



PRESSING ON

Quarterly Report
July to September 2015



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Message from National Director

These are challenging times for Habitat for Humanity Nepal as we continue to help families affected by the April and May earthquakes. With support from our donors, partners, volunteers and staff, we completed the emergency phase, which included distributing 5,065 temporary shelter kits and 20,000 water backpacks, and removing 650 tons of earthquake rubble. In partnership with Nepal, Earthquake, Safe Communities (NSET), we also assessed 16,244 houses in Kavre, Dolakha and Lamjung districts.

We greatly appreciate the generosity and understanding of our donors and supporters in building Nepal. We press on, hopeful of more progress with the resilience of the Nepalese and dedicated HFH Nepal staff.



Desiree Bartosiak
National Director
Habitat for Humanity Nepal





SAMEER BHATTARAI

Nepal earthquake response

Despite civil unrest and challenging conditions following the April and May earthquakes, the support of donors, partners and local volunteers had been instrumental in enabling Habitat to distribute more than 5,000 transitional shelter kits. Kits were distributed in Kavrepalanchowk, Sindhupalchowk, Lalitpur, Dhading and Gorkha districts. Earthquake-affected families were able to build transitional shelters with items from the kits which could also be used in permanent houses.



Among those who built transitional shelter is Sumita Gautam. To the 39-year-old mother of two children, it is the feeling of security that makes all the difference. Living in a transitional shelter means that her family does not have to share limited space in a tent with several other people. “As a woman, I felt very unsafe sleeping out in the open. I was also worried about the danger it could pose to my young daughter and my mother,” she added.

Looking Forward

The first model house has been completed and safety assessments, demolitions of unsafe homes and site development through construction of roads were also conducted. Construction on more permanent houses was to have continued, but amid current challenges such as the fuel crisis and civil unrest and other critical factors, projects will be delayed and timelines will need to be adjusted.

While current conditions prevent full implementation of projects, Habitat is pursuing additional measures in Nepal, including reworking project delivery schedules, seeking local organizations to help support technical assistance and core house programs, and supporting local communities with holistic services. Habitat is using participatory approach through trainings such as masonry, appropriate construction technology to prepare the communities for future when construction can resume.



SAMEER BHATTARAI

Improving lives through training

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH)

250

people in Dang trained by Rural Women Development Center (RWDC)

313

people in Mahendranagar trained by Udaydev

Livelihood

339

ex-Kamaiya, or former bonded laborers, in Mahendranagar trained by Udaydev in rearing cattle, pigs and goats also, they were provided masonry and ring making training

Safety Assessment

60

engineers were trained in partnership with Nepal, Earthquake, Safe Communities (NSET)

Toilet Construction

62

toilets constructed in Mahendranagar by Udaydev

Appropriate Construction Technology (ACT)

30

people in Ghorahi trained by RWDC in construction skills such as digging and laying of foundation, and making bricks out of mud and straw

Tubewell Construction

2

tubewells constructed in Mahendranagar by Udaydev

Bamboo Cultivation

32

trainings provided on bamboo cultivation in Siraha by Shreejana Community Development Center



Global Village volunteers

Four months after the devastating earthquakes of April 25 and May 12, Habitat for Humanity Nepal has resumed hosting Global Village volunteer teams to assist affected families.

In this quarter, HFH Nepal hosted four teams from Japan, the USA, and Australia who worked in Kavrepalanchok, Pokhara and Chitwan.

The volunteers worked alongside members of local community in removing rubble, demolishing damaged houses, and wiring, installing and filling gabions for the stabilization.

Wendy Owen from Australia said: “Working with Habitat for Humanity Nepal is a great way of seeing the country and getting close to people. If you could go there, you will definitely meet the beautiful people.”



Feeling secure

When the earthquake struck on April 25, Bikash Deshar, 29, was working in the capital Kathmandu, about 15 kilometers away from Chapagaun, Lalitpur district. He was alarmed when he could not get through to his heavily pregnant wife Bidhya, 20, on his mobile phone. “I walked all the way home because there was no public or private transport,” he recalled.

His house was nearly reduced to rubble but he managed to locate his wife some distance away, in the open, with hundreds of other people. Bikash and his wife Bidhya shared a tent with 10 other people after the earthquake. Bidhya gave birth soon after the earthquake. With nowhere to go, they lived in the tent for four months. Whenever it rained, they would get wet and his newborn baby Birsha was often down with a cold or a fever.

With hired help, Bikash built a temporary shelter in two days after receiving one of 1,000 temporary shelter kits distributed by Habitat by Humanity Nepal in Chapagaun. In contrast to the panic he experienced after the earthquake, Bikash, felt great relief.

“This might be a temporary shelter. But it’s a strong one. Rainwater doesn’t come in and my baby’s health has improved,” he said.

“This might be a temporary shelter. But it’s a strong one. Rainwater doesn’t come in and my baby’s health has improved.” — Bikash Deshar



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