



July - September 2015

## LWF Nepal supports more than 22,000 earthquake-affected households



relief items distributed to the earthquake-affected families in Selang village development committee in Sindhupalchok, one of the worst-affected districts among the 14.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal was one of the few humanitarian organizations which responded instantaneously to the survivors of different places in the Kathmandu Valley on the first day of the 25 April 2015 earthquake. Soon after the earthquake, the staff of LWF Nepal distributed tarpaulin, ready-to-eat food, and hygiene kit to more than 400 families in the valley.

LWF Nepal activated the Emergency Response Team and the Asia Regional Hub in order to expedite and expand the relief work. We were able to cover more than 1,000 families within the Valley providing them with tarpaulin, ready-to-eat food, mattress, and hygiene kit.

While distributing relief package to the people of accessible but remote areas of the valley, we devised plan, carried out needs assessment in coordination with the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC), the local government authority, of the village development committees (VDCs) al-

located to us by the DDRC of the respective districts.

For creating synergy, avoiding duplication and reaching out more needy people, the faith-based organizations formed ACT Alliance Nepal Forum comprising DanChurch Aid; The Amity Foundation; The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission; Christian Aid; FinnChurch Aid; ICCO Cooperation; Lutheran World Relief; and LWF Nepal.

Dr Prabin Manandhar, Country Director, said, "We need to respond soon, but at the same time be careful to reach the most-affected and the most-vulnerable groups living in the remote parts of the worst-hit districts. We prioritize the Dalits, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, HIV- and AIDS-infected people of the remote areas of the districts while supporting them."

In order to meet the growing needs identified through data collection from the field and exacerbated by the May 12 after-

shock, we immediately announced vacancies and hired staff as required for working on different sectors like livelihood, WASH, shelter, etc. and the team moved to different districts to carry out needs assessment.

Based on the needs assessment, LWF Nepal started distributing tarpaulin, food and non-food items (NFIs) to the survivors of devastating earthquake outside the valley within the second week of the occurrence of the tragedy. By 22 July 2015 LWF Nepal had distributed ready-to-eat food, basic food, wheat soya blend, blanket, mattress, solar light, kitchen set, mosquito net, hygiene kit, mask, aqua tab (water purifier), sanitary pad, water tank, water filter, toilet soap, toilet construction set, emergency shelter/tarpaulin, and transitional shelter construction set to more than 22,000 households of Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Kavre, Makawanpur, Dolakha, Sindhupalchok and Rasuwa - eight of the 14 worst-affected districts by the tremor. ■



# Myanmar Flood: Cyclone Survival Took Part in Emergency Response

Maung Phyu Hla is currently working as an Assistant Education Officer in LWF Sittwe Office, Rakhine State. When Cyclone Komen hit Rakhine State in late July, he actively took part in the emergency response team of LWF even though his family was severely affected by the flood.

He explained how the cyclone affected his family in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State. “I was together with my family when the cyclone came on 31 July 2015. My family had to evacuate and stay together with other people for two days in a monastery which was not flooded. We had to evacuate to the monastery in a small boat and ate only what was available in the monastery.

During the emergency period, LWF formed (5) emergency response teams at once which covered (5) Townships in Rakhine State. He led the Ponna Gyun team, made up of (6) people. His team supported cyclone affected communities in Mya Thout, Dar Paing and Onh Thoe Tan villages in Mya Thout village tract, Ponna Gyun Township through a close collaboration with Ponna Gyun Township Administrators. These areas were affected badly by the cyclone. Before distribution, the team conducted a rapid assessment together with Community Based Organiza-



Maung Phyu Hla seen on a boat with relief items on the way to Ponna Gyun Township. (28 August 2015)



Maung Phyu Hla, wearing LWF visibility shirt and his team members checking the list of people by relief kits received (14 August 2015)

tions (CBO), villagers and volunteers. Then, Ponna Gyun team distributed rice, salt, bean, drinking water, oil, Non Food Item (NFI) kits and exercise books for 211 families in above the (4) villages.

“I’m very much delighted to help people in real need especially when they had to seek support from others. In regards to, the distribu-

tion and allocation system, LWF received positive feedback from villagers as it was very organized. Just one day after the assessment, their expectations were met. Every household received the same allocation. Team distributed household by household in a transparent way. It was very much satisfying to see active participation from

villagers including women in unloading the relief kits from boats.”

“The relief response work of my team is very fascinating. LWF was the first INGO to respond to the cyclone affected communities in Ponna Gyun Township while others were still conducting assessments. The relief items are essential things for family.” ■

# Flood-resilient rice seed helps improve farmer's food security



Shovanal Chandra (27) lives in Shankivanga, Gaibandha, on the Brahmaputra River. A farmer, he used to grow traditional rice in the aman season, but this was always damaged, fully or partially, by the annual floods.

In 2013, he joined an RDRS Farmers Field School and agreed to plant 5kg of Binsdhan-11, a new variety of rice with flood tolerant characteristics. He sowed the seeds in July 2014, trans-

planting them on August 5th; on August 17th, his 30 decimal field was completely submerged by rains and flash floods that continued until September 2nd.

The crop had been under water for 17 days and Shovanal was amazed to find the plants still alive in the field. His plants recovered, but his neighbors had to rescue their seedlings and painstakingly clean them before replanting. Shovanal was able

to harvest 320kgs on 9th November, giving him 2.64 ton per hectare, well above the usual level of productivity. His neighbors, however, looked on enviously and thought about following Shovanal's lead in future.





## Fuli Regained Her 'Confidence' To Manage Her Family

Fuli Soren - a widow of 35 years old was helplessness and look around for shelter with her three children at the aftershock of ethnic violence which caused the destruction of her dwelling house as burnt down by the miscreants and looting of the livestock in her village Birgaon under Kokrajhar district of Assam.

Fuli married Narayan Kisku at her age of 20 and she becomes the mother of three (two sons and a daughter) while she turns to 27 years old. In the process, they shifted their resident place to a different location with aim to cultivate their piece of land (0.66 acre) and earn livelihood through agricultural labour works. The family was steady as long as Narayan was active and secured good income for his family.

As like any other person, the life of Fuli never went smooth. Due to chronic illness and absence of proper treatment, Narayan was died in 2010. This brought the darkness in the life of Fuli and her children. They were full of agony and anxiety to face the unexpected situation. Amidst this situation, she had no other alternative than to work as agricultural daily labor and unskilled road construction worker as the means of livelihood and earn wages to maintain her family. This becomes the regular phenomenon in Fuli's life.

Meanwhile, LWSIT provided some hand holding support in the form of assisting few piglets and agricultural seeds to raise vegetables in her 0.05 acre of homestead land. Through all these means, Fuli could earn to the tune of Rs 2,000 (US\$ 33 approx.) per month. Nevertheless, Fuli never forget the importance of education. Hence, even with such meagre amount of income, she is sending all her three children to school.

It was the evening of 23rd December 2014, she heard the noise that some miscreants are coming to burn down her house and nobody should be there at home. This made panic



Fuli with her two sons and daughter at their newly rebuilt house



Fuli with her two sons and daughter at their newly rebuilt house

with the family of Fuli and all of them left their village to safer place for shelter. Not only Fuli, there are other families too had the same experience in the village. Of course, they could survive, but they lost everything what they left at home including their house.

Upon the destruction, Fuli and her children were staying in the relief camp and somehow they manage their life. Her children were suffering from the stomach disease due to scarcity of food. She made treatment

from a local doctor on credit, which she had to paid back with high interest. After several weeks when she returned to her village, she could see only the ashes of her burnt house.

Looking at such difficult condition, LWSIT provided Food Items for a period of two weeks to meet the food scarcity faced by Fuli and her children. In order to live with dignity, LWSIT also provided with other Non-Food Items (Woollen Blanket, Bed Sheet, Floor Mat and Mosquito Net). ■

## Human development is part of key components of LWF-Laos' RBEP

LWF have been operating its Rights Based Empowerment Project (RBEP) since 2012, since then there are numbers of human resources have been produced to contribute to support LWF intervention and government work. LWF values importance of developing local resources for instance local people are major priority in recruitment since all of LWF field staffs are locally recruited.

Taking a chance to work with LWF is momentous opportunity for local people to develop their knowledge and skills in multiple aspects through variety of capacity building activities in such different contents delivered such as human rights, community development, gender, disability, participatory planning, ...etc. Furthermore, individual coaching and learn from practicing is also critical observation.

Through LWF project implementation, LWF have been developing several local staffs whose now turning themselves as government officials

in difference sectors, this is such a great achievement of LWF to support development of local leadership.

Ms Mondavee, the only non-ethnic person among others, a former Community Empowerment Facilitation Team Leader (CEFTL) had been selected to work in Luang Namtha provincial youth union as a technical staff to support the running of activities at provincial level. She said that "I've been trying my best to accomplish my responsibilities while developing myself everyday for being a role model"

Mr Litkeo a former Community Empowerment Facilitator (CEF) a current technical staff of Vieng Phoukha District Governance-Party Inspection Office, responsible for internal governance and overall management in district level. Mr Saynou a former CEF a current IT teacher at high school in Boten special economic zone of Luang Namtha province and Mr Somphone a former CEF a current technical staff of Bokeo Pro-

vincial Drug Control Office. Saynou said that "I will replicate my knowledge and experiences from LWF to my students, this will absolutely helps to inspire and stimulate their attempting"

Somphone said that "I'm very proud of myself standing in this important role to contribute my knowledge and experience from LWF into my current responsibilities and I also shared lot of what I learned to my office colleagues" while Litkeo also said that "I have learned many things from LWF and difference things from government side, this doubles my knowledge and experience more varieties" he also emphasized that "thanks experiences from LWF to help me to facilitate my work easier"

To ensure effectiveness of project interventions and most benefit of community, LWF is continuously supporting capacity building to its staffs and local authority at grass root level to contribute to the improving lives of people in the community.

## About AZEECON

AZEECON is an informal, member-led regional network of field programs and Associate Programs of Lutheran World Federation/Dept of World Service active in promoting disaster risk reduction in seven countries.

AZEECON's primary role is primarily capacity-building - facilitating practical, peer-to-peer learning in the broad field of LRRD (Linking Relief, Rehabilitation & Development) responding to mem-

bers' needs and priorities. AZEECON offers a convenient and cost-effective platform for member organisations and staff to gain knowledge, exchange ideas and interact regionally.

Over the past 5 years, over 500 staff have participated in the range of capacity-building activities conducted in topics such as Trafficking, Food Security, Climate Change, HAP, SPHERE Standards, Youth, Advocacy, RBA etc.

## Country Members



ASIAN ZONE EMERGENCY AND ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION NETWORK

