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Obstacles

The government only allows earthquake-resistant new construction of rebar and cement, but local people don't know how to build with it. Even if they did, the government has yet to provide the house plans, much less the promised \$2,000 per household for these materials.

Instead, the government has offered another \$3,000 as a loan -- impossible to afford on the average Nepal salary of \$3 a day. So, without a viable action plan, funds, materials, or expertise, earthquake survivors huddle in 10-by-16-foot tin huts with their few possessions, and meager livestock.

Water

Many villages are without a water source, requiring a trip of up to four hours a day to fetch water. There are few storage tanks. Although some INGOs have built new reservoirs with pumps in a few villages, the locals need to be taught how to maintain the equipment for vital irrigation. Without it, crops have gone unplanted or have failed.

Schools

Schools are a bright spot. International and Nepali volunteers built temporary learning centers of sturdy post-and-beam construction with corrugated tin walls and roofs. Several INGOS have since built permanent schools. Most communities have funding and plans in place for more.

Health Posts

Virtually all health posts and birthing centers in hardest-hit Sindupawlchuk district were destroyed, and construction of sturdy new health posts is just starting. Unfortunately the plan details have not been shared with the communities, which are desperate for basic health care and safe birthing centers.

Government role is key

The people of Nepal are hardworking and self-reliant. They have done everything they can to restart their lives. In a visible act of trust and hope, they have painstakingly terraced the brick-and-clay rubble of their former houses into new house sites. Now, they need what was promised to rebuild their lives.

Most of these essentials must be accomplished and coordinated by the Nepal government. This includes birthing centers, permanent schools, water, livestock and seeds. These plans need to be communicated. Promised funds must be distributed. With the monsoon seasons closing in, there is no time to waste.

Dr. Marie Long

GNE Founder and Chairperson



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