

Nepal Earthquake

Rebuilding Efforts in the Tibetan Community



A Report by The Tibet Fund
December 2016

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

“...through such support, we have been able to strengthen our cultural institutions and undertake projects essential for the preservation of the Tibetan cultural heritage that is the very core of our civilization.”



THE DALAI LAMA

MESSAGE

Since its establishment in 1981, The Tibet Fund, USA, has contributed to the building and development of a robust Tibetan community in exile. It has also supported Tibetans in Tibet in socio-economic areas. Over three and a half decades, it has assisted the Tibetan leadership in exile in its work on infrastructural development, refugee rehabilitation, and cultural preservation, while also backing education, healthcare and other capacity-building programs.

Through such support, we have been able to strengthen our cultural institutions and undertake projects essential for the preservation of the Tibetan cultural heritage that is the very core of our civilization.

On the occasion of its 35th anniversary I commend the work done by the Board of Directors and staff of The Tibet Fund, and offer my gratitude to all concerned.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those, in particular the US Government, charitable organizations and individual donors, who have enabled The Tibet Fund to provide much needed service to the Tibetan community.

May 20, 2016



MESSAGE

Dear friends,

Since the tragedy that unfolded in the aftermath of the 2015 Nepal earthquake, The Tibet Fund has made a significant difference in the lives of the affected Tibetans. Generous donations and funds from our donors have enabled The Tibet Fund to assist in emergency relief response, post-earthquake rebuilding efforts, and earthquake-preparedness training in Nepal. Especially in repairing and reconstructing the damaged homes of the vulnerable Tibetans including the elderly and the destitute, we have emphasized on the adoption of earthquake-resilient building techniques. Our reconstruction principles and practices are not only in compliance with National Building Codes of the Government of Nepal but it was aimed to ensure future safety and physical security of the Tibetan refugees.

Rebuilding a community affected by natural disasters such as earthquake entails financial resources. For this and more, we would like to thank the US government for their grant through the Bureau of Population, Refugee and Migration (PRM), which has formed the backbone of our Nepal Earthquake Project. Our heartfelt gratitude similarly goes to all the individual donors and private organizations for their compassion and generosity in this tragedy. We are also indebted to all our project partners for their excellent collaboration and coordination in this rebuilding process. We would especially like to thank the Central Tibetan Administration for their consistent guidance and partnership.

Besides making grant, TTF has been overseeing the implementation of the reconstruction projects by working closely with the beneficiaries. Every project implementation has its own unique challenges and Nepal Earthquake Project has been no different. Nepal's socio-political situation can sometimes be volatile, as evidenced by a six-month road blockade, which inflated the cost of building materials and resulted in overall delays in reconstruction works. Heavy monsoon, mountainous topography, and remote terrain further impeded normal access for both relief and construction works. These and other challenges notwithstanding, our Nepal team has persevered in our rebuilding efforts with sincerity and dedication during the past more than one year.

We have launched our second phase of Earthquake Reconstruction Project with a grant from the US State Department and donations from individual donors. The grants and proceeds will be utilized towards building new houses for 90 residents in 24 households that were most affected by the earthquake. Though the path forward from a tragedy is always challenging, we remain highly inspired by the resilience of the Tibetans in Nepal and motivated by the continued backing from our supporters.

With best wishes,

President

Executive Director



CONTENTS

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Message from the President and the Executive Director

1. Overview	4
2. Nepal's Disaster Recovery Policy Framework.....	6
3. General Status and Situation of Tibetans in Nepal	8
4. Impact of Earthquake on Tibetans in Nepal: Deaths and Damages	10
i. Tibetan deaths	
ii. Extent of damages to Tibetan homes and buildings	
iii. Impact on other social sectors	
5. TTF's Post-Disaster Need Assessment and Findings.....	16
6. Psychosocial Counseling	19
7. Earthquake Preparedness Training in Tibetan Schools	21
8. TTF's Reconstruction and Recovery Framework.....	23
i. Geological assessment of Tibetan settlements	
ii. Prioritization of vulnerable community	
iii. Innovative building technologies: NSET and Hunnarshala	
9. TTF's Rebuilding and Reconstruction Projects in Nepal ...	28
i. New building constructions and clinic repair in Rasuwa	
ii. New building constructions in Bakhang Nunnery, Sindhupalchowk	
iii. Building repairs and clinic reconstruction in Solukhumbu	
iv. Building repairs in Gangchen Community, Kathmandu	
v. Building repairs in Kimdol Community, Swayambhu	
vi. Renovations in Jawalakhel Handicraft Centre, Jawalakhel	
vii. Building repairs in Drubthob Monastery, Swayambhu	
viii. Building repairs in Samtenling Monastery, Boudha	
ix. Building repairs in Tibetan schools in Nepal	
10. Key Stakeholders and Partners.....	44
11. TTF Team in Nepal	47
12. List of Donors.....	50
13. Financial Overview.....	51

1 OVERVIEW

On 25 April 2015, a major 7.8 magnitude quake struck Nepal, causing heavy loss of lives and destruction of physical and social infrastructures in the Himalayan nation and its neighboring countries such as Tibet and northern India. More than a hundred aftershocks rocked Nepal thereafter including two major aftershocks of 6.6 and 6.7 magnitudes, and a second major earthquake of 7.3 magnitudes on May 12, 2015. Considered as the worst disaster to befall Nepal since its 1934 earthquake, “it killed almost 9,000 people, injuring 22,000 and damaging or destroying nearly 800,000 homes.”¹ Millions of families were displaced forcing them to seek shelter in temporary, unsafe and tented relief camps in the short term and affecting the loss of livelihood and security for the long term.

The Tibetan population in Nepal numbers 13,514 according to the most recent demographic survey conducted by the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA). Tibetan communities are located in settlement camps and scattered areas throughout Nepal including in districts—such as Rasuwa, Sindhupalchowk, and Solukhumbu—that were hardest hit by the earthquakes. The Tibetan population recorded eleven deaths and dozens were injured as a result of the earthquakes and subsequent landslides, and numerous houses and buildings in Tibetan refugee communities either collapsed or were severely damaged.

The Tibet Fund (TTF) established an Emergency Earthquake Relief Fund in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake and was able to raise \$286,976 from private donations. In addition to the approval from the US Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) to use

its grant balance of \$88,000 for emergency relief, TTF also secured a special PRM grant of \$347,000 to rebuild the lives of the Tibetans in Nepal tragically affected by the natural disaster. As part of emergency relief efforts, TTF transferred \$108,000 for the purchase and delivery of vital supplies such as medical tents, blankets, shovels, food, and water. TTF worked with credible partners in Nepal including, Snow Lion Foundation (SLF), Office of Tibet and Tibetan Welfare offices under the CTA and especially with the Earthquake Relief Committee formed by the Tibetan Refugee Welfare Office under CTA—that oversaw the distribution of funds from different organizations—to ensure that the resources reach those most affected by the earthquake and to coordinate long-term efforts to rebuild the Tibetan community in Nepal.

TTF conducted Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) to evaluate the impact of the earthquake on the Tibetan community in Nepal especially in the social, infrastructure and cross-cutting sectors. In accordance with the findings from this assessment and geological assessment conducted later by two geologists from the University of Milan, Italy, TTF has played a crucial role in the rehabilitation and recovery process through rebuilding and repairing the homes of 500 Tibetans affected by the earthquake, reconstruction of clinics providing healthcare to 552 Tibetans, repair of schools, nunneries and monasteries and providing training on disaster preparedness to 10 Tibetan schools that benefited 1,859 students.

A year on from the start of their activities, TTF team in Nepal conducted qualitative research to assess the impact and benefit of our rebuilding efforts by conducting interviews and facilitating focus group discussions. 100% of the target beneficiaries

perceive they are physically more secure due to the housing repair and reconstruction supported by TTF. They all expressed great satisfaction with and gratitude for the support received from TTF which has contributed to the rebuilding of the Tibetan community itself. Phuntsok Tsering, a 62-year-old community leader from Gangchen community in Boudha and one of the beneficiaries of TTF project, aptly summed up the general sentiments amongst the community. He told TTF team, “The whole community is extremely thankful to The Tibet Fund and CTA for the funding support for the repair and strengthening of our community building. It would be impossible to resume our

normal lives without this valuable funding support. We are grateful to HH the 14th Dalai Lama, with whose blessing and efforts for our community, we are able to get the needed support and successfully overcome such major challenges. I now feel a real sense of relief happiness, and fulfillment - its like a sapling that is eventually beginning to sprout after a long and careful nurturing period. We will forever be grateful to our donors and supporters - I believe that helping others in need is the real practice of our Budha teachings.”²

² TTF Interview, Conducted by Tenzing Yangdol, Nepal, July 2016

“The whole community is extremely thankful to The Tibet Fund and CTA for the funding support for the repair and strengthening of our community building. It would be impossible to resume our normal lives without this valuable funding support. We are grateful to HH the 14th Dalai Lama, with whose blessing and efforts for our community, we are able to get the needed support and successfully overcome such major challenges.”



¹ Alan Taylor, “Nepal’s Earthquake: One Year Later,” *The Atlantic*, 25 April 2016.

2 NEPAL'S DISASTER RECOVERY POLICY FRAMEWORK



Considered as the 11th most earthquake-prone country in the world, the 2015 earthquake affected Nepal's 75 districts, out of which 14 were declared as "crises hit" for the purpose of prioritizing rescue and relief operations, and another 17 neighboring districts were categorized as partially affected.³ Many considered it a "miracle" that the first earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 on Richter scale struck Nepal on a Saturday morning. Since it was a weekend, "Throughout rural Nepal, children were in their home villages instead of away in the schoolhouses, and most everyone was out in the fields planting, picking, cooking and playing."⁴ Similar observations were shared by other survivors like Tenzin Paljor, secretary of Jawalakhel Tibetan Handicraft Centre, who said, "It was fortunate that the earthquake was on Saturday. If it had been a working day, a huge loss of lives might have occurred."⁵

Declaring the earthquake-stricken situation in Nepal as a national emergency, the Government of Nepal (GON) conducted Post-Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) through its National Planning Commission. The PDNA was aimed to assess the extent of damages and losses from the earthquake and to identify requirement analysis and priority sectors for rebuilding process. Nepal's then Prime Minister Sushil Koirala said of the PDNA report, "This report now equips us with a well-rounded view of the scale of devastation and an outline recovery strategy to chart the course for

reconstruction and rehabilitation."⁶ On 22 June 2015, two months after the April 2015 earthquake, the GON declared that the effort would now shift from the emergency phase to the recovery phase. Three days later at the International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction held on 25 June 2015,

6 "Message" [from Prime Minister Shri Sushil Koirala], *Nepal Earthquake 2015 Post Disaster Needs Assessment, Vol. A: Key Findings*, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, 2015, p.iii.



the international community pledged \$4.4 billion of the \$6.7 billion appeal made by the government for the reconstruction of Nepal.

The disaster recovery framework of the GON is principally guided by the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFFDRR) adopted in 2015—the global plan for reducing disaster risks and losses—as well as by its National Building Code which was developed in 1994 and made legally binding in 2003. While SFDRR promotes the concept of Build Back Better and disaster resilient infrastructures, the National Building Code "sets out earthquake-resistant standards for non-engineered structures."⁷ Other guiding

7 Dennis McClean, "One year after: Nepal starts to Build Back Better", United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Geneva, 28 April 2016.

principles for disaster recovery are derived from the GON's PDNA report that emphasizes the maximum use of appropriate technology based on local knowledge and prioritization of support in the social sector. Mr. Amod Dixit, the head of Nepal's National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) remarked, "Nepal has not promulgated the legislation for reconstruction and formulated some of the basic and very urgent policies and regulations that were totally lacking when the earthquake struck."⁸

Another important guiding principle for Nepal's post-disaster recovery framework has been its Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Policy which was approved in February 2016. The key elements and strategies of this policy are to support Owner Driven Reconstruction approach in accordance with prescribed seismic standards, integrate principles of disaster risk reduction and build back better, use of local building materials and training of local engineers, supervisors, masons and others in reconstructing earthquake-resistant houses.⁹ The policy furthermore places greater emphasis on "eco-sensitive Nepal", long-term community resilience and strengthening of the local economy to support the poor, marginalized and the informal sector.



3 "Executive Summary", *Nepal Earthquake 2015 Post Disaster Needs Assessment, Vol. A: Key Findings*, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, 2015, p.xi.

4 Elijah Wolfson, "One Year after a Devastating Earthquake, Nepal is Still in Ruins," *Newsweek*, 21 April 2016.

5 Namita Rao and Ritu Panchal, "In Quake-hit Kathmandu, A Tibetan Community Fights an Unequal Battle," *Aftershock-nepal.com*, 13 October 2015.

8 Ibid.

9 *Nepal Earthquake 2015: Post Disaster Recovery Framework, 2016-2020*, National Reconstruction Authority, Govt. of Nepal, Kathmandu, 12 May 2016.

3 GENERAL STATUS AND SITUATION OF TIBETANS IN NEPAL



Though there are thousands of Tibetans living in Nepal, only a minority of Tibetans have Nepalese citizenship. Since their first escape into exile in 1959 and until 1989, the Government of Nepal had recognized and registered the Tibetans fleeing into Nepal from Tibet as refugees. But in 1989, this arrangement changed when an informal “Gentleman’s Agreement” was established between the GON and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) based in Nepal, which only allowed safe passage for Tibetan refugees through Nepal.

Nepal is not a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention. In September 2012, the then Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Narayan Kaj Shrestha, clarified the GON’s refugee policy: “We have our own values regarding the policy on refugees. Our policies are guided by geopolitical sensitivities.”¹⁰ Especially since 2008, Nepal’s proximity with China has grown in terms of economic investment and diplomatic relations. This has resulted in increased restrictions on Tibetans’ rights in Nepal and surveillance on the Nepal-Tibet border.

Within such a context, disasters like Nepal Earthquake posed a great challenge for the affected Tibetan communities in Nepal. Since the majority have no legal status in Nepal, these “Tibetans are not ‘eligible’ for any compensation—nor have they received funding from the government.”¹¹ For some Tibetans living in remote villages near the border areas, it was even difficult to formally identify those who died in the earthquake as they “officially do not exist.”¹² Given

their ambiguous status in Nepal coupled with the gravity of the earthquake tragedy that uprooted their lives and livelihoods, the challenges that these Tibetans face are twofold.



gees”, *BBC News* (online), 27 April 2015.

First-hand Account of Nepal Earthquake by Dr. Lobsang Yongdan

When the earthquake came, I was lucky as I was on the ground floor of my hotel so it was easy to run outside. But there were many flower pots on the balconies of the surrounding building which were all falling down. I was very lucky not to be hit as these pots were falling from the fifth and sixth floor. A large one just missed me by a few centimeters. Many were crying. There was shock and a lot of distress. The first earthquake was over in just one minute. I think – but there were many aftershocks.

It is those aftershocks which took a huge psychological toll. Everyone reacted very strongly to the aftershocks. The first big quake was all about fast reactions but the later shocks created much more fear and anxiety. Even a heavy footfall, or airplane flying overhead, would cause feelings of panic. I was there for just two days; those still out there, feeling aftershocks over a longer period, will have suffered much more and the trauma could be very great.

During the night, we had two big aftershocks at about 4am and 6am, I think. We could not sleep all night. We could see the buildings shaking. Sometimes the shocks came like a wave, sometimes quickly like a train going along the track.

[Once in Abu Dhabi] I suddenly realized what I had been through and that I had nearly died. I called my family. I have never heard my father cry before but both of them [parents] were very emotional.

Source: University of Cambridge, “Tibetan scholar’s first-hand account of the earthquake in Nepal”, 1 May 2015.

Account of a Nun Survivor, Bakhang Nunnery



Ani Kelsang Dolkar, a 35-year-old nun from Bakhang Nunnery considers herself very fortunate to be alive today. She was into her 15th month of strict meditation retreat when the earthquake struck last year. As per her retreat vows, she did not immediately escape outside of her quarter during the earthquake. However, overtaken by shock and fear from the falling stonewalls, she fainted in the kitchen area. After a while, the doctors from the health camp and a few nuns found her buried in debris, with only her head and one hand left uncovered; they immediately rescued her and provided her with the necessary first aid treatments. She felt much safer and less anxious after she arrived in Kathmandu for better medical treatment. She still has some chronic knee pain.

Source: TTF Interview, Conducted by Tenzin Yangdol, Nepal, July 2016.

¹⁰ *Under China’s Shadow: Mistreatment of Tibetans in Nepal*, Human Rights Watch, 01 April 2014.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Rani Singh, “Fears for Nepal’s ‘Invisible’ Tibetans Refu-

4 IMPACT OF EARTHQUAKE ON TIBETANS IN NEPAL: DEATHS AND DAMAGES



i. Tibetan Deaths

According to known information, 11 Tibetans died in Nepal during the 2015 earthquake. Identities of some Tibetans could not be verified from the list such as the three who reportedly died from an avalanche in Langtang. The remoteness of some of the Tibetan settlements, coupled with the fact many Tibetans reside in scattered communities and the ambiguous nature of Tibetan status in Nepal could have made any additional deaths unknown or else the death toll could have been higher. Thupten, a Tibetan participant at a meeting organized by the Tibetan Refugee Welfare Office in Nepal on 29 April 2015, told Radio Free Asia, “But we expect more fatalities and injuries because Tibetans are spread over 13 of Nepal’s 75 districts. We still don’t know what happened to Tibetans living in far-flung areas.”¹³ It is, therefore, difficult to ascertain the precise number of Tibetan deaths in Nepal.

A building collapsed in Kimdol where two Tibetan brothers were staying in a rented room. One of them died while the other sustained severe injuries. Chime, a 30-year-old man from Boudha, died after walls collapsed on him.¹⁴ Other Tibetan deaths include “one from Swayambhu, a nun from a village near the border area [Bakhang Nunnery] and three from Langtang.”¹⁵ According to information provided by the Office of Tibet based in Kathmandu, the Tibetan who died in Swayambhu could be identified as 29-year-old Sangye Phurba. Additionally, Dorje, a 45-year-old trader from Dram, died near Nepal-Tibet border. In

confirmation of the three Tibetan deaths from Langtang as reported in other Tibetan media such as Phayul, the Office of Tibet reported, “The remaining [dead] include those who have died in the massive avalanche caused by the earthquake in Langtang district of Nepal.”¹⁶

ii. Extent of Damages to Tibetan Homes and Buildings

According to site assessments and information from primary and secondary sources, TTF found extensive physical damage to Tibetan communities occurred in Rasuwa district, where 30 homes in Shyabru area were destroyed. Tibetans also sustained heavy losses in Sindhupalchowk district, where the homes of hundreds of elders, nuns, and monks in Bakhang and Liping villages collapsed or were seriously damaged. In Solukhumbu, the houses of five Tibetan families and residential houses of 390 nuns at Thupten Choeling Nunnery were destroyed. Additionally, the wall of the public kitchen in Delekling Tibetan settlement in Solukhumbu cracked.¹⁷ The boundary walls of Lo Tserok settlement fell down and several walls of Tibetan homes in the area collapsed, according to CTA report from the Tibetan Refugee Welfare Office in Kathmandu.

The earthquake had caused cracks and damages to 41 columns of the Gangchen Community building in Boudha, thereby compelling the Tibetan residents to seek temporary shelter for nearly three months. The disaster also wrecked Jawalakhel Handicraft Center causing severe

structural damage to its main building including its carpet weaving hall, showroom and the office complex.

Kimdol Elder’s Home in Swayambhu, which houses 25 vulnerable elders, sustained severe structural damage and these elders were re-accommodated within the elders’ home in another

building, on recommendation by the assessing engineer. Residential buildings in Swayambhu and Boudha incurred extensive damage which affected 62 low-income families. Several buildings in Pokhara settlement, staff quarters of the Tibetan Refugee Welfare Office, settlement office buildings and a handicraft center in Kathmandu, and monastery buildings in various locations also sustained damages. The Tibetan population in Tsum and Nubri in Gorkha also suffered housing damages from earthquake and landslides.

The Tibetan schools in Nepal also did not escape damage from the earthquake. All four Tibetan schools in Kathmandu sustained damage requiring repair, and three of the classrooms at Mt Everest School in Solukhumbu were damaged. Sharmay Wangphel School in Shyabru settlement, Rasuwa district, also suffered extensive damage. The first floor of the hostel and walls of the school’s kitchen were also destroyed. After consultation with CTA’s Department of Education, Snow Lion Foundation decided that the school would not be rebuilt and its eleven students were transferred to Namgyal Middle School in Kathmandu. The boundary walls of Namgyal Higher Secondary School in Kathmandu collapsed and its drainage system was affected resulting in sanitation problems. The central classroom and staff room blocks of Srongtsen Brikuti Boarding School in Boudha were



severely affected. Atisha School in Kathmandu also suffered damage to its compound walls and some internal damage. The schools in Pokhara suffered only minor damage, the most extensive in one of the classroom blocks at Mt Kailash School, Tashi Palkhiel settlement.¹⁸

iii. Impact on Other Social Sectors

During the emergency phase, the priority is to normalize the situation by addressing any key humanitarian needs such as shelter, food, immediate health support, education and sanitation. For the Tibetan population in Nepal, the impact in other social sectors, such as water and nutrition, was fortunately not as extensive.

Water

Earthquakes affect health infrastructures, water supplies, and sanitation systems thereby increasing the risk of water-borne and water-related diseases. Data collected during TTF’s needs assessment soon after the earthquake reported a relatively high incidence of diarrhea at Jawalakhel settlement indicating that the water was contaminated. In Shyabru settlement, drinking water pipes were damaged. Tibetans in Kathmandu

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ “Situation of Tibetans in Nepal after Recent Earthquake”, Central Tibetan Administration, April 28 2015.

¹⁵ Phuntsok Yangchen, “Death toll of Tibetans from the deadly earthquake was reported to be six”, *Phayul* (online), 5 May 2015.

¹⁶ “10 Tibetans Dead, 3 Nuns Rescued in Nepal; Kashag Sanctions NPR 60 Lac towards Relief,” Central Tibetan Administration (Tibet.net), 6 May 2015.

¹⁷ “Situation of Tibetans in Nepal after Recent Earthquake”, Central Tibetan Administration (Tibet.net), April 28 2015.

¹⁸ “Situation of Tibetan Settlements and Schools in Nepal—Update II”, Tibet.net, Central Tibetan Administration (Tibet.net), 8 May 2015.



following the earthquake, though many households reported a member of their family displaying signs of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) due to experiences of the earthquake and losses. In Kathmandu, there were 12 cases of diarrhea; seven cases of fever and two cases of vomiting, coughing and skin disease were recorded among the sampled community. Many Tibetans slept outside in makeshift dwellings or open spaces for safety reasons following the earthquake. Poor hygiene, overcrowded living conditions and ineffective drainage and sanitation systems increased the risk of disease outbreaks, especially during the monsoon season. There were many Tibetans who reported suffering from chronic illness, including diabetes, heart disease, asthma, and paralysis. Challenging living conditions exacerbated symptoms of those with chronic illnesses.

Education

Many Tibetan schools sustained damages in the earthquake and its many aftershocks. Thousands of students were unable to return to school for many days thereby affecting their normal school routine and learning processes. Schools in the Tibetan community re-opened on 31 May 2015, over one month after the first earthquake, and most students returned to school. In Kathmandu, only two households sampled during TTF's PDNA

continued to purchase water in tankers and pumping from main supplies, as they did prior to the earthquake. In the case of other remote Tibetan settlements, access to water was not affected. Tibetan monasteries assisted some communities by providing drinking water.

Nutrition

Most households had access to food in their homes during the emergency phase when the majority of Tibetans were living outside in temporary shelters, so nutritional needs were a low priority. Some who were interviewed during the relief phase shared their concern about possible price inflation and loss of livelihoods contributing to their inability to purchase adequate food in the future. Reports from Shyabru,

Tserok, Chialsa and Khumbu indicated that there were adequate food supplies and families were able to access stored food supplies. Many in Kathmandu reported receiving food assistance. The most vulnerable members of the community were supported with additional cash distributions from CTA and other groups to support them through the challenging times. Nubri area in Gorkha district suffered considerable damage to agricultural land. Owing to the remoteness of this region, their food security situation was a concern until WFP (World Food Program) was able to gain access several weeks after the earthquake.

Health and Sanitation

The health status of the Tibetan community did not seem to have been compromised considerably





did not send their children to school after it re-opened, as they felt scared for their child's safety. Eight households reported having children who were not coping well and showing signs of PTSD. Where classrooms were unsafe, alternative spaces were found or constructed for temporary learning.

Livelihood

Natural disasters cause destruction of the physical infrastructures and disruption of normalcy thereby immobilizing many in the process. Many failed to return to work due to injuries or acute stress. Tibetans engaged in productive sectors such as agricultural and animal husbandry and others suffered major losses that threatened their income-generation capacities. One such sector with the most losses was that of tourism. In confirmation of this phenomenon, Ang Tschering Sherpa, the president of Nepal's Mountaineering Association, said, "Right after the earthquake, the tourism dropped nearly 90 percent."¹⁹ This trend was seen reflected amongst the Tibetan community whose livelihoods depended on tourism. For instance in Kathmandu, 95% of Tibetan households reported loss of livelihoods following the earthquake. Many reported damage to livelihood structures such as restaurants, tea stalls etc. For Tibetan households in Khumbu area including Namche, Khunde, Tramo and Thame, and Swayambhu and Kathmandu city area, TTF's survey indicated that their greatest concern was also the loss of livelihoods through tourism as they ran guesthouses, restaurants, and souvenir shops.

¹⁹ James Bennett, "Nepal's Earthquake: Tourism industry lagging behind a year from deadly disaster," *ABC News* (online), 24 April 2016.



With very few tourists trickling in after the earthquake, their businesses suffered a major blow.



5 TTF's POST-DISASTER NEED ASSESSMENT AND FINDINGS



In the weeks immediately following the earthquake, The Tibet Fund conducted a comprehensive Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) to identify emergency relief requirements and to specify critical recovery needs and related implementation strategies for the Tibetan community in Nepal. TTF team in Nepal gathered information through in-depth qualitative fieldwork and a quantitative survey, interviews with stakeholders and other modes of communication with key actors in the earthquake-affected Tibetan areas.

A rapid assessment survey was designed in an attempt to gain representative data from the community. Around 568 households were surveyed in three settlements in Kathmandu²⁰

²⁰ Katrina Edwards, et al. "Need Assessment of Tibetan Community in Nepal, Following Earthquakes in April and May 2015", The Tibet Fund, 10 June 2015.



Choejor (Bouddha and Jorpati); Gyalphak (Kathmandu City and Swayambhu); and Jawalakhel. Eight households from Shyabru settlement, Rasuwa district were surveyed. For other remote areas such as Khumbu in Solukhumbu district and Namgyaling settlement, Tserok in Mustang district, data was collected through telephone interviews and information obtained from residents of these areas, who were residing in Kathmandu. The information was further gathered from interviews and other communication with community members in earthquake affected areas; and reports from the Tibetan Refugee Welfare Office in Kathmandu, the CTA, and other Tibetan NGOs working with Tibetans in Nepal. Additional data was collected through Tibetan settlement offices, observation and conversations with key informants from all areas affected by the earthquakes.

TTF met with UNHCR, the PRM Refugee Coordinator in Kathmandu, and staff of NGOs including, American Himalayan Foundation (AHF), ASIA Onlus, Himalayan Society for Youth and Women's Empowerment (HSYWE), and Swedish Development Partner (SOIR-IM), and interviewed community members and key stakeholders to establish what assistance had been received and what assistance was still required. Multiple



“...multiple building inspections and safety assessments were carried out in Kathmandu, followed by further investigation to establish repair and rebuild costs...

” building inspections and safety assessments were carried out in Kathmandu, followed by further investigation to establish repair and rebuild costs. A mental health workshop with community leaders and NGOs was also held to ascertain initial psychosocial needs of the community and potential rehabilitation strategies.

Findings indicated, as mentioned above, that immediate relief needs of food, shelter, water and



sanitation, and emergency medical assistance for the Tibetan community were adequately met through assistance from various actors including CTA, NGOs, monasteries and the GON. As per the assessment, the most critical need was the reconstruction and repair of homes of vulnerable Tibetans whose homes were destroyed or were unsafe, in particular those who are economically disadvantaged and were forced to continue living in temporary shelters until safe accommodation was made available. Assessment findings indicated

that the highest priorities for this assistance were approximately 560 Tibetans in Rasuwa, Sindhupalchowk, Solukhumbu, Swayambhu and Boudha, for whom support had not been committed by other actors. The findings also identified the urgent need for earthquake and disaster preparedness, including distribution of earthquake kits to 10 Tibetan schools in Nepal, to ensure the physical security of teachers, staff and 1,859 students enrolled at these schools in the event of future disasters.



6 PSYCHOSOCIAL COUNSELING



Natural disasters like earthquakes occur suddenly and unexpectedly, disturbing the everyday lives of the affected people in every way—physically, psychologically, financially and socially. Long after the earthquake is over, people are still reeling from anxiety, trauma and flashbacks from the terrifying experiences of loss, destruction and subsequent challenges. USAID/Nepal Mission Director Peter Malnak pointed out, “It [mental toll] is also one of the most complicated aspects of a post-disaster response to address, but critical for building personal and community resilience.”²¹

Among the Tibetan earthquake survivors, many reported being psychologically affected by the disaster and continued to display symptoms of anxiety and distress for a long period of time. Sonam Dorjee, 25, is a graduate student who recently lost his mother from acute stress and anxiety after the earthquake. He said, “She was alone in the apartment during the earthquake—this frightening experience and stressful months of living in difficult condition caused her high levels of anxiety....There have been two deaths in the community since the earthquake.”²² Dhedon Lhamo, 27, from Delekling Tibetan Refugee Settlement in Chialsa, Solukhumbu, also shared the psychological toll the earthquake and its aftershock has had on her and others: “Sense of fear always dwells among us especially after few months from the earthquake and going through those never-ending aftershocks.”²³

Delek Wangmo, a 43-year-old nun from Bakhang

Nunnery, has been a serious Buddhist practitioner for the last 25 years since she joined the nunnery at the age of 18 years. She recalled:



I haven't experienced such horrific disaster until last year's earthquake. Considering our unsafe living condition in the nunnery, we are fortunate that there were only minimal casualties. However, there were extreme anxiety and mental distress experienced by many nuns for several months following the earthquake – disruption of our spiritual practice and uncertainty about our future deeply affected us. We were reminded about impermanence and worldly sufferings as we went through this experience together.²⁴

At health camps organized by International Medical Relief (IMR), in May 2015, in Jawalakhel, Boudha and Swayambhu settlements, 103 Tibetans received voluntary counseling provided by IMR counselors. This combined with TTF's own findings, indicated that there was a need for psychosocial support in the community. To address such mental health needs, TTF first coordinated with Anicca Consultancy, which

21 Jessica Benton Cooney, “In the Aftermath...USAID Helps Nepali Earthquake Survivors Pick up the Pieces,” *Frontlines* (online), May/June 2016.
 22 TTF Interview, Conducted by Tenzing Yangdol, Nepal, July 2016.
 23 TTF Interview, Conducted by Palden Tsering, Nepal, August 2016.

24 TTF Interview, Conducted by Tenzing Yangdol, Nepal, July 2016.



facilitated a workshop on mental health for community leaders and NGOs.

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Evaluation reports from the workshop indicated that 96% of the participants felt the session was useful for them personally and felt that similar counseling techniques could be beneficial for their communities.

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Based on requests from the community leaders, Anicca’s psychologists then worked with members of the community, mostly elderly, using counseling and an ‘exposure’ technique to help them to overcome their fear and encourage the survivors to return to their houses.

One elder interviewed one week later said that she was using breathing technique that was taught and another said she could sleep inside the home after using the techniques learned in the session to overcome fear.

7 EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS TRAINING IN TIBETAN SCHOOLS



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The training included earthquake drill for students and staff, identification of safe spaces in school grounds and assembling of adequate earthquake kits...

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For any proper recovery and reconstruction to take place in a disaster-prone community, it is essential to address the underlying causes of vulnerability such as lack of disaster preparedness and deficiency in safe construction practices. TTF considers it essential to strengthen the preparedness and risk reduction capacity of the education system to ensure that the learning environment for students is secure.

In collaboration with National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) and Snow Lion Foundation (SLF), TTF organized a three-day School-based Disaster Preparedness training for 10 Tibetan schools in April 2016. A total of 16 school staff from nine schools encompassing a diverse group of school headmasters/headmistresses, teachers and caretakers under SLF participated in the training. Designed and conducted by NSET experts, the training equipped the school staff with disaster preparedness knowledge, skills and practices, and further trained them to effectively teach and implement these practices in their respective schools. The

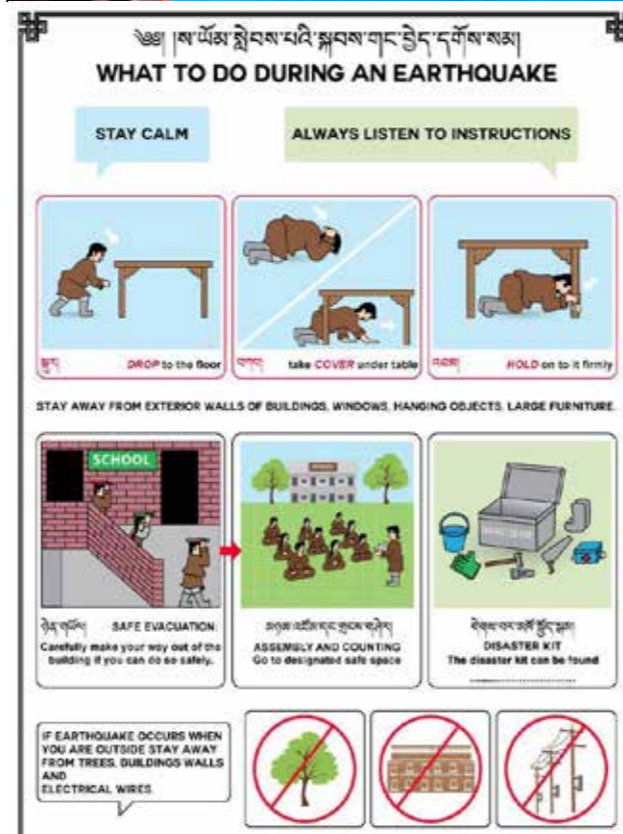
8 TTF's RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY FRAMEWORK



training included earthquake drill for students and staff, identification of safe spaces in school grounds and assembling of adequate earthquake kits. It also focused on mapping of buildings, plan and preparation for emergency resettlement, and emergency preparedness and planning at the individual, household and community levels.

The participants highly appreciated the significance and effectiveness of the training. One of the teacher participants remarked, "Before this training session, I don't have any information regarding earthquake and earthquake safety. It helped not only to save myself, but to save the students under my care. After the training, I have learned a great deal for the safety of my school as a whole and the community I live in." Dawa Dadul, a father of two children, from Chialsa commented, "TTF, in particular, helped us in earthquake preparedness training which they did in our settlement school for the teachers and parents."²⁵

Later, NSET's experts and TTF's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team visited all 10 schools to ensure effective implementation of their preparedness plan. At these schools, earthquake kits were distributed and evacuation drills for the teachers and students were practiced. NSET engineers conducted site visits of the schools,



including buildings and outdoor spaces. In the buildings, they gave recommendations regarding securing some objects. They also did rapid visual assessments of the building design and provided recommendations on how exit/access points could be improved for safe evacuation. Earthquake safety posters—produced by TTF in collaboration with NSET— were also distributed in the schools.

²⁵ TTF Interview, Conducted by Palden Tsering, Nepal, August 2016.

Results from TTF's Post Disaster Needs Assessment indicated it was important to prioritize repair and reconstruction of Tibetan homes and buildings that belonged to the most vulnerable section of the Tibetan community. TTF has adhered to the fundamental recovery policies and principles of the GON based on the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, National Building Code and its Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Policy in its rebuilding process. TTF has endeavored to build and repair structures that are disaster-resilient and in accordance with prescribed seismic standards. By seeking technical guidance of engineering experts from NSET based in Nepal and Hunnarshala Foundation from India in rebuilding Tibetan community in Nepal, TTF has facilitated housing reconstruction that is earthquake resilient and supported the community to become disaster-prepared for future risks.

i. Geological Assessment of Tibetan Settlements

The initial phase of the reconstruction process involves land suitability assessment, which "takes into account geological conditions, risk of disasters, water and land resources conditions, and eco-environmental suitability and emphasizes safety factor in the assessment."²⁶ Besides serving as a guide for post-earthquake reconstruction,²⁷ such assessment identifies any hidden geological hazards that could complicate reconstruction plans and makes recommendations to either relocate from or to rebuild on the original site

²⁶ Qing Tang, Yang Li, and Yong Xu. "Land suitability assessment for post-earthquake reconstruction: A case study of Lushan in Sichuan, China." *Journal of Geographical Sciences*, 2015, 25(7): 865-878.

²⁷ Quanfu Niu et al. "Risk Assessment of Secondary Geological Disasters Induced by the Yushu Earthquake," *Journal of Mountain Science*, 2012, 9: 232.





ii. Prioritization of Vulnerable Community

Similar to GON's Post-Disaster Needs Assessment that "paid particular attention to the issue of social inclusion of the most marginalized and vulnerable groups,"²⁸ TTF's target beneficiaries included elders, school children and poorer section of the Tibetan community. Economically disadvantaged, politically ambiguous and socially vulnerable in Nepal, they are "less likely to have the income or assets needed to prepare for a possible disaster or to recover after a disaster."²⁹ Most of TTF's beneficiaries are dependent on support from the CTA and other charitable organizations and had limited sources of income and employment opportunities.

Gyurme, 68, is one of the beneficiaries of TTF's newly-constructed house in Thangmoche, Rasuwa district. After moving into his new house in June 2016, he told TTF team, "We are extremely grateful for the new houses. There are many elderly people living in this camp who are dependent on stipends and other support from the CTA. Livelihood opportunities and sources of income are generally limited and challenging for us. We would not be able to build our houses on our own—this was made possible by our kind donors and supporters."³⁰

Pema Kunsang, 72, has been living by herself in

28 "Message" [from Prime Minister Shri Sushil Koirala], *Nepal Earthquake 2015 Post Disaster Needs Assessment, Vol. A: Key Findings*, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, 2015.

29 Barry E. Flanagan et al. "A Social Vulnerability Index for Disaster Management," *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*, Vol.8 (2011):1, 05 January 2011.

30 TTF Interview, Conducted by Tashi Tsering, Nepal, July 2016.



Gangchen community building for the last seven years. She has no relatives and is fully dependent on her elderly stipend that she receives through the Settlement office. She has chronic knee pain and a gastric problem for which she gets medicines from Snow Lion Foundation's clinic in Boudha. While expressing appreciation for all the help that she and her community received from the donors, she is "especially thankful to our settlement officer who genuinely cares about us and worked hard to ensure that we get the needed support to gradually rebuild our normal lives."³¹

iii. Innovative Building Technologies: NSET and Hunnarshala

As one of TTF's beneficiaries, Dheden Lhamo, from Delekling settlement said, the most important lesson she learned from the "horrific experience" is that "earthquakes don't kill but the structures that we built kills us if it's not built very strong."³² It was reported that only 26 municipalities out of 191 in Nepal were following the National Building Codes at the time of the earthquake in 2015.³³ The GON later recommended 17 earthquake-resistant house models for rebuilding in the rural areas and four ways to construct the houses.³⁴

In order to comply with GON building codes and provide the Tibetan beneficiaries with quality, seismic resistant housing, TTF has relied on National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) and

31 TTF Interview, Conducted by Tenzing Yangdol, Nepal, July 2016.

32 TTF Interview, Conducted by Palden Tsering, Nepal, August 2016.

33 Building Codes, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction <http://www.dudbc.gov.np/building-code>; also <http://www.dudbc.gov.np/download/cat/12>

34 "17 Earthquake-resistant House Designs Proposed", *The Kathmandu Post*, Kathmandu, 25 December 2015.

Hunnarshala Foundation to provide technical expertise in engineering, architecture, and other areas to support the construction projects. These two organizations have emphasized the use of innovative building technologies based primarily on locally available resources, knowledge and craftsmanship and other seismic-resistant and eco-sensitive reconstruction techniques.

Based in Nepal, the mission of NSET (www.nset.org.np) is to develop "Earthquake Safe Communities in Nepal by 2020" through technological innovations, policy intervention, disaster awareness and capacity building programs for the local masons. An engineering and design company based in Gujarat, India, Hunnarshala Foundation (www.hunnarshala.org) specializes in community-based post-earthquake reconstruction with more eco-friendly and disaster-safe building techniques. It also uses alternative technologies through local artisanal knowledge and skills.

In all the seven project areas of TTF/PRM grant in Nepal and other rebuilding efforts, both NSET and Hunnarshala have worked with TTF, settlement officers, and the beneficiaries to create initial housing designs and maintained regular supervision and monitoring to the construction sites. Beneficiaries were closely engaged to determine individual house plans and to retain aspects of traditional Tibetan architecture and this helped to enhance their capacity and ownership of the houses. In their quest to promote safer construction practices, both NSET and Hunnarshala conducted mason training as they are considered to be the ones who "translate design into reality" and help to implement building codes effectively.



in other locations, which involved retrofitting, jacketing and column reinforcement.

Hunnarshala's construction techniques in Bakhang Nunnery used the concept of "containment reinforcement in conjunction with multiple horizontal bands. The walls were reinforced with 4mm galvanized iron wires placed vertically on the inside and outside faces of all the walls, along with iron wire mesh straps placed horizontally in the wall masonry in the form of bands at different levels to form ring beams. "They are all woven together, just like your clothes," said Upadhyay, an architect of Hunnarshala. "That's where its strength lies. During an earthquake, the mesh would hold the building together but it is elastic enough to sustain the shaking."³⁵ This technique was developed by Hunnarshala and tested in India. It is the first time such a technique has been used in Nepal. The local Nepali masons, whom Hunnarshala trained for Bakhang works, are so convinced by the containment reinforcement that they are now using this technique to build their own homes.

TTF was instrumental in guiding Sengedag Service Society committee members, who manage the nunnery, towards prioritizing quality and earthquake resilient building in Bakhang Nunnery. SSS's initial reconstruction plan of using CGI and plywood did not meet both quality and resiliency standards. TTF had also introduced SSS to Center of Resilient Development (CoRD), a Nepali NGO that specializes in sustainable development approaches using a disaster and climate resilient framework and integrates environmental management and green technology practices. SSS committee members and nuns also attended a presentation by CoRD who proposed earthquake resistant Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks (CSEB) technology for Bakhang and Liping. After discussions and explanations with all stakeholders around the re-building technology, the nuns themselves chose to rebuild using the containment reinforcement technology, being proposed by Hunnarshala.

NSET technically guided TTF's reconstruction projects in Tibetan settlements in Rasuwa district, at two sites in Solukhumbu district, in Boudha and two locations in Swayambhu. NSET's structural designs are known for being cost-efficient, highly earthquake-resistant and environmentally sustainable. Their design in Shyabru settlements reused stone and wood from previous houses and included the use of a steel frame and tie beams to provide additional resiliency. NSET provided technical input on repair work

³⁵ Jane Qui, "Nepal's Quake-hit Tibetan Nuns Rebuild Homes—Faith," *Reuters World News*, 26 April 2016.

9 TTF's REBUILDING AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN NEPAL

The overall recovery strategy of TTF was to prioritize the needs of the affected Tibetans phase-wise. Based on findings from TTF's Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, ensuring the physical security of Tibetan refugees affected by the earthquake disaster was determined as a priority through reconstruction and repair of buildings and earthquake preparedness training. The assessment initially identified 2,911 target beneficiaries. TTF later received funding requests from Samtenling Monastery, Boudha; Drubthob Monastery, Swayambhu; Jawalakhel Handicraft Center, Jawalakhel; and Srongsens Brikuti High School, Kathmandu to support an additional 1,063 beneficiaries. Depending on the extent and nature of the damage, TTF has helped the Tibetan community affected by the earthquake to reconstruct, repair and retrofit earthquake-resistant houses. TTF has also involved the target Tibetan population in decision-making processes to integrate them with the overall recovery efforts.

i. Building Constructions in Rasuwa

Tibetan Settlements in Rasuwa

Located near Kyirong border, Tibetans in Rasuwa district live in six scattered settlements consisting of Shyabru Bensi, Briddim, Kangjim, Ghatte Khola, Timure, Thangmoche and Langtang. Established in 1965, the community has a high proportion of elderly residents. Many are dependent on stipends and other support from organizations including the CTA, Snow Lion Foundation, Tibet Forever, and American Himalayan Foundation. Some are engaged in traditional handicrafts such as apron-weaving and basket-making to sustain their living.

The earthquake and subsequent landslides destroyed 30 homes in Shyabru area. TTF's geological assessment found that Shyabru area is made up of alluvial deposits which geologists

have observed amplifies seismic shaking in comparison to other types of soil. After performing the geological assessment in six areas near Shyabru, rebuilding was recommended in the same locations for Shyabru Bensi, Sedang, Briddim, Kangjim, and Thangmoche due to lack of earthquake hazards.

With the funding from PRM/TTF and AHF, a total of 19 houses have been reconstructed in Shyabru—14 have been completed, including eight in Thangmoche and six in Shyabru Bensi, and five including three in Kangjim and two in Briddim are nearing completion. The clinic in Shyabru Bensi, which was damaged during the earthquake, was

also repaired. The fourteen families moved into the new houses by May 2016.

As recommended by NSET, Megatech Suppliers and Fabricator Pvt. Ltd was engaged as a contractor. The housing design made use of stones and wood from the previous houses as well as re-using the CGI sheets distributed by ASIA Onlus for interim shelter. Other key building strategies included using steel frames and tie beams to increase earthquake resilience. An NSET engineer supervised the construction of the first model house. Community members were then consulted about the model house and some small variations and additions were made to accommodate their requests. These included partitions for kitchen areas, custom made for each household based on their requirements and ply-wood false ceilings. Modification in roof design has been made for Kangjim and Briddim houses where there is heavy snowfall. Tibetan families in all settlements in Rasuwa have been taught about wood maintenance in their new houses. Because of the wood paneling system, wood pieces can be replaced individually. NSET's technical supervisor and a member of TTF's M&E team monitored the reconstruction activities. TTF coordinated closely with the settlement officer on all matters related to construction works in Rasuwa.



Shyabru Bensi

Construction of six houses in Shyabru Bensi, began in January 2016. The houses were completed in four months. All six houses were constructed by re-using stones and wood salvaged from the debris. At the requests from the families, plywood partitions and plywood false ceiling were installed in all houses. An extended "weather-shed" using CGI sheets and wood will be installed in all houses to ensure protection from moisture and rain.

Four out of six beneficiaries attended a meeting convened by TTF consultant on 22 July 2016. Pasang Norbu, 75, said, "We are very thankful to The Tibet Fund and American Himalayan Foundation for funding reconstruction of our houses. We feel much more secure and safer now. Our previous stone houses were very unsafe and did not have any earthquake safety features, unlike our current houses that are half-built with wood. We have now learned the importance of earthquake safety and resilient building methods."³⁶

Another attendee, Gonpo Tsewang, 76, said, "Our old houses had roof leakage problem. We now have new CGI roof and false ceiling which have been very helpful in resolving this roof leakage problem."³⁷ Tseten, 65, ran a small shop close to the camp prior to the earthquake; he had to give up his shop and now does some cattle herding: "We are very fortunate to get new houses. This would not be possible without the support of our donors. They are mostly elderly people in our community who are dependent on stipends. We would not be able to afford such reconstruction or rents to live outside the settlement."³⁸

Thangmoche

A total of eight houses were constructed for Tibetan families in Thangmoche using the same NSET- developed design consisting of stone and cement work, steel frame, wood paneling and CGI roofs. During demolition of the previous houses in Thangmoche, the contractor discovered that most of the wood was not salvageable. A large amount



of wood had to be subsequently transported from Kathmandu to build houses in Thangmoche as well as in Kangjim and Briddim. This unexpected change of plan inflated the initial cost estimate and also contributed to delays in woodwork at these sites and an overall delay in construction works.

Following the construction of the houses in Thangmoche, families spoke to TTF of feeling increased physical security after moving into their new houses in June 2016. Dawa Tsering, 66, remarked, "We feel a lot safer now as our previous houses were all built of heavy stones. Now we do not have to fear as much from falling stonewalls as the current houses have more of lighter and safer material such as wood."³⁹

Repair of Clinic Building in Shyabru Bensi

Founded in 1999, the earthquake damaged the local clinic in Shyabru Bensi, which serves the Tibetan population located in Rasuwa district. The settlement officer expressed concern about the

damage to the clinic building. PRM/TTF funded the repairing of the clinic which was done with additional strengthening using the jacketing technique. After being re-plastered and painted, the clinic is now open for medical services and functioning in a much safer environment.

Kangjim and Briddim

Located close to the border with Tibet, Tibetan village in Briddim is considered "among the poorest in this poor rural nation."⁴⁰ Carlo Teixeira Alvares Kasper, chief finance officer of Dolma Development Fund, said, "Briddim is practically razed to the ground. We have no idea how many people have survived. There are no rescue missions operating in such isolated areas."⁴¹

Transportation challenges and poor electricity



supply in these remote sites caused delays in construction of three houses in Kangjim and two in Briddim. Materials had to be transported on foot because of poor road access. All other work—the base stone and cement wall and iron frame—has been completed on these houses. Unlike the houses in Shyabru and Thangmoche, NSET recommended a different roof design with an A frame, because of snowfall in the area during winter.

ii. Building Constructions in Bakhang Nunnery, Sindhupalchowk

Established in 1973 by Sengedag Rinpoche, there were nearly 200 nuns in Bakhang Nunnery who mainly practiced meditation of Drukpa Kagyu lineage. Their mud and stone quarters were mostly built by the nuns themselves and they earned their own living from doing prayers. Around 30 to 40 nuns observe strict meditation retreats lasting

36 Ibid.

37 Ibid.

38 Ibid.

39 TTF Interview, Conducted by Tashi Tsering, Nepal, July 2016.

40 Rani Singh, "Fears for Nepal's 'invisible' Tibetan refugees", *BBC News* (Asia, online), 27 April 2015.

41 Ibid.



from several months to a few years. While the nunnery was self-sufficient, Sengedag Service Society (SSS)—a group comprising of Tibetan and Sherpa laypeople—provided support in overseeing their finance and project activities including the reconstruction project in Bakhang and Liping. The earthquake killed one nun, injured seven others and left numerous other nuns homeless.

It was fortunate that on 25 April when the earthquake struck, many nuns were outside their homes attending a TTF supported health camp, facilitated by SLF with a team of medical personnel. Ani Ngawang recalled: "Had it not been for the health camp, there would have been many more casualties on that day; the majority of the nuns were out of their quarters to receive services at the health camp when the earthquake struck. We are also very grateful to the medical team who were immensely helpful in the rescue and treatment efforts immediately after the earthquake."⁴²

From the start of the planning phase for reconstruction at the nunnery, TTF has coordinated closely with SSS, American Jewish World Service (AJWS)—another key donor to the community—and ASIA Onlus, who were providing new water and sanitation system to the community. After many meetings on rebuilding technologies, Hunnarshala Foundation was engaged to provide technical expertise in the construction of 155 new houses for the nuns in Bakhang. Hunnarshala

⁴² TTF Interview, Conducted by Tenzing Yangdol, Nepal, July 2016.



architects have been present at the site during construction to ensure quality work, as well as two technical supervisors to provide additional training and support to the masons. Hunnarshala's senior engineer has conducted regular monitoring and supervision visits to the construction site. TTF has played a key role in facilitating communication between Hunnarshala, the nuns and SSS.

The first model house was completed in January 2016. As of August 2016, 37 houses have been completed out of which TTF/PRM grant supported 25 houses. An additional 75 houses have been completed till wall level. Hunnarshala has created individual designs for all 155 houses, sitting with each nun and discussing her needs and wishes for her home. There were three different design options that the nuns could choose from, based on their preference and land area available. Variations were also made for each nun for window and door position, window height etc.

Hunnarshala used containment reinforcement techniques, additional meshing, steel frame roofs and re-used stones available from the debris. Hunnarshala's engineer trained masons in earthquake-resiliency techniques. The monks and nuns also attended the masons training and have been involved in monitoring their own homes. A 62-year-old nun Ngawang Dechen, one of the current managers of Bakhang Nunnery, said "The application of earthquake resilient building techniques to the current houses has been reassuring for the nuns—we have now learned the importance of quality and earthquake resilient building methods. Prior to the earthquake, we

were completely unaware of earthquake risks and thus unprepared for such a disaster."⁴³

The nuns have been actively involved in all decision-making processes and reconstruction works. They contributed manual labor by excavating mud, transferring mud to the construction sites, painting roof frames and plastering their houses. They have also used a locally sourced lime extract to whitewash the interior of the houses. Delek Wangmo, a 43-year-old nun, said: "We have also been participating throughout the planning and implementation phase, and have learned significantly about the importance of quality and earthquake resilient building methods. About 100 nuns, including myself, have been very happy to contribute our hard work and labor during the first phase of construction. None of the nuns complained as they collected and transported heavy sacks of red mud for preparing plasters from areas 15-30 min away from the construction site."⁴⁴

iii. Building Repairs in Solukhumbu

Established by the CTA and Nepal Red Cross Society in 1960, Delekling Tibetan Refugee settlement in Chialsa, Solukhumbu District, had around 70 Tibetan households. Tibetans make their living primarily from agriculture and livestock rearing. The settlement has its own primary level school called Mt. Everest Primary Boarding School which was initially administered by Snow Lion Foundation but the management responsibilities have now been transferred to Kopan Monastery.

In Solukhumbu, the earthquake damaged three classrooms in Mt. Everest School, residential houses of 390 nuns and monks at Thupten Choeling Nunnery in Phaplu, four houses in Khumbu and most of the 12 households in Namche. Despite their houses being damaged extensively during the earthquake, TTF did not include the Tibetan community in Khumbu as beneficiaries because they are largely a rental community.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.



After making a site assessment of 18 households in Delekling settlement, Chialsa, NSET's engineer informed the settlement officer and TTF that all the houses in the settlement were in a similar condition of strength, partly due to how they were originally constructed (during 1960s) and following the earthquake and numerous aftershocks. His recommendation was to repair cracks and other damage and to re-plaster the houses in order to strengthen them. New roofs were also provided this year to houses in Delekling from a PRM grant through TTF, so in conjunction with the repair work, this has provided additional resilience to these 18 houses.

One of the beneficiaries, Dhedon Lhamo, told TTF consultant, "TTF in particular, helped us to repair the cracks, doing the plastering work of our old housing structure and repainting it. They also did our need assessment in infrastructure and livelihood in order to help in the coming days."⁴⁵ Another beneficiary, Khetey Dhondup, a 42-year-old peon at Mt. Everest School, was particularly

⁴⁵ TTF Interview, Conducted by Palden Tsering, Nepal, August 2016.



appreciative of the socio-technical facilitation role that TTF has provided to the community, "The staff of TTF coordinated our grievances and needs to the concerned settlement officer and agencies."⁴⁶

Clinic Reconstruction at Thupten Choeling Nunnery

The clinic serves 320 nuns and 70 monks of Thupten Choeling Nunnery located in a remote area in Jumbesi, near Phaplu in Solukhumbu. As repairing the clinic involved some complex building strategies, the estimated cost from repair work was found to be equivalent to the estimated cost of reconstruction. Hence, the construction committee of the monastery and NSET engineers decided to reconstruct the clinic rather than to repair it. To ensure seismic resilience, each floor of the clinic has nine columns with strip footing to provide strength. Tie beams have been used at plinth, lintel and sill levels to provide additional resilience. NSET's engineer and TTF M&E consultant have been on site to monitor construction. Monks and nuns provided much of the labor.

⁴⁶ Ibid.



All the monks and nuns interviewed by TTF perceive increased physical safety in the newly constructed clinic. Ngawang Choeyang, a 43-year-old committee member of the monastery, told TTF consultant in August 2016, "The Tibet Fund in particular helped us rebuild the clinic building which was damaged by the earthquake. This has not only helped the monastery but the entire community, which is living nearby Jumbesi and other villages of Dudhkunde Municipality in Solukhumbu. And this will definitely have a long-term impact for all the people living here in the days to come."⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Ibid.

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TTF in particular, helped us to repair the cracks, doing the plastering work of our old housing structure and repainting it. They also did our need assessment in infrastructure and livelihood in order to help in the coming days...

- Dhedon Lhamo

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iv. Building Repairs in Gangchen Community, Kathmandu

There are 37 low-income families living in Gangchen community building including 30 elderly people. The community is mostly dependent on support from the settlement office. All the families used to be staff and workers of the now-defunct Yabshi Sota, a factory that produced authentic Tibetan carpets. After the earthquake, the community had to evacuate the building which sustained considerable damage and live together in a nearby temporary shelter for over three months.

NSET recommended carrying out an in-depth vulnerability assessment of the Gangchen Community building to assess the extent of structural damage in October 2015 and to therefore inform an appropriate method of repair. 41 columns were found to be damaged and in need of retrofitting and strengthening in order to reduce vulnerability for future earthquakes. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), an engineering and contracting firm, was selected and worked with



NSET on their repair plans. The repair works included retrofitting of 41 columns, reconstruction of walls where cracks appeared; plastering and painting; door and window refitting; sanitary and electrical works; and brick soiling work. Besides weekly monitoring visits to the building by an NSET engineer and DRR contractor, TTF along with the settlement officer provided additional monitoring support and facilitated communication between the contractors and Gangchen community. All repair works at Gangchen community building were completed by the end of July 2016. All 37 families have now moved back into their homes and have expressed satisfaction with the repair works.

Pema Woesser, a 60-year-old community leader at Gangchen, told TTF team, "We were initially very worried and even thought that it may be impossible to return to our normal lives at Gangchen building. However, we are back to our normal lives now, for which we are extremely thankful to our kind donors and supporters. Most



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...we are back to our normal lives now, for which we are extremely thankful to our kind donors and supporters.

- Pema Woesser, 60 years old

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importantly, we feel physically more secure and safer after the thorough and quality repair and strengthening work. We are very satisfied with the quality of work done by the contractor. We carefully observed the whole process. The columns/pillars have been strengthened right from 10-11 ft underground foundation level.”⁴⁸

v. Building Repairs in Kimdol Community, Swayambhu

Kimdol Elder's Home

The elder's home in Kimdol was established in 1993 with the generous grants and donations from Swedish Development Partner (SOIR-IM), AHF and the Tibetan communities from US and Kathmandu. The institution provides food, accommodation and medical treatment to 48 elderly Tibetans who have no relatives to care for them.

During an assessment by an engineer shortly after the earthquake, one building at the south of the elders' home site was found to have sustained structural failure. Because of the extent of the damage and unsuitability for repair, the 25 elders housed in this building were immediately accommodated in alternative temporary shelter. Tibetan Women's Welfare Group (TWWG),

⁴⁸ TTF Interview, Conducted by Tenzing Yangdol, Nepal, July 2016.



Kathmandu, who manage the elder's home, engaged Satyaswor Nirman Sewa Co. Pvt. Ltd—as the contractor. TTF facilitated an introduction with NSET who discussed the initial plans and provided input concerning earthquake resiliency of the new building. After securing approval from the municipality for the new building design, the work on Kimdol Elder's Home is underway with earthwork excavation, concreting, and construction of the shear wall being completed at this stage.

Kimdol Settlement

Kimdol Settlement or Khangpa Marpo was established in 1976 with the help of Red Cross Society coordinating with the UNHCR and Home Ministry of GON. There are 32 Tibetan families residing in Kimdol settlement. Many are middle-aged and elderly with limited or no stable source of income. A site assessment conducted by NSET

in November 2015 concluded that intermediary retaining walls had moved during the earthquake and the drainage system was damaged. Megatech Suppliers and Fabricator Pvt Ltd was hired as a contractor to do repair works. Along with the NSET and Megatech, TTF M&E team members and the community members also closely monitored the progress and quality of work throughout the repair period.

TTF supported repair work at the settlement included, strengthening two intermediary walls, reinforcing the upper wall and repairing the drainage system. New walls were constructed and plastered where there was significant damage. Walls with minor damages were repaired using chicken wire mesh and new plasters. Dolma Tsering, a 52-year-old community leader at Kimdol told TTF team, "We feel safer now due to the strengthened retaining walls—the earthquake had weakened these walls with visible bulges in some

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...we feel safer now due to the strengthened retaining walls—the earthquake had weakened.

- Dolma Tsering, 52 years old

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parts; it was very unsafe for everyone as the camp is congested and there are tall buildings supported by these intermediary walls.”⁴⁹

Sanitary tanks damaged during the earthquake were repaired at 13 different sites to repair the settlement's sewage system. All waste was collected and passed to the main sewage line during the repair process. PVS sanitary pipelines measuring two and three inches, depending upon the requirements, were used in several locations. Additionally, drains in many locations were maintained and reconstructed. M15 concrete was used in the repair and reconstruction work.

At a TTF meeting with the beneficiaries, 75-year-old Gyamtso told TTF team, "The camp's old, unorganized drainage system was further damaged by the earthquake, thus causing unhygienic and unsafe leakages in many parts of the camp. These problems have now been resolved with the fully repaired and improved drainage system...We are extremely grateful to The Tibet Fund for this valuable funding support.”⁵⁰

49 TTF Interview, Conducted by Tashi Tsering, Nepal, July 2016.

50 Ibid.



vi. Renovations of Jawalakhel Handicraft Center, Jawalakhel

Jawalakhel Handicraft Center (JHC) is a pioneer of the Tibetan carpet industry in Nepal. Out of 190 Tibetan employees, the majority are women from the nearby Jawalakhel settlement. According to Thupten Dolma, one of the female store managers, "The JHC makes the best quality carpets which are invariably more expensive as they have to sustain an entire community of 200 Tibetan families."⁵¹ The Tibetan workers are engaged in different processes of carpet production like wool sorting, hand brushing, yarn spinning, dyeing, weaving, trimming, and finishing. The livelihood of the refugees in Jawalakhel Tibetan settlement depends on the success of this handicraft center.

The earthquake caused severe structural damage to the main building of the handicraft center, including the carpet weaving hall, showroom and the office complex. After the earthquake, almost 91% of households lived outside in tents and under tarpaulins at the settlement football field. The weavers continue to work in a temporary workplace made of tin sheets. Choezin, a store manager, recalled the first time she saw the center after the earthquake, "Those two months, living in tents pitched on our football ground and then coming back to the weaving center to see it broken down, felt like being in a nightmare I had not woken up from."⁵²

The settlement office is still fundraising for repair of the center. TTF has contributed \$15,000 for renovation purposes of the handicraft center.

vii. Building Repairs in Drubthob Monastery, Swayambhu

Wochen Thukjey Choeling Monastery or Drubthob Monastery was established in 1975 by Drubthob Rinpoche. Considered as one of the oldest Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in Nepal, the monastery has around 50 monks and ten staff members



51 "Tibetans in Nepal struggle for donations after quake," *Open themagazine*, 6 November 2015.

52 Ibid.

The earthquake devastated the monastery's building causing damage to the structural elements such as walls, beams, and columns of the monastery. The total estimated cost of building repair was NPR 8,867,424. After receiving donations from the local community and international students, the monastery was still short of NPR 2,531,000. Upon their request, TTF donated \$10,000 which is equivalent to NPR 1,020,000, which helped the monks to renovate all the damaged parts of the building.

Staff members and monks expressed gratitude for the first organizational support received from TTF towards their infrastructural improvement and reported feeling physically more secure after completion of the renovation. Ngawang Tharchin, a senior staff at the monastery, said, "We are very thankful for the funding support that we received from TTF for the renovation of our staff and monk quarters, which were severely damaged by the earthquake. We now feel a lot safer in our quarters!"⁵³

viii. Building Repairs in Samtenling Monastery, Boudha

Situated next to Boudhanath Stupa, Samtenling Monastery is the first Tibetan Buddhist monastery to be established in this historical location. With 130 young monks and 15 teachers and staff at the monastery, the monastery runs a school that imparts modern education as well as religious studies to the young monks. After the earthquake, the monastery accepted 40 young children into the monastery whose families were severely affected by the disaster.

The earthquake severely damaged their administrative building, which did not have pillars and the communal kitchen. The monks initially tried to do repair work with donations received from the local community but could not proceed due to a shortage of funds. The repair and

53 TTF Interview, Conducted by Tashi Tsering, Nepal, July 2016.



strengthening of the administrative building and kitchen were fully funded by TTF with a donation of \$7000.

Senior monastic staff and monks expressed satisfaction with the quality of repair and strengthening work, and reported that they all felt physically more safe and secure in the building. A 38-year-old manager of the monastery, Lobsang Dhadak, told TTF team, "We would not be able to repair and strengthen the building without the valuable funding support from The Tibet Fund. We now have a safe administrative space."⁵⁴

ix. Rebuilding Tibetan Schools in Nepal

Tibetan schools in Nepal suffered severe damage during the devastating earthquake. The Department of Education (DOE) of the Central Tibetan Administration requested funding specifically to rebuild four most severely damaged Tibetan schools in Nepal. Apart from the major funding of \$20,000 received from Hershey Family Foundation in May 2015, TTF was also able to raise funds from individual donors that enabled the repair and rebuilding of four Tibetan schools in Nepal. The fund from the Hershey Family Foundation was transferred through the DOE to the four schools.

Srongtsen Bhrikuti Boarding High School, Boudha

One of the three Tibetan boarding schools in Kathmandu Valley, Srongtsen Bhrikuti Boarding High School has approximately 602 students and 66 teachers and staff members. The school aims to impart quality education to Tibetans and Himalayan youth as well as provide excellent educational facilities to the poorest students whose parents cannot afford school fees.

The two devastating earthquakes in April and May 2015 damaged the main classroom building and the administrative block of the school, forcing students to hold classes in tents and makeshift classrooms for almost a year. TTF/Hershey Family Foundation funded NPR 501,534.79 to rebuild the

school. Additionally, TTF was able to raise a total of \$14,877 from individual donors, which was transferred through the Snow Lion Foundation. The school also received the largest proportion of their funding for repair work from Swedish Development Partner (SOIR-IM).

At the advice of engineers and GON's Ministry of Education, the school board decided to retrofit pillars, reconstruct walls and repair other damaged parts of the building. After the renovation was completed, a gratitude ceremony was held for reopening the school on February 25, 2016. Principal Jampa Phuntsok thanked the donors, engineers, contractor and all others who have supported the renovation work.

Mt. Everest Primary Boarding School, Chialsa

Delekling Tibetan Refugee settlement in Chialsa, Solukhumbu District, has Mt. Everest Primary Boarding School which provides education to the local Tibetan students till primary level. Initially, the Snow Lion Foundation administered the school but later Kopan Monastery now undertakes the administrative responsibilities of the school.

The earthquake had significantly damaged the classroom building and there were cracks and minor damages around the other school buildings as well. Besides other donors, TTF/Hershey Family Foundation funded NPR. 441,350.61 to repair the damages, the overall cost of which was estimated at 6,000,000. After all the necessary repair works were completed, the school is now functioning in a safe environment for the students and teachers and staff members.

Namgyal Middle Boarding School, Swayambhu

The school was initially established in 1981 as Namgyal Hostel to provide hostel accommodation to 20 Tibetan students who came from distant places such as Mustang, Shyabru, Solukhumbu, Dorpatan, Dolpo, Humla and Pokhara. In 1983, the school was renamed as Namgyal Middle Boarding School and became the first Tibetan school to be

recognized by the Ministry of Education, Government of Nepal. Staffed by over 50 teaching and non-teaching members, the school aims to impart both modern scientific education and traditional Tibetan cultural heritage to its nearly 400 students. Compared to other schools,

Namgyal Middle Boarding School suffered relatively less damage. Still, the school needed heavy amount to renovate classrooms, computer lab, fencing walls, and open air stage. In addition to the funding received from other donors, TTF/Hershey Family Foundation funded NPR 501,534.79.

Namgyal Higher Secondary School, Gokarna

Established by the CTA's Department of Education and SOS Kinderof International, Namgyal Higher Secondary School is the only Tibetan Higher Secondary School that provides higher education to Tibetan students in Nepal and prepares them for college/university level education. The school reportedly has 388 students and 50 staff members.

Due to the 2015 earthquake, Namgyal Higher Secondary School needed to renovate main toilet blocks and common bathrooms of the Girl's Hostel and roofs of the main building including kitchen, and rain water drainage. TTF/Hershey Family Foundation funded NPR 501,534.79.



⁵⁴ TTF Interview, Conducted by Tenzing Yangdol, Nepal, July 2016.

10 KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS



In the aftermath of a disaster, multiple stakeholders such as local and national government, international organizations, UN agencies, NGOs, donors and other actors work together to help in the relief and recovery efforts. Such help entails both human and financial resources, for which coordination and collaboration between and amongst the key stakeholders and partners are highly essential.

In the course of TTF's earthquake works in Nepal, TTF has actively worked in partnership with several key stakeholders in addressing both short-term and long-term requirements of a large-scale relief and recovery operation of the Tibetan community in Nepal. Besides bringing in the funds to cover the cost of rebuilding Tibetan community, TTF team in Nepal has provided extensive services in socio-technical facilitation, monitoring and evaluation, and overall supervision to ensure quality assurance. As means of further coordination and to ensure that there was no duplication, TTF has regularly communicated with INGOs and NGOs working with the Tibetan community to learn about their assistance and future plans.

In recognition of their excellent services in such matters, a 76-year-old beneficiary Dawa Tsering from Chialsa in Solukhumbu said, "TTF staff were very helpful to coordinate with the settlement officer and also in conveying our grievances and needs to the settlement officer and other donor agencies."⁵⁵ Khangkar Wangchuk, 72, President of Sengedag Service Society, was appreciative of the collaborative role that TTF has played in the reconstruction of Bakhang Nunnery. He told TTF, "We are grateful for all the funding support that we have received from our donors. This massive

reconstruction project would not be possible without the required funding support.... It has especially been a great collaboration with Hunnarshala, AJWS and TTF for the successful implementation of our project."⁵⁶

Project Partners

Since the earthquake, TTF team has worked closely with NSET and directly engaged an NSET engineer and an NSET technical supervisor to facilitate work on all projects. TTF has collaborated closely with relevant Tibetan settlement officers and their settlement staff within settlements and also consulted with community members in project location sites on frequent occasions.

TTF/NSET has also collaborated closely with the construction partners to ensure quality and earthquake resistance: Megatech Suppliers and Fabricator Ltd. in Rasuwa and Kimdol settlement; Hunnarshala Foundation, India, in Bakhang; Disaster Risk Reduction in Gangchen and Satyaswor Nirman Sewa Pvt. Ltd in Kimdol Elders Home. Tashi Ngodup, owner of the private construction firm Megatech Suppliers and Fabricator Ltd, has worked with TTF in three construction projects in Shyabru settlement, Shyabru Bensi and Kimdol. He told TTF team, "This was a unique and extremely motivating experience for me, especially working for a Tibetan NGO in a traditional community setting. This has helped me reconnect with my community."⁵⁷

TTF has collaborated with other donors of reconstruction projects—AHF in Shyabru; American Jewish World Service (AJWS) and ASIA Onlus in Bakhang. Project partners such as

⁵⁶ TTF Interview, Conducted by Tenzing Yangdol, Nepal, July 2016.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

settlement officers, TWWG and SSS have communicated with relevant GON departments, village development committees (VDCs) and municipality offices, to notify and update them regarding repair and renovation work.

Central Tibetan Administration

His Holiness the Dalai Lama sent a condolence letter to the GON expressing His sadness and solidarity with the people of Nepal and made a donation towards relief from the Dalai Lama Trust.

The CTA provided NPR 2,100,000 to GON for their rescue and relief efforts in Nepal. For the Tibetan settlement regions affected by the earthquake, CTA donated NPR 1,600,000 for relief efforts and NPR 4,000,000 for rebuilding the community.

Tibetan Refugee Welfare Office (TRWO) based in Nepal of the CTA responded to immediate needs of the Tibetans by supplying tarpaulins, blankets, and rations through their settlement offices. Families of the deceased were given NPR 50,000 and those injured received NPR 40,000. During the first week of June, NPR 2,900,000 was distributed between the three settlements in Kathmandu and Tserok based on population and needs.

CTA later provided NPR 30,000,000 to support Tibetans in Nepal for the interim and reconstruction phases. In order to address the urgent needs for improved interim shelter, CTA provided CGI sheeting for 37 families in Gangchen community, 25 households in Gyalphak settlement and for five households in Solukhumbu. In addition, CTA supported construction materials for temporary classrooms at Atisha, Namgyal Middle and Srongsens schools in Kathmandu. Families of deceased received an additional NPR 200,000 and 139 most vulnerable members of the community received NPR 3000 for six months.

Government of Nepal

Reports of GON providing assistance to Tibetans were received. In Shyabru, tarpaulins were provided and rice rations were distributed.

Jawalakhel settlement received two tankers of water from GON.

UN/Humanitarian Relief Response

Tibetan Refugee Welfare Office had communicated their activities to UNHCR.

American Himalayan Foundation (AHF)

AHF distributed NPR 10,000 to all families in Shyabru following the earthquake through the settlement officer. AHF coordinated with International Medical Relief and Tibetan settlements in Jawalakhel, Boudha and Swayambhu to arrange health camps held in mid-May 2015. AHF supported the rebuilding and repair of residential houses in Jawalakhel; Atisha School and Namgyal middle and high schools; Kimdol Elders Home and Thukje Choeling Monastery.

Asia Onlus

ASIA was one of the first INGOs to reach Shyabru following the earthquake. They supported 27 households with CGI sheeting to construct secure temporary shelters before the monsoon. They supported families connected with Manasarovar School in Boudha, with whom they have an existing relationship. Their reconstruction plans included working in Rasuwa and Kavre, where they originally had projects and also with the Tibetan community.

SOIR-IM (Swedish Development Partner)

SOIR-IM, who has a long-term relationship with Srongsens School, supported the repair work of the school.

Himalayan Society for Youth and Women's Empowerment (HSYWE)

HSYWE responded to immediate needs after the earthquake in the Tibetan and Himalayan communities in Kathmandu. They distributed tarps and rations to Tibetan and non-Tibetan

⁵⁵ TTF Interview, Conducted by Palden Tsering, Nepal, August 2016.

families in Shyabru. They distributed CGI sheeting to several areas for interim shelter and coordinated with VDCs in all areas they had distributed and with the wider relief network through nepalrelief.net and quakemap.org

Regional Tibetan Youth Congress //////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////

RTYC were active in responding to immediate needs created by the emergency. They distributed tarps and rations to the Tibetan community in Kathmandu and also organized more than 20 relief trips to affected areas outside Kathmandu. They coordinated with VDCs and wider relief network

for these trips. They distributed NPR 5000 each to 105 affected families that were selected by neighborhood organizations.

Monasteries //////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////

Following the earthquake, Nepal Buddhist Association requested 10 monks from each monastery and any volunteers to support the relief effort. The Tibetan monasteries in Nepal were an important part of the relief effort in supporting Tibetan and Nepali communities across the affected areas.

TASHI TSERING



“

Seeing smiles on their faces after the completion of the reconstruction project brings about a real sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.

”

My overall experience of working as a consultant for Tibet Fund’s earthquake reconstruction project has been very enriching and motivating. Besides the meaningful social contributions, it was a great learning experience for me. The highlight of my experience was conducting monitoring visits to remote sites like Shyabru settlement, Rasuwa district and Bakhang nunnery, Sindhupalchowk district. Despite the challenges of travelling to these remote sites, I was successfully able to perform my responsibilities. Access to these remote sites was especially difficult during the monsoon season. The lack of road access in some of the sites has also contributed to delays in project implementation.

The strength of this project lies in TTF’s commitment to prioritize communities worst affected by the earthquake and with the greatest needs. Seeing smiles on their faces after the completion of the reconstruction project brings about a real sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. The special Earthquake Preparedness Training for the school staff was also very informative and helpful. I have gained knowledge on earthquake preparedness measures which I can help share widely in our community. I will continue to work for our community as I believe that one must give back to our community, no matter how big or small.

11

TTF TEAM IN NEPAL



PALDEN TSERING



“

...a golden opportunity to serve the Tibetan refugee community living in various refugee settlements, schools and monasteries of Nepal.

”

I started working with The Tibet Fund just weeks after the earthquake in Nepal, initially to help with data collection for the needs assessment of the Tibetan community and later on the reconstruction activities. During project implementation I worked with many stakeholders—the local coordinator, settlement officers, building contractors, engineers and most importantly the community residents themselves.

While staying in the settlements to monitor renovation work, I had the wonderful opportunity to learn more about the history of those settlements, their early periods of establishment to the present condition and understand the present needs, particularly in the remote areas of Shyabru, Rasuwa district and Chialsa, Solukhumbu district.

Challenges faced during the project implementation included the unstable political situation in Nepal, including the blockade, which caused delays to the reconstruction work. The weather conditions and poor infrastructure also created challenges to our work in remote areas.

Working as a local consultant for the Tibet Fund has given me a golden opportunity to serve the Tibetan refugee community living in various refugee settlements, schools and monasteries of Nepal. This job has enabled me to build relationships with different settlement officers, the staff of the Tibetan Refugee Welfare office and the various agencies who are helping Tibetan refugees here in Nepal. I am very grateful to TTF for this opportunity to learn and look forward to contributing more to my community.

TENZING YANGDOL



“
Despite challenging circumstances, especially for the remote sites, the end results have been positive with 100%
”

I first came in contact with The Tibet Fund in early 2015 when I got an opportunity to work as a research assistant on a Livelihood assessment of five Tibetan settlements in Nepal. A day after returning from our first study site in Rasuwa district, the earthquake struck which gradually reshaped my involvement with TTF. Given the significance of the reconstruction project for our community and the opportunity to directly engage and contribute in this effort, I was happy to join the Tibet Fund’s M&E team to work on this valuable reconstruction project. Our primary responsibilities were to facilitate and ensure proper planning with the beneficiaries and stakeholders, quality and timely implementation of the project, and regular data collection for overall M&E and reporting purposes.

Personally, the most satisfying part of this project for me has been going through the entire process of the planning and implementation phase and seeing the successful end results. With several construction sites and hundreds of beneficiaries, stakeholders and partners, the initial planning phase seemed challenging. There were additional concerns and delays caused by severe fuel shortages from the four-month long blockade. Despite challenging circumstances, especially for the remote sites, the end results have been positive with 100% of the interviewed beneficiaries reporting general satisfaction and an increased sense of safety and security due to the earthquake resilient constructions.

One of my most memorable experiences was hiking uphill to the Bakhang nunnery, which took us nine hours. This was in early December when I had accompanied the technical consultants from India for the initial site assessment and training there. There were about 50 nuns living in temporary shelters then. Despite the difficult living condition, they continued their regular prayers and meditation with such deep faith and commitment. They felt a new sense of hope when our team arrived and work was started on the first model house. It was especially impressive to the local laborers and the nuns themselves learning about safe and quality earthquake resilient construction techniques for the first time. It has been a wonderful experience working with TTF’s cooperative and dedicated team throughout this project. This entire experience has motivated me in many ways to do more for my community in the future.

Details of TTF Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Projects and its Beneficiaries

Extent of Damages	Repair & Reconstruction Projects	Number of Beneficiaries
30 homes destroyed in Tibetan settlements in Rasuwa	19 new houses -constructed 8 in Thangmoche and 6 in Shyabru Bensi; and 3 in Kangjim and 2 in Briddim	95 Tibetans
One killed, several injured; nuns rendered homeless at Bakhang Nunnery	Clinic at Shyabru Bensi repaired	162 Tibetans
Damages to School, Nunnery & households in settlement, Chialsa, Solukhumbu	37 houses completed and 75 houses completed till wall level in Bakhang Nunnery.	200 nuns (50 supported by TTF/PRM)
Damages at Gangchen Community building in Kathmandu	18 houses, provided additional resilience through repair	90 Tibetans
Structural damage at Kimdol Elder’s Home, Swayambhu	Clinic at Nunnery reconstructed	320 nuns and 70 monks
Intermediary walls moved during earthquake and drainage system was damaged at Kimdol Settlement, Swayambhu	Retrofitted 41 columns, wall reconstruction, door/window refitting, electrical works	185 Tibetans (37 families)
Structural damage to building of Jawalakhel Handicraft Center	Construction of new building for elders	25 elders
Structural damages of building at Drubthob Monastery	Two intermediary walls reinforced, drainage system repaired and new wall constructed. Sanitary tanks repaired at 13 different sites.	128 Tibetans (32 Tibetan families)
Damages in administrative building and communal kitchen of Samtenling Monastery	Jawalakhel Handicraft Center renovated and repaired	190 Tibetan employees
Classroom building & admin block damaged at Srongtsen Bhrikuti Boarding High School	Renovated all the damaged parts of the building	50 monks and 10 staff
Buildings damaged at Mt Everest Primary School	Repaired and strengthened administrative building and kitchen	130 monks and 15 teachers and staff members
Damages caused to Namgyal Middle Boarding School	Walls reconstructed and other damages repaired	602 students and 66 teachers and staff members
Damages caused to Namgyal Higher Secondary School	All the damages repaired.	101 Students and 10 staff members
Earthquake Preparedness Training at 10 Tibetan Schools	Renovated classrooms, computer labs, fencing walls	400 students and 50 staff members
	Renovated toilets, blocks and bathroom of the Girl’s Hostel & Building roof & water drainage	388 students and 50 staff members
	TTF and NSET conducted three-day Earthquake Preparedness Training at 10 Tibetan schools and conducted two follow-up visits thereafter	746 Tibetan students and 1,113 non-Tibetan students
TOTAL BENEFICIARIES		4996
New Housing Construction and Repair	573	
Repairs and New Construction of Clinics, Schools, Monasteries and Handicraft Centers	2564	
Earthquake Preparedness Training	1859	

12 LIST OF DONORS

We are grateful to our donors

\$50,000 +
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\$20,000 -24,999
Barry J. and Connie J. Hershey/Hershey Family Foundation
Simon Turner/The Camellia Foundation
The Flora Family Foundation

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William Lieberman

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Farida Taheraly
Karma Gurung
Melissa Crespo
Rashida Taheraly

13 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Ronn Smith
Sarah Ruhl

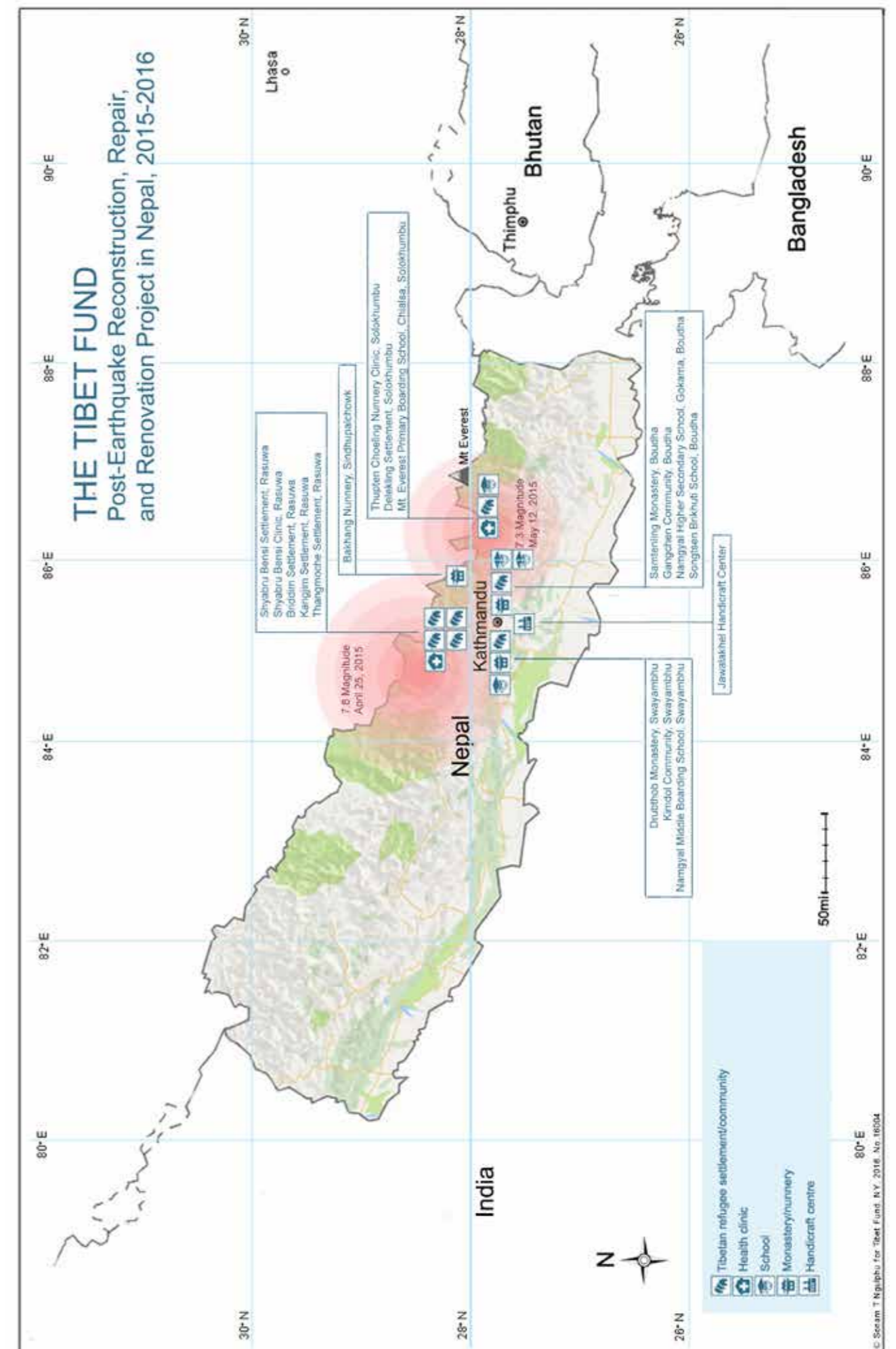
The Tibet Fund Receipt and Payment Phase I – Nepal Earthquake Program April 25, 2015 to September 2016

Receipt	Amount	Payment	Amount
U.S Department of State, PRM	\$347,059.00	Woechen Thukje Choiling	\$9,591.41
Tides Foundation	\$47,500.00	Shri Dhargyaling Monastery	\$1,965.00
The Flora family foundation	\$24,000.00	Shyabru Tibetan Community, Rasuwa District	\$57,173.21
Hershey Family Foundation	\$19,400.00	Kimdol Tibetan Community families	\$11,500.00
The Camellia Foundation	\$19,376.00	Songtsen School	\$14,877.45
Samuel Houser	\$10,000.00	Jawalakhel Samdupling Tibetan settlement	\$15,000.00
Lost and Foundation Inc.	\$9,500.00	Emergency Earthquake relief through SLF	\$20,000.00
Ya ping Chang	\$9,500.00	Solukhumbu Tibetan Community,	\$3,185.05
Spirit Rock Meditation Center	\$8,242.09	Construction and repair supervision-NSET	\$9,105.22
Anne Yantus	\$5,000.00	Tibetan School earthquake preparedness	\$19,208.41
Winston M Ginsberg	\$5,000.00	Need assessment engineer payment	\$5,000.00
Land of Compassion Buddha	\$5,000.00	Keydong Nunnery	\$10,080.24
Sarah P Phan	\$5,000.00	Bakhang & Liping Villages, Sindhupalchowk District	\$72,173.47
Sarah Ruhl-The Oldest Boy	\$4,925.40	Thubten Choeling Monastery	\$19,000.00
Alison J Van Dyk	\$4,850.00	Jampaling Irrigation	\$1,750.00
Sage Foundation	\$4,750.00	Tsum Valley Support	\$19,376.00
Stuart Hirsch	\$4,704.70	Khangpa Karpo	\$2,940.60
Yenman Enterprises Ltd	\$4,620.00	Samtenling Monastery	\$6,713.98
Doi Tan Nguyen Foundation Inc.	\$4,000.00	Tibetan Children's education & Welfare Fund	\$19,400.00

Charles H Melcher and Jessica Brackman	\$4,000.00	Gangchen Community, Boudha, Kathmandu	\$58,194.00
Matthew B Mclennan	\$3,000.00	Kimdol Tibetan Community, Elders Home	\$99,253.00
Mindfulness Connection	\$2,425.00	Sengedag Society	\$16,454.36
Melissa K Meder	\$2,425.00	Tsering Elders Home	\$5,000.00
Ripert Enterprises Inc	\$2,000.00	Travel Cost	\$1,412.43
Tibetan Association of Wasington	\$2,000.00	Earthquake report and publication	\$2,375.00
Organization & Individual less then \$2,000	\$104,229.04	Bank charges and fees	\$2,115.62
		Snow Lion Foundation, Nepal Admin cost	\$16,076.95
		Senior Consultant Cost	\$7,790.13
		Local Consultant Cost	\$9,000.00
		Tibet Fund, New York Admin Cost	\$39,495.57
		Closing Balance	\$87,299.13
Total Amount	\$662,506.23	Total Amount	\$662,506.23

Phase II – Nepal Earthquake Program Projected Expenses - September 2016 to August 2017

Receipt	Amount	Payment	Amount
Opening Balance	\$87,299.13	Dunsel Health Dunsel Clinic, Tashipalkhiel, Pokhara	\$10,000.00
U.S Department of State, PRM-16-17	\$275,000.00	Paljorling Tibetan settlement in Pokhara	\$284,230.00
		Jampaling Tibetan settlement in Pokhara	\$1,500.00
		Tashi Palkhiel school in Pokhara	\$2,000.00
		Psychosocial activities to support earthquake affected Tibetan refugees	\$4,660.00
		Snow Lion Foundation Admin cost	\$11,000.00
		Senior & Local Consultant	\$12,800.00
		National Society for earthquake technology	\$9,000.00
		The Tibet Fund, New York admin cost	\$13,750.00
		Sengedag Society	\$1,940.00
		Earthquake report printing and publication	\$11,419.13
Total Amount	\$362,299.13	Total Amount	\$362,299.13





The Tibet Fund works to preserve the distinct cultural and national identity of the Tibetan people. Since 1981, under the patronage of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, The Tibet Fund has been the primary funding organization for health care, education, refugee rehabilitation, religious and cultural preservation, elder care and community and economic development programs serving hundreds of thousands of Tibetan refugees living in India, Nepal and Bhutan. Our aim is to promote self-reliance and help sustain the cohesiveness of the exile community. In Tibet, our support is directed towards education, emergency relief, health care and social enterprise programs that aid impoverished and marginalized Tibetans. For more information, please go to www.tibetfund.org and visit 'About Us' page for more information on our history and financial information and like us at www.facebook.com/tibetfund.

The Tibet Fund's work is principally guided by the following priorities:

- Ensure that Tibetan culture and identity remain a strong part of our global heritage
- Expand the resources needed to strengthen the growing Tibetan community in exile
- Enable individual donors to connect with Tibetan children, monks, nuns and the elderly
- Raise awareness about the success and struggles of the Tibetan people to sustain their way of life, language and traditions

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