

Welcome to the seventeenth 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

LAPRAK, GORKHA

"There are rumours that displaced families will get land based on the land-ownership documents they owned before."



PALUNGTA, GORKHA

"They say that people whose citizenship and land-ownership documents were buried under the earthquake rubble will get new ones in their own villages."

FACTS

The local government bodies in Gorkha do not have plans for door-to-door distribution of citizenship and land-ownership certificates to those who had theirs buried under the earthquake rubble.

The government keeps the records of land ownership and citizenship. These records are safe and those who lost their certificates can reapply to get a copy. Affected people will have to travel to the relevant offices for the process.

If you had an older version of the land-ownership certificate that did not bear the photo of the owner, citizenship number or other important information, you will need to submit a recommendation letter from the Village Development Committee (VDC) with the application.

The Land Revenue Office in Gorkha is expediting the process of reissuing of land-ownership certificates to those affected by the earthquake.

The government has not made any concrete decisions regarding the resettlement of people displaced by the earthquake.

There are no plans to relocate the displaced based on their existing land-ownership documents.

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CONCERNS

GORKHA BAZAAR, GORKHA

"They say that those who receive Rs 200,000 in grant will not be able to get the subsidised loan and those who get the loan will not get the subsidy."

NIBUTAR, MAKWANPUR

"Will the government really give us additional support or is it just trying to shut us up by saying that it will? If it's really going to give us the money, when will we get it by?"

GADHI, MAKWANPUR

"People want to know when they will get Rs 200,000 each to build houses. They also want to know if a household which has already built its house is eligible for the subsidy."

KAMALAMAI, SINDHULI

"We've heard that we will get Rs 185,000 and loans at a subsidised interest rate to build houses. But we don't know how we will receive this support."

ANSWERS

The government has recently released the procedures for providing financial assistance for the reconstruction of houses completely destroyed by earthquake.

Families whose houses were completely destroyed in the quake and who do not have an alternate place for living are eligible for the subsidy.

A household can either avail of subsidised loan or a grant, but not both. Therefore a household that applies for subsidised loan will not be eligible for the grant.

The government will deposit the cash in the bank accounts of qualified households in four instalments; subsequent tranches will be released based on the progress of construction after verification by a monitoring team.

Failure to comply with building codes will render the household ineligible for subsequent tranches.

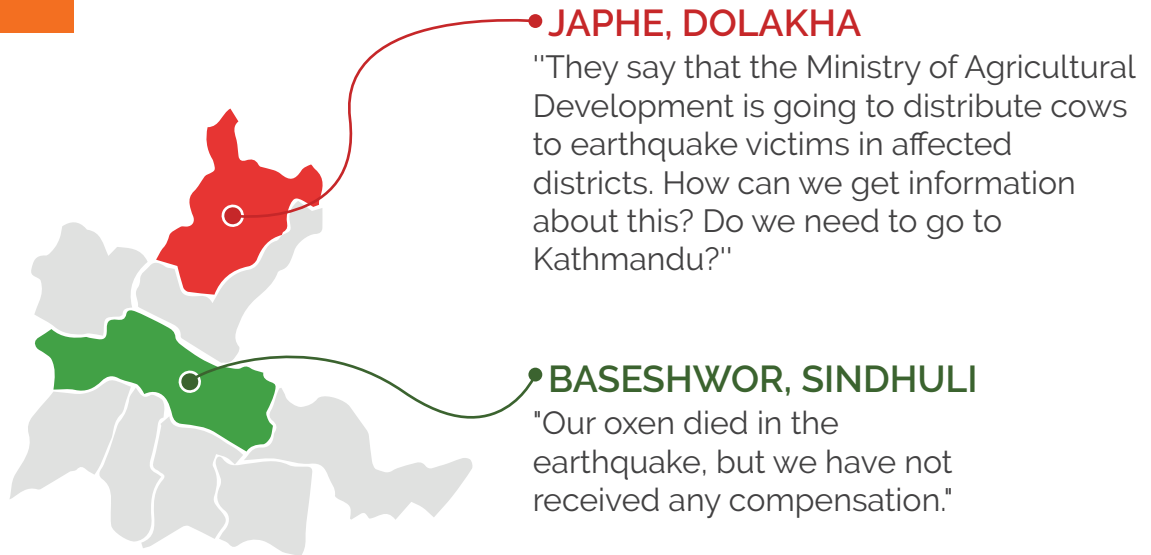
It is not clear when the government will start disbursing the subsidy. The procedures might be amended until then.

Eligible households will receive Rs 200,000 or the cost of rebuilding the house, whichever amount is smaller.

The procedures released by the government do not mention whether the household which has already built its house will qualify for subsidy. Still, if you start building your house before the subsidy is disbursed, follow the building codes.

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CONCERNS



• **JAPHE, DOLAKHA**

"They say that the Ministry of Agricultural Development is going to distribute cows to earthquake victims in affected districts. How can we get information about this? Do we need to go to Kathmandu?"

• **BASESHWOR, SINDHULI**

"Our oxen died in the earthquake, but we have not received any compensation."

ANSWERS

The government has made a decision to distribute cows at a subsidised rate to families who lost their cattle in the earthquake. The government will provide up to 90 percent of the cost or up to Rs 65,000, whichever is less, in subsidy.

A total of 2,000 cows will be distributed in 24 earthquake-affected districts by the end of this fiscal year. According to the Department of Animal Services, farmers will have to submit applications by mid-November.

District Animal Service Offices will collect the applications. A committee comprising four people--with the chief officer of District Animal Services Office as the coordinator, and a Planning Officer, a Health Officer and a representative from the District Daily Production Cooperative Organisation as members--will review the applications and select at most 75 farmers in each district.

The team will recommend the breed of cow for the farmer based on the farmer's locality. After the lists of qualified farmers from all districts are in, the government will purchase and distribute the cows.

The selected farmer will have to pay Rs 7,220 or the remaining 10 percent of the cost, whichever is higher, to the District Agriculture Office before receiving the cow. The farmer will also be given three-day training on cow rearing.

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CONCERNS



• SIMJUNG, GORKHA

"We planted the rice seeds distributed by the Agriculture Development Office, but the panicles have not matured into grains. Will we get compensated for this loss?"

ANSWERS

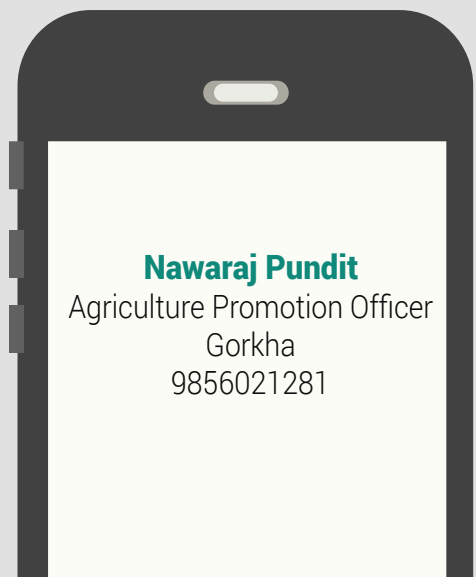
The District Agriculture Development Office in Gorkha is planning to send a fact-finding team to areas where the rice seeds distributed by the Office have failed to mature into grains.

The fact-finding missions could be delayed due to current transportation problems. If the team finds fault with the seeds distributed, the Office will provide compensation.

In cases where the Office facilitated the distribution of faulty seeds provided by non-government organisations, the latter will be asked to provide compensation.

The form of compensation in both cases is unclear at the moment.

If the team, however, finds that the farmers did not follow the cultivation instructions given while distributing the seeds, they will not be compensated. For example, farmers might have erroneously planted seeds in altitudes unfavourable to that particular species of rice.



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 375 people in 5 districts between 12-29 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:

