

## **Disaster Relief Mission to Deusa, Solukhumbu, 27 May 2015**

On 27 May 2015 Nepal's Rotary International District (RID) 3292, as part of a partnership with RID 7390 of South Central Pennsylvania, sponsored a charter-flight to the remotely located VDC of Deusa, Solukhumbu, Nepal. The flight was part of a larger mission to deliver 59 Disaster Relief Shelters (Shelter-Systems.com) to people with destroyed or severely damaged and unsafe homes prior to the rapidly approaching Monsoon rains. Beit Chabad of Nepal and its Chabad Rescue and Relief Team (CRR) were responsible for providing the shelters and directing the delivery activities. Additional participants in this effort were the National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF) and the Centre for Environmental Action and Development (CEAD), who identified the urgent need in this VDC for immediate shelter and assisted in coordination, tent delivery and assembly. Additional credit belongs to two UN-associated organizations that assisted in bringing the tents into Nepal: WAFUNIF (The World Association of Former United Nations Internes and Fellows) and GMDF (The Global Millennium Development Foundation). This relief mission highlights the importance of collaboration in the earthquake relief effort.

After the series of Spring 2015 earthquakes, the homes of Deusa experienced destruction at various levels. The wards reached were all inaccessible by road and required a flight from Kathmandu, jeep/ tractor transport in Deusa, and human transport for 3+ hours within the affected wards.

Homes were seen in the following conditions; a) Total destruction, b) Structural damage, unfit for lodging and fit for cautious daytime use, c) Minor damage, fit for cautious lodging and daytime use, d) Unseen damage, fit for cautious lodging and daytime use.

On May 27 & 28, our local team of 20 individuals performed an assessment of the need. Local representatives from wards #1-9 used the 2012 Solukhumbu Census and a Rapid Damage Assessment / socio-economic survey to rank the priority households. Those under tier #1 are the top priority, etc. The following categories were used:

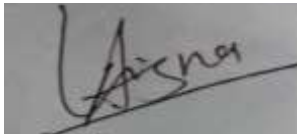
- Tier #1: Total destruction: the home is unfit for daytime and nighttime use and the family is at a relatively high ranking of poverty.
- Tier #2: Total destruction: the home is unfit for daytime and nighttime use and the family is a women-led or elderly-led household.
- Tier #3: Structural damage, unfit for lodging, and fit for cautious daytime use and the family is at a relatively high ranking of poverty
- Tier #4: Structural damage, unfit for lodging, and fit for cautious daytime use; the family is a women-led or elderly-led household

The aforementioned method covers up to and not through Tier#4 in Deusa VDC. To avoid overlap and long-term neglect, the distribution team notes each recipient and those on the margin within the 'needs assessment,' and the local government and local shelter cluster will use such information.

**Moving forward:**

*It is envisioned that Rotary International remains in contact with the local distribution team to strictly adhere to the enclosed list of 59 recipients as well as to maintain a presence with this community as the recovery and rebuilding phases commence. Given the high level of poverty coupled with a significant minority of households led by marginalized members of society within the Deusa VDC, we foresee an opportunity for Rotary to satisfy its mission as a humanitarian organization to work with the community beyond the distribution of immediate relief. This will foster a long-term relationship between the communities for livelihood improvement and push for governmental/ social accountability. After the 90-Day Earthquake Relief period has commenced, we suggest that Rotary composes a long-term plan for the community to begin post-monsoon (Sept.2015).*

Alina Saba



Sarah Levine Weinstein



Image #1:



RID 3292's District Governor Piya and District Secretary Vaidya arrive at Beit Chabad of Nepal to express their enthusiasm and appreciation for the collaboration with Chabad in the mission to deliver 59 tents to the remote location of Deusa, Solukhumbu (Everest Region), for which Rotary financed the charter-flight and transportation for delivery. From left to right: Sarah Levine (CEAD), Alina Saba (NIWF), Yehuda Rose (Chabad of Nepal), Yisroel (Chabad Shaliach), Rabindra Piya (District Governor of Nepal District Rotary), Shimi Frenkel (Chabad Shaliach), Emanuel Penkar (CRR), Josh Weinstein (Rotary Liaison), Nugal Vaidya (RID 3292 District Secretary)

Image#2:



Unloading the aircraft at Phaplu Airport, Deusa VDC, Solukhumbu, Nepal

Image #3:



Unloading the tent-filled tractor at 11pm, after a day of driving to Ward#3, the only ward accessible by road pre-monsoon.



Image #4:



Local volunteers carrying tents to the affected areas. Each tent weighs around 30kg.

Image #5:



The household seen was one of the first mentioned by our Local Tent Distribution Team under “Tier #1.” The support beams within their homes are highly unstable, with the walls crumbling. For over a month, they were living in makeshift tents alongside their livestock, at risk of zoonosis and various sanitation and respiratory diseases. They are a household of 9. Four are elderly, 3 toddlers, and a husband and wife expecting twins.

The family is Dalit (low caste) with less access to social and economic opportunity. The young man (second from the right) is the sole breadwinner for this family and will be returning to Malaysia in 2 months for a few years of work, just one month after his wife (far

left in the red cap) is due to give birth. They have one biological son and the elderly women (unmarried) are raising two grandchildren, a 4-yr old girl and a 2-yr old boy who were found neglected by another distant family member.

To place the tent on a sizeable piece of land, our team spent over 2 hours harvesting potatoes from the plot seen above. Following our efforts and a successful tent building, the family generously cooked us a lunch with the potatoes of our own labor.

Image#6:



Elderly-unmarried sisters from the dalit family, whose home was destroyed and unfit for daytime nor nighttime use with the right support beam being held up by one rock and a piece of wood, waiting to crumble.

Image #7:



A Room with a View in Deusa VDC, Ward #6.



Image #8:



An elderly/ female-led household in ward #6, Deusa VDC, Solukhumbu,. The husbands cannot afford to return to their village and assist, as they're domestic migrants. Their home is completely destroyed inside and out, leaving them to cook, eat, and sleep in close proximity to their livestock, posing many risks of disease to the grandparents and children.

Image#9:



A tent for an elderly/ female-led family of 7 nestled in the hills of Ward#6, Deusa VDC, Solukhumbu. Their home had structural damage and the family was living in their extremely damp buffalo shelter with a 4'x3' tarp and various plastic materials woven together.

Image#10:



Identifying and composing the 59 tent recipient list for wards #1-9 based on socio-economic standing and degree of damage (see parameters above) with VDC secretary and community members in Deusa VDC, Solukhumbu.

## Solukhumbu District (Everest Region) In Recent News:



जेष्ठ १८, २०७२ at 7:23 pm

### देखिन थाल्यो सोलुखुम्बुलाई संकटग्रस्त क्षेत्र घोषणा नगर्दाको परिणाम

- अमृता राई

सल्लेरी, १८ जेठ । छिमेकी जिल्लाहरू रामेछाप र ओखलढुंगाका गाउँहरूमा हेलिकोप्टरले प्रतिदिन १० खेप राहत सामग्री ओसारिरहे पनि नजिकैको सोलुखुम्बु गोली चौलाखर्क भकान्जेका पीडितहरू ढुलुढुलु हेरेर बस्न बाध्य छन् । रामेछाप र ओखलढुंगाका जनताभन्दा कम पीडित छैनन् उनीहरू तर हेलिकोप्टर गोली चौलाखर्क आउँदैन । उनीहरूका लागि राहत त आएको छ तर सबरमूकाम सल्लेरीमै थन्किएको छ । ढुवानीका साधन नपाउँदा उनीहरूले त्यो पाउन सकेका छैनन् ।

किन आउँदैन त चौलाखर्कमा हेलिकोप्टरमार्फत राहत ? किनभने सोलुखुम्बुलाई संकटग्रस्त घोषणा गरिएको छैन । चौलाखर्कका पूर्वगाविस अध्यक्ष पोष्ट कुमार कार्कीले आफूहरू बोसो बर्जाको नागरिक भए जस्तो अनुभूति भईरहेको बताउँछन् ।

सोलुमा भूकम्पमा परेर नेपाली तथा विदेशी गरी २२ जनाको ज्यान गएको छ भने ८० जना घाइते भएका छन् । ९ हजार १ सय ७४ घरहरू ध्वस्त भएका छन् भने १० हजार ८ सय ५१ घरहरूमा आंशिक क्षति पुगेको छ । यस्तै १४ हजार २ सय ९४ परिवार विस्थापित भएका छन् । यो क्षति रामेछाप र ओखलढुंगाको भन्दा धेरै हो । तर पनि जिल्लालाई संकटग्रस्त घोषित गरिएको छैन ।

भूकम्पबाट सोलुखुम्बुका ९० प्रतिशतभन्दा बढी भौतिक संरचनाहरू ध्वस्त भएका छन् । सोलुखुम्बुलाई संकटग्रस्त क्षेत्र घोषणा नगरिँदा भूकम्प पीडितहरू राज्यबाट पाउने सेवा सुविधाहरूबाट बन्थित भईरहेका छन् ।

पीडितहरूलाई तत्काल खाद्यन्नसहितका राहत सामग्री बितरण गर्न आवश्यक रहे पनि ढुवानी साधनको अभाव छ ।

सोलुखुम्बुलाई संकटग्रस्त क्षेत्र घोषणा गर्न जिल्ला तहबाट पहल भईरहे पनि त्यो सफल भएको छैन । जिल्लाको अनुगमन गर्न आएका सिवाई मनत्री एनपी साउदले त्यसका लागि पहल गर्ने आश्वासन दिएर काठमाडौं फर्किए पनि परिणाममुखी बनेको छैन । यसअघि जिल्ला दैवी प्रकोप उद्धार समितिबाट संकटग्रस्त क्षेत्र घोषणाका लागि पठाईएको माग पत्र केन्द्रीय दैवी प्रकोप समिति हुँदै मन्त्रीपरिषद बैठकसम्म पुगे पनि अस्वीकृत गरिएको थियो ।

संकटग्रस्त क्षेत्र घोषणा हुन नदिन केही एयरलाईन्स कम्पनी तथा ट्रेकिङ एजेन्सीहरूले राजनीतिक तहसम्म दबाव दिएको स्रोतको दावी छ । पर्यटकीय क्षेत्र सोलुखुम्बुलाई संकटग्रस्त क्षेत्र घोषणा गरिँदा खुम्बु क्षेत्रमा पर्यटक नआउने भएकाले घोषणा गर्न नदिन जनप्रतिनिधिहरूले नै घलखेल गरेको एक नेताले बताए ।

पर्यटक आगमनलाई मात्रै महत्त्व दिएर हजारौं भूकम्प पीडित जिल्लाबासीलाई राहतबाट बन्थित गराउन नुहने आवाज जिल्लामा उठिरहेको छ ।

[http://puleso.com/?post\\_type=news&p=8468](http://puleso.com/?post_type=news&p=8468)

### Article Summary:

Amrita Rai (Salleri, Solukhumbu)

May 30, 2015

*‘Despite there being more than 9000 damaged homes and 22 fatalities in Solukhumbu, the district is not considered an earthquake impacted district which in turn has deprived the victims from getting relief and support. The damage exceeds that of Ramechap and Okhaldunga, which are both under an earthquake-impacted category. This pressure stems from the airline/ tourism sector who fear that categorizing the Everest Region as an earthquake affected zone will hinder them from running their businesses as usual, and deter tourists from coming to Nepal.’*