

Welcome to the thirty-third issue of **OPEN MIC NEPAL** bulletin. The Open Mic project captures rumours and perceptions on the ground to eliminate information gaps between the media, humanitarian agencies and local people. By providing local media and outreach workers with facts, Open Mic aims to create a better understanding of the needs of the earthquake-affected communities and to debunk rumours before they can do any harm.

CONCERNS

SANKHUPATICHOUR, KAVREPALACHOWK

"I came to stay at my parents' house after the earthquake destroyed mine. They didn't give me even a tarpaulin, saying that I am from outside the VDC. I, too, am a victim. Who is going to look after me?"

MANGALTAR, KAVREPALACHOWK

"I was excluded when the technical team visited my village. Even though the house has completely collapsed, I could not get the earthquake victim ID card. I didn't get Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000 in relief."

MANGALTAR, KAVREPALACHOWK

"Our house collapsed in the earthquake while my sick husband was being treated at the hospital. The technical team that came to our village didn't include my name. My husband has since passed away. I am alone. How will I look after my four children and send them to school?"

MANGALTAR, KAVREPALACHOWK

"My husband is abroad, so I couldn't obtain citizenship cards for my children. When I asked them to issue an earthquake victim ID card under my name, they refused saying that my husband had to be here since the house is under his name. I received neither Rs 15,000 nor Rs 10,000."

ANSWERS

Continued in the next page

ANSWERS



The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) is conducting a detailed analysis of households affected by the earthquake in 11 of the most-affected districts (excluding Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur).

The survey defines a household head as the person who manages household activities and takes the decisions in household related matters. The head of the household can be either male or female.

The victim ID card distributed during the relief phase has no bearing on this survey.

If a woman's husband has passed away or is abroad for work, the woman is considered the head of the household.

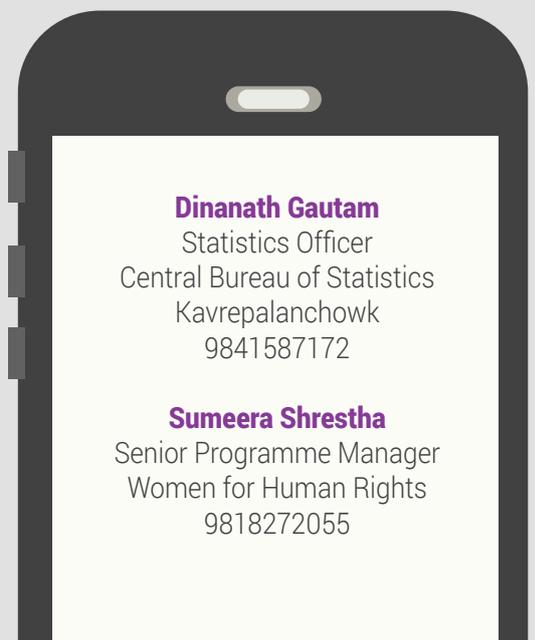
If a woman has been living in her parents' house, she will be counted as a member in her parents' household. If she wants to be counted as a member/household head in the household of her deceased husband, she has to travel to her husband's village and get enlisted there.

If a woman had been living separately from her joint family before the earthquake and is doing so in a separate tent after, she will be counted as the head of a separate household.

If you think that you have been wrongfully excluded from the survey, contact your local District Development Officer (LDO), who chairs the survey management committee.

Women for Human Rights, an organisation that works to empower single women, is providing service to single women in six earthquake-affected districts (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Nuwakot, Dhading and Gorkha).

The organisation has also set up a Single Women's Group in almost every Village Development Committee (VDC). The group can help you if you encounter discrimination during the reconstruction process.



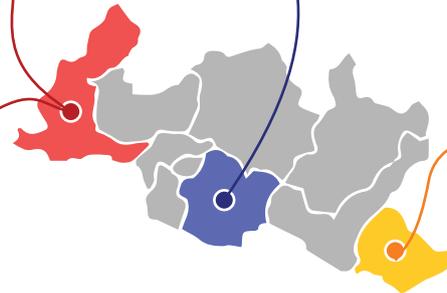
CONCERNS

KUMPUR, DHADING

"They say that they've sent house designs to the VDC, but we can't find them. When we contact the VDC, they say they haven't received the designs yet. We have money in our hands, but are unable to build houses."

SALYANKOT, DHADING

"Where did the designs for earthquake-resistant houses go? When can we build our houses by?"



BHIMKHORI, KAVREPALANCHOWK

"The catalogue containing 17 kinds of house designs has not reached our VDC."

BARUNESHWOR, OKHADHUNGA

"They say that we won't get the money if we don't build houses as the government wants. We don't know where and how we can get a hold of house designs?"

ANSWERS

The catalogue of rural house designs can be found online at www.dudbc.gov.np in both English and Nepali.

According to the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, Building Division Offices in all earthquake-affected districts have received the designs in flex prints for distribution to VDCs and municipalities. Some VDC and municipality officials have already taken the posters to their offices for public display.

Not all Division Offices, however, have picked up the copies of catalogue from Kathmandu for distribution.

Households will not be eligible for the reconstruction grant of Rs 200,000 if they do not follow the building codes and build houses that do not meet the minimum requirements stipulated in the catalogue of house designs.

Contact your Building Division Office, VDC secretary or municipality official about when the designs will be available for view in your area.

Ravi Shah

Deputy Director General
Department of Urban
Development and Building
Construction
9851056824

Dilip Bhandari

Division Engineer
Building Division Office
Dhading
9849378319

CONCERNS

SHANKHUPATICHIAUR, KAVREPALANCHOWK

"Students are studying in school buildings that received the red sticker. The government and organisations working in the education sector must find an alternative to this."



MANTHALI, RAMECHHAP

"They say that the government will educate the children of those who died in the earthquake for free."

ANSWERS

The government has signed agreements with a number of international and national non-governmental organisations to reconstruct schools in earthquake-affected districts. It has also signed agreements with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to reconstruct 1500 damaged schools in 14 most affected districts.

Those who have received the project approval from the Ministry of Education and the relevant District Education Offices (DEOs) have already begun the reconstruction work. Organisations or individuals get permission to build only semi-permanent or permanent structures.

The ADB is assisting in the reconstruction of schools in eight districts and will begin the process from Kavrepalanchowk. Under this assistance, the damage survey has been completed in 18 primary schools and the reconstruction work is expected to follow shortly.

If you want to know which organisation is helping to rebuild your local school, contact the technical section at the DEO.

The government currently does not have plans to provide scholarship to children of those who died in the earthquake. Tuition in government and community schools is free for all.

Private schools are required to enrol at least 10 percent of its students from below the poverty line and provide scholarship.

Some private schools have waived tuition fees for some children orphaned by the earthquake, but they are doing so on their own discretion.

Krishna Poudel

Section Officer
INGO section
Department of Education
9849598264

Bal Krishna Simkhada

Programme Officer
District Education Office
Kavrepalanchowk
9841886016

CONCERNS

CHHEKAMPAR, GORKHA

"They say that we have to use wood if we are to build houses according to the government's designs. But, we can't get wood in this area. What will we do now?"



DADUWA, RAMECHHAP

"They say the government will provide wood at a 90 percent subsidy."

ANSWERS

The government has issued a directive to facilitate the supply of wood for reconstruction in earthquake-affected districts.

It has approved the plan to ease some of the restrictions on felling trees in community and private forests for a limited period.

For instance, if a community forest users' committee was given permission to cut up to 30 percent of its trees in a year, it is now allowed to increase that percentage for reconstruction.

Similarly, households are allowed to transport wood and timber from their collapsed houses across administrative units to build new houses.

Households are recommended to reuse wood from their collapsed/damaged houses for reconstruction.

In areas like Chhekampar and other seven VDCs in northern Gorkha, where there are no community or little private forests, the government plans to facilitate the supply of wood from other areas less affected or unaffected by the earthquake.



The rumours and issues presented here were collected by frontline workers from partner organisations and #quakehelpdesk volunteers based on face-to-face conversations and community hearings with around 455 people in 7 districts between 18-25 February. The selection was done on the basis of prevalence and relevance. The information presented here is correct at the time of issue.

Open Mic Nepal presented by:

