

Welcome to the second issue of **OPEN MIC NEPAL** bulletin. The Open Mic project captures rumours and perceptions on the ground to eliminate information gaps between the media, humanitarian agencies and local people. By providing local media and outreach workers with facts, Open Mic aims to create a better understanding of the needs of the earthquake-affected communities and to debunk rumours before they can do any harm.

RUMOURS



SIDDHIPUR, LALITPUR

"The ward officer said that the damaged houses can be demolished after taking their pictures. Nothing else, such as filling up a form, needs to be done."

CHARIKOT, DOLAKHA

"They say the government is going to demolish damaged houses and clear the debris but people are doing this on their own right now. They say the administration is going to demolish seven or eight houses but nothing has happened so far."

FACTS

A house owner has to file an application for demolition with the ward offices in municipalities or Village Development Committees (VDC). If possible, the house owner should provide a picture of the damaged house, but it is not mandatory.

The government sends a technical team to assess the house after receiving an application. Following the assessment, the house owner can now begin to demolish the house, but will have to pay for it out of her own pocket.

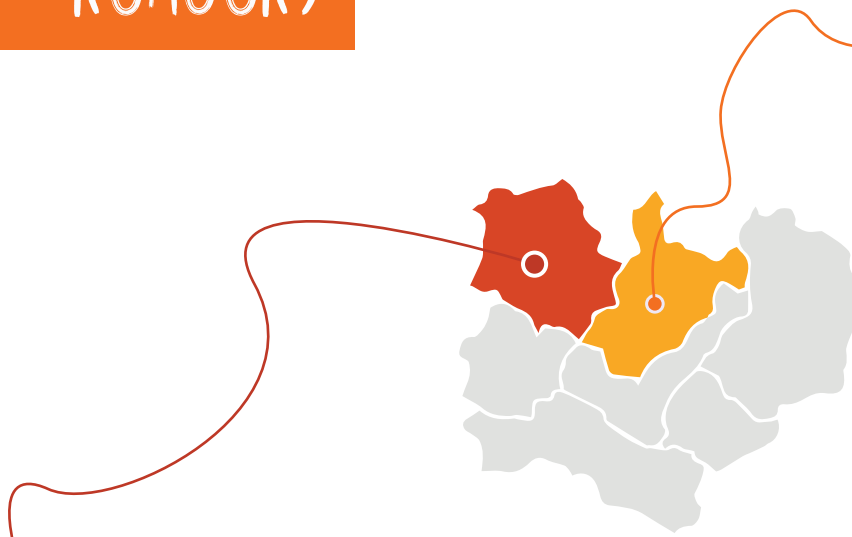
The Chief District Officer can authorise the demolition of a damaged building if the owner refuses to do so or cannot be contacted. However, the receipt will be sent to the house owner.

The house owner is responsible for paying for any damage caused by the demolition such as on neighbours' property.

In urban areas, people are advised not to start the demolition process on their own without technical inputs from engineers. The government can provide this assistance at a cost to the house owners.

Yadav Prasad Koirala
Chief District Officer
Lalitpur
9851227777

RUMOURS



● CHAUTARA, SINDHUPALCHOK

“A person died after a damaged house collapsed following a heavy rainfall.”

● CHARIKOT, DOLAKHA

“After the government and other organisations did not come forward to help with the demolition of the buildings damaged in the quake, a few house owners have started demolishing houses on their own. But because the house owners do not have safety measures in place, a person lost his life the other day.”

FACTS

There have been no deaths reported in Chautara, but there was a report of a damaged house collapsing on its own.

In Dolakha, a death was reported while workers were trying to retrieve items from inside a damaged building before the demolition. The local administration said that if the house owner had notified them beforehand, they would have sent the police or army personnel to help with the demolition. This is in line with the government's decision to provide technical assistance to people who cannot demolish houses on their own. The house owner will still have to bear the costs, however.

In some districts, humanitarian agencies are assisting in the demolition and debris management of both public and private property, which is free of cost. District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRC) are coordinating this support but it is not uniform across the districts as it is based on needs.

- In urban areas, people are advised not to start the demolition process on their own without technical inputs from engineers.
- Damaged buildings can collapse anytime during aftershocks. People should not enter them to retrieve items.
- While demolishing mud-and-stone houses on your own, start from the top floor and maintain a distance while pulling down larger structures.

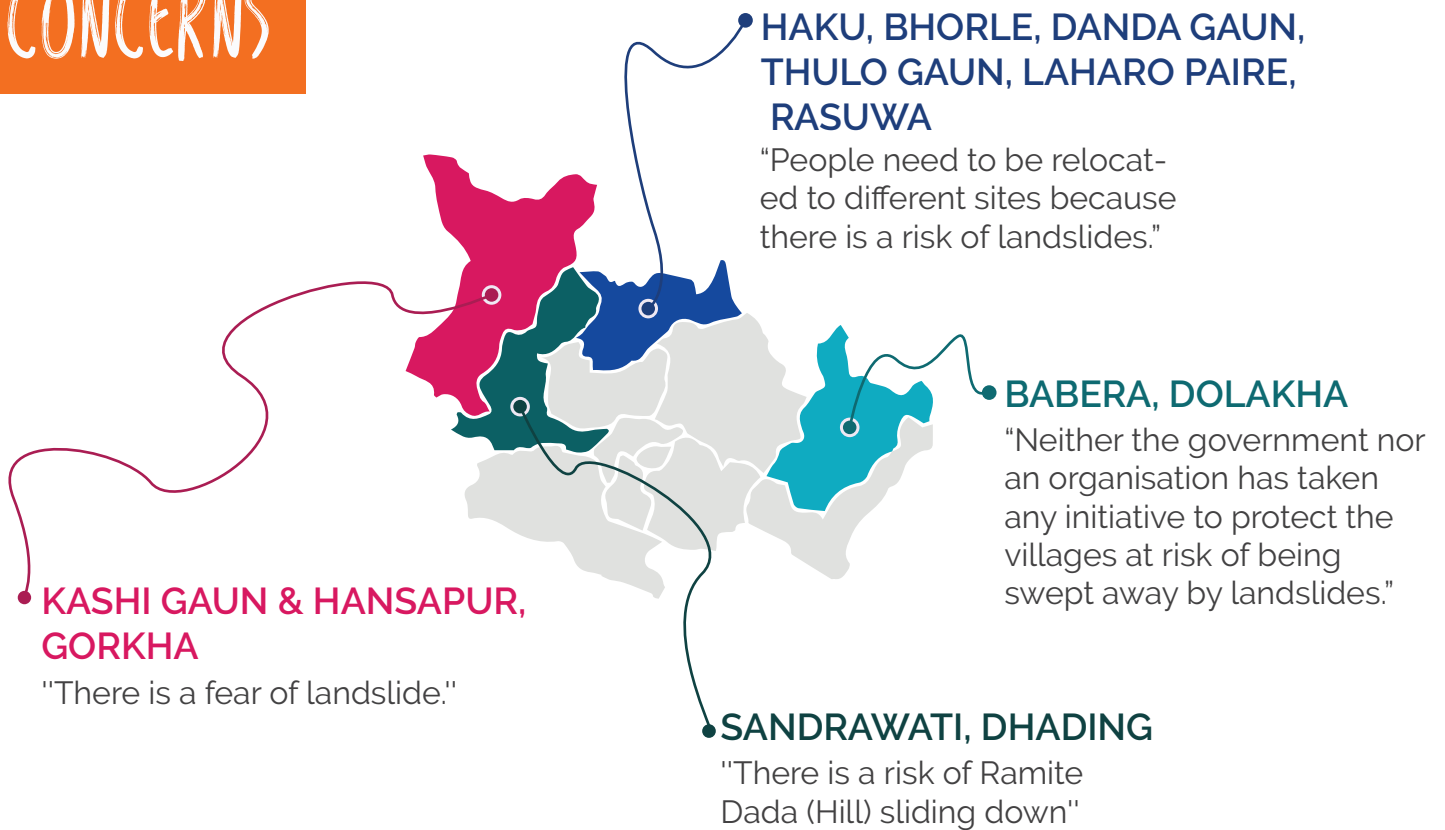
Devendra Lamichhane

Chief District Officer
Dolakha
9854017777

Binod Ghimire

Early Recovery Cluster
Co-lead, UNDP
9851145988

CONCERNS



ANSWERS

The government has created a list of settlements to be relocated based on the reports submitted by earthquake experts and Constituent Assembly members. But an action plan for evacuation and relocation is yet to be finalised.

The government has delegated the task of evacuation and relocation of high-risk settlements to local bodies, including the DDRC, Nepal Police and the Nepal Army. The VDCs are responsible for providing information about relocations.

If you want to know if your village is on the list of those that will be relocated, check with your VDC secretary.

In some areas, non-governmental organisations are assisting in evacuation and relocation of settlements that are affected by landslides. If you feel your village is at risk, please contact your VDC or DDRC immediately.

While building temporary shelters, do not do so on riverbanks, next to steep slopes and in areas prone to landslides.

Shivaram Golal

Chief District Officer
Rasuwa
9851277777

Bashudev Ghimire

Chief District Officer
Dhading
9851477777

CONCERNS

ASRANG AND BORLANG, GORKHA

"It seems that a number of families that live under the same roof, but effectively live separate lives are being counted as one 'household' during registration by the VDC. The families find this unfair. How does the government define a 'household'?"

NUWAKOT

"VDC secretaries are finding it difficult to address people's demand to define a household/family as a group of people who share the same kitchen, regardless of whether they live in the same building."

DHAIBUNG, RASUWA

"Family members who had been living together in the same house before the earthquake have been registering themselves as different households in order to get relief cash and material."

CHITRAPUR, BHAKTAPUR

"Each of the brothers in a family seems to be collecting money from the government by claiming to represent separate households."

SIDDHIPUR, LALITPUR

"In some instances, families, separated but living together in the same house, are receiving Rs 15,000 each. In some cases, they are not."

ANSWERS

The confusion about what constitutes a household has risen because the government is vague in its definition.

In a directive issued by the Home Ministry on May 16, a unit of family was defined as the family members living together. On May 25, the government defined a unit of family as constituting a mother, father, a married couple. There is nothing explicitly said about sharing a kitchen.

The definition of a household seems to be on the discretion of the team assigned to identify earthquake-affected families. The work of identifying the affected families and distributing the ID cards is done by the officials of municipality and VDCs.

As a result, in some cases families living in the same house but separated have received Rs 15,000 each. And in some cases, they have not.

The spokesperson of the Ministry told us that a family should be a group of people who live together and share a kitchen.

General public can file a complaint with the DDRC if they notice any discrepancy in relief distribution.

Laxmi Dhakal

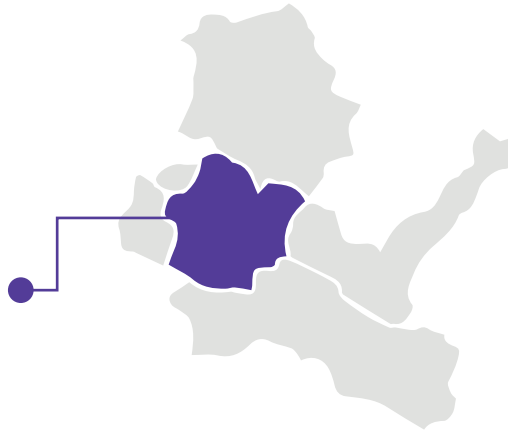
Spokesperson, Home Ministry
9851140003

Anil Thakur

Chief District Officer
Bhaktapur
9851217777

Q&A

KAVREPALANCHOK



BHIMKHORI

- "Squatter families who lost their shelter to the earthquake did not get Rs 15,000 in relief, as they don't have land ownership certificates."

The government has not made separate provisions to compensate squatters whose houses built on public land were destroyed by the earthquake. Existing laws on squatter settlements are applicable on this issue.

- "My son separated from us five years ago and lives separately. Our house is in his name, but when people came for assessment we put down my wife's name. Villagers here say I need to call my son. Can't my wife get the money?"

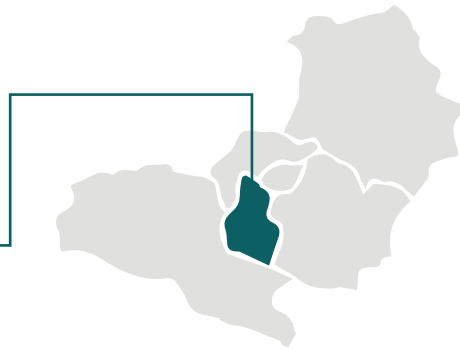
The name and photo of the household head appears on the earthquake victim ID card. Family members determine who the household head will be in spite of who is named in land ownership papers. This person declared as the household head gets the money in the name of the family.

- "All my neighbours have got Rs 15,000 each and built shelters weeks ago. When I went to the VDC office, they said the money in my name had already been taken. They said they would investigate the matter but no one is in the VDC office anymore."

If the VDC secretary fails to help you, file a complaint with the DDRC. Contact Sudarshan Prasad Dhakal, Chief District Officer of Kavre, at 9851237777.

Q&A

LALITPUR



LUBHU

"We are not satisfied with the government's giving compensation only to those whose houses are totally damaged. Our houses are not fit to live in. We should also get some compensation because we don't have any option other than to build temporary shelters and that costs money too."

If the technical team finds that the damaged house is liveable and does not recommend it for demolition, the owner of that house will not be entitled to Rs 15,000. The owner can instead file an application with the VDC or municipality office to get Rs 25,000 to cover repair costs.

This week's feedback was collected by frontline workers from partner organisations and #quakedhelpdesk volunteers based on their face-to-face conversations with around 250 people in 10 districts. The selection was done on the basis of prevalence and relevance.

Open Mic Nepal presented by:



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RUMOURS

BHIMKHORI, KAVRE

"After standing in queue for so long, I finally received the earthquake victim ID card. I have heard that the government will issue us passports and send us abroad for work. That's why I came here to get the card. I might be able to go abroad now. How else will I rebuild my house? If I can't go abroad for work, this card will be useless."



MANKHA, SINDHUPALCHOK

"I've heard that the Canadian government will allow the earthquake victims to work in Canada. What should I do to go to Canada?"

FACTS

The government has not made special provisions to send earthquake victims abroad for work.

Recently, the Ministry of Labour and Employment enforced a provision in which the employers of seven different destination countries must bear the visa fees and travel costs of labour migrants. This provision applies to all labour migrants.

A potential migrant wanting to work abroad must bear other costs related to a health check-up, orientation classes, service charges, passport acquisition and contributions to the welfare fund. The total expenditure amounts to around Rs 23,000.

Potential migrant workers should contact organisations like Safer Migration Project, Pourakhi and Shakti Samuha for information on travelling abroad for work.

The government has been trying to provide Nepalis employment opportunities in Canada. The issue was discussed during the informal visit of Canadian Labour Minister Kellie Leitch post-quake, based on which the Nepal government has dispatched a formal letter to the Canadian government. But, nothing concrete has happened so far.

Buddhi Bahadur Khadka

Spokesperson
Ministry of Labour and
Employment
9841372811

ArunPoudel

Counselor
Safer Migration Information
Center, Sindhupalchowk
9841044863

CONCERNS

PIPALDANDA, SINDHUPALCHOK

"The government should write off the loans it said it would."

IRKHU, SINDHUPALCHOK

"The government had talked about writing off the loans. We hope it does that. It should also provide us low-interest loans to rebuild houses."

PANGRETAR, SINDHUPALCHOK

"The government said it would provide low-interest loans to rebuild houses, but it hasn't started the process yet. We are a little confused."

SARADA BATASE, KAVRE

"We've heard that we will get money to build our houses. That the government will also provide us loans. But if the government does nothing, we will still have to find loans somehow and build permanent shelters. We cannot live like this forever."

SANO SIRUBARI, SINDHUPALCHOK

"The government should initiate the process of providing loans with no interest."



ANSWERS

In its Integrated Action Plan for Post-Earthquakes Response and Recovery released on 22 May, the government mentioned writing off up to Rs 50,000 owed in debts. So far, there have been no clear directives authorising this. Both the working guidelines issued by the Nepal Rashtra Bank and the new budget are silent on this issue.

The Rashtra Bank finalised the working guidelines to help earthquake-affected families receive low-interest loans and has already circulated it to banks and financial institutions.

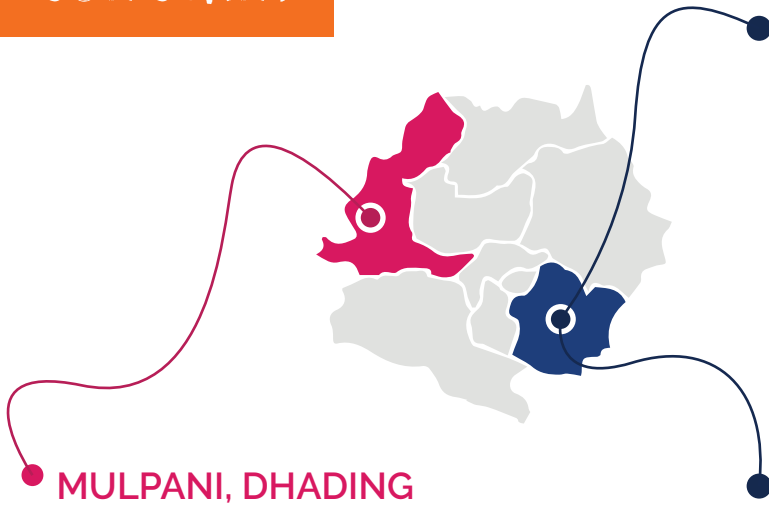
Earthquake-affected families in the Kathmandu valley can apply for a loan of up to Rs 2.5 million to build houses at two percent interest rates. Families from outside the valley can borrow up to Rs 1.5 million at the same rate.

Families affected by the earthquake can apply for the loan once banks and financial institutions start the process. There has been a delay in issuing loans because municipality offices have suspended the approvals of blueprints for new buildings until the government releases new designs and guidelines for earthquake-resistant structures. The government has yet to do so.

The loan will be provided in four installments based on the progress of the construction of the house.

Nepal Rashtra bank
Banks and Financial
Institutions Regulation
Department
01-4411407

CONCERNS



MULPANI, DHADING

"Since we lost our houses to the quake, we don't know where to store corn this season."

MAHADEVSTHAN, KAVREPALANCHOK

"We all have taken fields on rent to plant crops. The tents and tarps donated by the government have begun to develop holes and tears. How will we store our grains now? I think we will lose our grains this time."

SARADA BATASE, KAVREPALANCHOK

"It was so difficult to harvest rice this season. But looks like it will start sprouting into *jamaras* soon."

ANSWERS

The government and humanitarian organisations have donated thousands of super grain bags to store food and grains in earthquake-affected districts considered vulnerable to food insecurity. They will continue to distribute the bags in areas where people harvest rice in monsoon. A super grain bag can hold up to 90 kg of rice.

Such grain bags are also available for purchase for a few hundred rupees in the local market.

It is also possible to use locally available materials such as *khar* grass, straw, bamboo, plastic drums and zinc and CGI sheets, among others, to keep grains and other food items dry and safe.

Udaya Chandra Thakur

Spokesperson, Ministry
of Agriculture Development
9841271269

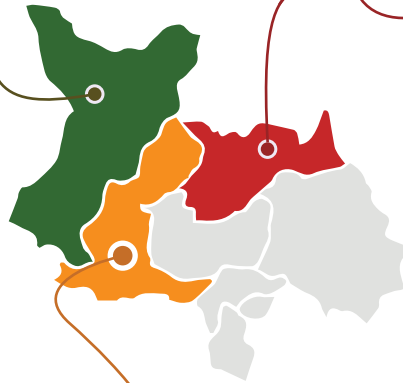
Mahendra Raj Koudal

District Agriculture
Development Office,
Dhading
9851120930

CONCERNS

BUNGKOT, GORKHA

"We are frustrated by the lack of drinking water and toilets."



DHAIBUNG, BHORLE, RASUWA

"The water sources have gone dry. We lack drinking water now."

YARSA, SARAMTHALI, BHORLE, DHAIBUNG, GATLANG, GOLJUNG & CHILIME, RASUWA

"The shortage of drinking water has affected the sanitation of the villages as well."

SALANG, DHADING

"Two out of seven drinking water sources in Aarubas village have gone dry."

ANSWERS

The government has allocated budget to immediately repair and rebuild the drinking water sources damaged by the earthquake.

In the 14 most-affected districts, whenever a local user's group gets involved in the implementation of a drinking water project, the government will subsidise 30 percent of the cost that was to be borne by the local community.

In Gorkha, the government has already begun distributing water pipes in villages and water tanks in schools and camps to counteract the problems posed by drying water sources.

Other organisations agencies working under the WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) cluster are also helping with the distribution of water pipes and repair of water taps.

People needing support to set up and repair drinking water points and channels can contact District Drinking Water, Sanitation and Sewerage Division Offices via Village Development Committee secretaries.

Narayan Prasad Acharya

Division Office of District
Drinking Water, Sanitation
and Sewerage
9856040960

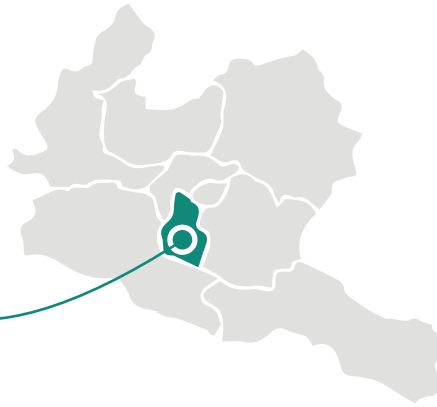
Anita Shrestha

Save the Children
Rasuwa
9841692809

RUMOURS

BADIKHEL, LALITPUR

"People here think that the earthquake victim ID cards are useless and, so, say that all they need is money."



FACTS

Earthquake victim ID cards are not useless. They help the government identify earthquake-affected families and plan relief and rebuilding work accordingly. The government has planned numerous projects around the earthquake, such as providing:

- Low-interest loans to the affected families to build their houses
- Rs 200,000 in aid to build houses
- Solar lamps and portable metallic rocket stoves
- Skill development training to affected families

The ID cards will determine whether a family is eligible for aid that the government and other organisations will provide in the future. The amount of money or material received in aid will be recorded on the ID cards.

Yadav Prasad Koirala
Chief District Officer
Lalitpur
9851227777

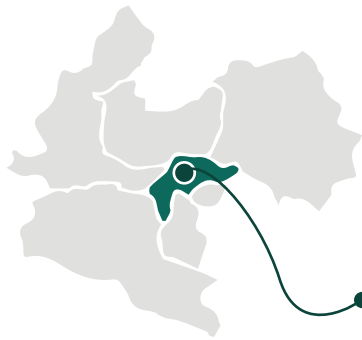
The rumours and issues presented here were collected by frontline workers from partner organisations and #quakedhelpdesk staff SSvolunteers based on their face-to-face conversation with around 450 people in 10 districts between 8-16 July. The selection was done on the basis of prevalence and relevance.

Open Mic Nepal presented by:



Welcome to the fourth issue of **OPEN MIC NEPAL** bulletin. The Open Mic project captures rumours and perceptions on the ground to eliminate information gaps between the media, humanitarian agencies and local people. By providing local media and outreach workers with facts, Open Mic aims to create a better understanding of the needs of the earthquake-affected communities and to debunk rumours before they can do any harm.

RUMOURS



TINKUNE, KATHMANDU

"I've heard that earthquake victims who have the ID cards will not have to pay income taxes. Apparently it was mentioned during the budget announcement."

FACTS

All individuals and organisations in Nepal have to pay applicable employment, investment, business or income tax according to the Income Tax Act of 2002.

There are no provisions on waiving tax payment on the basis of the earthquake victim ID card.

The Finance Act 2015-2016, however, exempts small entrepreneurs who lost their businesses to the earthquake from paying income tax, license fee and house rent. To be eligible for this exemption, the business owner must:

- Get the District Development Relief Committee (DDRC) to certify that he/she lost his business completely to the quake
- Be eligible to submit presumptive tax return in the fiscal year 2014-2015.

The Internal Revenue Department is working on a directive to put this into effect.

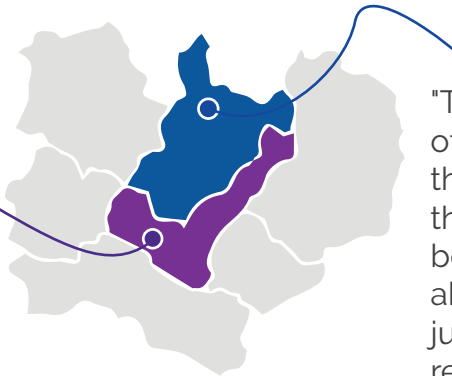
The Department has already approved directives allowing businesses to include damages from the earthquake as costs while filing tax returns.

Chandrakala Poudel
Information Officer
Internal Revenue Department
9851158117

RUMOURS

SALUPATI, RAMECHHAP

"The government lied about the magnitude of the earthquake because if the quake was above 8.0 in Richter scale, it would have to increase the amount of relief money and material."



PAPLE, DOLAKHA

"They say that the magnitude of the earthquake was higher than 8.0 in Richter scale, but the government hid that fact because if the earthquake was above 8.0, foreigners could just fly in and carry out the relief and aid work. So, the government lied to avoid foreigners' fighting among each other."

FACTS

The Department of Mines and Geology's National Seismological Centre recorded the earthquake on April 25 at 7.6 Richter scale. This recording is an average of readings from seismic stations within Nepal.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) uses a different measurement system called the Moment Magnitude Scale, which measures the energy released by an earthquake. This system is considered more precise while measuring larger earthquakes because it looks at the area the fault moved. The USGS also has hundreds of measurement stations. The USGS recorded the April 25 earthquake at 7.8 Moment Magnitude.

Immediately after the earthquake, the USGS had announced that it was at 7.9 Magnitude. It later revised the magnitude to 7.8, but only a few press carried the revised value.

International humanitarian agencies and other organisations operate in Nepal with the permission of the government. Without the government's approval, they would be unable to implement programmes regardless of the magnitude of the earthquake.

The support provided by the government or through foreign aid is based on the level of destruction and availability of resources, and not on the basis of the magnitude of the earthquake.

Subesh Ghimire

Tribhuvan University
Geology Department
9849594896

CONCERNS



GAIRI BISAUNA, KAVREPALANCHOWK

"We heard that young girls living in temporary shelters, who have to share the space with men, face problems during menstruation."

BHIMESHWOR, DOLAKHA

"Adolescent girls living in camps find it difficult to change sanitary napkins during menstruation. Even at other times, because there is only one tent, it's difficult to change in front of men."

ANSWERS

There are some good examples of community members coming together to provide safety and security in their neighbourhood, which can be applicable in other areas.

In some villages in Sindhupalchok, women have gotten together to designate some areas as "female-only" spaces for privacy and safety. Some camps have female-only bathing areas, with access to water.

Family members themselves can create safe and private spaces for young girls and women by designating separate sleeping spaces for them within the shelter. Tarpaulins, bamboos or some other strong material can be used to create partitions inside the tent.

If young girls and women would like to speak privately to someone about their personal issues, Marie Stopes International has a toll-free hotline "Meri Saathi"--166 0011 9756.

Communities lacking latrines can request toilet-building materials with the Water, Sanitation and Sewerage Division Office. The office is coordinating a community latrine programme with WASH agencies to provide building materials for latrines, at the rate of one toilet per five households.

Shivraj Neupane

Dolakha WASH cluster
focal point/UNHABITAT
9845064766

Dinesh Singh Malla

Kavrepalanchowk WASH
cluster focal point/ UNICEF
9851005818

CONCERNS

GAIRIBISAUNA, KAVREPALANCHOK

"People are wondering how they are going to search for the missing persons."



ANSWERS

Families whose members are missing in the earthquake should file a missing person report at the nearest police station.

Nepal Police has also set up a special website where families can search for or register the persons missing in the earthquake: www.missingperson.gov.np

Families can also access this service via toll-free telephone number, 16600141516. They can also email at khojtalas@nepalpolice.gov.np

The Nepal Red Cross Society is also providing support to restore contact between family members separated by the earthquake. Concerned family members can contact their local Red Cross Society chapters to register or search for their missing relatives.

Raj Kumar KC

Deputy Superintendent of Police
011-490202, 9851280441

Subhadra Devkota

Senior Tracing Officer
Nepal Red Cross Society
9841544935

Q&A



SANKHUPATICHAUR, KAVREPALANCHOWK

"I've heard that the government will provide Rs 200,000 in four installments only after we finish building our houses. If this is true, what happens if we don't have money enough to start laying the foundation? How are we to show the proof that we built the house when we can't? How will we get the money then?"

The government has announced that it will provide Rs 200,000 in aid to earthquake-affected families. The procedure for the disbursement of this amount has not yet been drawn.

The amount could be doled out in installments or it could be in the form of vouchers for building materials.

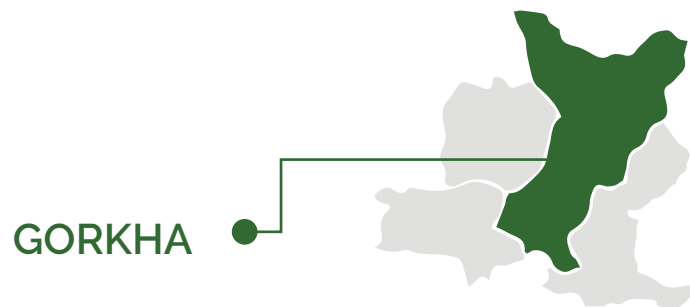
PIPALDANDA, SINDHUPALCHOK

"I haven't received Rs 15,000 in relief. I came to this village ten years ago. The ward secretary told me to get the migration certificate first. I did, but he keeps telling me to see him the next day."

If a family has moved to a new village, it has to submit a copy of the migration certificate, in addition to other papers such as citizenship card, to be eligible for the earthquake victim ID card.

If the Village Development Committee (VDC) or ward officials refuse to hand the victim ID card despite the presentation of the migration certificate, the affected family can file a complaint with the DDRC.

Q&A



MANBU

"Because I didn't have my citizenship card with me, I couldn't get the earthquake victim ID card."

It is not mandatory for the earthquake-affected family to have the citizenship card with them to get the victim ID card. The household head can show other official IDs, such as a land ownership certificate or a driving license.

If the household head cannot submit a copy of his/her official document, the all-party mechanism formed at the VDC level will determine if the family is eligible for the victim card.

If you do not have your citizenship document, but another member of your family does, you can nominate that person to get the victim ID card for the family.

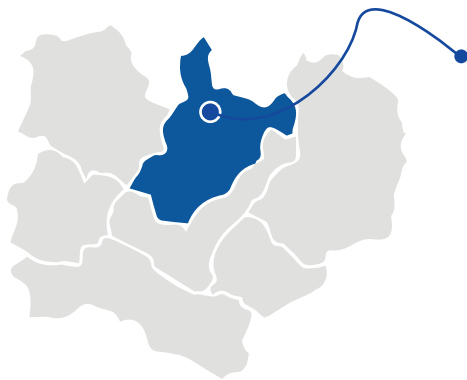
The rumours and issues presented here were collected by frontline workers from partner organisations and #quakedhelpdesk staff volunteers based on their face-to-face conversation with around 300 people in 8 districts between 15-23 July. The selection was done on the basis of prevalence and relevance.

Open Mic Nepal presented by:



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RUMOURS



NAMDU, DOLAKHA

"They are distributing white earthquake victim ID cards in our village. They say the colour of the card is the reason for the delay in disbursement of Rs 15,000. If we had received red cards instead, we would have been eligible to travel to Canada and Australia for work. I would prefer the red card because my son is unemployed and I am in debt."

FACTS

There are differences in the colour of the earthquake victim ID cards distributed in the affected districts. For instance, in Dolakha, the colour of the cards is white. In Gorkha, it is red.

This difference is because there are no set guidelines on the colour of the cards. A District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) can choose to print ID cards of any colour in its district.

The colour of the card has no bearing on the card-bearer's eligibility for claiming relief material and other aid.

The government does not have specific plans to send members of earthquake-affected families abroad for work.

The delay in disbursement of relief amount could be due to a number of factors but the colour of the cards is not one of them.

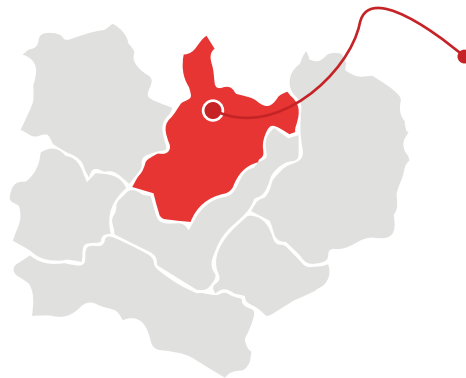
Devendra Lamichhane

Chief District Officer
Dolakha
9854017777

Uddhav Prasad Timilsena

Chief District Officer
Gorkha
9856057777

RUMOURS



CHARIKOT, DOLAKHA

"The number of women aborting their pregnancies has doubled after the earthquake."

FACTS

The District Public Health Office in Dolakha said that they had not recorded a significant increase in the number of induced abortions after the earthquake.

What has risen is the number of pregnant women consulting health workers about their babies' health, which is a highly recommended practice. Pregnant women are recommended to get at least four antenatal check-ups.

A child in the womb will not be affected just because there is an earthquake. If the pregnant woman has fallen down or has some cuts and bruises or cannot tell if the child is moving inside the womb, then she should contact the nearest health facility, health camp or health worker.

If a pregnant woman bleeds, is in labour for more than 8 hours, faints, suffers from headaches or high fever, and has blurred vision, she should be immediately taken to a health facility.

Dr Khageswor Gelal

District Public Health Office
Dolakha

Marie Stopes International

Meri Saathi
Hot line: 166 0011 9756
980 111 9756

CONCERNS

● RAMCHE, LAHAREPOUWA, RASUWA

"The rice mill that I ran has been destroyed by the quake. If I could get the mill running again, I would earn my livelihood and help others with theirs. I hope that the government will provide some aid in running such businesses."

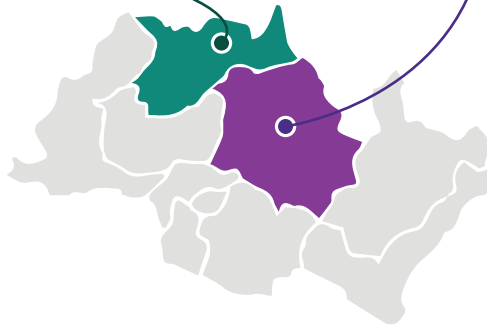
● SINDHUPALCHOK

SANGACHOWK

"Dalits who used to earn their livelihood by forging metallic utensils have lost their furnace to the earthquake."

MANKHA

"I lost my house and the furnace to the earthquake. I have nothing to live by. Why should I go on? Working with iron is the only skill I have. I don't have the furnace now or the ability to rebuild it. I think I'm going to starve to death."



ANSWERS

The government has not announced any programmes to help rebuild rice mills or other similar cottage industries destroyed by the quake.

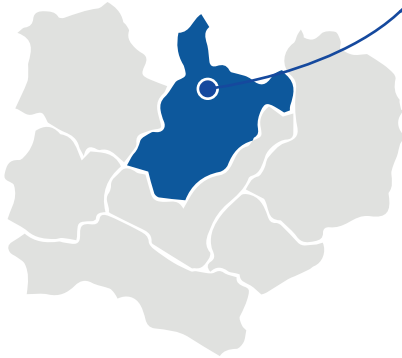
Some non-governmental organisations are distributing tools in some communities to provide livelihood assistance. For instance, organisations affiliated with the Federation of Dalit

Non-governmental Organisations distributed sewing machines to Dalit families who lost the items to the quake.

Since most organisations are currently focused on early recovery, blacksmiths may not have received assistance to rebuild their furnaces. The Federation has said that if it gets comprehensive data on furnaces destroyed by the quake, it will try to help rebuild them.

Sushil BK
Secretary
Federation of Dalit
Non-Government Organisations
9841442960

CONCERNS



• **KABRE, DOLAKHA**

"They are saying that the disbursement of relief amount has been delayed because the number of households registered after the earthquake (1850) is higher than the number of households willing to invest in shares of Upper Tamakoshi Hydro Power project (1389). But those who couldn't invest in shares did not fill out the form. To say that only those who filled in the form are eligible for the victim card is wrong."

• **SUSPA KSHAMAWADI, DOLAKHA**

"The VDC secretary has decided not to distribute Rs 15,000 to households in our village because the number of registered households (around 1800) was almost the double of the estimate."

ANSWERS

While DDRCs may consult statistics from different sources to estimate damages caused by the earthquake, the distribution of relief package is done according to the list prepared by the village-level Rescue and Relief Distribution Committee, chaired by the Village Development Committee (VDC) secretary.

The Chief District Officer of Dolakha said that the relief package is not based on the survey conducted by the Upper Tamakoshi Hydro Power project.

In some VDCs there have been discrepancies between the estimated number of households and applicants registered for relief because of multiple applications from the same household and the pressure from political parties to accept the applications. Fearing that an inaccurate list could later cost them their jobs, some VDC secretaries have not submitted the final tally of the damaged houses to the DDRC.

Without the final list, the DDRC cannot disburse the required amount of money but it has released some funds to start the distribution process.

If you want to know the reasons behind the delay in disbursement of relief money, contact your VDC secretary, the Chief District Officer and the elected Constituent Assembly members from your area, who heads the earthquake relief monitoring team.

Devendra Lamichhane

Chief District Officer
Dolakha
9854017777

Bharat Bahadur Poudel

VDC Secretary Welfare and
Protection Centre
Dolakha
9844306800

RUMOURS



● **KAVRE, KAVREPALANCHOWK**

"We received Rs 15,000. They say that we will get Rs 35,000 more before Dashain. We don't know if that is true or not"

● **PANCHKHAL, KAVREPALANCHOK**

"We've heard that we will get Rs 50,000 around Dashain."

FACTS

Right now the Kavrepalanchowk DDRC does not have plans to distribute additional money before or around Dashain.

The government has announced that it will provide Rs 200,000 to each earthquake-affected family, but the procedure to disburse this amount is yet to be finalised.

It is also not yet determined whether this amount will be distributed in cash or in the form of vouchers for building materials.

Sudarshan Prasad Dhakal

Chief District Officer
Kavrepalanchowk
9851237777

The rumours and issues presented here were collected by frontline workers from partner organisations and #quakedhelpdesk staff volunteers based on their face-to-face conversation with around 375 people in 9 districts between 23-30 July. The selection was done on the basis of prevalence and relevance.

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