

10

November
2015

dnh brief



DEUTSCH-NEPALISCHE HILFSGEMEINSCHAFT e.V.

GERMAN-NEPALESE



HELP ASSOCIATION

www.dnh-stuttgart.org

Namaste

नमस्ते

Dear Members and dear Friends of the GNHA,

The region in Nepal where the GNHA mainly carries out its school projects, was literally caught in the vice of the two devastating earthquakes. The epicentres of 25th April and 12th May, 2015 were only 150 km apart. However, the major devastations were caused in the region between them. It was fortunate that the first earthquake occurred during the daytime and on a Saturday when no lessons were taking place, and the second earthquake occurred - also during the day - when the schools were closed anyway.

Now we face the enormous challenge of having to reconstruct the school infrastructure, a part of which was totally devastated, repair the classrooms and build new ones, where necessary, and re-invigorate the teaching.

In this edition of the GNHA flyer (*dnh brief*) we are looking back and reporting on how your donations were used directly after the catastrophe. We have asked Sabine Pretsch to kindly examine the figures, obtain information and set up a report on this. Sabine is a member of the GNHA and she works and lives in Nepal. As a result of this catastrophe we deemed it a logical consequence, not to restrict our Dispensary for the poor and needy to the spatial limits of Bir Hospital, and subsequently began our 3-day Health Camps with it, once a month, in our project region. We are also reporting on this here.

Throughout the last few months we hoped that the Head of our Office, Doris Keppeler, with whom all our members were very well acquainted, would be able to take up her work again. Our hopes were in vain. On 11.10.2015 Doris departed from us, which filled us with deep sorrow.

Whereas last year the generational replacement in Nepal had been prepared well and took place exactly according to plan, the Office in Stuttgart was faced with the unforeseen absence of Doris Keppeler and the enormous increase in workload due to the earthquake.

As a result I would like to express my warm thanks. Your readiness to donate was phenomenal and a great encouragement for us and the people in Nepal.

Many Nepalese were also surprised themselves about the solidarity and commitment shown by their own civil society after the catastrophe. With an admirable will of self-determination, the affected population is now endeavouring to master its life anew. They will also manage to overcome the current supply crisis. Even after many years of struggling and haggling, they have at last managed to adopt a constitution, nevertheless.

So let us look ahead with confidence, tackle the reconstruction work and put our faith in the long-established principle of, "Together we are strong!"

And with you we are.

My greetings go to you with a warm Namaste.



Andreas Falk
- President -

Obituary

Doris Keppeler

6th August, 1955 – 11th October, 2015

Doris was no longer able to return to her former workplace. She died of cancer - this illness surprising her and us almost exactly one year ago.

It is hardly possible to imagine the GNHA without Doris. She was the face and voice of the Office in Stuttgart. Doris embodied the term of a 'maid-of-all-work' in the most positive sense. As such she was the reliable pillar of support for the Board and the contact person for our members whom she was always ready to help; she was the person in charge of the files and the one who took responsibility for the finances and financial accounting, supervised the donations and organised the trips, excursions and events. Actually, there was not anything that Doris did not do.

The businesswoman, Margot Busak, recognised this young lady's potential and nominated her as her assistant to the Executive Management. Doris became familiar with the GNHA from the very beginning and was entrusted with the concerns of the GNHA which was founded in 1979 by Margot Busak, Erika Belz and other like-minded friends. As a result, her interest in Nepal was aroused and her love for the Nepalese people grew. With a fervent heart and inexhaustible energy she dedicated herself to the Association and the people in Nepal. Doris knew about everything; she resembled a walking archive and whenever she was asked any questions, she instinctively provided immediate, precise information. In addition to this, she had a remarkable, organisational talent that proved its worth, time and time again, at our large events.

When Margot Busak died in 1991, the GNHA liberated itself from its affiliation to the company at that time, and its independent existence, headed by Doris Keppeler as the Office Manager, began. Her last major commitment was last year's Nepal Bazaar. Even at that time she no longer appeared personally. Afterwards she withdrew due to her illness, and progressively cut herself off. She probably wanted to be remembered as the strong, dynamic woman.

The Association, and with it the entire GNHA family, owe her so very, very much. A huge circle of friends in Germany and Nepal are now mourning the loss of the unforgettable Doris Keppeler and wishing her eternal peace.

The GNHA Board

Report on the GNHA measures taken after the earthquake

By Sabine Pretsch

Half a year has passed since the ground in Nepal shook for the first time this year. Both the earthquakes on 25.04.2015 and 12.05.2015 and the numerous aftershocks caused disastrous destruction within our project area. The four mountainous districts where we operate belong to the worst affected regions.

We are impressed by the members of our team, some of whom had homes themselves that were razed to the ground, and how they immediately set off to organise aid for those who were affected, and bring it to them, directly. A particularly loyal and valuable partner for us was the local NGO Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (www.ecca.org.np).

We are now providing a complete overview here of the relief measures carried out until now, that have been possible thanks to the generous willingness to donate! It was also necessary to act quickly, as the monsoon would soon be setting in. The acute measures have been completed. Now the reconstruction will be starting during the coming months - and this will take several years to complete.

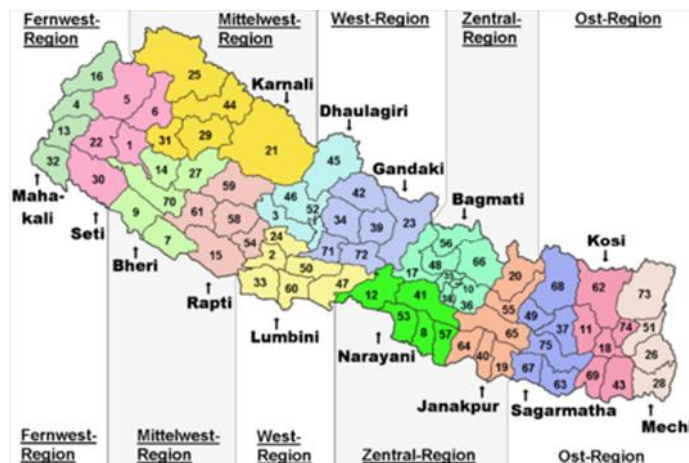
Only a part of the report can be included here; you will find a more detailed version on our homepage, showing specific examples of the relief measures!



DISTRICTS WITH GNHA ACTIVITES

The following map shows the geographical location of the seismic sources and our four districts in which we are active. For your orientation, the locations of the popular tourist destinations, i.e. Kathmandu, Pokhara, Chitwan Nationalpark and Mount Everest, are similarly shown.

The map shows the country's division into 5 development regions; it also shows the 14 administrative zones in different colours, as well as the 75 districts with their appropriate numbering.



	Entwicklungsregion	Verwaltungszone	Distrikt
Erdbebenherde			
Erdbeben am 25.04.2015	West-Region	Gandaki	Gorkha Nr. 23
Erdbeben am 12.05.2015	Zentral-Region	Janakpur	Dolakha Nr. 20
Distrikte mit DNH - Aktivität			
Sindhupalchowk	Zentral-Region	Bagmati	Sindhupalchok Nr. 66
Dhading	Zentral-Region	Bagmati	Dhading Nr. 17
Kavrepalanchowk (Kavre)	Zentral-region	Bagmati	Kavrepalanchok Nr. 36
Dolakha	Zentral-Region	Janakpur	Dolakha Nr. 20
Touristen-Ziele			
Kathmandu	Zentral-Region	Bagmati	Kathmandu Nr. 35
Pokhara	West-Region	Gandaki	Kaski Nr. 34
Chitwan	Zentral-Region	Narayani	Chitwan Nr. 12
Mount Everest	Ost-Region	Sagarmatha	Solokhumbu Nr. 68

COMPLETE OVERVIEW IN FIGURES

During the days directly following the first earthquake the emergency aid was immediately initiated. The goods and materials needed for survival were distributed as per the following chart. After distributing these initial supplies to the project regions we were also already considering what continuation measures would be necessary and sensible for restoring a certain state of 'normality' and for giving the schoolchildren a perspective for the future.

a.) Immediate relief measures:

Distrikt	Hilfsgut	Menge	Maßeinheit	Betrag in EUR
Sindhupalchok insgesamt 15 Schulen / 91 Haushalte	Reis	1770	Kg	635,91
	Instant-Nudeln	81	Karton	248,56
	Sojabohnen	30	Kg	44,23
	Öl	24	Liter	21,62
	Plastikplanen	60	Stück	741,17
	Schutzmasken gegen Staub	225	Stück	50,68
	Erste Hilfe Set	3	Stück	0,00
				1.742,17
Dhading insgesamt 17 Schulen / 205 Haushalte	Plastikplanen	205	Stück	2.532,34
	Schutzmasken gegen Staub	130	Stück	29,28
	Erste Hilfe Set	1	Stück	0,00
				2.561,62
Kavre insgesamt 5 Schulen / 110 Haushalte	Plastikplanen	110	Stück	1.358,82
	Schutzmasken gegen Staub	135	Stück	30,40
	Erste Hilfe Set	2	Stück	0,00
				1.389,22
Dolakha insgesamt 11 Schulen / 219 Haushalte	Plastikplanen	219	Stück	2.705,28
	Schutzmasken gegen Staub	395	Stück	88,96
				2.794,25
Kathmandu insgesamt 33 Haushalte	Reis	50	Kg	17,96
	Plastikplanen	10	Stück	123,53
				141,49
Bhaktapur insgesamt 15 Haushalte	Plastikplanen	15	Stück	94,70

The following total costs resulted for the immediate relief measures (incl. transport):
 EUR 9,701.88

b.) Continuing relief measures:

Hilfsmaßnahme	Distrikt	Schulen / Haushalte	Zeitraum	Ausgaben in EUR
Provisorisch errichtete Lern-Zentren (TLC)	Siehe detaillierter Überblick unter Ziffer 3 a.)			
Zeltplanen				
Wellbleche	Sindhupalchowk Dolakha Dhading Kavre	15 Schulen 11 Schulen 17 Schulen 5 Schulen + 200 Haushalte	Juni - Juli	28.422,62
Training in psychologischer Beratung	Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Dhading, Kavre	20 Schulen	Mai	590,09
Mobiles Gesundheitscamp	Sindhupalchowk Dolakha, Dhading, Kavre, Nuwakot, Solukhumbu	Behandlung von über 1500 Menschen	fortlaufend	12.878,61
Trinkwasser-Reinigung	Sindhupalchowk, Kavre	330 Haushalte	Juni	
Schulspeisung	Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Dhading, Kavre	48 Schulen	Mai - Okt.	75.934,83
Schuluniform	Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Dhading, Kavre	48 Schulen, 4000 Schüler	Juli	

The following total costs resulted for the continuing relief measures:

EUR 117,826.15

c.) Total costs for relief measures taken until now:

For carrying out the relief measures taken until now, the total expenditure amounted to:

EUR 127,528.04

A SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED DONATION

A specifically designated donation enabled us to purchase a pick-up truck. The relief supplies and materials could subsequently be taken quickly to the affected project areas. Numerous residents of two localities were involved in this generous donation. We should like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks once again for this splendid support.

The costs attributable for purchasing the pick-up truck amounted to EUR 30,080.60.



Donated
pick-up
truck in
operation



School meals in new school uniforms



MGML lessons in temporary classrooms built of corrugated sheet metal

"Mobile Dispensary" – our Dispensary for the poor and needy in field service

By Dr. Richard Storkenmaier

As a result of the huge earthquake, thousands of injured people had to be given first aid. A central hospital for treating these patients was Bir Hospital in Kathmandu, where our poor people's Dispensary is located. Contrary to normal times, sufficient supplies had been made available to the state hospital directly after the earthquake for providing its patients with free medication.

Our Dispensary was therefore under less demand in Kathmandu than was firstly presumed. Vested with an encouragingly good income of specifically designated donations, we therefore decided to go with our Dispensary to those regions where the medical care was bad and the need was the greatest, i.e. the mountainous regions that had been affected most by the earthquake, and where our schools were also located.



Since the earthquake our Dispensary team, together with Nepalese doctors, has been in action, once a month, for 3 days at a time, in order to provide local, basic, medical care. The response to this field work is overwhelming. During the last 3-day Health Camps, it was possible to look at over 200 patients each day. Injuries resulting from the earthquake hardly occur any more. The main problems now are gastrointestinal complaints and chronic, respiratory ailments. Infectious diseases and pains in the joints and limbs are also treated just as frequently. Children are given de-worming medication as a routine. In the case of serious diseases such as suspected TB, for example, or indications for surgery, the patients are referred to the respective state health institutions and given financial support from our Poor Patient Fund, if needed.



A group of doctors comprising an internist, gynaecologist and dentist, has proved highly effective. Those people, who have often not contacted a doctor at all for years, gratefully accept the Health Camp offers and medical supplies. And the psychological effect of showing the villagers that they have not been forgotten, is not to be underestimated, either.

Our Board Member, Dr. Richard Storckenmaier took part in two of these Health Camps in October, together with his wife who is also a doctor.

Subsequently they were convinced that it would be very effective for these Health Camps to be continued in the remote regions. We shall be improving the facilities for dental care, as this has proved to be particularly necessary. Apart from medical care, we shall additionally be paying more attention to the prevention of health risks, such as hygiene measures, health care, or dental care.



Eyewitness report

"Do you feel it? Come here, it's shaking!"

One week before the first earthquake began, Amrei Vogel had started her work as a voluntary helper at the school in Badalgaun (Kavre District). Although the activities she had planned with teachers and schoolchildren were no longer possible, she did not want to return home straightaway. Here is an extract from her report on the days and weeks after 25th April. You can find the complete article on the GNHA homepage. When the earth begins to quake severely it causes a tremendous shock, followed by despair. And if the earth does not stop quaking one loses one's faith, courage and energy.

In mid April I travelled to the village of Badalgaun in the Kavre District, east of Kathmandu to take on my second post as a voluntary helper in Nepal – I had already travelled to the country in December. Fields, woodland, agricultural everyday life and the schools supported by the GNHA were now the overriding features of my stay. After my first week at the school, I went to a neighbouring house on Saturday, 25th April to attend a religious ceremony with my host family. I was playing with the children outside when the earthquake suddenly started. The people were surrounded by thunder, noise and smoke and were no longer able to stand on their own two feet. After this, they searched in panic for their family, casting anxious glances at their own homes, and then waited for hours on end for the next earthquake. It was not until the next day that the people realised how these few seconds would be affecting their lives – their homes were now a dangerous place to live in.



On the day after the large earthquake the people quickly set up places to cook, and built shelters for the animals and the family. On the first few nights most of them slept together in a large stall built out of bamboo, but after a few days the families wanted a small home of their own again. Soon relief came from the GNHA and ECCA; they brought tarpaulins to the school where they were distributed with a lot of discussion. These people were in great despair and the help never seemed to be enough.

During the next two weeks the situation continued with aftershocks and supplies of relief goods from various different organisations and private initiatives. Rice, lentils, biscuits, instant noodles, tarpaulins, fortunately, I was able to drive to Kathmandu twice to fetch some medication from the Dispensary. With this medication and with my simple, basic, medical knowledge, I dealt with the diseases and injuries of the villagers who, due to the polluted water and the hard work on their homes, were often plagued by diarrhoea, fever, pains in their joints, or abrasions.

Slowly everyday life was resumed, milk and cucumbers were sold again in Kathmandu, the animals were taken back to their original places again and cooking and washing were done at their homes. Members of the family who worked a long way away, returned home; the people met up on the village square, the children were able to play and move freely again, and in the evenings they all met in order to watch the news together on the village square. This continued for a few days; but now and again we were disturbed by a

larger jerk in the ground, i.e. until the second huge earthquake occurred on 12th May and robbed everyone of their regained faith and any courage they had mustered up. Living in a tent, often together with several families, the frequent aftershocks, the worry about a lack of money, the daily work in the fields, and demolishing the devastated homes were a great burden for these people, but now they additionally had this terrible fear of being set back time and time again by earthquakes.

I returned to my home country with a heavy heart, three weeks after the first earthquake, with a change in my attitude towards life, some deep insights into the Nepalese village structure, respect for the will of the Nepalese to quickly rebuild their homes, a cold and the motivation to continue supporting the projects in Nepal.



We would like to express our thanks!

Only with your huge support was it possible to provide help fast, and to now start the long-term reconstruction work.

We thank all the donors for their generosity!

We greatly value your faith in us and assure you that your donations are all invested in our long-term projects.

Also encouraging were the creative ideas of some of our donors who organised diverse donation campaigns of their own. Here is a short selection:

- Various different fundraising concerts
- Appeals for donations at different companies and in their company newsletters
- Fundraising activities by professional associations (e.g. the German Pharmacist Association)
- Donation campaigns at schools, by individual persons or interest groups
- Slide shows and Nepal Evenings held by GNHA members and friends of Nepal
- Yoga sessions in support of earthquake victims
- Donation campaigns on the occasion of birthdays and deaths
- Collections of relief goods (e.g. shovels, tarpaulins) and organisation of the transport



Dates and latest information

For the latest information on special dates and our projects please see our homepage or Facebook page.

www.dnh-stuttgart.org

[www.fb.com/Deutsch-Nepalische-Hilfsgemeinschaft-117494788313902/](https://www.facebook.com/Deutsch-Nepalische-Hilfsgemeinschaft-117494788313902/)

21.- 22.11.2015 GNHA Nepal Bazaar

We invite you warmly to visit our traditional Nepal Bazaar

Saturday, 21st November, 2015: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Sunday, 22nd November, 2015: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Place: Firma Trelleborg, Handwerkstr. 5-7, 70565 Stuttgart-Vaihingen (Cafeteria, Hofgebäude, top floor)

GNHA contact address:

Deutsch-Nepalische Hilfsgemeinschaft e.V.

Schulze-Delitzsch-Strasse 22, 70565 Stuttgart, Germany

Phone: +49 (0)711 45 96-488, Fax: +49 (0)711 99 77-96 58

Mail: buero@dnh-stuttgart.org

BANK ACCOUNT FOR DONATIONS

Commerzbank Stuttgart

IBAN DE03 6008 0000 0182 4971 00

BIC: DRESDEFF600

The GNHA is a recognised, non-profit organisation

Donations are tax-deductible. Donation receipts are, as a rule, issued at the end of the year, but also beforehand upon special request.

Last certificate of tax exemption of 28.10.2014.

