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Priority to Octogenarian

■ Kathmandu, February 2017

Dawa Nanggang Tamang, 80, a senior citizen of Gre village in Gatlang VDC, Rasuwa district, was not sure whether he would be able to rebuild his house. Managing funds and finding masons to start reconstruction was a daunting task for him. The octogenarian has no family members to support except for his septuagenarian wife.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal and Manekor Society Nepal (MSN), a local implementing partner in Rasuwa, were aware of the problem the couple was facing. Therefore, LWF and MSN decided to support him to reconstruct his house.

LWF Nepal and MSN provided NRs 50,000 as a first installment of the total shelter grant support of NRs 300,000. "Encouraging local masons to prioritize Dawa's house for construction was another step," said Mahesh Bhat, program officer of MSN.

Mason training, jointly organized by LWF Nepal, CG Sip Shikshya, Diploma Engineers' Association Nepal (DEAN) and MSN, was an opportunity for LWF and MSN to mobilize the masons to begin the reconstruction of Dawa's house. During the seven-day mason training held in Gre VDC from 22 to 28 January 2017, LWF Nepal and MSN not only encouraged local masons to prioritize to build Dawa's house, but also chose his land for practical part of the training. "The practical exercise proved beneficial to him as the damp proof course (DPC) of the house was completed. And the walls were also raised around one foot," said Bhimshen Shrestha, LWF Nepal's District Manager.

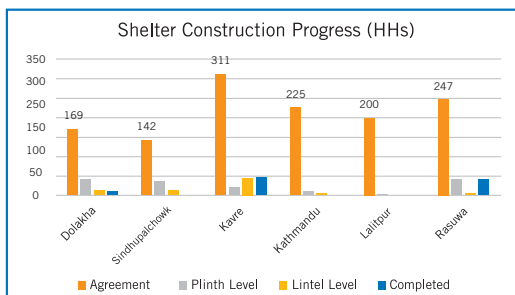


Dawa Nanggang Tamang inspects as masons work on the DPC of his house.

Tamang is happy to see a sign of his dream being fulfilled. "Local masons have promised to prioritize rebuilding my house. Once I get second installment from Manekor, I will expedite the reconstruction," said Tamang.

LWF to Support Construction of 1,592 Permanent Shelters

■ Kathmandu, February 2017



LWF Nepal has been supporting a total of 1,592 earthquake-affected households in Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Lalitpur, Kathmandu and Rasuwa to reconstruct progressive shelter. Out of the total target, LWF Nepal and its implementing partners have signed a tripartite agreement with 1,261 shelter beneficiaries and VDCs/municipalities. A total of 152 houses have reached to

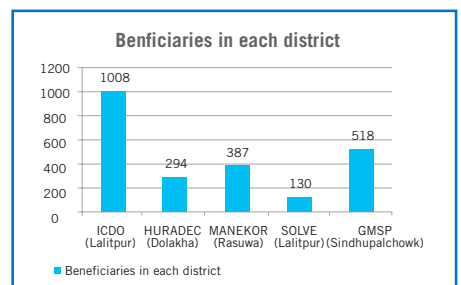
plinth level while 83 houses reached to lintel level and 98 houses have completed roofing.

LWF Nepal has been implementing the shelter construction project in partnership with local NGOs namely HURADEC in Dolakha, Gramin Mahila Srijanashil Pariwar in Sindhupalchowk, Shanti Jana Adarsha Sewa Kendra in Kavre, Transformations Nepal and Disaster Management Committee in Kathmandu, ICDO and SOLVE Nepal in Lalitpur, Batas Foundation and Manekor Society Nepal in Rasuwa.

"The reconstruction project aims to provide earthquake-resilient building to earthquake-affected households," said Gopal Dahal, Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator at LWF Nepal.

Psychosocial Support to 2,327 Survivors

■ Kathmandu, February 2017



Psychosocial support of LWF Nepal's 3R project has reached to more than 2,300 population by the end of December 2016. The project, commenced in April 2016, has reached 2,327 individuals. The number of male beneficiaries is 901 and female is 1,436.

Supporting Partners



Policy Advocacy

Advocating the Shelter Right

■ Sindhupalchok, February 2017

Since the devastating earthquake of April 2015, family of Buddhi Bahadur Tamang, a resident of Baramchi VDC-5 in Sindhupalchok, has been living in a temporary shelter. They waited almost two years to get support for permanent shelter reconstruction.

Finally, LWF Nepal and Gramin Mahila Srijanashil Pariwar (GMSP) reached his village to support reconstruction and provided NRs 50,000 as a first installment of shelter grant after one and a half years of the quake, but a notice issued by the Government of Nepal threw cold water on his attempt to construct a permanent shelter.

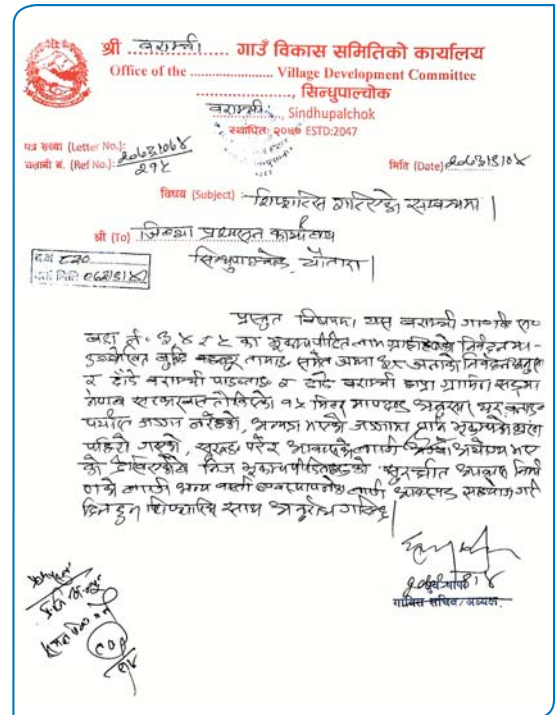
"When I was about to clear the ground for shelter construction, a notice on road expansion in our area made me panic," he said. Government of Nepal has decided to expand the road by 15 meters on Dhade-Baramchi-Pantang section.

The decision halted the construction of 38 shelters on the road section. "Many of them had only a tiny piece of land to construct their houses on and the expansion is sure to turn them into 'squatters'. Against the backdrop, LWF Nepal and GMSP requested the government authorities to consider their situation," said Shishir Gurung, Project Officer of GMSP.

Then LWF Nepal and GMSP organized village level meetings of earthquake survivors to gather information on their situation. Later on, LWF Nepal and GMSP facilitated the affected people to submit an application to the VDC office informing their situation. Then, the VDC sent a letter to District Administration Office (DAO) on the same.

On other hand, Village Development Committee (VDC) took the issue to the Village Development Council, a body to discuss and decide the village level development plan. The VDC council meeting decided to request District Development Committee (DDC) to limit the road expansion project by 10 meters. The affected population are also agreed to allow expansion of road up to 10 meters.

"We will continue our advocacy with DDC and DAO asking the government to reconsider the case of earthquake-affected people in Dhade-Barmachi-Pantang road section," said Nani Maya Thapa, Executive Director of GMSP.



(Photo and story by Madan Pandey, LWF Nepal)

Water Scheme Restored

■ Dolakha, February 2017

LWF and a consortium of four Dalit NGOs, namely Dalit Welfare Association, Center for Dalit Women Nepal, Nepal Grassroots Development Forum and Legal Aid and Research Center with funding from ELCA, have been supporting Dalit households in Chankhu, Marbu and Suri VDCs to construct 6 water schemes in the areas.

The water schemes, will benefit 45 households (20 Dalits and 25 Non-Dalits) in ward numbers 2 and 3 of Marbu. Similarly, water schemes located in ward numbers 6 and 7 of Suri, and in ward numbers 4, 5 and 6 of Chanku benefits 65 and 83 HHs respectively.

The scheme contains repair of water tanks, construction of reservoir tanks, and replacement of damaged pipes and reconstruction of tap stands. Once the scheme is completed, 143 Dalit households in 3 VDCs will get drinking water in their vicinity.

Water Users Committees have been formed in each project-VDC to steer the water schemes. A total of NRs 450,000 has been allocated for each VDC.

Review Reflection Workshop Held

■ Kathmandu, February 2017

LWF Nepal conducted first review reflection workshop of Earthquake Reconstruction, Recovery and Resilience (3R) Project on 26th- 27th December 2016 in Charikot, the district headquarters of Dolakha. Main objective of the workshop was to review the progress of the project, identify the gap, challenges and key issues and develop/ revise action plan and strategy for the implementation of the project for upcoming quarter and during the project period.

A total of 38 people had participated in the program. The participants were chair/members from implementing partners of 3R project, staff of partner organizations including psychosocial officer, finance officer, program officer, and LWF Nepal 3R project team members.

NRA Officials Visit Jiri and Suri

■ Dolakha, February 2017

Representatives of NRA, District Office Dolakha, District Level Project Implementation Unit and HURADEC Nepal visited Suri VDC and Jiri municipality of Dolakha district on 28th and 29th January 2017. LWF Nepal in partnership with HURADEC Nepal has been implementing 3R project in the VDC and the municipality. Sagar Acharya and Raju Yadav from NRA Dolakha, Pramod Yadav from DLPIU visited the fields.

During the visit, the team monitored ongoing construction sites and interacted with masons and house owners. The team suggested HURADEC to expedite the permanent shelter construction.

LWF Signs MoU with WFP

LWF Nepal has signed a contract with World Food Program (WFP) to implement 'Restoring Food and Nutrition Security and Building Resilient in Earthquake Affected Areas' project in Gorkha district. The Project aims to restore food security and rebuild community infrastructure. The project is being implemented in Laprak, Kashigaun, Sirdibas, Gumda and Uiya VDCs of Gorkha.

Reflection from the Field

Mud-Mortar Masonry is New to Us: Ram Bahadur Tamang

Ram Bahadur Tamang, 39, is a lead mason in Gre Village of Gatlang VDC, Rasuwa. Tamang has been working for more than 10 years as a lead mason and constructed more than 20 houses. He was one of the participants in disaster-resistant mason training conducted jointly by LWF Nepal, MSN, CG Sip Shikshya and DEAN. Tamang recently spoke with Umesh Pokharel. Excerpts:

Could you please share your experience of working as a mason?

I started to work as a mason since 2006. During this period, I led the construction of more than 20 houses in Gatlang and Gre villages. Apart from that, I have repaired more than 20 houses. I have developed around 12 masons. Most of the houses constructed in my leadership were stone-and-cement masonry.

What is the situation of reconstruction of Gatlang now?

Following the earthquake, people in Gatlang are residing in temporary and transitional shelters. Most of the shelters are made solely of CGI sheets and some of them are supported with bamboo. Permanent shelters are yet to be built.

People in Gatlang are interested to reconstruct their houses. Most of them have got NRs 50,000 as a first installment of housing grant. Also, local masons are trained in earthquake-resistant shelter construction. So reconstruction is likely to begin soon.

You are one of the participants in mason training. Was it beneficial to you?

I was one of the participants in mason training held in Gre from 22 to 28 January 2017. The training was beneficial for a number of reasons. First, it provided us knowledge on earthquake-resistant construction techniques. Second, it served as a forum for community masons to get organized. More importantly, the training was successful to impart the knowledge and skill on mud-stone masonry. Earlier, mud-mortar was not used. It was totally new to us.

What is your plan to encourage locals to begin reconstruction?

First, I shall pass the message to fellow masons that compared to traditional practice of stone masonry, mud-stone masonry is more resistant to earthquake. Then, I will encourage local masons to give priority to the elderly citizens and women-headed households for the reconstruction. Some of the trainees were fresh. Therefore, I plan to guide them in reconstruction work.



Seed Money Support Raises Hope amongst Dalit

■ Dolakha, February 2017

San Maya BK, 47, is a resident of Marbu, a Dalit settlement in Marbu VDC Dolakha. She got her leg broken during the April 2015 earthquake. BK, a single mother in a remote Dalit settlement, had lost all her hopes to regain her livelihood.

LWF Nepal and Dalit Welfare Association (DWA) identified her as one of the vulnerable people during an assessment.

She was selected as one of the beneficiaries for micro-enterprise of "Dalit Empowerment for Recovery and Fighting against Inequalities" project funded by ELCA. "She was provided NRs. 25,000 and with this amount, she has opened up a small grocery shop," said Shirish A Adhikari, Project Manager of LWF Nepal.

With opening up the grocery shop, she has developed hope to life. "I will utilize the profit gained from the business to the education of my 14 years daughter," said BK. She will be utilizing the profit for other livelihood activities such as goat farming.

Like BK, 20 other HHs in Suri, Chankhu and Marbu VDCs of Dolakha district are given NRs 25,000 to begin enterprises. Some of them have opened small grocery and some others have farmed goats and run tailoring shop. The project plans to provide 30 vulnerable households to start up any of the micro-enterprise.

The project has been implemented by a consortium of four NGOs namely DWA, Center for Dalit Women Nepal, Nepal Grassroots Development Forum, and Legal Aid and Research Center with support from ELCA and LWF Nepal.



(Photo by Aswin Poudel and story by Prabhat Bhatta)

Women in Reconstruction

■ Kathmandu, February 2017

In traditional Nepalese society, masonry is considered as men's work. However, following the April 2015 earthquake, women in rural parts of Nepal are involved in construction work such as building wall and providing labor support for the reconstruction among others. Dr Prabin Manandhar, Country Director of LWF Nepal, terms the process as a 'transformation in term of gender role'. Babita Adhikari and Umesh Pokharel have collected experience of few women masons from LWF working areas.

"I was one of the trainees of earthquake-resistant mason training held in Baramchi VDC of Sindhupalchok district. The training has boosted my confidence to work as a mason. I have learned how to construct earthquake-resistant building. Now, my husband and I are constructing our own house. We hope to complete it soon and allocate our time to build my neighbors' houses. I have seen that women in my village are taking up the responsibility of rebuilding houses in the absence of men."



Tok Rani Tamang, Baramchi-6, Sindhupalchok

"I like to bring smile back to my children's face. Therefore, I am supporting my husband, a trained mason, to reconstruct our house. Once we received the first installment of the shelter grant, we started constructing it. During the rainy season, water used to flow under the bed of our temporary shelter. With the reconstruction of our house, we will get rid of problems related to shelter and safe space, particularly for children"



Lila Gurung, Suri-1, Dolakha (Gurung is an LWF shelter beneficiary in Dolakha.)

"I have learned to construct permanent shelter using mud-mortar. It is a platform for a young girl like me to be familiar with earthquake-resistant masonry. I will utilize my knowledge and skill for community reconstruction. I would like to request male masons in our village to give an opportunity to trained local women masons."



Shushila Tamang, 20, Gre Village, Rasuwa

LWF Nepal Trains Local People in Masonry

■ Kathmandu, February 2017

A total of 423 locals of Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Kavrepalanchok, Rasuwa, Kathmandu and Lalitpur have been trained to construct earthquake-resistant permanent shelter. 30 locals of Baramchi VDC of Sindhupalchok, 30 from Suri VDC of Dolakha, 31 each from Ghusel, Gimdi and Bhattedanda VDCs in Lalitpur and 30 people from Grey village of Rasuwa district have been trained in earthquake-resistant building construction. Similarly, 30 masons have been trained in Shankharapur municipality, Kathmandu. Apart from that 152 participants from Nayagaun, Mahadevsthan, Gairibisauna, Jaisithok and Baluwapati VDCs from Kavrepalanchok and 60 participants from Yarsa and Ramche VDCs of Rasuwa have been trained in earthquake-resistant building construction.

During the 7-day training, participants were taught to identify safe site for permanent shelter construction, prepare foundation, DPC, bands including lintel, corner reinforcement, T and L stiches and other earthquake-resistant components. The trainees also practiced to make tie, DPC and stiches of reinforcements among others. They were also taught about stone and brick masonry and reinforced cement concrete structures.



Mason Training Participants Pose for Group Photograph in Grey Village, Rasuwa.

"LWF Nepal in support of ACT Alliance, Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH) and in partnership with CG Sip Shikshya, DEAN plan to train 512 masons in earthquake-resistant building construction techniques," Manoj Timsina, Project officer of LWF Nepal, says.

Dr Martin Visits Dolakha

■ Dolakha, February 2017

Rev. Dr Chandran Paul Martin, Regional Representative of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and Dr Prabin Manandhar, Country Director of LWF Nepal, along with project team visited Suri, Marbu and Chankhu VDCs of Dolakha district on 20th and 21st January 2017. It was a joint monitoring visit of 'Dalit Empowerment for Recovery and Fighting against Inequalities' project being implemented by LWF Nepal and its consortium partners namely Dalit Welfare Association, Center for Dalit Women Nepal, Nepal Grassroots Development Forum and Legal Aid and Research Center in Dolakha.

The team visited one of the project sites located in ward numbers 2 and 3 of Marbu VDC and observed restoration/reconstruction of 2 earthquake-damaged drinking water schemes. Also, the team observed Transformation Education classes, visited the houses under construction which are eligible for top-up grant. The team met San Maya BK, one of the micro-enterprise beneficiaries, in Marbu and interacted with her. The project has provided her NRs 25,000 to open a grocery.

Implementing Partners

