

Appeal for emergency support to quake-affected victims

On November 3rd, 2023, at 11.54 pm a massive 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck Jajarkot and Rukum Paschim and adjoining areas in Karanli province of Nepal, causing massive damage of physical infrastructures and causality of lives. Being earthquakes has occurred during the night, the number of deaths has increased. The earthquake has followed by multiple aftershocks, causing more destruction to the already vulnerable region. The shocks led to the collapse of numerous buildings, mainly the mud & stone-made houses and livestock sheds, as a consequence, the affected people are living in the open sky.

As of 5:00 p.m. on November 4th, 143 people lost their lives, and 166 were injured in Jajarkot and Rukum West. 62 people are being treated in Jajarkot and 37 people are referred to Surkhet Hospital for further treatment (*source: Nepal Police, CDO office, journalists*).

In the Bheri Municipality of Jajarkot only, the CDO office, Nepal Police in Jajarkot reported that 42 people (28 Female Males, 14 Males) had lost their lives, and 35 were injured. The earthquake destroyed approximately 3500 houses, with Wards no. 1, 2, 3, 4 of Bheri Municipality. Additionally, 70% of livestock perished. Due to internet connectivity issues, the data on losses and damages were difficult to update, but the authorities have assured the public that they will be updated soon.

Moreover, the earthquake caused significant damage to local roads and the communication network, making it challenging to access basic goods, food, shelter, water, and security. The affected people are in dire need of immediate assistance, and the authorities are working tirelessly to provide relief and support to the affected communities.

Overall the earthquake has caused huge damage to local roads and the communication network, which has disturbed rescue and relief work in remote villages. The victims do not have access to medical services, food, water, shelter, and security. Victims are suffering more due to increasing cold day by day. In this context, the affected people are in utmost need of immediate humanitarian assistance. The local authorities with humanitarian agencies are working tirelessly to provide relief and support to the affected communities.

The government has mobilized security and public service personnel and resources for emergency response to the chaos but it has not been able to function at its full capacity in responding to the emergency. Thus it has requested support from stakeholders, including humanitarian agencies and CSOs, to join hand-on-hand in this painstaking situation. Sahakarmi Samaj is implementing one of its programs in Bheri and Chhedagad municipalities and Shiwalaya Rural municipality of Jajarkot. It has local office and two Community-Based Network Organizations (CBNO) in Jajarkot-Paschim Jajarkot Bikas Samaj (PJBS) with 68 community groups, and the other is Bheri Samudayik Bikas Manch (BSBM) with 97 community groups. Currently, our group members and the network in collaboration with the local governments for search, rescue and to provide immediate relief support to earthquake-affected victims. The devastating situation calls for support as soon as possible to the emergency

needs of the people, If not addressed quickly, the situation can create more havoc—causing more deaths and injuries to thousands of lives. SS has experience in emergency response as in COVID-19, floods and landslides, etc. SS will mobilize its human resources (volunteers, staff, and group networks) to facilitate and manage the support provided.

To respond to this dire situation, the victims are currently in need of basic supplies—food (rice, lentil, oil, beaten rice, *dalmoth*, salt, sugar, etc.), shelter (tent set), drinking water (water filter, *piyush*), clothes, first aid support (first-aid kit), security, utensils, etc. Though they are being supported with these supplies by group members, they won't be able to support at the fullest to the needs of the victims. The devastating situation calls for support as soon as possible to the emergency needs of the people, If not addressed quickly, the situation can create more havoc—causing more deaths and injuries to thousands of lives.

Regarding this, we appeal to you to support the earthquake victims in this adversity and help them to fulfill their emergency needs as mentioned above. If you are interested in providing any kind of support, we will be more than happy to facilitate the process of managing and delivering the support directly to the communities and the victim families.

We would be extremely grateful to share further information regarding this. If interested, kindly find us at the following contact address.

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ANNEX:

PHOTOS:



Bheri Municipality-01, Jajarkot



Bheri Municipality-03, Thaple, Jajarkot (Homestay)



Bheri Municipality-03, Thaple, Jajarkot

