

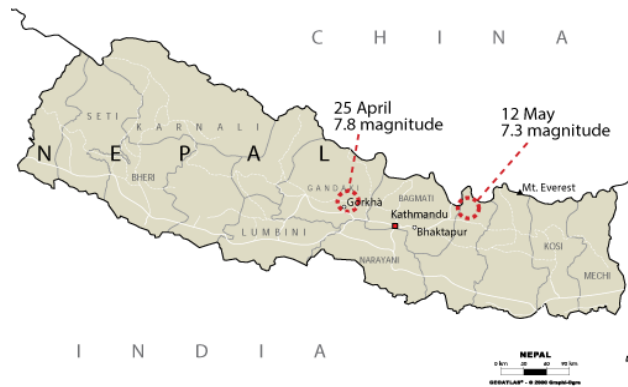
**Brief Update about April 25 & May 12, 2015 Earthquake Disaster in Nepal:  
NSSW's response together with other colleagues and institutions**

Republic of Nepal struggling to write its own new constitution has been hit by two devastating earthquakes in less than three weeks time, killing thousands, injuring tens of thousands, and leaving millions more with the burden of rebuilding their lives. The Government of Nepal has adopted the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management 2009 based on Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015). In addition the Local Self Governance Act 1999 gives local bodies the authority and responsibility to design and implement disaster responses, but ironically no budget is allocated to them. As a result the disaster prevention and awareness work largely carried by the non state actors in collaboration with the government agencies.

**April 25 and May 12, 2015 Earthquake Disaster in Nepal**

Right in the first week after the disaster struck on 25th April (with Gorkha district as epicentre), NSSW students and faculty came together and with self care responded with relief materials bought on loan and reached Sipapokhari VDC (9 wards and about 1000 families in each of the wards) which is outside of the Kathmandu valley. On the basis of experience and insights acquired and also the request for support received NSSW decided to expand its work in other districts also. A virtual helpline for self care of students and faculty has been set up by Prof. Lena Dominelli and her colleagues.

NSSW students and faculty have established links with local key informants, district development and VDC level officers and most importantly with the police who are involved in the relief and monitoring activities. Fortunately, many individuals and agencies came in contact with NSSW, visited the campus and held discussions with faculty and students available. In the next few weeks a lot of developments took place.



To cite a few: NSSW graduates were hired by Karina Slovakova, Emergency Field Project Coordinator of the **Magna Children at Risk**, Nepal after many discussions with Pradipta Kadambari, CEO of NSSW. NSSW will be happy to work with Magna further. Similarly, **Mercy Malaysia** also came in contact with NSSW and discussions are going on to work together. Students of NSSW are now assisting Mercy Malaysia in translation during their psycho-social support program in SANKHU (Kathmandu District).

Prof. Jacquleen Joseph of **TISS (Tata Institute of Social Sciences)** and her colleagues visited NSSW and held discussions with NSSW on areas of collaboration. These discussions have led to further expansion of NSSW work. As of now (it is going to be one month on May 25 of the mega disaster of Nepal) NSSW students and faculty together with TISS (India) students and faculty have been involved in psycho-social support work and data collection in 6 VDCs - village development committees in 3 districts namely: **Sindhupalchowk, Kathmandu and Dhading**.



**Our teams are workign with communities in 6 VDCs in 3 districts: LOOK, LISTEN AND LINK**

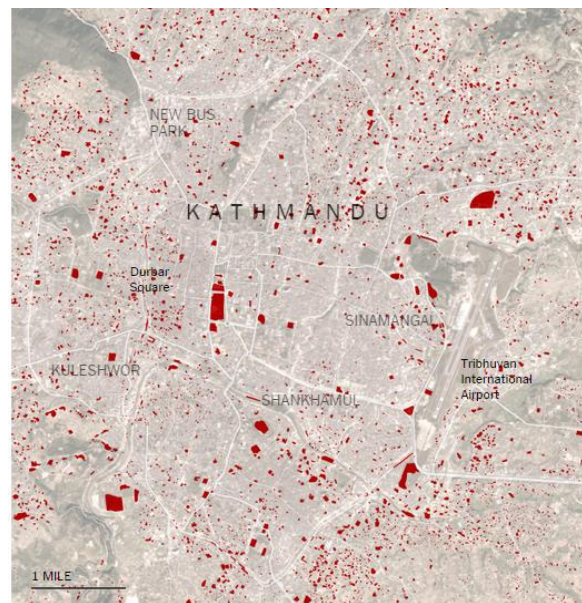
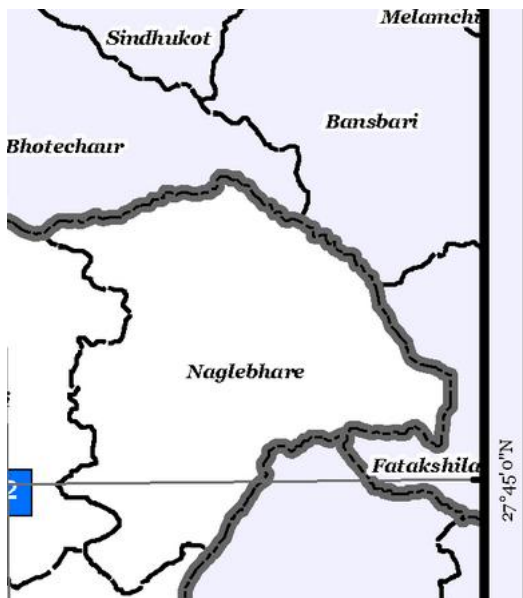
**3 vdc's in Sindhupalchowk Distrcit ( Bagmati Zone):**

Three VDCs were selected : SipaPokhare VDC, Bhintar VDC, Bhotasipa VDC. All three of them are adjoining to each other and heavily damaged, located in hilly area of the district. The distrcit can be roughly divided into two areas: mountains (with elevations of above 3,500 meters) and the more density populated hilly areas. Highest number of deaths are reported from this distrcit.



**Kathmandu District ( Bagmati Zone, Central**

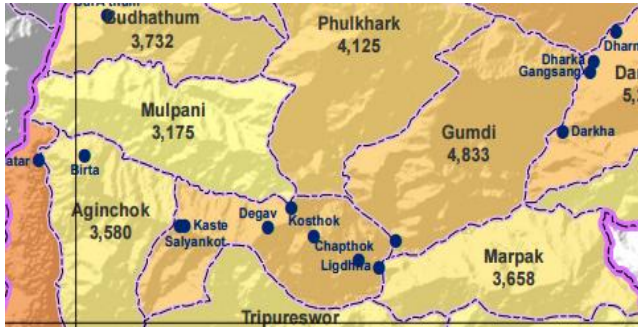
**:** Naglebhare VDC, lies on the border with Sindhupalchowk district and is the most backward constituency. As residents seek refuge in outdoor camps throughout the kathmandu city, a temporary shelter landscape has emerged. Areas in red on the map below indicate spaces where camps have been set up.



By The New York Times | Sources: OpenStreetMap, Kathmandu Living Labs

## Dhadhing District:

Mulpani VDC, Senjong Chautara VDCs are being covered by our team out of 50 VDCs in this district. Each of the selected VDC represent about 4000 Population ( 800 families on an average in each of these vdc). Currently NSSW is helping schools in this district also. They are Sri Bhimeswori Madhaymik Vidhyalaya , Bhimtar with white boards and books for grade one to grade 5. We welcome any further support to these schools with resources to rebuild.



## Brief Needs Assessment :

In Sindhupalchow district ( consisting 68 vdc) alone more than 3057 people were dead and 860 are injured and about 3000 people remain unaccounted for. According to district authorities and other reports more than 63,885 houses are severely and 2,751 houses are moderately damaged. Hospitals and health centres have been flattened, and those still standing have numerous cracks making them susceptible to collapse. Air remains the only means of transport to reach mountainous areas where roads have been damaged or blocked. We can imagine the scale of devastation. We will come to know exactly the number of deaths and damage to shelters in the 3 wards that we are working soon.

By the middle of the June all the 6 teams ( each team about 8 = 6 students and 2 faculty) will be back to Kathmandu. By then we shall have the data for about 60,000 ( sixty thousand) families from 6 sites. On this basis we will make evidence based policy recommendations to Government of Nepal and also come up with possible social work interventions to be implemented.

From the direct observations and field visits of the team members, we already knew that shelter is a big issue as many families have lost their homes or partially damaged. Schools, temple and community halls are also damaged. Sanitation and hygiene may become a bigger issue once the monsoon sets in early June. Once the monsoon-season starts and people can no longer live outside in tents and make shift arrangements. We need to find quick and appropriate means and ways to help families to live together.

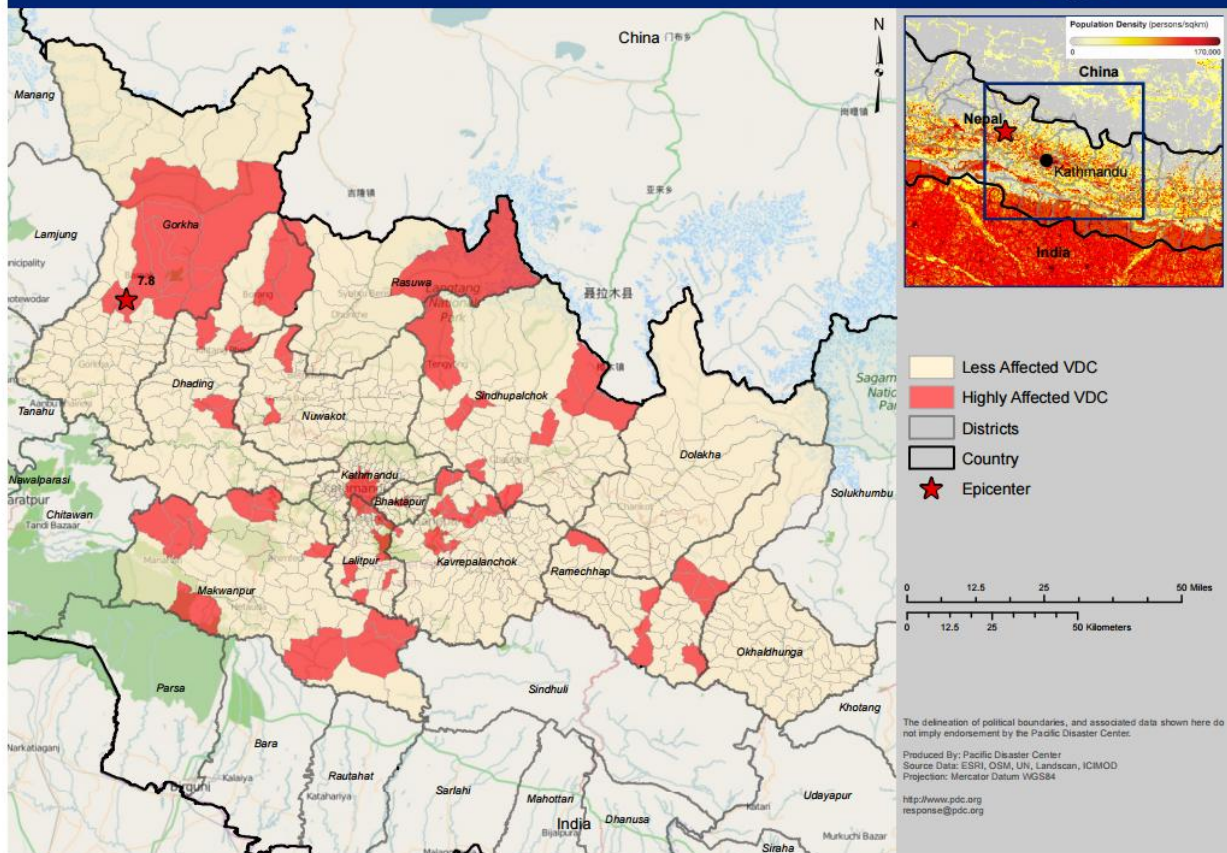




## Central Nepal - Affected Village Development Committees (VDC)

Updated as of 29APR15

PDC - EQ7.8 - VDC 001



### Social Audit of external support we received / pledged to us:

NSSW will be sharing all the support we receive during this time in detail soon. As of now a brief summary on how we plan to allocate the resources efficiently:

- We have spent more than 5000 US\$ worth of relief materials for the 9 wards of Sipapokahri and work is continuing now. For this we thank Dr. Linda and Dr. Sharvari and all contributors.
- For the psycho social support and data collection in all 6 VDC sites in 3 districts is being funded by TATA trust, TISS and NSSW resources.
- Prof. Manohar Pawar, Charles Sturt University (CSU) and the ICSD AP executive board supported with equivalent to 593,000 Nepali Rupees for the repairs, rebuilding of NSSW library and other infrastructure. This money will be spent by the NSSW over a period of next two years to rebuild its infrastructure damaged due to the disaster.
- Prof. A. Lombard, Head: Department of Social Work & Criminology, University of Pretoria, i think along with CSWE is raising social work books for the library that is damaged. We yet to know the status of this activity.
- The support that we received from Dr.Linda Kreitzer of Uni Calgary (Canadian \$1,000 and Steve Brechtel - C\$500) is being used for the students and their travel, water and food and other relief materials.
- The \$3,386\$ help that came from Prof. Lena's former Doctoral student Dr Man Jae Yan from Korea and also from Prof.Lena Dominelli, Durham University fund raising amount (to be known)will be used in Sipapokhari and Kathmandu District (Nanglebare VDC) work.

- The help that we will be receiving from Japanese Schools of Social Work will be used in Dhading District's Mulpani VDC, Samyongchowk VDC school repairs and other support work and it depends on the volume of support that we will receive.
- We are now in touch with Profs. Hugh and Helen, chief editors of Social Work Education: The International Journal, to raise technical and financial support to one of the 6 sites that we are currently working, building rapport and gaining trust of the communities and helping them to help themselves.

We extend our sincere thanks and gratefulness to you all for your time, counsel, funds, and kind support to our efforts on the ground. We are committed to extend further resources of NSSW to work with these communities for the next few months and perhaps years. We do hope that you all continue to be with us and together we shall make a difference to lives of people of Nepal. We are making every effort to increase access to basic needs like shelter and primary care to these families to stand up and regain their strengths.

*Prepared by : Bala Raju Nikku with consultation and inputs from Pradipta kadambari, Shivani Saria, Dill Kumar Thakuri and Samjhana Oli, NSSW faculty and students*



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Face book: <https://www.facebook.com/www.nepalschoolsocialwork.org>

( for further updates of our work)

Please support our colleagues fundraising efforts for NSSW:

<http://www.gofundme.com/nepalsocialwork>