

28th APRIL, 2015

INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

MEETING ON NEPAL & INDIA EARTHQUAKE

SHARING STRATEGIES AND EVOLVING THE COLLECTIVE WAY FORWARD

OUTCOMES OF CCSA DISCUSSIONS AND STRATEGY FOR NEPAL & INDIA

Basis the detailed discussions and per the requirements and suggestions received from the Nepalese State the following outcomes were agreed upon by all CCSA participants and constituents.

Briefly, first the Nepalese State provided the following insights:

- Shelters are priority for those rendered homeless. Most people either do not have homes or are unable to inhabit them due to the damage and/or danger of collapse. 80% of the constructions in Nepal are very old homes that have suffered serious to severe damage.
- The immediate threat in the coming days is of heavy rains and landslides. Cracks in the earth are deep and wide which are dangerous for human habitation and movement.
- Economists preliminarily suggest that anywhere between 30-50 % of the nation's GDP has been wiped out.
- Opening land routes is critical since the single airport at Kathmandu is overburdened, damaged and being the only/main point of entry/access all relief is getting concentrated there. Nepal Government encourages land route to access remote areas and will endorse and support CCSA initiatives and help secure approvals for transit, customs etc.
- Routes from Gorakhpur, Raxaul and Birgunj are suitable entry points and roads are being cleared to ensure access from these regions to more severely affected areas.
- Aid and relief needs to be decentralized across Nepal and not remain concentrated around the Kathmandu valley. 15 nations have provided disaster rescue teams to Nepal which are on standby due to rush. Helicopter services and aerial surveys of remote regions have only just begun.
- Food, water and shelter, medicines and doctors are top priority, and the process has to be step wise commencing with Rescue, Loss Quantification, Rehabilitation and Rebuilding.
- Nepalese Embassy is open 24/7 and all aid can be dropped off at its premises.
- Nepal needs the expertise, cooperation and strategy of its neighbours and particularly from Indian Civil Society Organizations for peoples' rehabilitation and rebuilding structures.
- In-spite of familial relations, Nepal did not anticipate the quantum of massive peoples and public support that it has received, particularly from India and was deeply gratified but at the same time hoped and emphasized that this momentum be maintained for the challenging times coming ahead.

Discussions/Decisions of the CCSA:

- Coordinate with existing organizations (like COVA-India and Gandhi Foundation-Nepal) that have networks on ground in Nepal and most importantly have the necessary regulatory and legal permits and approvals for transfer of funds, aid and relief material to Nepal. In addition, also utilize the Nepalese Embassy official channels for relief material and aid.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes/Ministry of Home Affairs has released a circular that allows direct transfer of funds to account in Nepal without prior government approval. In the alternative, the Nepal Embassy has a pre-approved account where monies can be transferred to.
- Prior experience, including during the Uttarakhand disaster indicates that donations to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund do not necessarily translate into action and delivery on the ground. Also, State mechanisms could be geo-politically and ideologically tweaked to become exclusionary for some sections.
- Most urgently, CCSA has to setup a Secretariat Office to coordinate all information sharing amongst its members and partners and to the general public, conduct collection and packaging of relief material, operate clearing and logistics hubs for disbursement of relief material, liaise with State and Donor agencies and setup and direct collection and donation centres across the country.
- Arrange for monetary aid for procuring relief material, food-items, medicines, tents and shelters and monies for setting up and managing nationwide collection and donation centres from INGOs, State and Civil Society Donor and Funding Agencies to whatever extent possible.
- Needs need to mapped district wise, taking into account local demography and tailoring relief to be district specific. Identify ground level organizations, district wise to support and reach last mile for determining needs and delivering aid.
- Collection points are being setup across the country, immediately in Lucknow, Dehradun and border regions of Bihar, UP and Uttarakhand. Mapping and coordination of these to ensure decentralized aid.
- Some Nepali participants suggested that discussion on making Aid delivery efficient and targeted need not be gotten into at this stage since the urgency is immense. One should trust the human conscience to do good and not delay relief because of prolonged thoughts on how to make systems efficient. Efficiency will come naturally once work commences.
- Actively engage and coordinate all those who are willing to help in whatever capacity (individual or institutional) by sharing information through Social and Conventional Media and coordinating/directing outreach initiatives.
- Focus of CCSA efforts have to be directed 2 fold:
 - Focus on remote, rural and inaccessible areas outside of the Kathmandu Valley and/or not covered by existing relief and rescue efforts.

- Special focus on vulnerable sections of the population namely LGBTs, children and orphans, women and widows, old and aged and the marginalized Janajatis and Dalits.
- Each participant and member organization shall support to the fullest in their area of expertise and share best practices with each other. It is paramount to not be wasteful, be efficient in resource consumption and allocation and not duplicate strategies and efforts.
- Mid to Long term commitment to inform and involve with the rehabilitation and rebuilding processes so that mistakes of the past (for e.g. high rise housing on seismic fault lines, tourism or congested urban planning) are not repeated.
- A follow up meeting in the coming week to assess work, update CCSA constituents, members, partners and constituents and strategize forwards.
- CCSA Secretariat to clarify all procedures with the Government and Nepalese Embassy.

CCSA SECRETARIAT

- To operationalize these outcomes the most pressing urgency is for a CCSA Secretariat that can physically function from allocated premises to carry out the decisions and implement coordination of the civil society's relief and aid effort for Nepal and India.
- This will be setup apart from and independent of the monetary aid to be requisitioned at a large scale from INGOs and State and Donor agencies for Relief materials (medicines, blankets, food, water etc.) logistics and transport costs and subsequently urban reconstruction in the long term. It is anticipated that our partners in Nepal will be able to reach the distant difficult to reach regions and social groups with required relief more effectively than the official machinery. However, we will make all efforts to cooperate and coordinate with official processes.
- Broadly the immediate requirements and functions of the Secretariat are :
 - Setting up a Nodal Office and collection, packaging and coordination centre.
 - Setting up health interventions, trauma and counselling, personnel and logistics, communication and outreach and monetary and material apparatus.
 - Organizing routes and logistics for relief materials to be dispatched.
 - Coordinate with Nepalese Embassy and assist to lighten their strain viz. Organization, volunteering, administration, information dissemination, collection and dispatch.
 - Create and coordinate volunteer database and assign roles per expertise.
 - Setup and manage website, social and conventional media outreach programs.
 - Across the border mapping of district wise ground organizations and volunteers to determine district wise peoples' relief, medical and basic infrastructure needs.

LIST OF ITEMS SUGGESTED/REQUESTED

- Dry fruits
- Non perishable food items specially high energy snacks like biscuits, food bars/chocolates, noodles etc.
- Medicines

- Solar lamps, wind up torches, lighting equipment – preferably portable.
- Foam sheets for sleeping. Bedding
- Warm clothes.
- Rice, Maize, *Chiwra*, Corn, Pulses for sustenance and cooking.
- Tents, trauplin, plastic sheets for shelter.