



From
the People of Japan

Beneficiaries' immediate woes fade away

Shelter Provision for the Most Vulnerable before & during the Monsoon

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Four months after the devastating earthquake, difficulties of affected people are gradually reducing. However, there is a long way before they recover completely.

Realizing the urgent need to support vulnerable people to protect themselves from the monsoon difficulties, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Nepal has been implementing temporary shelter project in five most affected districts; Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur.

This initiative supported by the Government of Japan provides material support for communities in building temporary shelters and operates Community Information Centers to aware people on 'building back better and safer'.

Here are some voices from beneficiaries of the project on temporary shelter in Dolakha district.

Profile 1: Sajina Nepali

Sajina Nepali, 22, a resident of Jilu Village at Bhimeshwor Municipality in Dolakha district, is suffering from psychological impact after she was severely injured and lost her three years old son during the April earthquake. Her family comes from a low-income and Dalit community.

"When the earthquake hit on April 25, I was sleeping with my one-year old daughter and a three-year old son. The house collapsed and three of us were trapped in the rubble. Unfortunately, my son passed away. I too have scars all over my body," said Sajina.



Mrs. Nepali is trying to reduce her hardships by borrowing a small piece of land from her relatives to construct her temporary shelter. She lives with her mother-in-law, a small daughter and husband in a room and a kitchen within it. Her family built this temporary shelter after they received material support (two bundles of CGI sheet and nails) including labour cost through UN-Habitat and its local partners CDF and Dipjyoti.

In order to meet daily needs of her family after the earthquake, Nepali's husband is currently involved in debris cleaning initiative in his village through which he earns his living. After the debris removing initiative is completed, he has plans to work on reconstruction activities.

Profile 2: Kumar Nepali

Kumar Nepali, 30, comes from a Dalit community in Gobardhane Tole at Ward No. 7 of Bhimeshwar Municipality in Dolakha district.

They were among the worst hit people during the devastating earthquake this year. People in this community have very limited land and laborers were not available in the recent months after the earthquake, hence were facing a lot of challenges in constructing their temporary shelters.



At a time when nobody was helping them to construct their temporary shelter, UN-Habitat and its partners' came with an initiative to provide material support to earthquake affected families in Dolakha district.

Mr. Nepali (first from left in the picture) has championed by taking a leadership role in mobilizing unemployed local youth to remove debris and support communities to build

their temporary shelter taking minimum possible labour charges. His team is also raising awareness among people to properly remove debris and re-use salvage materials.

Impressed by the criteria set by UN-Habitat and its partners in selecting beneficiaries to provide temporary shelter support, Mr. Nepali was encouraged to facilitate this initiative. The criteria require giving preference to families from Dalit communities and households with differently-abled people, pregnant/having newborns and who lost their family member during the earthquake.

He has plans to support communities in construction of permanent house and raising awareness on the importance of toilets and proper hygiene practices.

Profile 3: Goma Khattry



Goma Khattry, 54, a resident of Dandatole in Bhimeshwor Municipality, Dolakha constructed a toilet after the April 2015 earthquake destroyed both of her house and toilet. Since then her family members were forced to defecate in open.

After Khattry's four grand-children fell sick due to diarrhea, they were taken to the hospital for treatment. She

believes that they had diarrhea due to open defecation practices after the earthquake. This incidence made her construct a toilet for her family. But it was really difficult to find people to construct toilet. Finally her neighbor agreed to help in constructing toilet if she works on their farm for double the time required to build her toilet. It took three days to construct her toilet.

Not only she built a toilet, she also educated her children and rest of her family members about proper use of toilet and hand washing practices. Before the earthquake, UN-Habitat had been supporting sanitation campaigns in Dolakha district among others. Mrs. Khattry's story is an inspiration to anyone willing to construct a toilet and stop open defecation.

She received material support from UN-Habitat to build her temporary shelter.