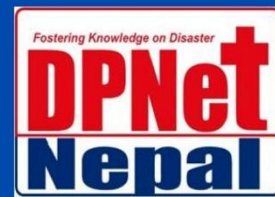


JAJARKOT EARTHQUAKE

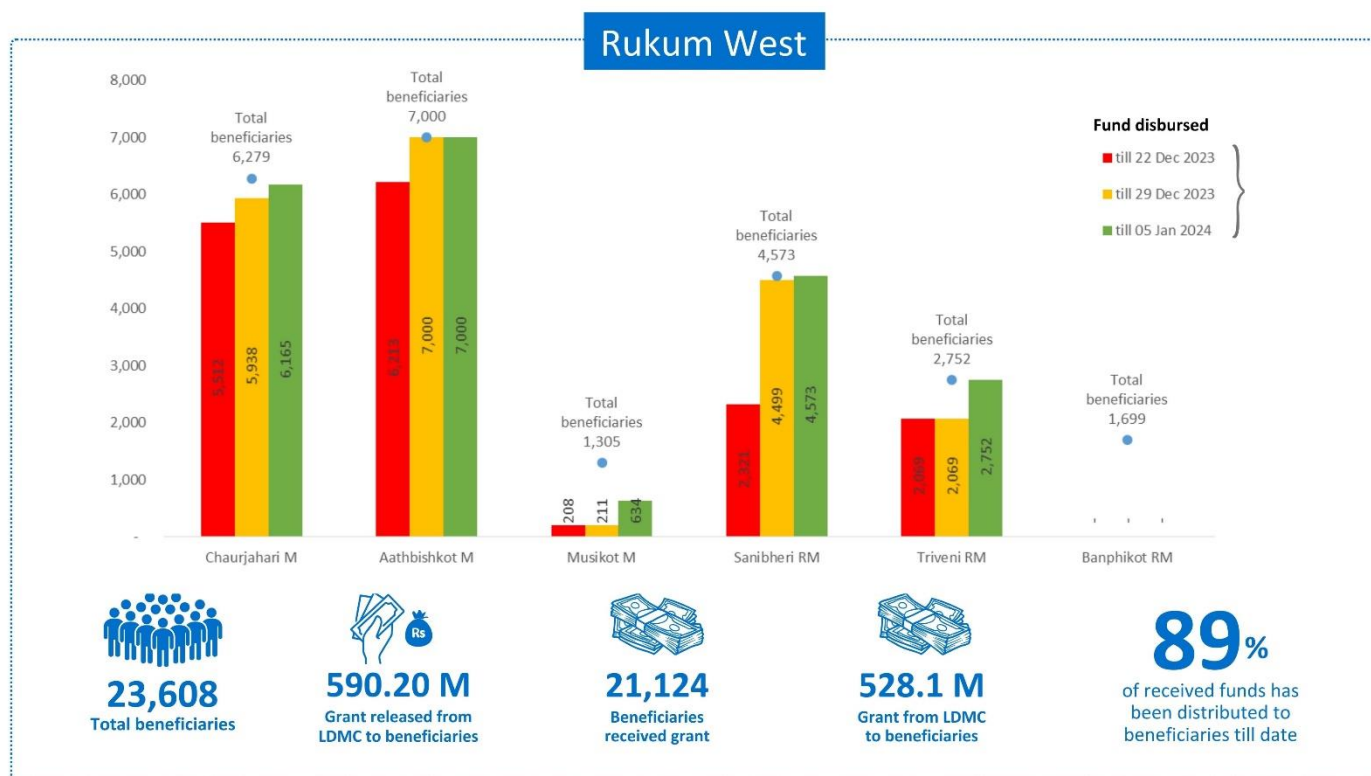
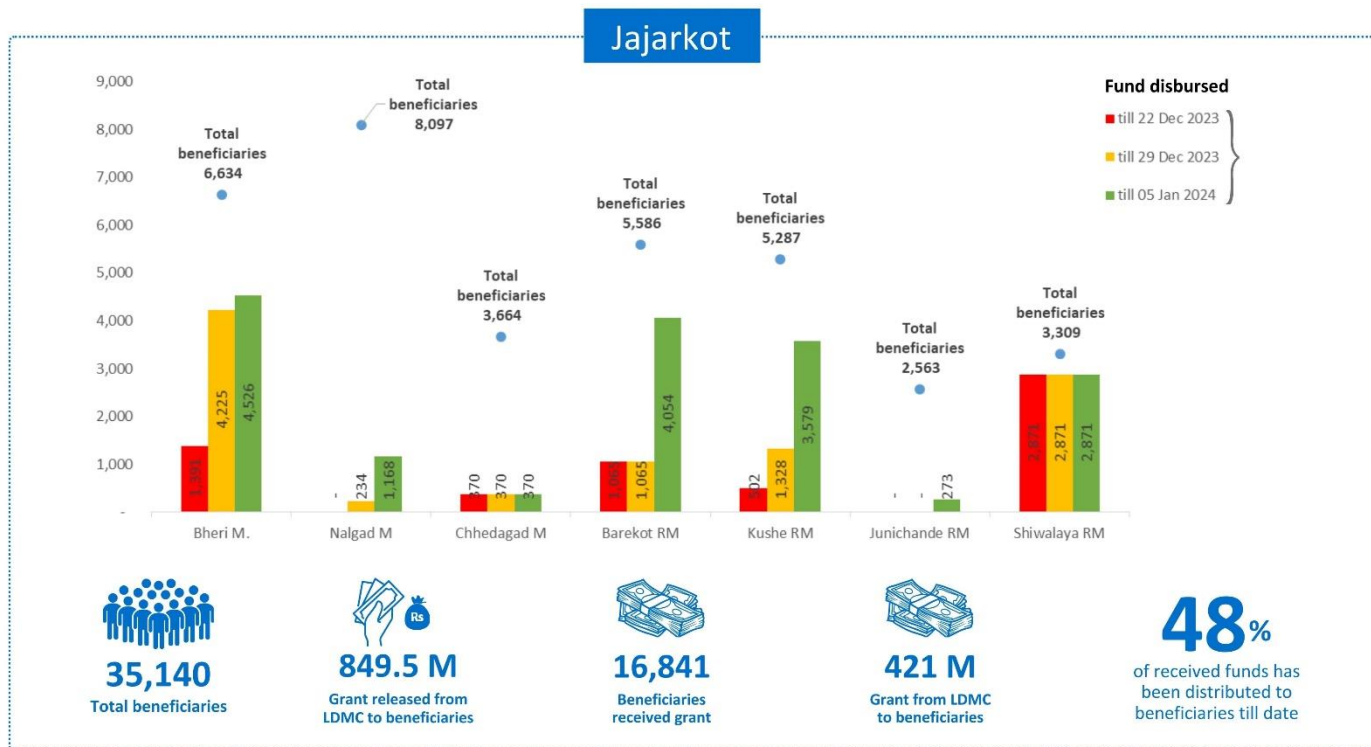
Quad-Day Situation Analysis Report

(6-9 January 2024)

Editor: Dr. Raju Thapa, DPNep



Local Governments' Efficiency in Temporary Shelter Fund Disbursement



Summary

This report highlights the ongoing challenges and responses following the devastating earthquake. More than two months later, 39,156 families remain in makeshift tarpaulin tents, struggling with the harsh winter weather and various reasons including bureaucratic hurdles that have impeded the construction of temporary shelters. In Jajarkot, out of 35,140 identified beneficiaries, only 16,841 have received the first installment for housing construction, totaling Rs. 421.02 million. This has resulted in the construction of only 9,169 temporary shelters, representing just 26% of the need. The fund disbursement varies significantly across municipalities, with some areas like Shivalaya Rural Municipality achieving an 86.8% disbursement rate, while others like Nalgad Municipality and Chhedagad Municipality are far behind, with only 14% and 10% of their beneficiaries' receiving grants, respectively.

Rukum West faces similar challenges, although fund disbursement has been more proactive. Despite this, the construction of temporary shelters is lagging, with 10,423 completed and 7,087 under construction out of a total of 23,608 beneficiaries' just 45% of total requirement. The total disbursement percentage for Rukum West stands at 89.5%, yet discrepancies in areas like Banphikot RM, which shows no recorded disbursement, highlight the need for equitable and efficient distribution.

The slow pace of fund distribution is attributed to several factors, including limited banking services, documentation errors, absenteeism of house owners residing outside Nepal, and the requirement for new bank accounts ignoring social security allowance bank account. The increase in applicants for reconstruction grants further complicates the situation. Suspicions of claim inaccuracies and disputes over eligibility criteria, such as considering multiple families residing in the same house as one unit for grant purposes, add to the delay.

Among these struggles, the provincial government has initiated a comprehensive food security response plan to address the agricultural crisis caused by the earthquake. This plan includes various support programs for livestock rehabilitation, buffalo and goat promotion, agricultural infrastructure development, and support for fruit cultivation, vegetable production, and beekeeping. These initiatives aim to revive the agricultural sector and alleviate the suffering of affected families. However, the Karnali Province faces policy challenges in budget implementation, particularly in the ministry of physical infrastructure and urban development. The earthquake has hindered progress, causing delays in contract finalizations for infrastructure projects.

Adding to the woes, healthcare services in the affected regions are in crisis. Basic medicines are scarce, and patients have stopped visiting healthcare facilities. The lack of commitment from officials in ensuring citizens' fundamental right to health services exacerbates the situation in some municipalities. Vulnerable groups like senior citizens, pregnant women, and children are particularly affected, with the cold weather causing illnesses such as pneumonia and asthma.

More than 39,000 affected people still remain sheltered in makeshift tarpaulin tents

Two months have passed since the devastating earthquake struck on November 3, claiming 154 lives. Even with the time passing, 39,156 affected families continue to suffer life in makeshift tarpaulin tents. This extended displacement has led to significant challenges for those affected, particularly in facing the harsh situation of cold weather across various municipalities in Jajarkot and Rukum West.



The troubles continue for these earthquake-affected communities, struggling with bureaucratic obstacles and slow-paced construction despite the funds being disbursed.

The government's promises of shifting affected people to temporary shelter by November have fallen short, leaving these people without the initial installment crucial for constructing temporary shelters. The delay in construction primarily derived from bureaucratic hurdles—mandatorily open new bank accounts, self-declarations of housing property absence within Nepal, police verification processes, and the need for damaged house demolition, among others.

According to the latest figures from the district administration office in Jajarkot, only 16,841 out of 35,140 beneficiaries have received the first installment for housing construction, totaling Rs. 421.02 million. Consequently, a mere 9,169 temporary shelters have been constructed in the district (26%). Additionally, Rs. 849.57 million has been allocated from the district disaster management fund to seven municipalities for temporary shelter construction. Fund disbursement in Junichande RM, Chhedagad and Nalgad Municipality have been exceptionally sluggish, having no shelter construction in progress in the in Junichande RM thus far. The delay was due to the district disaster management committee allocating funds to the municipality last, compounded by a scarcity of funds at the district level.

Jajarkot						
Updated on 5 January, 2024 (20 Poush 2080)						
	Grant from DDMC to LDMC		Grant to beneficiaries	Total	% of grant received	Remarks
	Beneficiaries	Total				
Bheri M.	6,634	136,925,000	4,526	113,150,000	68.22	
Nalgad M	8,097	202,425,000	1,168	29,200,000	14.43	* Received funds in the last from DDMC. * Responsible officials were out of the district for long.
Chhedagad M	3,664	91,600,000	370	9,250,000	10.10	* Beneficiaries selection delayed. * Technical issues in the bank caused delay in account opening.
Barekot RM	5,586	139,650,000	4,054	101,350,000	72.57	
Kushe RM	5,287	132,175,000	3,579	89,475,000	67.69	
Junichande RM	2,563	64,075,000	273	6,825,000	10.65	* Received funds in the last from DDMC. * Internal dispute between finance staff and elected representative.
Shiwalaya RM	3,309	82,725,000	2,871	71,775,000	86.76	
Total	35,140	849,575,000	16,841	421,025,000	47.93	

Comparatively, in Rukum West, while the disbursement of funds for shelter construction has been more proactive than in Jajarkot, challenges in accelerating the actual construction persist such

Rukum West						
Updated on 5 January,2024 (20 Poush, 2080)						
	Grant from DDMC to LDMC		Grant to beneficiaries	Total	% of grant received	Remarks
	Beneficiaries	Total				
Chaurjahari M	6,279	156,975,000	6,165	154,125,000	98.18	
Aathbishkot M	7,000	175,000,000	7,000	175,000,000	100.00	
Musikot M	1,305	32,625,000	634	15,850,000	48.58	
Sanibheri RM	4,573	114,325,000	4,573	114,325,000	100.00	
Triveni RM	2,752	68,800,000	2,752	68,800,000	100.00	
Banphikot RM	1,699	42,475,000	-	-	0.00	CAO has not joined the office.
TOTAL	23,608	590,200,000	21,124	528,100,000	89.48	

as the disbursement of funds to 1,699 beneficiaries in Banphikot RM has been stalled due to the prolonged absence of the new chief administrative officer. Nonetheless, the affected people have taken the initiative to independently construct 117 temporary shelters, and an additional 40 are presently under construction. The district with 23,608 beneficiaries and agreements made with 21,124 beneficiaries, a total of Rs. 528.10 million has been disbursed. However, this hasn't significantly expedited temporary shelter construction. As per reports by the district administration office in Rukum West, 10,423 temporary shelters (45.1%) have been completed, while 7,087 are currently under construction.

In Jajarkot, the trend in fund disbursement across different municipalities and rural municipalities varies significantly. While some areas have seen a substantial percentage of beneficiaries receiving

Municipalities/ Jajarkot	Beneficiaries	Grant from DDMC to LDMC	Beneficiaries who got grant			Grant from LDMC to beneficiaries Till 5 Jan	% of Beneficiaries recieved
			22-Dec	29-Dec	5-Jan		
Bheri M.	6,634	136,925,000	1,391.00	4,225.00	4,526.00	113,150,000	68.22
Nalgad M	8,097	202,425,000	-	234.00	1,168.00	29,200,000	14.43
Chhedagad M	3,664	91,600,000	370.00	370.00	370.00	9,250,000	10.10
Barekot RM	5,586	139,650,000	1,065.00	1,065.00	4,054.00	101,350,000	72.57
Kushe RM	5,287	132,175,000	502.00	1,328.00	3,579.00	89,475,000	67.69
Junichande RM	2,563	64,075,000	-	-	273.00	6,825,000	10.65
Shiwalaya RM	3,309	82,725,000	2,871.00	2,871.00	2,871.00	71,775,000	86.76
Total	35,140	849,575,000	6,199	10,093	16,841	421,025,000	47.93

grants, others are lagging behind. Shiwalaya Rural Municipality has stood out with an impressive 86.8% disbursement rate, ensuring a significant portion of its identified beneficiaries have received their grants. Barekot Rural Municipality, Bheri Municipality and Kushe RM also showcased notable progress with a disbursement rate of 73%, 68.2% and 67.% respectively though not as high as Shiwalaya RM, it still indicates a considerable distribution of funds to the identified beneficiaries.

However, the disbursement trend in Nalgad Municipality and Chhedagad Municipality reflects a lower percentage of beneficiaries receiving their grants. Nalgad Municipality and Chhedagad Municipality have disbursed grants to only 14% and 10% of their identified beneficiaries, respectively. Furthermore, Junichande Rural Municipality has encountered significant delays, with only an 11% disbursement rate, indicating a substantial backlog in grant disbursement to its identified beneficiaries. Overall, the total disbursement rate for Jajarkot stands at 48%, highlighting the disparities among different municipalities within the district. This variance

highlights the need for more equitable and efficient fund distribution to ensure all earthquake-affected people receive the necessary support in a timely manner.

In Rukum West, the disbursement of funds to various municipalities reflects a rich trend. Among the areas assessed, Aathbishkot Municipality stands out with a 100% disbursement rate, rapidly delivering the allocated grants to all identified beneficiaries. Similarly, Sanibheri Rural Municipality and Triveni RM also demonstrated an efficient performance, disbursing grants to all of its identified beneficiaries.

However, the disbursement trend in other areas like Chaurjahari Municipality showcased an impressive 98.2% disbursement rate ensuring a significant majority of identified

Municipalities/ Rukum West	Beneficiaries	Grant from DDMC to LDMC	Beneficiaries who got grant			Grant from LDMC to beneficiaries	% of Beneficiaries recieved
			22-Dec	29-Dec	5-Jan		
						Till 5 Jan	
Chaurjahari M	6,279	156,975,000	5,512	5,938	6,165	154,125,000	98.2
Aathbishkot M	7,000	175,000,000	6,213	7,000	7,000	175,000,000	100
Musikot M	1,305	32,625,000	208	211	634	15,850,000	49
Sanibheri RM	4,573	114,325,000	2,321	4,499	4,573	114,325,000	100
Triveni RM	2,752	68,800,000	2,069	2,069	2,752	68,800,000	100
Banphikot RM	1,699	42,475,000	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	23,608	590,200,000	16,323	19,717	21,124	528,100,000	89.5

beneficiaries received their grants. Conversely, Musikot Municipality is struggling having less than 50% delivery and in the same way, Banphikot Rural Municipality shows an alarming trend with no recorded disbursement, indicating that none of its identified beneficiaries have received their grants. This significant delay or lack of disbursement in Banphikot RM contrasts starkly with the other regions in Rukum West.

The total disbursement percentage for Rukum West stands at 89.5%, indicating that a majority of the identified beneficiaries have received their grants. However, the discrepancy in Banphikot RM and Musikot Municipality's disbursement needs immediate attention to ensure an equitable distribution of funds across all affected areas.

The disbursement of shelter construction funds to identified beneficiaries after the earthquake faces multiple challenges. Limited bank availability in municipalities leads to difficulties in handling a large number of beneficiaries, while the addition of new eligible beneficiaries through police verification contributes to delays. Moreover, absenteeism of the actual house owners residing outside Nepal creates hurdles in granting funds to other individuals.

Documentation errors during bank releases cause processing delays while beneficiaries are compelled to open new accounts due to banks' refusal to deposit funds into shared social security accounts. In the same way, extended absence of key municipal officials for various reasons hampers fund disbursement as well as disputes arise from family divisions on paper for extra funding during beneficiary verification. Dissatisfaction surfaces due to a clause in NDRRMA's shelter construction procedure, wherein multiple families residing in the same house during the

earthquake are considered one family eligible for temporary shelter, causing discontent among jointly living affected individuals.

Authorities face surges in housing applicants, leading to overwhelming challenges

The surge in applicants seeking reconstruction grants in Jajarkot. A steady rise in the number of beneficiaries seeking government assistance for reconstruction is presenting significant challenges for the authorities.



The District administration office has disclosed a list of 35,140 eligible beneficiaries for shelter construction grants while, a recent increment of hundreds of applicants from different municipalities have created challenges to the officials. This unexpected surge has posed difficulties in the allocation of shelter construction grants. So, the authorities are conducting thorough investigations to ascertain the legitimacy of the escalating number of beneficiaries.

As a result of delays in grant distribution, earthquake affected people are living under harsh conditions in makeshift tarpaulin tents and makeshift huts. The lack of adequate shelter has caused numerous health concerns, especially during the biting winter cold. Affected people are struggling to obtain grant, resorting to building makeshift shelters using agricultural residues, as they await the allocated grants.

Acknowledging the delay in grant distribution, the district administration office points it primarily to the increasing number of applicants. However, suspicions have arisen regarding the accuracy of claims, with potential discrepancies. Simultaneously, a provision within the temporary shelter construction grant procedure for earthquake affected households-2023, stating that regardless of how many families resided in a single house during the earthquake, they would be regarded as one family eligible for temporary housing, has stirred disputes, causing delays in the selection of beneficiaries. Allegations of families being divided on paper to claim additional grants and discrepancies in the selection process have surfaced, adding complexity, and delaying the

disbursement of grants. However, the count of legitimate beneficiaries may rise in the coming days, potentially adding to the existing number of established beneficiaries in Jajarkot.

Local residents express dismay over the sluggishness of authorities in disbursing the grant money, causing the delays to bureaucratic inefficiency and potential politicization in beneficiary selection. The difficulty of those who lost crucial documentation, leaving them ineligible for grant, has intensified the critical situation for these families, still surviving under tarpaulin tents amid challenging weather conditions.



Provincial government to address agro crisis in earthquake-affected districts

The earthquake's impact resulted in widespread damage to infrastructure, agricultural lands, and livestock, severely affecting the livelihoods of local communities. To reveal the province government's forthcoming strategy and plan to address the issues identified, a post-disaster green restoration program held in Birendranagar, where land management, agriculture and cooperative Minister Bhim Prasad Sharma



unveiled a comprehensive food security response plan to address the looming food crisis triggered by the earthquakes in Jajarkot, Rukum West, and Salyan districts.

Addressing the audience, Mr. Sharma highlights the significant agricultural and livestock losses incurred, citing a casualty count of 513 livestock, resulting in a financial loss of 25.2 million. Moreover, the devastating impact on beekeeping was highlighted, with 152 households facing substantial losses amounting to Rs. 13.9 million. The agricultural sector also suffered, with an estimated 192 hectares of wheat and mustard crops destroyed, leading to an approximate loss of 480 tons. The ministry has also disclosed that an estimated reserve of 88 metric tons, valued at 3.8 million, incurred damage when food was buried.

The government's response included a comprehensive approach to assist in agricultural revival and alleviate the suffering of affected families. Mr. Sharma outlined multiple support programs aimed at rebuilding the agricultural landscape and providing relief to affected households. These initiatives encompassed various sectors such as livestock rehabilitation, buffalo promotion, goat promotion, and the enhancement of agricultural infrastructure. Additionally, targeted programs for fruit cultivation, vegetable production, and beekeeping support will be introduced to revitalize these specific areas affected by the earthquakes.

The government initiatives will encompass diverse aspects. Livestock rehabilitation will form a critical aspect, with 1,533 households slated to receive support for restoring livestock sheds and cages at a rate of Rs. 30,000 per household. Additionally, buffalo promotion initiatives will be implemented, entailing financial assistance amounting to Rs. 50,000 per family for 152 selected families. Similarly, goat promotion programs will benefit 4,500 households, each slated to receive support at a rate of Rs. 15,000.

Another key part of the assistance programs will be agricultural infrastructure, targeting 150 households for the construction of irrigation facilities and storage buildings. Further support will be allocated for independent fruit programs aimed at assisting 500 households. The initiative will extend to vegetable production, with seed support for 19,262 households in earthquake-affected areas. Moreover, the government is introducing a beekeeping support program to provide financial assistance to 1,048 affected families. These multi-tiered support programs collectively aim to revive the agricultural landscape and offer substantial relief to families struggling with earthquake-induced challenges.



The ministry spokesperson emphasized the importance of strategic initiatives to enhance food security in the affected regions also the need for concerted efforts and collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations to effectively implement these programs. The core of the strategy revolved around assessing food insecurity indicators in diverse municipalities, shaping a resilient and enduring plan for the future.

Furthermore, the food security response plan entailed comprehensive assessments of food insecurity indicators in different municipalities to determine the severity of the issue. The strategy involved a careful response plan aimed at addressing the challenges posed by drought,

inadequate irrigation infrastructure, limited market access, and deficient transportation networks, all of which played pivotal roles in hindering food security in the agricultural sector.

Karnali Province rationalizes policy challenges amidst post-earthquakes hurdles

The Karnali Province policy on budget implementation faced criticism as it failed to meet its outlined benchmarks, attributing the shortfall to the earthquake's impact. Despite adopting a tough policy to ensure financial discipline and timely project execution, statistics reflect a lack of proactive implementation. Contracts for infrastructure projects remained unsigned by the October deadline, contradicting the government's objectives.



Particularly, the budget underlined strict timeframes for project execution and contract finalization. However, actual implementation doesn't align with these policies. Around half of the projects haven't completed their contract processes, particularly within the ministry of physical infrastructure and urban development, which focuses extensively on infrastructure initiatives. An official within the ministry cited earthquake disruptions and other reasons for this deviation from the government's prescribed policy.

Finance Minister Vedraj Singh acknowledged these challenges, acknowledging the earthquake's role in impeding the process but emphasizing the ongoing efforts to comply with the policy. Despite the setbacks, he assured ongoing efforts in contracting for multi-year plans and district-wise infrastructure agendas. "We introduced this policy not as a strict mandate but as an intended guideline," Minister Singh reaffirmed, "The ongoing earthquake recovery work since November 4 has slightly affected the pace of coverage, yet the government remains committed to its initiatives despite challenges posed by recent earthquake disasters."

Healthcare crisis grips earthquake-affected people

In Jajarkot, despite Nepal's constitutional provision declaring healthcare a fundamental right, earthquake-affected citizens face a bad reality—basic medicines are scarce, violating their entitlement to free healthcare. The absence of even commonplace medications at the Junichande

Rural Municipality's primary health center as well as other health posts are disheartening to the patient's seeking treatment.

Consequently, dissatisfied patients have stopped visiting healthcare facilities due to the unavailability of medicines. This serious situation points to a lack of commitment from both officials and representatives in ensuring citizens' fundamental right to health services. Even with their



month-old medicine procurement process, those seeking treatment among the affected people still can't access the required medications. Survivors of the earthquake, already struggling with economic problems, extreme weather, and food scarcity, face compounded health challenges. Vulnerable groups like senior citizens, pregnant women, and children are especially hard-hit. The harsh winter in makeshift tarpaulin tents worsens their conditions, with the biting cold causing illness among the affected population.

Unfortunately, the health institutions offer only minimal assistance, leaving many to resort to home treatments. Consequently, numerous affected people are suffering, primarily battling pneumonia and asthma, according to healthcare workers. The government bears the responsibility to diagnose and provide timely treatment for the illnesses bothering earthquake survivors. Ms. Kalpana Sanjyal, the Junichande municipal public health nurse, mentioned, "The district health office sent a quantity of essential medicines to the municipality, but it was insufficient compared to our demand, forcing us to manage with what we have."

Final Reminder for Agencies to Submit Data for Jajarkot Earthquake Relief

Two months have been passed since the Jajarkot Earthquake, and our focus has now transitioned from immediate relief efforts to the long-term goals of reconstruction and rehabilitation. To effectively document and recognize the valuable contributions made by various agencies in earthquake relief, DPNet has actively reached out for information. This outreach included requesting through quad-day situation reports, emails, WhatsApp groups, and directly phoning certain agencies listed with us. From the data we received, we have carefully compiled a comprehensive 5W relief data list and this resource is now available for public access at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AyCbU7uNntotmKWQmQkQcWtr9ucRhAa3/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107457124998650092558&rtpof=true&sd=true>

We request all agencies that have not yet completed their submissions to participate in this crucial documentation process as a last chance. You can download the form from the provided link. Once you have downloaded the Excel file and updated your data, we request that you highlight the rows you have worked on. This will help us easily identify and incorporate your updates. Please ensure that the completed form is submitted to jajarkotrelief@gmail.com no later than January 15th. The collated data is of significant importance and will be shared with various key entities, including relevant government bodies, the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO), the Association of International NGOs (AIN), and other pertinent stakeholders. This announcement serves as our final request for your participation in this vital effort.

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_HtLu3drZiW0M12Z50T3ApEtFagP4pIbk

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