

# Nepal Earthquake, The First Step towards a New Beginning

Date : August 6, 2015



TENTS, BLANKETS AND WATER CONTAINERS FOR MANY FAMILIES AND BUDDHIST NUNS IN KATHMANDU, AND SHELTERS (HUTS) AND TEMPORARY SCHOOLS FOR RURAL VILLAGES IN RASUWA DISTRICT IN THE NORTH OF NEPAL WHERE THE DESTRUCTION WAS TOTAL. DATA MAPPING WITH THE BICOCCA UNIVERSITY IN MILAN TO PREVENT THE RISK OF LANDSLIDES.

It has been more than three months since the earthquake and, thanks to the help of many generous individuals, organizations, associations and foundations, ASIA has managed to bring help to the earthquake victims.

## **IN KATHMANDU**

At Boudhanath, a district in Kathmandu with many Tibetan refugee families, we distributed to 35 families: 32 tents and 7 kits of no food items (each kit includes 1 20 liter water tank, 6 metal plates, 6 metal glasses, 6 sets of metal cutlery, a large family knife, a bowl, a pot, a pressure cooker). This was made possible thanks to the contribution of the Tuscany Region.

In the same neighborhood we distributed 37 blankets to 37 Tibetan families, living in the Carpet Factory.

We helped 209 nuns from the Shree Bhakhang Dondub Dhing nunnery, on the Tibetan border. At the time of the earthquake, the nuns were outside doing meditation and their monastery was completely destroyed. The nuns remained isolated for a month on a mountain and supplies of basic necessities have been possible only through a private helicopter. After just over a month the nuns managed to walk down the mountain and come to Kathmandu where ASIA, along with Emergency, provided them with 209 blankets, 23 tents, 23 kits of no food items (each kit includes 1 20 liter water tank, 6 metal plates, 6 metal glasses, 6 sets of metal cutlery, a large family knife, a bowl, a pot, a pressure cooker).

Together to Emergency we were also able to help 16 other families in the neighborhood of Boudhanath to whom 16 tents were distributed.

## **IN THE RASUWA DISTRICT**

ASIA also works in rural villages in the north of Nepal, near the Tibetan border (Rasuwa district), where the destruction was total, with 95% of the buildings collapsed. ASIA was the first to arrive in this area.

In the VDC (Village Development Committee) of Saramthali we distributed to 1,047 families (about 6,282 people) 16 corrugated panels per family to be used for the construction of shelters (huts) to protect from the monsoons, protect children, and store the few remaining assets and the harvest of the coming months. Each shelter is made up of 16 panels of metal, bamboo and steel cables.

In the VDC of Yarsa and Saramthali, following guidelines from UNICEF, in collaboration with GVC and through its own funds and those of the Emilia Romagna Region, ASIA is building 24 temporary classrooms in order for the activities of 18 schools that have collapsed to resume. Also in this area, ASIA together with Namaste, is building another 5 temporary classrooms. In this way about 1,698 children can resume their education.

Under this project ASIA is distributing school supplies (desks, chairs, rulers) and three types of kits provided by UNICEF (recreational and educational kits for preschoolers). ASIA is also building toilets for schools and providing teachers coming from Chitwan, who otherwise would not be able to teach, with housing assistance.

ASIA is also providing psychological support to children who are accommodated in temporary classrooms.

At Yarsa, with the co-financing of AGIRE and in cooperation with GVC, ASIA is starting the distribution of Shelters to 572 families (about 3,432 beneficiaries) together with a contribution for the self-construction of toilets and the construction of toilets and drains to 9 schools.

## **IN KAVRE DISTRICT**

In Baluwa, with the help of Caritas, its own funds and contributions from other foundations, ASIA is helping 1,600 families through the distribution of 1,600 kits of local vegetable seeds, tools and natural fertilizers/pesticides and 25,600 corrugated panels for the construction of shelters.

## **THE HAKU REFUGEES**

ASIA is also bringing aid, with funds made available by Caritas, to the refugee camp in Haku VDC (many villages in this area were completely destroyed by landslides after the quake and by the pre-monsoon rain).

## **MAPPING THE LANDSLIDES**

To prevent risks of landslides, ASIA, along with the Bicocca University of Milan, is creating a data mapping of the Rasuwa District, in the north of the country, and in the VDC of Baluwa (Kavre District). This is a tool that will be useful for local communities and authorities to plan post-earthquake reconstruction.

## **TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS TO AID THE NEPALESE PEOPLE WITH ASIA**

ONLINE

[www.asia-ngo.org/emergency](http://www.asia-ngo.org/emergency)

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## **ASIA in Nepal**

ASIA has been in Nepal since 1996, with projects of long-distance support for Tibetan refugee children and monks, particularly at the Manasarovar school and the Triten Norbutse Bönpo monastery, in the district of Boudhanath in Kathmandu.

In 2009 ASIA started a project for making drinking water safe, and hygiene education and health education in the districts of Rasuwa, Kavre and Dolpo, in order to improve the health of the population and to increase the literacy rate by giving support to 21 schools. In 2015 we started a new food security project with the creation of family vegetable gardens and training in organic farming methods.

ASIA has an office in Kathmandu with expatriate and local staff. At the time of the earthquake, the expatriate coordinator and local staff were on site, and were joined, after a few days, by the Director of Asia and the project manager.

## **Who is ASIA**

ASIA – Association for International Solidarity in Asia – is an NGO founded in 1988 by Prof. Namkhai Norbu. Working in Himalayan countries with projects safeguarding identity and cultural heritage, ASIA promotes processes of economic, social and health development focused on local people with their own human, cultural and environmental resources. In many years of experience ASIA has directly served over 500,000 people in Tibet, Western China, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka and had significant influence in the improvement of the living conditions in their communities.

For updates on the situation on the ground and on the interventions of ASIA:

[www.facebook/ngo.ASIA](https://www.facebook.com/ngo.ASIA)

## **ASIA Onlus**

Via San Martino della Battaglia, 31

00185 Roma

1. 06 44340034

Email: [comunicazione@asia-onlus.org](mailto:comunicazione@asia-onlus.org)

[www.asia-ngo.org](http://www.asia-ngo.org)