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

SANKHUPATICHAR, 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

"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

"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

"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."

Continued in the next page
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.

Dinanath Gautam
Statistics Officer
Central Bureau of Statistics
Kavrepanchowk
9841587172

Sumeera Shrestha
Senior Programme Manager
Women for Human Rights
9818272055
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.

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?”

Ravi Shah
Deputy Director General
Department of Urban Development and Building Construction
9851056824

Dilip Bhandari
Division Engineer
Building Division Office
Dhading
9849378319

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

\[\text{Krishna Poudel}\]
Section Officer
INGO section
Department of Education
9849598264

\[\text{Bal Krishna Simkhada}\]
Programme Officer
District Education Office
Kavrebalanchowk
9841886016
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?" 

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.

DADUWA, RAMECHHAP
“They say the government will provide wood at a 90 percent subsidy."