

Tuesday, 05. May 2015

Our team has grown. Ulrich, Christian and Thomas landed at 6 O' clock in Kathmandu. At 8 O' clock we were already sitting together to discuss about our further proceedings. Thomas, from the Ganesh Nepalhilfe e. V. will stay with Savithri and her family in Nayabasti at Boudha. Ulrich told us about his displeasure over some airlines that increased the prices considerably higher for the transport of relief supplies since the earthquake. He and his son Christian will be staying in a quarter in Dhobighat and there they would also store the Pauls, once they arrive. Although we were living now at three locations, we decided to meet each other for meetings at a centrally located place in Thamel whenever required.

Kritan and I decided spontaneously to support the relief program being organized by Kathmandu Chabahil Lions & Leo Club. We decided to go with them and to help them in the distribution of food. At the same time we also wanted to see whether there were any medical treatments required and whether the water supply was secured. We donated money for food, which would then be used for buying the relief materials for the Tamang people, a Tibeto-Burman ethnic group origin living in Lapsephedi village located on North-eastern



direction of Kathmandu. What fascinated me here was the inter-religious help and respect, the Tamang people are Buddhists, the Lion Club members are mostly Hindus.

When we arrived at the club office at Lampokhari Chabahil, 12 Lions & Leo Club members had already loaded 70 plastic bags filled with 10 kg of rice, 1 kg of salt, 1 kg lentils and 5 packs noodles in a pickup jeep. Divided into two cars, we drove to the north-east of Kathmandu out to the mountain villages and reached to our destination, Lapsephedi Sankhu. On the map, it seemed to be only about 15 km, in reality this was a very

adventurous tour uphill to the village and took us way too longer than that would take for a normal 15 km way.

It is much more difficult to travel with cars in Kathmandu, where some roads were still closed to cars, moving around with scooters or with motorbikes is still a better option. Many roads are still impassable for cars because of debris from collapsed houses.

We passed through villages that were badly damaged.





Unfortunately, we didn't see any major charities activities being done at these places. We could also see some people building their house which was completely down with earthquake and its aftershocks.

In some villages, different organization from China and Malaysia had erected tents. Most tents were empty, because the earthquake victims had settled near their destroyed homes a place to live under tarpaulins and were busy to dismantle their homes.



Modern helicopters and airplanes were continuously flying again over our vehicles. The US had announced such machines that would probably bring food in inaccessible regions.



After a more than two-hour drive we reached the Tamang village in Lapsephedi. There, the Lions & Leo Club of Kathmandu Chabahil supports a primary school as their permanent project. They support about 500 cataract operations per year in this region. Co-incidentally we meet two Tamangs, those who were treated, they described that they were very happy to see things again.

At school, people gathered around. Previously, a list had been created by a local guy, on which there were names of those who were desperately in need of relief materials.

Before each handover a photo was clicked and then after giving a quick smile they took their gifts into the shade area.





Many still stayed there and talked to each other for about an hour. People were really grateful and showed their gratitude also to the helpers.

When passing over the houses of the villages we saw that they were not so badly damaged. Most of the houses were still standing and were not completely collapsed. But the damage in some of the houses however could clearly be seen. It brought

tears in many eyes, many houses were about to collapse and to add more salt to the injury, daily there were still about 10 small, very short aftershocks. It is a different story that, me myself have not yet felt any of the aftershocks, yet they are enough to frighten earthquake victims.



In the village Lapsephedi most of the houses had iron sheets roof. These would now be removed from the destroyed houses to build small shelter where people could live. The situation really shoows an urgent need of tents. The Tamangs were clear that it would not be possible for them to rebuild their homes before the monsoon, so they settle down on these temporary shelter which would probably be their new home for at least a year.

The water supply seemed to be good, although not optimal. The main reason for this was, because the village was high in the mountains and the water they use came from a spring. We thought of setting up at least one biosand filter to see how much it would improve the quality of the water.





The food supply was not critical. Everywhere in the fields the corns were already ready for harvest.

Although most of the houses of 150 families were no longer habitable, and many have collapsed only an elderly woman was killed during this earthquake here. We talked a little to her husband. I think it's good to talk to someone about it.



As we said goodbye to each other in the late afternoon, we felt a close relationship between the workers. One of the helpers offered Kritan to organize a motorcycle, so that we are faster and more flexible in the coming days and even would make it possible for us to reach places that are within 50 to 80 km. Another helper offered us his help at customs in airport, in the event that we face difficulty to bring the Pauls (water purifier). Kritan said that he would try to organize a lecture about BioSandFilter and the PAUL system in the Lions Club in an evening. Maybe we could help the Lions Club in the preparation of Biosand Filter.



Translator: Kritan

More news [www.gesinas.net](http://www.gesinas.net)