

Welcome to the sixteenth 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

### SANKHU, KAVREPALANCHOWK

"They say that Rs 15,000 was distributed to all because everyone needed a temporary shelter. But now, they will check everyone's papers and give Rs 200,000 only to those who will build a house."

### KAMALAMAI, SINDHULI

"Our house is unfit for living but they marked it 'partially damaged'. Wish a monitoring team would monitor every single house."

### JANTARKHANI, OKHALDHUNGA

"My father-in-law took all the relief material. I didn't get any because I don't own the house. We lived in the same house as separate households. I should get relief as well."

### HANDIKHOLA, OKHALDHUNGA

"Our house is marked as 'completely damaged', but it looks less at risk compared to others around. They say we will be taken to court and might have to go to jail."

## FACTS

The government has decided to support those households whose houses were completely destroyed in the quake.

Immediately after the earthquake, a team comprising Village Development Committee (VDC) secretary or executive director of municipality and local political party representatives assessed the damages and identified beneficiaries. The team had used its discretion and counted some families living in the same house but sharing different kitchens as two households.

Families dissatisfied with the assessment can file a complaint with the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC). The DDRC will only investigate falsification of documents or malfeasance if a complaint has been filed. Without receiving a complaint, the government will not monitor the distribution of earthquake victim ID cards.

Unless you provided false information to obtain the ID card and someone filed a complaint against you, you will not go to jail.

The government is mobilising Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) to assess the damages in detail before distributing Rs 200,000. Households will be determined eligible based on CBS's assessment.

Any mistake in identification of affected families in the first round of assessment might be rectified by this study.

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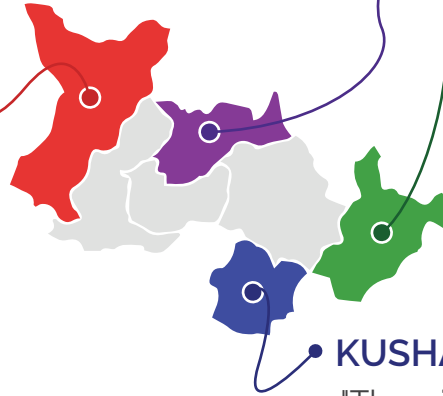
## RUMOURS

### DANDAGAUN, RASUWA

"We wish the government would provide jackets to displaced children for winter."

### GORKHA BAZAAR, GORKHA

"They say the earthquake affected will get a jacket each for winter."



### MELUNG, DOLAKHA

"We lived through monsoon in tents with fear. Now, the winter has begun. The government has not talked about distributing Rs 200,000. How are we to sleep through the winter nights? We will probably shiver to death."

### KUSHADEVI, KAVREPALANCHOWK

"The winter has forced people to move inside their dilapidated houses."

## FACTS

Organisations in the shelter cluster are planning to provide winterisation kits to families, whose houses were completely destroyed in the earthquake, beginning in mid-October.

Most vulnerable households above 1500m, based on the assessment of local bodies and the shelter cluster, will be given priority.

A general kit comprises warm clothing (hats and jackets), blankets, bedding items (foam sheeting) and sealing off material (tarpaulins wires and foam sheeting). Households above 2000m will be eligible for supplemental kits that include improved wood-burning cooking stoves and solar lamps.

According to altitude isoline maps, Gorkha Bazaar will not be eligible for winterisation kits. A small segment in the western Melung, most of eastern Jafe and most households in Dandagaun in Rasuwa and Kushadevi in Kavrepalchowk will receive the kits.

Living in damaged houses can be dangerous, as they might collapse anytime. Families can keep themselves warm in temporary shelters by raising mattresses/bedding off the floor. Foam sheets and tarpaulins can be used under the mattress to prevent heat loss through the floor. Gaps in tents/residence can be sealed off by using blankets, foam sheets or tarpaulins. If families use fire to keep the tent/room warm, proper ventilation is a must.



## RUMOURS

### MAILUNG, GORKHA

"They say that people will have to pay Rs 2,000 and fill out a form to get training on masonry. After the training, they will get a job and be paid Rs 30,000 monthly. Where can we get the forms?"

### NIMJUNG, GORKHA

"They say village youths will be provided training on masonry and mobilised to build houses."

### SALANG, DHADING

"It is difficult to get labourers to build houses in villages. Even if we get one, the wage they demand is very high."

### NAUBISE, DHADING

"After the earthquake, even the wage of an unskilled labourer has gone up. The wage of a skilled one is even higher. How can we afford to build houses?"

### KUSHESHWOR DUMJA, SINDHULI

"There is a shortage of skilled workers."

## FACTS

In its budget speech this fiscal year, the government announced its aim to train at least 50,000 people in earthquake-affected districts for reconstruction.

Both government agencies--such as the Centre for Technical Education and Vocational Training and the Centre for Vocational and Skills Development Training--and organisations in the shelter cluster are providing training to craftsmen on building earthquake-resistant houses in all affected districts.

Organisations, providing training, will have to coordinate with the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC).

People wishing to receive training on building earthquake-resistant houses will have to fill out a form. Organisations will announce the programmes through different media such as radio at least seven days before the start of the training. You can also contact your VDC/municipality to learn more.

Trainees will not have to pay fee, but will be given a daily allowance. They will also get a certificate, signed by an officer from DUDBC and the partner /donor organisation, upon completion of the course.

Organisations or the government are not responsible to provide jobs to craftsmen once they are trained. It is up to the owner of the house to hire trained skilled workers and negotiate wages, although a minimum wage has been set by individual District Development Committees.

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# RUMOURS

## LAHAREPAUWA, RASUWA

"We've heard that the government will disburse Rs 25,000 for Dashain celebrations. Will it?"

"The festival season has become a headache to the displaced. They are hoping that the government will provide some Dashain relief."

## TRIPURESHWOR DHADING

"People wish the government would give them some money to cover their Dashain expenses"

## BADIKHEL, LALITPUR

"Nothing happens with Rs 15,000. If we had received additional amount, we would have arranged something permanent. The festival season is near, but we don't know how to prepare for celebrations."

## RAYALE, KAVRE

"Life in temporary shelters is already hard. Affected families don't know how they will celebrate this Dashain."

## KUSHADEVI, KAVREPALANCHOWK

"People thought the government would provide them Rs 35,000 for Dashain."

## BHIMKHORI, KAVREPALANCHOWK

"People need food for Dashain."

## MELUNG, DOLAKHA

"We've heard that the government will provide goats during Dashain to earthquake-affected families. Is that true? Where will they distribute the goats?"

## LAKURIDANDA, DOLAKHA

"Right after the earthquake, a lot of organisations came with food. Back then, most of the food items just rotted away. Now, we wish some organisation would distribute food for Dashain."

## KUSHESHWOR, DUMJA

"As the festival season nears, people worried about their finances. They wish someone would support them to celebrate this Dashain and Tihar."

FACTS

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**FACTS**

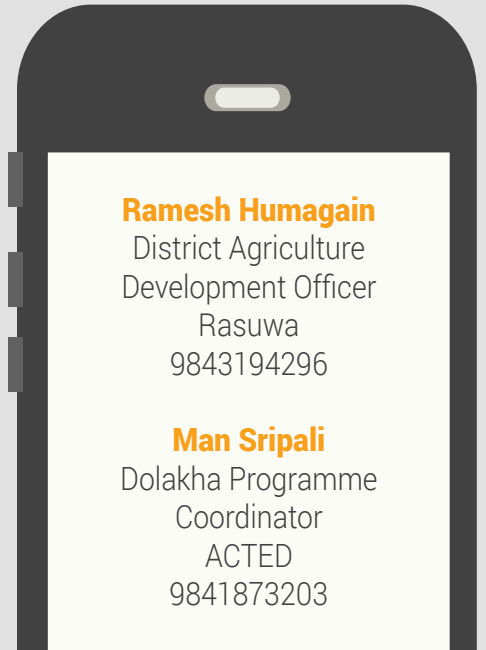
The government does not have plans to distribute relief items, including cash or goats or food items, focusing on Dashain and Tihar celebrations.

District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs) are currently phasing out relief work and focusing on recovery work. Organisations will continue to organise 'cash for work' and 'food for work' programmes in earthquake-affected districts.

In some districts, organisations are distributing food to food insecure areas. This has been delayed in many areas, including Dolakha, due to transportation problems.

Organisations working to support displaced communities in temporary camps will continue to distribute food and other relief items based on need.

In some villages of earthquake-affected districts, communities are coming together to support each other during the festivals. In Gorkha, for example, families planted *jamara* together and are organising a cultural programme on the tenth day.



**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 700 people in 11 districts between 7-14 October. The selection was done on the basis of prevalence and relevance. The information presented here is correct at the time of issue.**

**The next issue of Open Mic Nepal will be published on 2 november 2015.**

Open Mic Nepal presented by:

