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Dignified Life

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Reconstruction Symbolizes Dignity

■ Dolakha, 1 August 2017



Radhika BK poses for photograph in front of the main door of her newly built house.

Radhika BK, 57, a single woman in Suri village of Gauri Shankar Rural Municipality in Dolakha district, had almost given up her hope to begin a normal life, following the April 2015 Nepal earthquake. Not only her house was collapsed, the falling wall killed her all cattle. BK was alone in her house in Suri when the earthquake struck. She lived under tarpaulins for more than two months after the quake. Later on, she constructed a temporary shelter with support from The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal. Her children were in Kathmandu and used to visit her occasionally.

“When my children invited me to go to Kathmandu, I was in a dilemma,” she recalled a time one and half years ago. However, her intent to stay in her ancestral land outweighed her children’s wish. She decided to rebuild her house and spend her life where her forefathers lived for centuries.

Supporting Hands

Support from the Government of Nepal (GoN) along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), LWF Nepal, Dalit NGO network and Dalit Welfare Association (DWA) have been a help to make her dream come true.

Following the tremor, LWF Nepal with support from ACT Alliance provided her emergency shelter kit along with livelihood support package during the recovery phase. LWF Nepal, Dalit NGO network and DWA with support from the ELCA provided them top-up shelter grant.

“With support such as tarpaulin sheets, nails and other shelter kits, I constructed a temporary shelter nearby my previous house,” she says. “Later on, the top-up grant support of Rs 75,000 helped me to start reconstructing permanent shelter,” she adds.

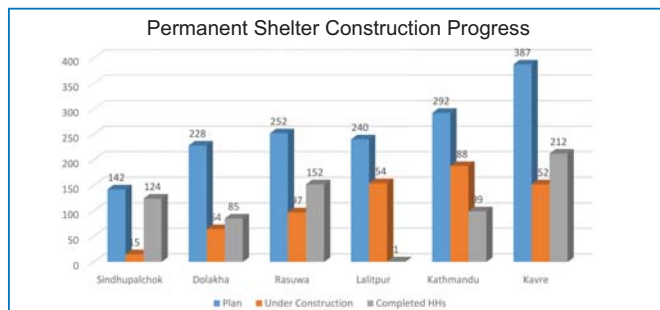
Against such a background, the GoN announced the support of Rs 300,000 as a shelter support grant to the earthquake-affected households, the ELCA, LWF Nepal and DWA came up with the additional shelter support grant of NRs 75,000 each household. “The additional support was to fulfill the unmet fund requirement for constructing a toilet and installing a solar panel,” says Dr Prabin Manandhar, Country Director of LWF Nepal.

Now Radhika has completed the construction of her house and her dream to live in her ancestral land has been fulfilled. Radhika plans to keep some goats, begin farm as usual and live peacefully in her village. “My house in my village means a lot for me, it is a symbol of dignity and happiness,” she says.

(Photo and story by Umesh Pokharel)

LWF Nepal Constructs 673 Houses

■ Kathmandu, 1 August 2017



A newly constructed permanent shelter in Yarsha village of Rasuwa district.

LWF Nepal has completed the construction of 673 houses in Rasuwa, Dolakha, Sindhupalchok, Kathmandu, Kavre and Lalitpur districts. The construction of 124 houses in Sindhupalchok, 85 in Dolakha, 152 in Rasuwa, 212 in Kavrepalanchok, and 99 houses in Kathmandu have been completed.

LWF Nepal has been supporting a total of 1,541 earthquake-affected households in Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Rasuwa, Lalitpur, Kathmandu and Kavre districts to reconstruct permanent shelter. LWF Nepal with its implementing partners in these districts has signed a tripartite agreement with beneficiaries and respective VDCs/municipalities.

(Contributed by Babita Adhikari)

Supporting Partners



Policy Advocacy

Breaking the Barriers: The Sole Female Electrician in Mahadevsthan

■ Kavre, 1 August 2017

The crow of a rooster serves as a wakeup call for Tulasa Acharya, 19, a resident of Mahadevsthan Village in Mandandeupur Municipality in Kavre district. In the morning, she goes to college. Returning from college, she plans layout and installation of electrical wiring of newly constructed houses in her vicinity. "I earn NRs 5,000 a month from the work," Acharya says.

She was just a college student till last year. After she received house wiring training provided by LWF Nepal and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH), not only her schedule but also her identity has been changed. During the 36-day training held in December 2016, she learned about pipe laying for electric line supply in Reinforced Cement Concrete building, fitting switch and holders, and installing distribution box among others. Since most women in her village are housewives and some are tailors, she is the only female electrician in her village.

Breaking the Gender Stereotype

Following the completion of the training in December, she has earned a total of NRs 30,000. At that time female in the village used to be questioned for their involvement in the work domain that are considered 'masculine', her profession as an electrical technician not only challenged the status quoism, but also has changed the community's perspective. She has been making a good progress thanks to the encouragement from Shanti Jana Adarsha Sewa Kendra, LWF Nepal, DKH and her family.

Towards Independence

Acharya is a student of Bachelors level in Dedithumka Public Campus, Mahadevsthan in Kavre. Her friends in the college are also encouraged by the progress in her profession as an electrician. She recently completed Level I examination conducted by the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training and plans to pursue Level II training in house wiring. "The money I have been earning has enhanced my confidence," she says.

(Story by Jagadishwar Shrestha)



LWF and its Partners Engage with the Government

■ Kathmandu, 1 August 2017



Representatives from government and non-government organizations participate in an advocacy meeting organized by a partner of LWF Nepal in Lalitpur.

Authority (NRA), Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), District Coordination Committee (DCC), District Education Office (DEO), District Administration Office (DAO) and local bodies including rural municipality and municipalities.

The constructive engagement with the government officials has produced a better result. For example, due to LWF's implementing partners' advocacy in Lalitpur, they have been the first organization in the district to provide second and third tranches of shelter grant.

Similarly, Sindhupalchok district has not only disbursed the shelter grants in time, but also carried out an advocacy on behalf of its shelter beneficiaries whose land was to be pooled by the government to expand road.

The result of constructive engagement with government officials is vividly seen in Gre village of Gatlang VDC, Rasuwa where visitors including government officials pay a visit to the village to see the model of community reconstruction.

"The reason for LWF's success on reconstruction is its constructive engagement with the government agencies," Shirish A. Adhikari, Project Manager in LWF, says.

LWF Nepal and its implementing partner organizations in different districts are engaged with the government agencies for expediting shelter construction. LWF's partners in Rasuwa, Dolakha, Sindhupalchok, Kavre, and Lalitpur consult and discuss with the government agencies including the National Reconstruction

Permanent Shelter Projects Phased Out

■ Kathmandu, 1 August 2017

LWF Nepal's few projects on permanent shelter construction have been phased out. The phased out projects are Islamic Relief Worldwide supported project in Rasuwa, Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)-supported project in Sindhupalchok, ELCA-funded project in Dolakha and a project implemented with support from Malankara Orthodox Church and ICON charities Inc. in Dolakha.

With the implementation of Responsive Adaptive Shelter for Earthquake-Affected Community (RASEAC) project in Yarsa and Ramche of Rasuwa district, 151 houses have been constructed and handed over to the beneficiaries. It also supported community people with WASH and livelihood. Similarly, LWF Nepal constructed 94 houses in Baramchi village in Sindhupalchok with support from the CLWR and 18 permanent houses, and one school building at Pattitar village of Dolakha district with support from Malankara Orthodox Church and ICON Charities Inc. This apart, the ELCA supported LWF Nepal to provide top up grant, WASH and livelihood support to earthquake survivors in Dalit communities of Suri, Chankhu and Marbu in Dolakha district.

Earlier, LWF Nepal had provided emergency relief support and emergency/transitional shelter support to the people of these areas.

Reflection from the Field

Community Owns Reconstruction Drive

■ Kathmandu, 1 August 2017



Neighbors of Arun Lo (Tamang) support to build his new house.

Gautam, Shelter Management Committee Coordinator in Sauratole in Ghusel, Lalitpur says.

As of now, 656 permanent shelters have been made with grant support of LWF Nepal and it became possible due to the labor exchange. "Labor exchange was very supportive to reconstruct houses. It is a moral support of community people to the house owner," Mr Hom Pathak, Chairperson of HURADEC Nepal, a partner of LWF Nepal in Dolakha, says.

Mason Training: A Boon for Reconstruction

Mason training was a driving force behind the community reconstruction. Mason training held in different districts provided required skill for constructing earthquake-resistant houses. Many of the masons in these villages are either trained by LWF or by LWF trained masons in earthquake-resistant masonry. "As of now, LWF has trained nearly 600 masons in earthquake-resistant masonry and their skill has been transferred to fellow community masons as well," Mr Gopal Dahal, ER/DRR Coordinator of LWF Nepal, says. LWF Nepal with support from ACT Alliance, IRW and DKH and in partnership with CG Sip Shiksyia and DEAN has trained the community people in masonry.

New Source of Income

Earthquake-resistant masonry training provided by LWF has been a source of income as well. Tamang and his team work in neighboring villages as a wage laborer and have been earning Rs 1,000 (10 dollars) a day. "I have saved some money from the earning which I can use for my children's education," Tamang says.

(Photo and story by Kamal paudel and Madan Pandey)

Mason Training Changes Identity

■ Rasuwa, 1 August 2017

Yodup Thokra, 26, is an active mason in Yarsa village of Rasuwa district. Till last year, he used to support other masons in lifting stones and making mixture of mud. Since he was not a professional mason, he used to support others as a construction labor.

Now his identity has been changed. He is regarded as one of the active masons. These days he takes a lead role in construction of permanent shelter. "I can't get rest even a single day in a month," he says while working for community reconstruction that began in support of IRW, LWF Nepal and BATAS foundation.

Jayaram Ghale, 19, was an amateur mason in the village. He has refined his skill getting involved in the recent community construction drive. Both Jayaram and Yodup used to be considered as an idle youths in the village. They used to gather in public places, drink and laze around. However, they have turned into one of the busiest people in the village now.

"Since I dropped my study few years back and had no work, I remained idle. However, following my participation in 7-day mason training held in Yarsa VDC, the lead masons accepted me as laborer," Jayaram says. Jayaram took this opportunity to refine his skill as a mason.

BATAS foundation's Field Coordinator Prem Upadhyaya estimates that more than 150 locals have gained masonry skill following BATAS and LWF's joint intervention in Yarsa. Before the implementation of shelter component RASEAC project, the number of masons in the village was just 15.



Yudup Thokara works as masons following he was trained on earthquake resistant masonry by LWF and BATAS Foundation.

MOSC and ICON Charities Open Newly Constructed School Building

■ Dolakha, 1 August 2017

The President of Malankara Orthodox Church (MOSC) and ICON Charities Dr Yuhanon Mar Chrisostomos Metropolitan and Mr Tanka Jirel, Mayor of Jiri Municipality, Dolakha, jointly inaugurated a newly constructed building of Mathillo Sikri Primary school in Jiri on 30 May 2017. The 3-room building was constructed by HURADEC and LWF Nepal with support from MOSC and ICON Charities.

The Mayor of Jiri Municipality appreciated the efforts of LWF and HURDEEC Nepal and expressed his commitment to mobilize the municipal funds for the rebuilding of schools in the municipality.

A team comprising LWF staffs, Bishop Dr Yuhanon Mar Chrisostomos Metropolitan and K.G. Mathaikutty had visited Pattitar village of Jiri Municipality as part of their monitoring visit. The school handover program was organized during the visit.

The team also interacted with the officials and members of Mathillo Sikri Primary School Management Committee and visited the households of shelter beneficiaries in Pattitar.

LWF Nepal and HURADEC Nepal have completed the construction of 18 permanent houses of earthquake survivors. Also the project built a school building in Pattitar under a project titled 'Providing Emergency Relief to Earthquake-Affected People in Nepal - Pattitar, Jiri Dolakha' with support from MOSC and ICON Charities.

Earlier, 50 households in Pattitar were provided with temporary shelter support which included CGI sheets, and nails among others.



Dr. Yuhanon Mar Chrisostomos Metropolitan, president of Malankara Orthodox Church and Icon Charities and Mr Tanka Jirel, mayor of Jiri municipality jointly inaugurate a newly constructed building of Mathillo Sikri Primary school in Jiri, Dolakha.

Psychosocial Support to nearly 8000 People

■ Kathmandu, 1 August 2017

LWF Nepal has reached to a total of 7,884 population with its psychosocial support (PSS) activities in Lalitpur, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha and Rasuwa districts by the end of July 2017. A total of 3,287 males and 4,597 females have been reached with psychosocial support activities for all ages.

In Lalitpur, 84 activities have been implemented in five villages reaching out to 4,505 individuals. The PSS activities in the district included workshops on stress management and protection issues, school activities and recreational activities.

Similarly, 28 activities have been conducted in Baramchi of Sindhupalchok district. 1,435 individuals have benefitted from the PSS activities conducted by Gramin Mahila Srijanashil Pariwar (GMSP) in Sindhupalchok.

Likewise, PSS activities in Dolakha reached to 685 individuals. HURADEC Nepal has implemented 32 PSS activities in Suri VDC of the district.

PSS activities in Rasuwa, one of the worst affected districts in Nepal, reached to 1,259 individuals.

ACT Strengthens its Members' Capacity

■ Kathmandu, 1 August 2017

ACT Alliance Nepal Forum has conducted a number of training targeting its members in Nepal. During the last quarter, ACT Alliance Nepal Forum organized training in 'Emergency Management', 'Basic Safety and Security', 'Project Monitoring and Evaluation for Better Implementation and Knowledge Management'.

LWF Constructs Timber Bridges



A timber bridge in Kashigaun village of Gorkha district. LWF Nepal and Goretto Gorkha have jointly constructed the 4.5 meter long bridge. Three similar bridges have also been constructed in the village easing the local people to cross rivulets particularly during rainy season.

ELCA Delegates Visit Sanagaon

■ Kathmandu, 1 August 2017

Delegates of the ELCA visited LWF Nepal's project site in Sanagaon of Shankharapur Municipality, Kathmandu on 18 June 2017. The ELCA delegates included Rev. Dr Rafael Malpica, Ms Rebecca Duerst, Mr Bishal Maskey, Mr Franklin Ishida and Rev. Dr Chandran Paul Martin. The team observed the progress of shelter construction and



Delegates of ELCA visit LWF Nepal's project site in Sanagaun of Sankharapur municipality.

livelihood support activities being implemented in ward nos. 8, 10 and 14 of the municipality. LWF Nepal with support from the ELCA and in partnership with Transformations Nepal has been implementing 'Earthquake Recovery Support for Dalit Communities' project in Dalit settlements of Shankharapur Municipality.

Implementing Partners

