

If you want to help?

RESPOND TO WHAT THE AFFECTED NEED

TARIQ ZAFAR

Pragmatic responses to an urgent crisis that needs a realistic, well planned and sustainable response - IMMEDIATELY



Expressed needs, observations and possible responses (Based on visits to villages on the Silk Route - Mansehra to Batagram ONLY)

Major current issues

- Needs of the affected are varied and changing daily
- Mechanism to record and assess needs is very basic and needs drastic improvement - more regular and field based
- Expressed needs are often met too late resulting in duplication and loss of resources
- Coordination between Military, Administration and Relief efforts is sporadic and needs regular coordination at all levels
- Action and priorities are often set based on perceived needs of those 'not affected'
- Extreme post disaster trauma - people refuse to live inside concrete, brick or mud housing that has survived the earth quake
- Winter approaching fast - accessibility will be even more difficult

Relief efforts

- Duplication due to improper needs assessment
- Mechanism of delivery of relief is concentrated in areas easily accessible - hence relief workers trying to get rid of relief goods, food, bedding, etc.

- Un coordinated relief is choking roads and logistics - hence those in need of medical care cannot reach medical care on time
- Relief goods inappropriate - second hand clothing, fruit, etc. seen thrown away on the roads
- Mechanism of delivery of relief goods inappropriate - trying to get rid of relief goods to return home/base

Needs expressed

The expressed needs are immediate, short term (2-4 weeks) and long term (4 weeks onwards):

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

- Affected people living in the open or in very temporary make shift sheds need shelter from rain and wind: tents, plastic sheets, canvas or other water/wind proof covering
- Villages where people are still buried in the debris need to be removed for hopelessness, fear and trauma among the survivors is only increasing with time
- Basic contact needs to be established with those not in contact yet - even if relief goods and health care cannot be provided yet - to provide

hope and that people have not been simply forgotten.

- Access to medical care to deal with orthopedic emergencies

SHORT TERM NEEDS

- Low cost shelters that can help people live through the winters and provide protection from the cold, wind and rain
- Regular medical out reach to provide basic physical/psychological care and support
- Relief efforts to set up a system to record, prioritize and distribute relief to avoid duplication and waste of resources

Possible way forward

- To develop and field test a low cost shelter of approximately 140-160 square feet that can be set up in 4-6 hours and can see an average family through the winters.
- To install the shelters at different places and encourage major relief agencies to replicate, improvise or improve upon for mass scale installation

For further information you may contact at tzee@naizindagi.com