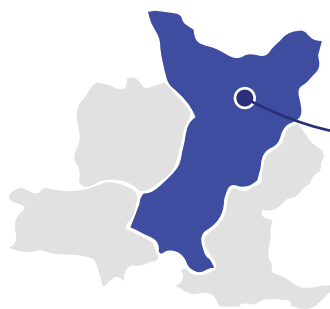


Welcome to the fifteenth issue of **OPEN MIC NEPAL** bulletin. The Open Mic project captures rumours and perceptions on the ground to eliminate information gaps between the media, humanitarian agencies and local people. By providing local media and outreach workers with facts, Open Mic aims to create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

RUMOURS



GORKHA BAZAAR, GORKHA

"They say we should not build houses on the same land where the houses used to be before the earthquake."

FACTS

To build earthquake-resistant houses, a number of factors should be taken into consideration, including the design of the house, building materials, quality of the soil and the topography of land.

If these factors are conducive, you can build a new house where your house used to be before the earthquake.

If possible, consult a qualified geotechnical engineer or a technician at the District Development Committee (DDC) to examine your land before you start rebuilding.

If the soil is soft, clayey or not compact, it can cause soil liquefaction and is not considered safe. It is safer to build the foundation of a house on a rocky surface.

If your land is on a steep slope, it might be prone to landslides during an earthquake. Check if a tree is tilting to a side, if the land has developed cracks and if the land seems to have slid downwards.

While building your house, use the designs the government will release soon or consult an engineer registered with the National Engineering Council. Follow the building codes while constructing your house.

Dinesh Kumar Napit

Senior Geologist
Department of Mines and
Geology
9841617135

Subesh Ghimire

Geology Department
Tribhuvan University
9849594896

CONCERNS

JHAKRIDANDA, LALITPUR

"There is a problem of transportation here because of frequent landslides."



KAMALAMAI, SINDHULI

"The main problem for residents here is the road destroyed by the earthquake."

KUSHESHWOR, SINDHULI

"Since the roads and trails destroyed by the earthquake are yet to be repaired, people are facing numerous difficulties."

JALKANYA, SINDHULI

"Roads have been completely damaged."

ANSWERS

The Chief District Officer of Sindhuli said that sections of roads in Sindhuli, which were damaged in the earthquake, are in the process of being repaired.

The BP Highway, which suffered damages in 14 identified places, is being repaired right now. Vehicle movement, however, has not been disrupted.

The Sindhuli DDC is in charge of reconstructing the unpaved roads in Sindhuli. The process of mending roads to Kapilakot and Tilpung has also begun.

The repair of foot trails and mule tracks in Sindhuli, which were damaged by the earthquake, will begin in Dashain. Earthquake-affected people will be mobilised under 'cash for work' programmes to make the trails usable again.

If you see a section of a road still in need of repair, contact the DDC.

In Lalitpur, the road that stretches from Chapagaun to Baguwa via Jhakridanda falls under Kanti Lokpath Road Project.

The project's chief said that a segment of the road in Jhakridanda kept getting blocked because of landslides, but that there were four excavators and two supervisors on standby to clear the road whenever needed.

Contact the local supervisor or the project office if the debris is not cleared on time.



CONCERNS

KUMPUR, AMILICHHAP, DHADING

"Locals here need seeds and irrigation facilities."

NALANG, DHADING

"People here need fertilisers more than seeds."

SALANG, DHADING

"There is water enough for drinking, but not for the fields."

KALLERI, DHADING

"People have been unable to irrigate their fields and there is still the shortage of fertilisers. This place is famous for chilli peppers, but because the monsoon was weak this year, only a few saplings have sprouted."

SHANKHU, KAVRE

"It will be time to grow potatoes soon, but there is a shortage of fertiliser for that."

BHIMKHORI, KAVRE

"People plant vegetables in winter, but they need both seeds and irrigations facilities."

ANSWERS

District Agriculture Development Offices (ADO) in Dhading and Kavrepalanchowk said they have been distributing seeds and providing technical assistance through Agriculture Service Centres in the districts.

Farmers can consult these service centres and plant seeds according to season, the quality of soil and access to water for irrigation.

Until two weeks ago, Dhading ADO was distributing subsidised fertiliser through local cooperatives. The distribution has since been stalled because of transportation problems.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation is helping to repair some damaged irrigation canals in Dhading based on priority. Dhading ADO is also repairing canals as part of its regular programme.

If a farmer in Dhading needs help with seeds, irrigation and fertiliser, they can contact the district ADO's toll free number, 166002419.

The ADO in Kavrepalanchowk says that they have fertiliser in stock and farmers can contact their service centres or local cooperatives if they are in need.

Mahendra Koudal

District Agriculture
Development Officer
Dhading
9851120930

Tharka Bahadur GC

Horticulture Development
Officer
Kavrepalanchowk
9847306241

CONCERNS

AMILICHHAP, DHADING

"Right after the earthquake, the need was for food, tarpaulin and other such items and the relief organisations matched it, but now the needs have changed."

LELE, LALITPUR

"There is inequality in the distribution of relief material provided by non-government organisations. People think the reason might be corruption and lack of proper inspection."

AINSELUKHARKA, KAVRE

"We need iron, but they distribute food and clothing. If they had distributed iron, we would have worked. But we get rice and beaten rice instead. So, we just drink and go to sleep."

BADIKHEL, LALITPUR

"Locals are not satisfied with the work non-governmental organisations are providing. They want the organisations to work according to need. How can relief work be impartial if they look at religion and caste-ethnicity?"

ANSWERS

District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs) coordinate relief efforts with humanitarian agencies working in earthquake-affected districts.

Agencies follow the one-window policy of the government and should take permission from the concerned DDRC before working in VDCs and municipalities.

Organisations also need to get their plans and programmes approved by the DDRC before implementing them. They implement their programmes after assessing needs in the geographical area and sector they want to work in. They might not be able to fulfil needs outside their scope of their work.

Organisations may prioritise more vulnerable groups such as single women, people living with disabilities during aid distribution.

Community members are often consulted during needs assessment. If you think that agencies have ignored your communities' needs or are not impartial in distribution, you can register a request or complaint with your DDRC through the VDC secretary or the executive officer of your municipality.

Sudarsan Prasad Dhakal

Chief District Officer
Kavre
9851237777

Basudev Ghimire

Chief District Officer
Dhading
9851247777

RUMOURS

FACTS



BHIRKOT, DOLAKHA

"The government said they were going to provide Rs 200,000 to each household only to assure people. If it were really going to distribute that amount, it would have done so by now."

The government has stated its aim to support every household whose houses were completely destroyed in the earthquake.

The Central Bureau of Statistics will conduct a detailed assessment of the damages after Tihar and verify the eligibility of households for the government's subsidy.

Based on this assessment, the government will begin distributing Rs 200,000 in installments. The distribution is expected to start in early 2016. The government currently has enough funds to support 120,000 households.

The amount will be deposited in bank accounts. Both the government and donor organisations are working to increase households' access to financial institutions.

The first tranche will be deposited to construct the plinth of the house. If the construction is compliant with the existing building codes, the second tranche will be disbursed to build to the level of ring beams. If the construction follows the building standards, the rest of the money will be deposited to construct the roof.

Ravi Shah

Deputy Director General
Department of Urban
Development and Building
Construction
98510

Rudra Suwal

Deputy Director General
Central Bureau of
Statistics
9841232773

The rumours and issues presented here were collected by frontline workers from partner organisations and #quakehelpdesk volunteers based on their face-to-face conversation with around 510 people in 13 districts between 1-7 October. 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: