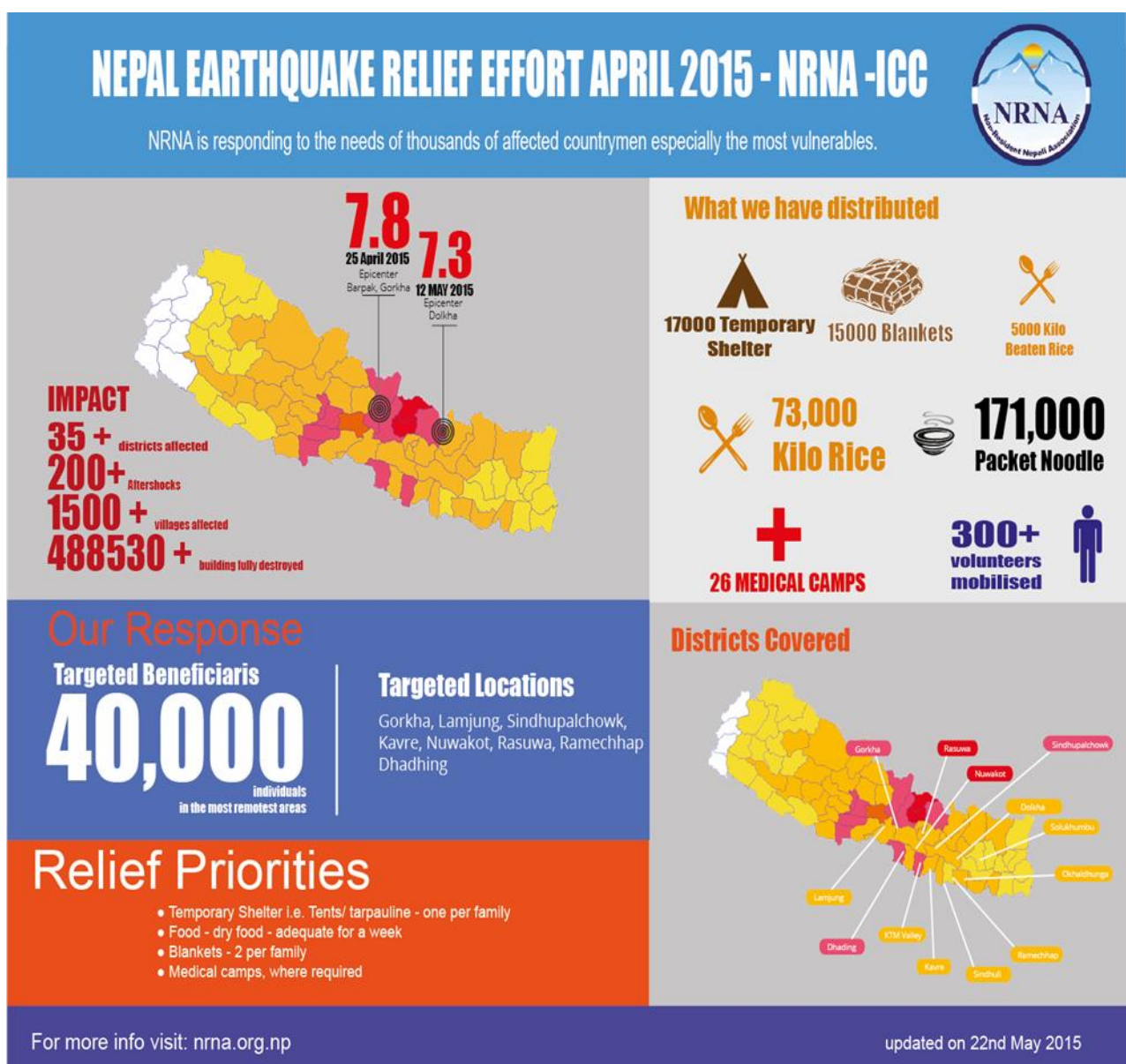


## Friends and supporters of Nepal and Nepali

NRNA ICC has concluded its immediate relief effort now. We have exceeded our original target of 8 districts and 10,000 families or 40,000 individuals. We have provided relief supplies for additional 7000 families which equvalates to 28,000 people making total relief distributed to 17,000 families and 68,000 individuals to date. Your generous gifts and the selfless acts of volunteer spirit helped us to reach our immediate relief effort to the targeted people who were most affected by this unprecedented devastation.

On behalf of NRNA and myself, I want to personally thank you all (around the world) for the outstanding helping spirit and unity you have all shown in helping our country at this extreme time of need.

To further illuminate the impact what your involvement has meant; please take a look at the infographic below. It shows how your generous contributions and support have helped to make a difference to the most vulnerable families affected by the earthquake.



## Nepal Earthquake Relief Effort April - May 2015 -NRNA-ICC

NRNA is responding to the needs of thousands of affected countrymen especially the most vulnerable



On Saturday, April 25, 2015, at approx.11:55am an unprecedented natural catastrophe of a powerful 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal.

Although, Barpak village of Gorkha district was the epicentre of the quake, it had an impact on 35 districts in and around this area. The government of Nepal announced and designated assistance to the 14 most affected districts.

The devastation brought about from the quake was beyond comprehension. The pain and suffering that Nepal and our countrymen are still going through is heart wrenching.

The earthquake left us with the saddest feelings that we have ever had in our lives. It has left many thousands of our countrymen homeless with a huge sense of loss; not only of belongings and family members but they have also lost their sense of security and very importantly a source of living. **The Impact**

- Districts >35
- Villages effected >1500
- Houses (homes) destroyed >488,530
- Death toll-10,000
- Over 200 aftershocks

Government of Nepal, 2015

## Earthquake Disaster Immediate Relief Plan

### Overview

An Earthquake Disaster Relief Team was formed in the aftermath of the earthquake disaster on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 (The team was headed by the NRNA ICC President (Shesh Ghale). Members of the relief team included available NRNs and non NRNs; whoever was willing and able to assist at the time via various means). This was mandated by an IES meeting held on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015, followed by NRNA-ICC emergency meeting held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

The aim of the team was to evaluate and assess the extent of the damage caused by the earthquake and to develop a humanitarian relief plan, to assist our countrymen and country in this time of emergency.

Work and planning was done with the realisation that natural disasters of this scale can be difficult to manage even in a developed nation; let alone in Nepal where even without this disastrous calamity; severely lacks adequate infrastructure and resources.

The team based its assessment on the Severity Index available through the UN and with close consultation with the government of Nepal at the highest level.

The knowledge of homes and livelihoods lost and the extent of medical requirements was the basis of how the relief plan was developed, with a high priority and focus on immediate humanitarian assistance.

NRNA is a voluntary organisation who has over 70 chapters around the world and represents more than 3 million Nepali diaspora. Its main aim is to promote and attract the social and economic development of Nepal with its slogan being 'For Nepali by Nepali'.

As NRNA is a voluntary organisation, it lacks adequate resources and capabilities to cope with a disaster of such magnitude as the earthquake.

Furthermore, this was the first ever undertaking of this kind that NRNA has committed to; despite the lack of adequate knowledge and funding to manage such a natural disaster. It has been challenging to conceptualise a plan to address the most important concerns arising from the aftermath of the earthquake.

Despite our limitations, the extent of our feelings and the compassion to lessen the pain and sufferings of our countrymen and our strong desire to deliver relief to the in need, made it possible to respond quickly and successfully to the relief effort.

## Our Response

NRNA worked very closely with the government of Nepal from central to local levels including VDCs to ensure the aid reached the victims most in need and to prevent any duplication with other NGOs, INGOs and the Government relief activities.

The distribution of relief supplies has been carried out by mobilising NRNs and local volunteers to ensure no overhead or administrative costs were incurred so that every dollar donated went directly to the victims. While doing this necessary relief work, NRNA's brand, integrity and reputation was maintained and protected at all times.

**Targeted locations** - Gorkha, Lamjung, Sindhupalchok, Kavre, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Ramechhap and Dhading.

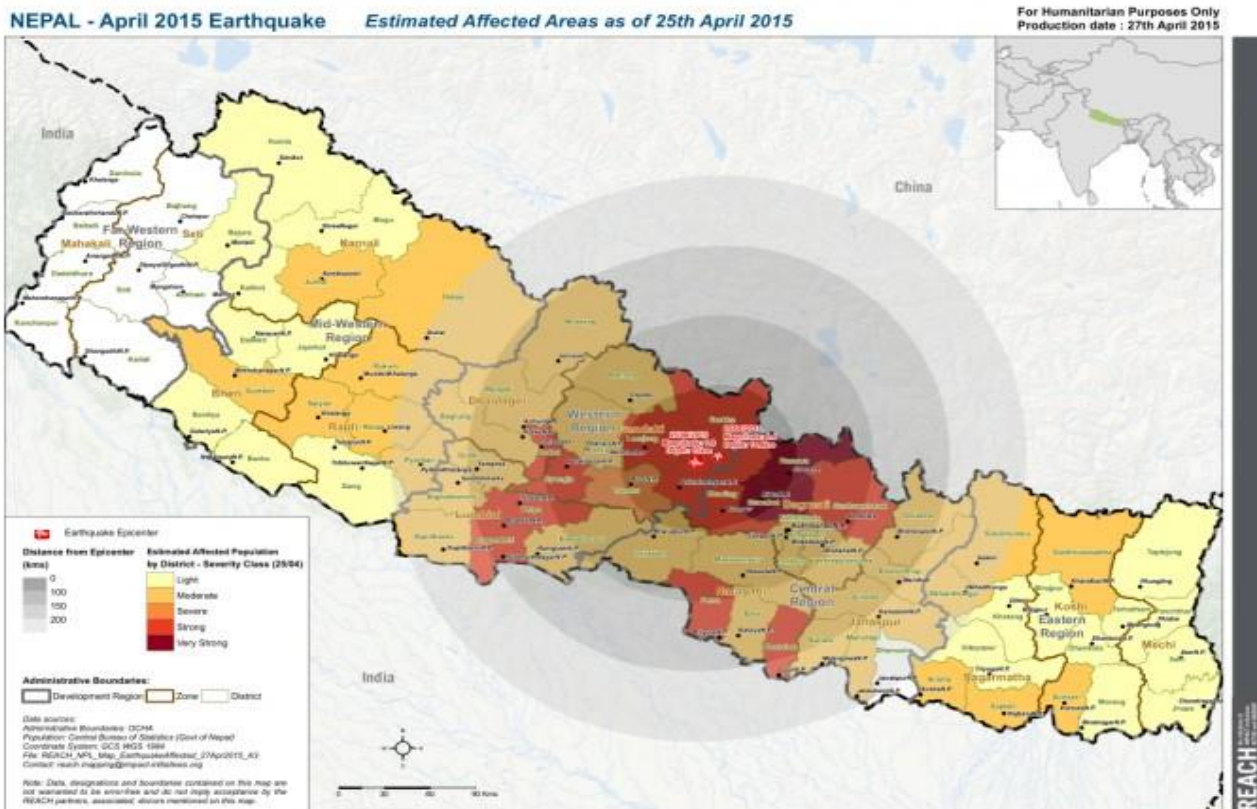
These were some of the districts selected by the government of Nepal as the most impacted by the earthquake. NRNA chose several villages within the established government list that were identified as 'Ka' level, indicating the highest level of severity of damages in terms of household and livelihood loss. Within these districts number of VDCs were specified by District Administration Officer and NRNA had no choice but to cooperate. Details are available in area reports at the secretariat.

**Targeted beneficiaries** - 10,000 households needing the most relief in remote areas.

### NRNA Relief priorities - first phase

- Temporary Shelter i.e., tents/tarpaulin - one per family
- Food - dry food - adequate for one week
- Blankets - 2 per family
- Medical camps - where required

!



## Challenges we faced

This disaster relief operation had its challenges from day one, namely;

- ✓ Lack of relief materials such as tarpaulins
- ✓ Closure of shops and factories almost a week after the EQ
- ✓ Lack of basic communications and information infrastructure such as power, Internet, email, etc.
- ✓ Functional office facilities/space and warehouse

## What we distributed

### First phase immediate relief distribution

The strongest earthquake in 80 years to hit Nepal triggered a global emergency and NRNA moved quickly to help the survivors. According to the United Nation's latest estimates, it affected eight million people and more than one million children's' lives were hanging in the balance.

NRNA has worked very closely with the Government of Nepal in assessing the needs of the survivors.

The earthquake caused widespread damages and destroyed more than 488,530 homes, and partially destroyed more than 154,884 homes. According to the UN, roughly 2.8 million Nepalese people have been displaced. As the full extent of this enormous tragedy emerges, every minute of delay in giving assistance counts.

There has been massive destruction of roads and trails as the tremor sparked landslides; closing often, the only access to the remote areas -This made relief work almost impossible in some areas.



However, the greater challenge was to distribute relief supplies to the most needy, in just over a week after the earthquake NRNA has distributed approx.:

- ✓ *17,000 tarpaulins for temporary shelter in 13 districts,*
- ✓ *5 tons of beaten rice, over 73tons of rice,*
- ✓ *15,000 blankets,*
- ✓ *171,000 packet noodles to more than 14,000 families and*
- ✓ *Assisted on the treatment of over 10,000 people in 26 different medical camps.*

Then, on 12 May 2015, yet another powerful aftershock earthquake rocked Nepal measuring 7.3 magnitude on the Richter scale and shattering even more the homes and affecting the livelihoods of Nepalese people further.

NRNA once again worked closely with the government of Nepal assessing the need of the survivors and immediately sent relief supports to Dolkha, Sindhuli and Sindhupalchok. The places most affected by the second quake.

## Earthquake Disaster Relief Plan - Rebuild homes

This earthquake caused, besides human fatalities loss of every kind. One of the most noticeable and striking effects of this disaster was the destruction of houses. Loss of housing destroys livelihoods and a sense of protection and privacy.

A home is more than the materials from which it is made, or the labour that has gone into its construction; or the time and money that may have been expended on it. A home provides shelter, protection, privacy, safety and the essential infrastructure needed for living with dignity; it provides a sense of belonging amongst a community and a feeling of pride and confidence.

NRNA believes strongly that effective housing reconstruction is essential to restore the affected communities' dignity, society, economy and cultural identity.

To provide some security and livelihood for about 1000 families, NRNA has appealed to build 1000 homes for the most needy, affected by this earthquake. We know this is just a drop in the ocean, but we are hopeful that this will inspire other who are capable to lend helping hands to our countrymen at this time of need.

Currently, we are in discussions with the Government of Nepal to identify the affected areas and villages which are safer for resettlement.

Progress is made more difficult by the fear that many areas left by the aftermath can essentially still be affected avalanches and be washed away by the monsoonal rain.

We are working once again closely with the government of Nepal and international agencies to carry out geological testing of the villages.

As we wait for the outcome guidelines from the Government, we are working concurrently with various agencies to move as quickly as possible as monsoonal rain will not withstand makeshift tarpaulin and galvanized trussed shelters. Further we would not be in a position to reach everyone in need, particularly in the remote parts of affected areas.

For this work to be done NRNA has allocated Rs.35, 000, 000 or US\$3.5million to reconstruct 1000 homes. This is the largest NRNA's humanitarian program since it was established over a decade ago. This unprecedented catastrophe requires immediate action to save lives and help those who are suffering.

### Looking ahead;

- ✓ Strategic negotiation and communication continues with the government of Nepal, with NRNA as a partner to rebuild the nation;
- ✓ Negotiation and communication with other NGOs and INGOs to develop a model with the NRNA;
- ✓ Community consultation in regards to development of housing and master plan;
- ✓ Working with local architects, structural engineers and seismic engineers to provide earthquake resistant, low cost, environmentally friendly and sustainable housing that preserves local heritage, identity, and uses local materials; and
- ✓ Ongoing Global Fund raising Campaign



## Acknowledgement and Appreciation

We are very grateful for the support of everyone who donated money, goods, worked as volunteers and prayed for Nepal. In particular, I would like to acknowledge some organisations and individuals who helped us in this great effort:

NRN would like to express our heartfelt appreciation and thanks to the Government of Nepal particularly the Prime Minister and Chief Secretary for their cooperation and support with our relief effort and giving us access to the Air Force in the relief effort. Without their help this effort would not have been possible.

We cannot express enough of our gratitude to the Nepalese Army Air Force and their entire team for their support and availability in order to meet the requirements of our relief efforts. Without this we would not have been able to distribute relief supplies in the remotest parts of the earthquake affected zones.

Similarly, Nepal Armed Police Force, Nepal Army, Chief District Officers and local VDC officials who helped us guard our volunteers day and night during the distribution process.

Our appreciation and thanks goes also to two individuals Dr Ganesh Gurung and Mr Ratan Ayer who helped initiate contacts and strategic negotiations with the government of Nepal on behalf of NRNA. Without them the extent of the negotiations would not have been possible.

TBI group has been very kind in providing their office and staff to us at this time of need. We would like to thank their entire team for their generosity and support.

We would also like to thank Mr Suresh Chitrakar from MIT Group Foundation who helped us on the ground level and looked after procurement of the relief supplies and overall operational matters day and night and still continuing.

We thank to all our media friends who came forward to help us and shed light on the challenges we faced during this time and each and every one of you who took time to write about our effort truthfully.

Above all, a Big thanks goes to all NRN and Nepali team volunteers who joined us at ground zero and district coordinators (volunteers). Without your support and hard work which stretched from planning to distribution level, the relief work would have not been possible. Similarly, those NRNs who could not join us at ground zero but helped us raising funds globally, we thank you all for your support, team spirit and unity for our country.

Indeed, the efforts of all meant that we exceeded our initial targets. We thank you all for helping us achieve this incredible success.

As we move forward to rebuild our nation, we see 'hope' for a better tomorrow and we trust you will continue your support on this second phase of our commitment to our motherland.

To donate please see [http://nrna.org.np/article-NRNA\\_disaster\\_support](http://nrna.org.np/article-NRNA_disaster_support). For further information on our work click [www.nrna.org.np](http://www.nrna.org.np).

***'Together We Can'***

Shesh Ghale - President, NRNA-ICC