


JAJARKOT EARTHQUAKE

Quad-Day Situation Analysis Report

(21-24 December, 2023)

Editor: Dr. Raju Thapa, DPNNet

A photograph showing a person in a light-colored sweater and dark pants with white stripes on the side, crouching on a wooden roof structure. The structure appears to be under construction or repair, with exposed wooden beams and some missing sections. In the background, there are mountains and a clear blue sky. The overall scene suggests a rural or semi-rural area affected by an earthquake.

This reports highlights various issues including bureaucratic delays in disbursing funds for temporary housing construction have left many earthquake affected people living in risky conditions, exacerbated by severe cold weather. Despite the NDRRMA releasing funds to the DDMC, which then passed them on to local governments, the process of grant distribution to individuals has been significantly delayed. This situation is particularly pronounced in Banphikot Municipality, where the transfer of the CAO has stalled the disbursement of funds, delaying the construction of houses. To date, none of the earthquake-affected individuals have received the promised grants in the Banphikot. The Meteorological Forecasting Division's report of westerly winds affecting the weather, with chances of light rain and snow in hilly regions, adds to the hardships of those who lives under tarpaulin.

In response to the urgent need for safer housing, experts and concerned parties are advocating for a transition from traditional mud and stone construction to more earthquake-resistant techniques, utilizing materials like bamboo, wood, concrete, and steel. This shift in building practices is vital, considering the region's history of seismic activity and the potential for future substantial earthquakes. Still individuals in the process of constructing vulnerable mud and stone houses, a practice that urgently needs to be halted. Additionally, labor shortages have further complicated shelter construction efforts, with many locals struggling to find workers to build temporary shelters. This situation is impacting various individuals, including those who have lost family members in the earthquake, and highlights the broader challenges of recovery and reconstruction in the earthquake affected area.

BUREAUCRATIC SLOWDOWNS LEAVE JAJARKOT QUAKE AFFECTED PEOPLE IN LIFE THREATENING COLD

Two months have passed since the Jajarkot earthquake, and the situation for those affected is worsening due to severe cold. People are still living in temporary shelters as the process of distributing grants for constructing temporary housing has been slow. About a month ago, the NDRRMA released funds to the DDMC, which in turn passed them to local governments in the earthquake-affected areas. However, various issues have delayed the distribution of these grants to individuals. A notable example is in Baphikot Municipality, where the transfer of the Chief Administrative Officer has led to a halt in disbursing funds to beneficiaries, delaying the construction of houses. To date, none of the earthquake-affected individuals have received the promised grants. In response, the municipality has appointed an Acting CAO and reached out to the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration to expedite the appointment of a new CAO. This process is important to resume financial operations and grant distribution. However, the process is expected to take time, leaving people in challenging conditions under tarpaulins in the cold climate.



The current weather forecast presents additional difficulties for those in makeshift shelters. The Meteorological Forecasting Division reports that westerly winds are influencing the country's weather, leading to partly cloudy to fair conditions nationwide. In the hilly regions, including Sudurpaschim and Karnali Provinces, there is a chance of light rain and snowfall in high-hilly and mountainous areas, further exacerbating the living conditions of those in temporary shelters. The tarpaulin provides inadequate protection against rain and cold, posing risks, particularly to vulnerable groups like children, the elderly, and those with health issues. With the possibility of health complications arising from these extreme weather conditions, there is an urgent need for measures to improve the living conditions of the earthquake-affected communities. DPNet would like to bring the attention of the concerned stakeholders in such bureaucratic delays that are putting lives at risk.

URGENT CALL TO STOP MUD AND STONE CONSTRUCTION WITH SAFER MATERIALS

The Jajarkot earthquake has highlighted the hazardous nature of traditional mud and stone houses, which crumbled due to earthquake, resulting in significant loss of life and property. The region's history of seismic activity, including a seismic gap spanning over 500 years, suggests the potential for more substantial earthquakes in the future. This reality necessitates a critical reassessment of building practices in the area. Experts and concerned parties are advocating for a transition from traditional construction methods to more earthquake-resistant techniques. The adoption of reinforced materials like bamboo, wood, concrete, and steel, combined with contemporary engineering approaches, is essential to mitigate

risks in future seismic events. This call to action extends beyond merely replacing old structures; it involves a comprehensive shift in the way communities approach building. Educating local populations about earthquake safety, retrofitting existing buildings, and implementing strict building codes are crucial steps towards enhancing resilience.

As the Jajarkot earthquake area get on its path to recovery, the focus must not only be on rebuilding but on doing so with a commitment to safety and sustainability. The transformation of construction practices in earthquake-prone areas is not just a matter of immediate recovery; it's about securing the future of communities against unpredictable future disasters.



The image clearly depicts earthquake affected individuals in the process of constructing vulnerable mud and stone houses lacking essential engineering features like lintels, which need to be halted considering future mega earthquake in the region. There is a critical need to raise awareness among the affected populace about the risks associated with these traditional building methods, particularly considering long seismic gap indicating a looming earthquake threat. Various communication channels should be utilized to effectively sensitize the community to these dangers. DPNet urges all relevant stakeholders to focus their attention on this serious issue and to consider the potential future impacts of another earthquake in this region.

LABOR SHORTAGES COMPLICATE EARTHQUAKE SHELTER CONSTRUCTION EFFORTS

The aftereffects of the earthquake in Sanibheri Rural Municipality-4 Golchaur have left Khusimaya BK in a dilemma. Desperate to build a temporary shelter near her destroyed home, she faces the challenge of managing the construction with her husband abroad and her children to care for at home. Despite the money sent by her husband, Khusimaya struggles to find laborers. "Even with money, it's hard to find workers," she shared.



In a similar difficulty, 77-year-old Chime Sunar from Golchaur faces the prospect of building a temporary house alone due to his son's absence abroad. "My son isn't here, so it's tough to construct a new house or even clear the debris," he expressed, giving examples of the challenges of many affected by the earthquake.

District Administration Office Rukum West shared the need for 23,608 temporary shelters as of now with Acting Chief District Officer Pravesh Baduwal expecting an increase as the beneficiary identification process continues. Man Bahadur Pun, Ward chairperson of Sanibheri-2, agreed with Khusimaya's sentiment, citing the labor shortage due to many being away for employment. "Who will come to work? Everyone's house has been destroyed," he explained, expressing efforts to self-manage labor shortages.

Meanwhile, Dipendra Shrestha of Aathbiskot noted that while materials like local wood are available, labor is scarce and expensive. "Finding workers is difficult," he remarked, highlighting the urgent need for hands in construction. Deepak Sunar of Athbiskot-13 emphasized the serious need for young laborers to clear debris. However, the lack of youth in the village poses a challenge.

ORPHANED CHILDREN'S STRUGGLE AFTER THE QUAKE IN JAJARKOT

Following the devastating earthquake in Jajarkot, families continue to face its aftereffects. In Bheri Municipality-1 Ghuyalmeta, Dandaraj, 13, and 8-year-old Nisha face the challenges of becoming orphans after losing their mother, living their elder brother Gagan Rana, who is mentally challenged, as their primary caretaker. Schooling has been disrupted for Dandaraj, while Nisha struggles to concentrate at School due to emotional strain. "She hasn't been attending school regularly, and when she does, focusing on studies has been a challenge," explained Prabhakar Sharma, principal of Suryodaya School. "She's facing mental health difficulties, which makes it hard for us to support her effectively." At the moment, the siblings are taking shelter in a temporary shelter built by volunteers.



Muna BK, a student at Nepal National Primary School, lost her mother in the quake, leading to distress and a halt in her studies. With her father Dalbir struggling to cope with the loss and Muna's deteriorating health, their situation remains severe. The story of 8-year-old Prem Kali BK from Nalgad Municipality-1 Chiuri reflects the struggles faced by these children and their relatives following the loss of their parents. Ward chairperson Dhan Bahadur Mahar mentioned, "The children and their relatives are facing difficulties following the loss of their parents." According to the Jajarkot Chief District Officer Suresh Sunar, around 200 children across the district may have lost parents in the earthquake, leaving many with mental health challenges compounded by inadequate living conditions and nutrition. Though some orphans receive support from relatives, concerns arise over their well-being. CDO Sunar highlights the need for alternative care options like orphanages or donors to ensure their safety and well-being.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION FOR SHELTER CONSTRUCTION

In the aftermath of the Jajarkot earthquake, efforts have been made by the Authority and District Administration Office, Jajarkot, to provide important information regarding the process of obtaining grants and necessary documents for constructing temporary housing. An informational board has been strategically placed across 77 locations within seven municipalities, including the District Administration Office premises of Jajarkot. These Information, Education, and Communication boards aim to disseminate essential guidelines in the 77 Wards of 7 Palikas of Jajarkot. Complementing this initiative, Public Service Announcements are broadcasted by four local FM radio stations for a period of three months, ensuring broader outreach. Additionally, two online newspapers in Jajarkot are actively sharing this information over the same duration. This comprehensive approach seeks to assist individuals unaware of the procedures necessary for enrollment in shelter construction programs, offering guidance and support to those affected by the earthquake.



JAJARKOT EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION ESTIMATES FOR 69 BILLION

Following the Jajarkot earthquake's impact, The reconstruction cost estimate has been revealed at 69 billion. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority CEO emphasized this figure as essential for the area's recovery. During a meeting at Singh Darbar with Finance Minister and various development partners, a preliminary assessment highlighted the extensive damage across three districts. The discussion centered on the need for 69 billion to rebuild and restore private homes, public buildings, and infrastructure affected by the earthquake.

The Finance Minister requested support from development partners, emphasizing the government's commitment to prioritizing earthquake reconstruction, even if it requires reorganizing ongoing programs. Development partners expressed their readiness to assist in the reconstruction efforts, aligning their resources accordingly. The NDRRMA CEO noted the progress in rapidly constructing temporary shelters. Currently, 1.41 billion has reached the local level for temporary shelter construction.

RADIO REVIVAL AMIDST EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATION

The earthquake caused devastation across every part of people's lives, impacting areas crucial to their well-being, including community radio stations in Jajarkot. Many of these stations suffered severe damage to their broadcasting infrastructure, forcing them to suspend their services. Among them was Radio Hamro Paila, a leading and popular station in Khalanga. Despite the challenges posed by the earthquake, they didn't lose hope to uphold people's right to information, they established a temporary broadcasting space within a small tent and resumed their broadcasts.

Currently, Radio Hamro Paila is collaborating with Radio Khalanga, Radio Jajarkot, and Prithvi FM to disseminate crucial information to those affected by the earthquake. Their programs cover various

essential topics such as the specific needs of earthquake survivors, ongoing relief efforts, shelter construction, educational initiatives, challenges faced by those living in tents, and government information regarding temporary shelter construction. Every day from 9:00 AM, they dedicate about half an hour to broadcasting these informative programs. Prem BC, a host at Radio Hamro Paila, vividly remembers the challenging situation immediately after the earthquake and the relentless struggle they underwent to establish this temporary station. Despite the adversity, their commitment to serving the community remains determined.



JAJARKOT UPDATE ON SHELTER CONSTRUCTION

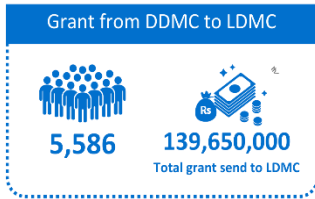
Jajarkot has received altogether 1.4 billion from NDRRMA, with 776.36 million transferred to the Local Disaster Management Fund. All the municipalities have carried out the total beneficiaries eligible for temporary shelter construction. So far, 35,140 beneficiaries have been declared as per the data circulated from DDMC. Whereas the agreement was accomplished with 16,234 out of which a total of Rs. 17.11million as first installment have been disbursed to 6,846 out of total contracted beneficiaries. Altogether 5,203 temporary shelters have been constructed in the district.



Kuse Rural Municipality

Kuse rural municipality has received 132.1 million from DDMC for shelter construction. Officials from municipality said that they have almost accomplished the beneficiary's selection process for those who are found eligible for getting enrolled in the program. So far, they have finalized 35,140 beneficiaries and contract has been accomplished with 1,152 beneficiaries and handed over 1.25 million to 502 beneficiaries and as of now, altogether 108 temporary shelters have been constructed.

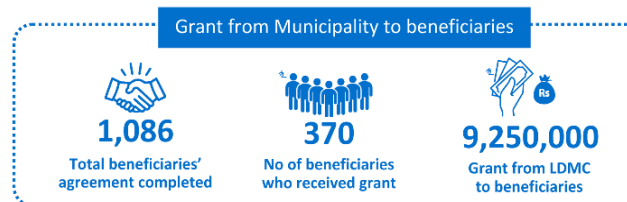
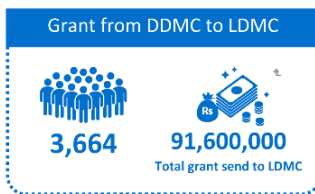




Data as of 24 Dec 2023

Chhedagad Municipality

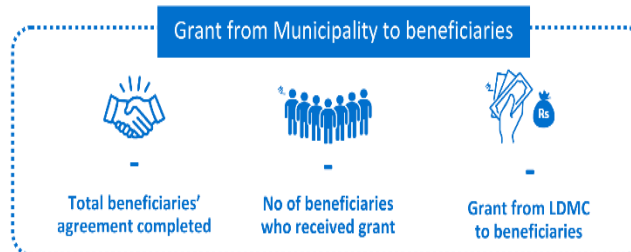
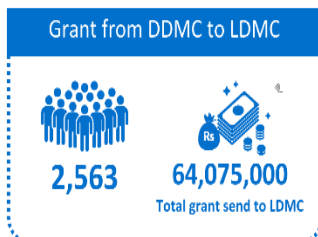
Chhedagad municipality has received 9.16 million from district disaster management fund and 9.25 million rupees has been disbursed to the 370 beneficiaries out of 1,086 contracted beneficiaries. Construction work is underway as per the municipal officials yet no record of completed temporary shelter has been reported.



Data as of 24 Dec 2023

Junichande Rural Municipality

Junichande rural municipality has finalized altogether 2,563 beneficiaries for which it has received 6.40 million from DDMC. Now, they are planning to complete the contract process and distribute the funds to them for temporary shelter construction.



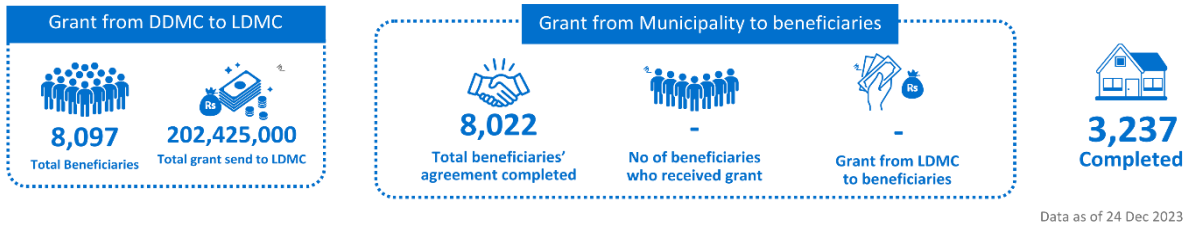
Data as of 24 Dec 2023

Nalagad Municipality

Nalagad municipality has reported that they've completed the selection of 8,097 eligible beneficiaries in the municipality out of which contract have been accomplished with 8,022 beneficiaries. Altogether 3,237 shelters have been constructed by different

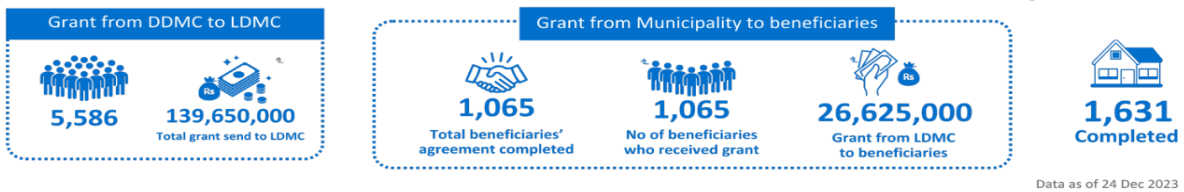


organizations. So far, the funds received are concerned, they have received 202.4 Million from DDMC. No funds have been disbursed to the identified beneficiaries until now.



Barekot Rural Municipality

Barekot Rural Municipality has received 139.7 million in its disaster management fund. They have identified 5,586 eligible beneficiaries for shelter construction, and 1065 of them have received 2.62 million. Currently, 1,631 shelters have been constructed, and the detailed data is still pending from the wards.



Bheri Municipality

Bheri Municipality received 6.37 million from the district disaster management fund, completing agreements with 2,038 verified beneficiaries. All of them have received 50.95 million funds for shelter construction. So far it has verified 6,634 beneficiaries. As far as temporary shelter construction is concerned, only 150 shelters have been completed till now.

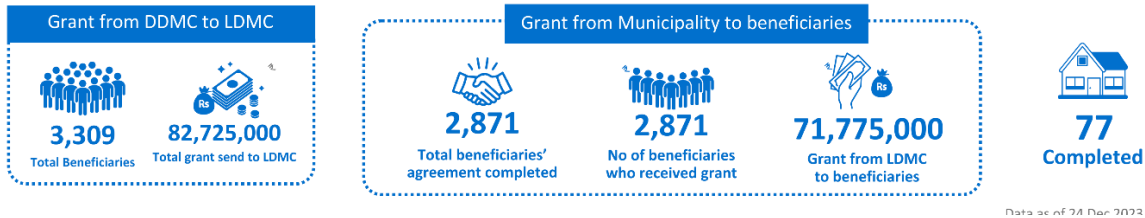


Shivalaya Rural Municipality

Shivalay Rural Municipality has received 8.27 million from the district disaster management fund for 3,309 beneficiaries and Contrct has been accomplished with 2,871 beneficiaries and Rs. 7.17 million has been transferred to the bank accounts of contracted beneficiaries. With this grant, the temporary shelter construction



process has been initiated and altogether 77 temporary shelters have been completed.



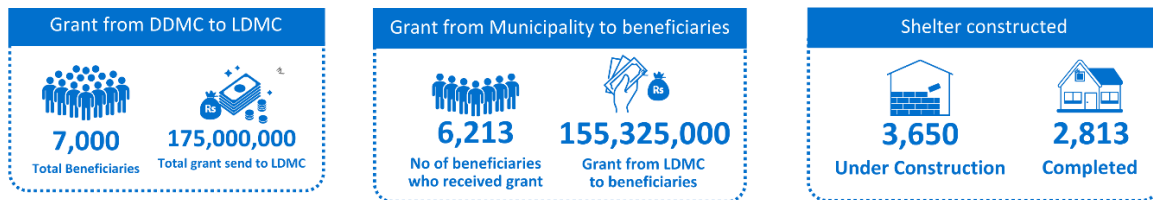
RUKUM WEST UPDATE ON SHELTER CONSTRUCTION

Pravesh Baduwal, Acting Chief District Officer of Rukum West mentioned that altogether 23,608 beneficiaries have been identified in the district. An amount totaling 590.20 million has been disbursed from the district disaster management fund to the local disaster management fund, however only Rs 408.07 million has reached the beneficiaries. In Rukum West, 4,950 temporary shelters have been constructed, with 9,664 under construction.



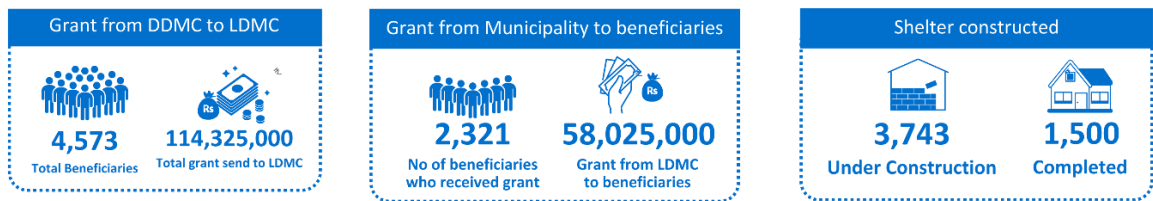
Aathbiskot Municipality

DDMC has dispatched 175 million to Aathbiskot Municipality. the municipality has identified altogether 7,000 eligible beneficiaries out of which 155.3 million have been transferred to 6,213 beneficiaries. Altogether 2,813 temporary shelters have been completed while 3,650 shelters are under construction.



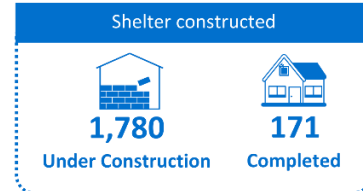
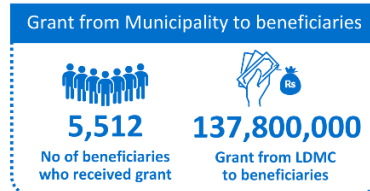
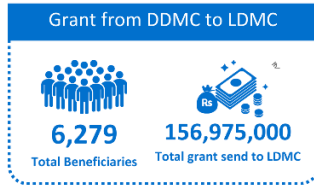
Sanibheri Rural Municipality

The municipality has identified 4,573 beneficiaries eligible for the shelter construction and 2,321 contracted beneficiaries have been disbursed with 5.8 million Rs. However, A total of 1,500 shelters have been constructed while 3,743 are under construction.



Chaurjahari Municipality

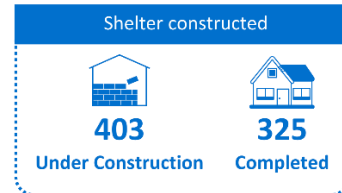
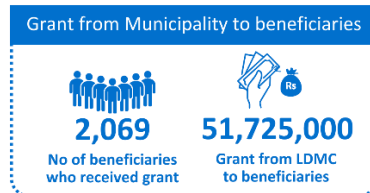
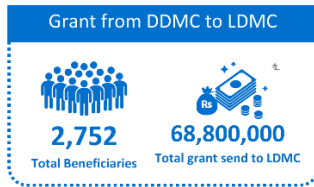
The municipality received 156 million rupees and disbursed 137 million rupees to the beneficiaries. A total of 6,279 beneficiaries have been recorded, out of which 5,512 have received the allocated amount of 137 million. Currently, 1,780 temporary shelters are in progress, with 171 shelters already completed.



Data as of 22 Dec 2023

Triveni Rural Municipality, Rukum West

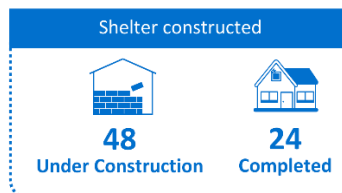
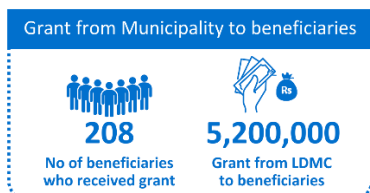
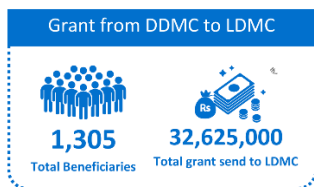
Triveni Rural Municipality received 6.88 million from DDMC for 2,752 beneficiaries out of which they have disbursed 5.17 million to 2,069 beneficiaries' accounts. Altogether, 235 temporary shelters have been completed while construction of 403 shelters are underway.



Data as of 22 Dec 2023

Musikot Municipality

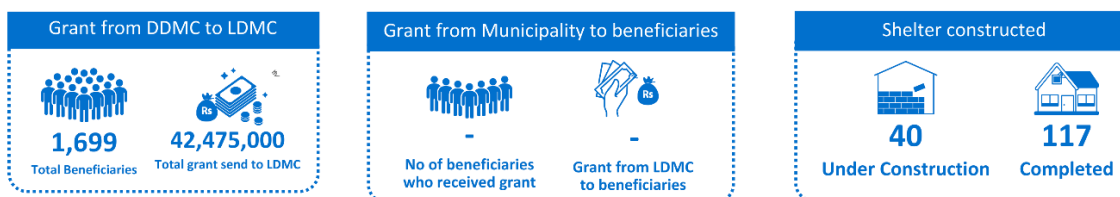
Musikot Municipality has received 32.6 million for 1,305 beneficiaries from DDMC out of which they have disbursed funds equivalent to 5.2 million to 208 identified beneficiaries. Until now, 48 temporary shelters are under construction and 24 shelters have been completed.



Data as of 22 Dec 2023

Banphikot Rural Municipality

In Banphikot Rural municipality, they have received 4.24 million from DDMC for temporary shelter construction from DDMC. Altogether 117 shelters have been completed while 40 shelters are being constructed. However, Due to the transfer of the Chief Administrative Officer in Bafikot Municipality, funds have not been disbursed to the beneficiaries, and contracts with them remain unfulfilled. This has caused a delay in house construction efforts as people await the transfer of grants. In response, the Municipality has appointed an Acting Chief Administrative Officer after a meeting and has sent a letter to the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration with the aim to expedite the approval and assignment of the proposed CAO by the municipality, enabling immediate resumption of financial activities in the municipality.



Data as of 22 Dec 2023

AGENCIES OFFERING HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

Please refer to the following link to see the list of agencies offering humanitarian support

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NhE0S6tJTd_HtLu3drZjW0M12Z50T3ApEtFagP4plbk

As one and a half months have passed since the Jajarkot Earthquake, the focus has shifted from immediate relief to reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. In order to document and acknowledge the contributions of all agencies involved in the earthquake relief, we are compiling a comprehensive report. Several agencies have already submitted their information through the 5W form.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AyCbU7uNtnotmKWQmQkQcWtr9ucRhAa3/e_dit?usp=sharing&oid=107457124998650092558&rtpof=true&sd=true

We kindly request all remaining agencies to complete the form, which is available for download via the provided link. After downloading the excel file and updating data please highlight the rows you have worked on so as to distinguish the updates. Please submit the completed form to jajarkotrelief@gmail.com by this Wednesday i.e. December 27. The collected data will be shared with relevant government bodies, UNRCO, AIN, and other stakeholders. Thank you for your timely cooperation in this important documentation effort. Thank you for your timely cooperation in this important documentation effort.