#  Nuwakot Earthquake Relief- Report

**Targeted Area**

Nuwakot, a part of the Bagmati Zone, is one of the seventy-five districts of Nepal. It is approx. 75km from the capital, Kathmandu. Altogether there are 62 VDCs and Municipalities in Nuwakot. Farming is the main occupation of the people in this area. Potatoes, rice, and paddy are grown and sold in huge amounts.

The Earthquake on 25th April destroyed Nuwakot, taking the lives of more than 1000 people and 1500 houses collapsed.

We, students of Mitrataa Foundation, under the supervision of Bec decided to help people in need. We decided to go to our own village and help people.

**Objectives**

* To identify the urgent need of the people and provide them with help and support.
* To find out the condition of people and houses there.
* To make a framework for further support.

**Team**

Sabitri Pathak

Jalpa Adhikari

Saraswoti Thapaliya

**Volunteers**

Shankar Thapaliya (Saraswoti’s brother)

Nuwakot VDC

Nuwakot Sewa Samaj (Local club)

**Budget**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tents** | 506317 |
| **Rice** | 8200 |
| **Foods** | 50700 |
| **Total** | **565217** |

**Workings**

We worked in different villages of the Nuwakot District for 4 days i.e. May 1- May 4, 2015. It was much too disorganized for us to work on our own. It was very hard to distribute the funds to the locals because of fights. So as per the suggestion of Shankar, we decided to collaborate with the local social club, Nuwakot Sewa Samaj.

**Day 1-**

As it was the start of the project, we were quite busy all day. At first we met the authorities of the club. We discussed about the damages and the urgent needs. As a result, we found that almost 95% of houses were damaged. People were homeless and living in the fields and cow sheds. They had no alternative shelter. Because of the shortage of plastic tents, people were forced to lead miserable days. Since there were no problems of food and water, getting tents was our first priority. So we decided to distribute tents to as many families as we could.

But it was not so easy to distribute tents. Every single family needed tents. It was almost impossible for us to provide for all of them as we didn’t have many resources. So we came up with separating criteria i.e. giving tents to the families of the deceased. For this we asked Nuwakot VDC to provide us with a list of families of the deceased. We were also interviewed by the local radio, Radio Trishuli. We represented Mitrataa and assured to help the village as much we can. We announced through the radio that we’re distributing the tents, and we suggested that the families of the deceased should bring the written proof from the VDC to get tents.

There was a tent shortage in Nuwakot and Kathmandu, so we bought tents from Chitwan. We also had some tents sent by Nimu from Kathmandu.

**Day 2 –**

We brought tents from Chitwan. By that time the number of needy people had doubled – it was way more than we had expected. So the tents we had were insufficient. The sizes of the tents were large enough, so we decided to cut them down into two parts and divide each into two so that we could distribute to more families. Then we started cutting them down and loading them into the van. We took those tents to the office where we had called people with written proof from VDC to collect the tents.

To our surprise, there were even more people than we had expected. We started to distribute. There was strict supervision so that the tents could not be mis-utilized. The needy people came themselves and received the goods, and were very thankful and hopeful. Our team was praised for this.

Then in the evening, our team and Shankar visited nearby villages and distributed tents to the most poor and needy ones.

**Day 3 –**

On the third day we first visited our own villages. Sabitri and Jalpa went to their villages and distributed 7 and 10 tents respectively to the neediest families. They also gave tents to the single women and elderly people.

After that we went to other villages which were in serious need as said by the locals. We went to Tamang Village which hadn’t received any aid before us. We walked uphill for approx. 30 min and arrived. We gave tents to the needy people. They were very glad that we came and helped them.

In the afternoon, we teamed up with Red Cross from Chitwan and went uphill to the village Gerkhu. Since it lies at the top of the hill, very few donors visit here. We helped them with the tents and the Red Cross gave other stuff such as buckets, rice and utensils.

We finished distributing tents. Later we came to know that there is shortage of food in some villages at the top. So we visited there and asked locals what they really needed. As per their request, we bought food like rice, dal, noodles, biscuits, and sugar.

**Day 4 –**

We teamed up with a medical team from Kathmandu and headed to the uphill village where we had asked about their needs in the previous days. Our bus carrying food and some medicine couldn’t go up to the village, so we called the villagers to come down and collect them. The medical team distributed medicine and Tetanus Vaccines. They also distributed Jeevanjal, the anti-diarrhea medicine.

**Achievements**

Altogether we distributed more than 260 tents to approx. 310 families. We covered the wide range of villages in the district. The support from us was the small relief to the people out there. Our support was worthy where even the government wasn’t able to do a lot. People were so much thankful to our team and volunteers. Theirs words were of appreciation. So many stories were told to us. We still remember how the single widow lady living on the field with her small child said how glad she was that we were there. We managed to put smiles on a few faces. This was our biggest achievement.

**Recommendation**

We, ourselves went there and saw the condition of people and village. We talked to the local people. Considering this, we all think that we can provide more help to the people there. They said that there is no problem of food at the moment. Most of the people are farmers who rely on agriculture. They’ve been living their life from the money they earn from selling the agricultural products. The economy has fallen there. People aren’t doing any of their work, or planting crops. If this continues, there will be a serious problem during the monsoon. People are supposed to get funds from government to build houses. They’ll probably build houses after the monsoon ends. There might be other help that we can provide them during these intervals. Our recommendation is that we continue our effort to help the villages throughout monsoon.

**From the team**

We, the students of Mitrataa Foundation are very happy to help people in need. This is the thing we’ve been learning in Mitrataa since past years. Now it’s the time to show what we’ve learned. We are also interested to continue such projects in the coming future. We are all so thankful to all our donors and supporters for providing financial help. We wouldn’t have been able to do anything without your support. Your support has been crucial to improve the situation of our country. We would really appreciate your ongoing help to us in future too. We can work together to rebuild our country. Thank you very much on behalf of every Nepal.