 25 April 2015. The indigenous Tamang community welcomed us with song and dance. This remote area, just south of the Nepal-Tibet border and at least a 9-hour drive from Kathmandu through mountainous terrain on landslide-prone roads, had not received significant aid prior to our arrival. After this mission, they can now begin to rebuild their homes and the destroyed community school with the corrugated Galvanized Iron (GI) sheets provided.

Below are pictures from the trip and the Village Development Committee (VDC) letter confirming the equal distribution of corrugated sheets to all 73 households and to the school for rebuilding. Also included at the end of the report is the list of each household.

The success of this mission was defined by collaboration. With the connections and assistance of the National Indigenous Women Forum, Rotary International was able to locate this community that has been greatly affected by the earthquakes to provide urgent assistance and start building a relationship that will continue. Rojina Saba, Alina Saba and other NIWF members identified and established contact with Dorje Tamang (a native of the village), found a source for procuring the GI sheets, and coordinated transportation. Additionally, Sarah Levine through Nepal's Centre for Environmental Action and Development (CEAD) provided local contacts for logistical support while in the region.

Rotary International Districts 7390 and 3292 funded the mission and provided essential support. Representing Rotary were Sabitra Kadel and Josh Weinstein who assisted in the delivery's execution and worked closely with Rojina and Dorje. Prakshyapan Prasai and his Rotary Interact team, including Sabitra, will remain engaged with these villages to guide them in constructing earthquake resistant homes and school houses and will work with NIWF levying their expertise, experience, and local knowledge of this region.

Additional leadership from RID 3292 gave this initiative its momentum and without their guidance, encouragement, and foresight, this mission would not have proceeded. Special thanks goes to Dr. Chandra Lekha Tuladhar, DGE Keshav Kunwar, DS Nugal Vaidya, and DG Rabindra Piya.

The villagers were so grateful to everyone who helped. Here is a message from Dorje, on behalf of his community:

"I along with all the community members of Chilme-4, Rasuwa would like to thank National Indigenous Women Forum and Rotary International District 7390 and Rotary [International] District 3292 for your support in this time of need. I would like to thank you for your effort and hard work. We are very grateful for your kind help, and we hope to continue our relationship in the coming days as well. Once again thank you for travelling with great difficulties to help us despite of landslides and road blockages."

Tamang Communities in Nepal

Tamang is a indigenous group that is widespread in Nepal. Their population is concentrated in many districts throughout Nepal, including Rasuwa. They can also be found scattered in India's West Bengal and the Darjeeling area. Historically, they were also called Murmis. They are of Tibetan origin and have also been referred to as Ishang or Sian. They are dwellers of the northern regions and live in high hilly areas on the southern slopes of the Himalaya and are one of the oldest groups to inhabit the country.

They speak their own language called Tamang which is one of the major Tibeto-Burman languages in Nepal. In Tibetan, 'Ta' means horse and 'Mang' means trader, and some say Tamang means horse soldier or cavalry. Their legends tell how a group of King Srongsten Gampo's cavalry came across the Himalaya and settled in the high hills to become this indigenous people.

From their facial features and general physique, Tamangs can be seen to be of Mongolian descent. They are generally heavily built, sturdy, short and thickset with wheat brown and dark complexions. There are several legends as related about their ancestors and origins in Nepal. One is that Lord Shiva is their ancestor. Lord Shiva had two brothers Brahma and Vishnu. The descendants of Brahma became Brahmins, Vishnu's descendants became Kshetris, and Shiva's descendants became Tamangs. The other legend is that many thousands of years ago, there lived a king in Tibet who was against Buddhism, called Galang Marma or Gyalbo Lunder. He destroyed many Buddhist icons, idols and statues, setting fire to gompas and forcing lamas to marry. The lamas who escaped, one being Dapalgani Dorjee, in disguise,

entered the palace and assassinated the tyrant king. Dapalgani Dorjee and his co-conspirators fled southward on horses and settled in the regions north of the Kathmandu Valley and spread east and west to become the Tamang community.

Tamangs are generally skilled craftsmen and have preserved their traditional crafts for many generations. They are skilled carpenters, masons, builders and wooden plough-makers. Some are also skilled in carving wooden designs. The women are well-known for making half-sleeved, sleeveless and front-opening thick woolen jackets from sheep's wool. They also weave bamboo baskets, containers and vessels for storing grain. The lamas (Buddhist priests) are also well trained and skilled in painting Tibetan thangkas, mandalas and other religious scroll paintings. They are adherents to a form of Lama Buddhism or Lamaism with deities and rituals similar to other Himalayan Buddhist tribes.

(Source: *Peoples of Nepal Tamang*, (c) 2007, Pilgrims Publishing)



Image 1: Destroyed home in Arantol Village adjacent to Thethangche village in Chilime, Ward No. 4, Rasuwa, Nepal.



Image 2: Landslides (falling boulders) formed these “paths”. They have plagued hillside villages by destroying homes and killing individuals. Previously fallen rocks presented an obstacle to us on the route to Rasuwa. Remote mountain villages have received minimal aid due to distance and poor or damaged infrastructure.



Image 3: Upon entering Chilime area, local contact Dorje Tamang (far right) and his Tamang indigenous family greet us at Thambuchet Village after spending the day in the field.



Image 4: Dorje's parents greeted us with honor providing Kathas upon reaching Ward No. 4 of Chilime. Left to Right: Dorje's Mother, Josh Weinstein (Rotary Liaison RID 7390), Rojina Saba (NIWF-Nepal), Sabitra Kadel (RID 3292), Dorje's Father.



Image 5: Fallen boulder adjacent to the community's destroyed school house



Image 6: A red circle indicates the building is unsafe to be inside.



Images 7 - 9:
Devastation inside the school.





Images 10 - 12: The ground on some of the village hills was cracked along the entire ridge. As the rains intensify, the soil will soften, and it is feared that large portions of these hills will fall during the Monsoon period or in the event of another earthquake. All families living in this areas as well as the school must be relocated and rebuilt on safer ground.



Image 13: Following the first earthquake, this family's house was destroyed. The father of the home used available materials to build a new wooden structure for his family in a week.



Image 14: Prior to distributing the GI sheets, the Tamang community welcomed Rotary and NIWF-Nepal representatives with traditional honors, celebratory rituals, Rakshi (local rice / millet alcohol) and Khatas (white-scarves) of sincere appreciation.



Image 15: Tamang women singing and dancing during a welcome song and ceremony.



Images 16 & 17: Sabitra (Left - Rotary) and Rojina (Bottom - NIWF- Nepal) meet with members of each affected household to acquire data about how their families and homes were affected and provide them with GI sheets.





Images 18 & 19: Indigenous Tamang families living in the three villages of Chilime Ward No. 4 receive GI sheets in order to begin building shelter prior to the Monsoon rains.





OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chilime,

Rasuwa

Ref. No. 145

Date: 9th June, 2015



**Subject :-CONFIRMATION OF GI SHEET DISTRIBUTION TO CHILIME VDC
WARD NO. 4 VILLAGES**

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter confirms that on 8 June 2015, 97 bundles of Galvanized Iron (GI) sheets were provided to the earthquake victims living in Ward No. 4 of Chilime VDC, Rasuwa District by Rotary International Districts 7390 and 3292 in coordination with the National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF-Nepal).

14 of the bundles were supplied to the community for rebuilding the destroyed school, Gyan Jyoti Primary School. The remaining GI sheets were distributed equally to the 73 affected households within the Ward's three Villages as follows:

1. Thethangche: 51 Households
2. Brapche: 5 Households
3. Simbhu: 17 Households

Thank you for the generous support of these communities.

Sincerely,

Nirmal Mangrati

Nirmal Mangrati
V.D.C. Secretary
Chilime, Rasuwa, Nepal

No	Name	Village	to 24	Not family	M/F / Child	inferior	Sex	Signature
				Members			Status	
1.	Kotwa Tamang	Pang	3	M/F	2-1	-	D	Signature
2.	Kamliya Tamang	"	4	2-3	2-1	-	D	Signature
3.	Jyal Pishing Tamang	"	5	2-2	2-1	-	D	Signature
4.	Kathay Dawa Tamang	"	3	1-1	2-1	-	D	Signature
5.	Nima Gumbo Tamang	"	9	5-4	12-1	-	D	Signature
6.	Pakang Tamang	"	3	1-1	2-1	-	D	Signature
7.	Pishing	"	4	1-1	1-1-2	-	D	Signature
8.	Dawa Tashi	"	-	3-2	5-10-3	4	D	Signature
9.	Tashi Nuru	"	7	2-5	2-15-5	-	D	Signature
10.	Lengon	"	6	2-4	1-1-1	-	D	Signature
11.	Lengon	"	3	3-4	2	-	D	Signature
12.	Shyamba Dub	"	1	1	1	-	D	Signature
13.	Kamli Shyji	"	2	2-5	12-1	-	D	Signature
14.	Yonga	"	4	2-2	1-1	-	D	Signature
15.	Dawa Chhaden	"	3	1-1	2-1	-	D	Signature
16.	Pamey Tamang	"	5	3-2	3-1	-	D	Signature
17.	Toruk	"	5	2-3	1-1	-	D	Signature
18.	Chhewang	"	6	3-3	1-1	-	D	Signature
19.	Pherba Chhoring	Chhoring	1	1	1	-	D	Signature
20.	Sharpa Tamang	"	4	3-1	1-1	-	D	Signature
21.	Ringmar Tamang	Pang	5	3-2	1-1	-	D	Signature
22.	Kamli Sitar	"	5	4-1	1-1	-	D	Signature
23.	Suk Bahadur	"	4	3-1	1-1	-	D	Signature
24.	Lakpa Tamang	"	5	3-2	2-1	-	D	Signature
25.	Bakray	"	2	1-1	-	-	D	Signature
26.	Tashi Paslay	Sim	4	2-2	4-1	-	D	Signature
27.	Sano Kamli	"	6	4-2	12-1	-	D	Signature
28.	Bahadur	"	2	3-5	1-1	-	D	Signature
29.	Sangam	"	5	2-3	1-1	-	D	Signature
30.	Samba	"	7	5-2	-	-	D	Signature
31.	Paldan Tamang	"	3	2-1	2-1	-	D	Signature
32.	Lakpa Singlu	"	3	1-2	2-1	-	D	Signature
33.	Kathay	"	3	2-1	2-1	-	D	Signature
34.	Plekhang	"	8	4-4	3-1	-	D	Signature
35.	Narpu Chhoring	"	3	2-1	2-1	-	D	Signature
36.	Lakpa Gumbo	"	6	2-4	1-1	-	D	Signature
37.	Ringmar	"	8	5-3	1-1	-	D	Signature

38. Shama Tashi Gomang	Tshenda	4	2	2	4y 1y/2	-	-	full	200
39. Dzungba Dub	Lopche	5	1	4	12y	-	-	full	
40. Dawa Kani	Tshenda	6	2	4	9m, 5y/2	-	-	full	
41. Pasang	"	9	2	2	1y + 1y	-	-	"	
42. Dindub Wangdi	"	1	1		-	-	-	"	
43. Nakang Bimoring	"	6	1	1	-	-	-	"	
44. Sonam Tshang	"	2	1	1	-	-	-	"	
45. Karma Gomang	"	1	1	2	8 1/2 months	-	-	"	
46. Chensang	"	3	2	1	1y/2	-	-	"	
47. Rinjur	"	3	2	1	2y/2	-	-	"	
48. Shambha Dindub	Tshang	9	2	4	-	2	-	"	
49. Wangdi	"	4	3	1	2y/2 1 1/2y/2	-	-	"	
50. Selam	"	4	2	2	2y/2	1	-	"	
51. Lami Gomang	"	4	2	2	-	2	-	"	
52. Thulo Kani	"	10	4	6	2 1/3y/2	2	-	"	
53. Pemba Dorje	"	7	4	5	-	-	-	"	

54. Rinjur	Tshenda	6	3	2	5y/2	-	-	full	18135
55. Rinjur Gomang	"	2	1	1	-	2	-	"	100-101
56. Lopa Dindub Rang	"	7	5	2	-	1	-	"	11441
57. Pasang Wangdi	"	9	5	4	-	-	-	"	100
58. Angam Aren Pasang	"	5	3	2	3y/2 2 1/2y/2	-	-	"	1000
59. Nakang Gomang	"	6	2	4	-	1	-	"	1000
60. Pemba Tshang	"	4	2	2	-	2	-	"	100
61. Sonam Dorbu	"	7	5	4	4y/2	-	-	"	1000
62. Singi Wangyal	"	5	3	2	-	-	-	"	1000
63. Phurba Dorje	"	2	1	1	-	2	-	"	
64. Lam Khandur	"	5	1	4	-	-	-	"	
65. Lichang Rang	"	5	2	3	-	-	-	"	1000
66. Lujom	"	6	3	3	5y/2	2	-	"	1000
67. Dawa Chongom	"	4	3	1	5y/2	-	-	"	1000
68. Prakash Gomang	"	2	1	1	-	-	-	"	1000
69. Chomdessa	"	5	2	3	-	-	-	"	1000
70. Shandur Rang	"	6	2	4	3y/2, 5y/2	1	-	"	1000
71. Lami Rang	"	3	2	1	3y/2	-	-	"	1000
72. Pleasing Rang	"	4	2	2	-	-	-	"	1000

