



# Earthquake Report

July 2015



## Earthquake Relief Effort Report

On April 25th an earthquake of 7.8 magnitude struck Nepal. It was followed by aftershocks of 6.8 and later 7.5. To date, nearly 300 aftershocks in the 4.0 range have shaken Nepal on a daily basis.

We were on the ground in Nepal when the first, and subsequent quakes hit. The village of Mankhu and neighboring Goganpani in the Dhading District sustained huge losses with 80-85% of the houses destroyed and local schools received heavy damage.



## Aftermath

85% of the homes in the village were destroyed. 8,856 people across Nepal lost their lives and 22,304 were injured. In Mankhu one person died and several sustained minor injuries which we treated at the clinic at Her Farm.





## Immediate Aid

Two truckloads of food and plastic tarps were brought to the village within days. Six families moved into our earth-bag house. We obtained a solar system so people could charge cell phones and contact family members.





## Cash Advance Savings Help

Villagers came to us and asked for loans to secure what they needed. No one asked for a hand out, everyone asked for a hand up. We loaned nearly \$30,000US in the villages so people could buy the items they most needed. As each home had different needs, this was the most effective way to ensure everyone got exactly what was needed. The loans are interest free and payable "when possible." People came with their dignity and left with that dignity in tact as they were in control of filling their own needs.





## Volunteer Assistance

Volunteers from Her Farm assisted villagers with their homes. For most homes this involved tearing off the second story so that the first floor could be used as a temporary home. CASH assistance enabled villagers to purchase materials to do this. Volunteers also helped attend to medical needs in the village and volunteers helped distribute supplies.





## Schools

Two village schools were nearly destroyed in the quakes. In Goganpani, where the damage was greatest, The Mountain Fund and our volunteers repaired two buildings which created enough classroom space for school to resume. We supplied tin roofing to two other area schools to create temporary classrooms and plastic piping to two villages that needed to repair water supply systems as well.





## Training

Following the quakes there was a surge in interest in earth-bag construction. Mountain Fund had previously built three classrooms and a clinic at Her Farm with earth-bags. We organized three training seminars and trained over 30 people in the technique. Those people are in Nepal now, building homes and schools from earth-bags.



# Results

*“The results you achieve will be in direct proportion to the effort you apply”*

Dennis Waitley



In the aftermath of the quakes in Nepal, the entire Mountain Fund team at Her Farm including staff and volunteers leapt into action and systematically managed the issues facing the village. As a result, the villages of Mankhu and Goganpani had food and temporary housing within days of the first quake when other villages were still struggling just to get a handle on what their needs were. While large aid agencies and government relief efforts had yet to organize and begin work, Mountain Fund already had immediate, emergency assistance in the hands of the residents of these villages.

Having first secured the most immediate needs of the village, we again conducted a door-to-door assessment of each house to see what was the next thing people would need to get back on their feet and begin to move forward with life. The needs of each home were different and diverse. Attempting to provide “relief supplies” that would be relevant for all the homes was not possible. Some needed tin roofing to secure what was left of their homes, others needed household supplies that had been lost and still others needed clothing or additional food supplies. We opted to provide cash assistance so that each home could buy exactly what was needed. Cash was given in the form of interest free loans with no particular repayment date. The villagers themselves asked for loans, not handouts. The flexible terms of these loans do not create a financial burden but did allow homeowners to get exactly what was needed. Since there is an expectation that the money will be paid back, people were frugal in their spending and managed the needs of their families in prudent ways.

While other villages struggled to reopen schools, and months later still have not managed temporary classrooms, we had schools in temporary classrooms by the end of May, just one month after the first big quake.

Life is stabilized in Mankhu and Goganpani. There will be much work to do following the monsoons but for now people have all their basic needs met.