

## Editorial



Let's start with the good news. We were very relieved to learn that none of our project staff or stove builders died in the earthquakes in Nepal. Now we are turning all our energy to helping those who survived the major earthquakes in Nepal on the 25th of April and 12th of May. Our request for donations has brought in about 20,000 Euros to date. My thanks go to all donors as with their generosity we have the tools that we need to help those affected by the earthquake to survive the coming monsoon months and subsequently to rebuild their homes and livelihoods.

We issued two special editions of the newsletter (one each in April and May) due to the dramatic events in Nepal. This "regular" newsletter is also almost entirely devoted to the disaster and its consequences. We want to give you a picture of what we are doing to help our friends in Nepal.

There has also been lots of progress on the projects in Ethiopia and Kenya. A few weeks ago my wife Katharina and I returned from the Simien Mountains in the north of Ethiopia. Whilst there, we evaluated possibilities to provide stoves to the villages in and around the national park and decided that this will be possible. Christoph Ruopp brought the development of the Ethiopian stove to a successful end in Alem Ketema. We plan another trip to Kenya in June. All the stoves there are built using ceramic fittings which seems to be working well.

There is a lot more news which we will report in the next issue of the newsletter. The remainder of this newsletter is devoted to Nepal.

Dr. Frank Dengler, Chairman

## Stove-Count May 2015 - altogether 32.289 smoke-free stoves in Nepal

We couldn't complete an objective analysis yet. However based on the figures provided by the Nepalese government on houses destroyed in different districts we estimate that about 15,000 of the stoves built to date have been destroyed. Districts around Kathmandu, including the districts participating in the environmental protection project Kavre, Dolakha and Ramechhap, were hit worst of all.

Less damage resulted in the districts of Gulmi and Saptari, both of which are relatively far from the epicenters of the earthquakes. We still have many stoves to build in Gulmi in line with our agreement with the government. Many stove makers from areas impacted by the earthquake have volunteered to work temporarily in Gulmi. We are offering them workplaces to accelerate production in Gulmi and provide them work until the situation at home is normalized. As soon as their houses are rebuilt, after the monsoon, we will once again ramp up stove production in the areas worst impacted by the earthquakes.

## Emergency Aid

### Special payments for stove makers impacted by the earthquake

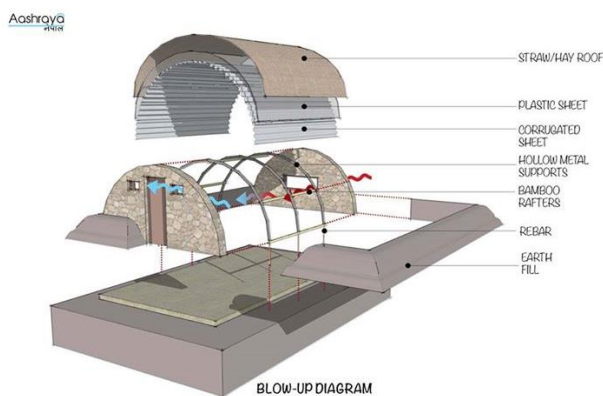
An aid program has started to help stove makers affected by the earthquakes in Nepal. Sita Rupakheti and Sushila Bhatta from Dhading gratefully took charge of the financial aid which we offered. Every stove maker who has worked for us in the last two years will receive a special payment to help them recover from problems caused by the earthquake. The exact payment will depend on how many stoves they have built. This aid will enable them to buy seeds, clothes, tools, household implements and other important things which were lost or damaged during the earthquake.

The busy stove makers from the Dholaka and Kavre teams, 17 men and women, already received the first special payments. Anita discussed each person with Bel Bahadur, the coordinator in Kavre and Dolakha; so she learned a lot about the situation in the villages and the effect of the earthquake on family life. Bel Bahadur traveled to the villages to meet the stove makers give them the good news about the aid and hand out emergency payments of between 4,000 and 15,000 Rupees per stove maker. Altogether he transported around 148,000 Rupees (about 1,300 Euros) well concealed on his journey.

Kiran Lama is responsible for the stove maker team in Ramechhap. He will also have a meeting with Anita to agree the aid for the stove makers in his group.

All stove makers in these areas report that their houses are so damaged that they have to be torn down. At best some bricks or wooden supports can be re-used. However, the monsoon currently prevents building work. It is simply not possible to build as the wet soil is unstable and each day there are further tremors. Furthermore the mass of water which falls during the monsoon can have unpredictable consequences, especially in hilly areas. So the stove makers need temporary accommodation to bring their families safely through the monsoon. Everybody wants to stay near their ruined home and their livestock to guard them against theft.

Stable corrugated iron huts are a temporary solution for many families. There are various models, like "Ashraya" (<http://www.facebook.com/reliefshelter>), which all have in common that they can be easily built and do not require much material.



Emergency housing model "Ashraya"



nearly finished

After a basic training farmers and especially our skilled stove makers can erect the accommodation themselves. When they rebuild their houses later the temporary huts can be used for livestock or as store-rooms. Each hut requires material costing about 200 Euros. We need about 50 huts just for the stove makers.

The first huts of this type will be built in the next couple of days in Dhadaghaun, where nearly all houses and also the Health Post were completely destroyed. The Rotary Club Kathmandu New Road took charge of the project at short notice

*Christa Drigalla*

## Special Action – Mobile Rocket Stoves

### Simple stoves for emergency accommodation

Cooking is difficult if you only have a tent-sheet as cover. An open fire can easily blow out. Wind carries sparks which can char or ignite the tent sheet or other items. People nearby are in constant danger of injury.

Many Nepali will spend the coming months in emergency accommodation, whether temporary huts, simple tents or in whatever they can bring together from the remains of their houses. The stoves which we usually build are not suitable for such conditions. They need too much room. There's no possibility to build a chimney. Also our standard stoves can't be moved from temporary accommodation to a new house.

Bel Bahadur Tamang proposed a simple clay stove as a solution. The design is based on the so-called rocket stove. These are stoves which look like water buckets containing a fire. Cooking pots sit on the opening. Rocket stoves provide only a single cooking plate and don't have a chimney. However they are portable and do not require much space. In bad weather they can be used indoors; in good weather outside. They are about twice as efficient as an open fire meaning only half-as-much wood must be collected.



Bel Bahadur handing over a rocket stove



Transport in a doku

An additional advantage of the clay variant of the rocket stove is that apart from a metal plate only materials which are available locally are required for the construction. That means the stove is very cheap (about 5 Euros per stove). A skilled stove maker can build about 10 rocket stoves each day.

Bel Bahadur built and distributed the first 25 stoves in Magapauwa (Dolakha). The villagers were very grateful. Soon we'll know how well the stoves work in everyday use. If they are practical we want to distribute them in large batches. The temporary accommodation in Dhadaghaun will be supplied with rocket stoves. The required bricks have already been made.

The initiative for the rocket stoves was driven directly by the people in Nepal. It seems that the concept of having a stove has proved so useful that some form of stove is desirable even in these hard times. Your donations will help us cover this emergency.

*Frank Dengler*

## **After the earthquake – what now?**

### **Two stove makers report**

#### **Sushila Bhatta**

has been working for for us since 2011 and has already built over 1,000 stoves. She comes from Maldi, in Dhading. The house for her family of four is badly damaged and in danger of collapsing. The family don't even want to try to enter the house to recover things which could be saved. However they have a kitchen garden which is largely undamaged and provides food. Sushila's husband built a hut with some corrugated iron from the government and what he could use from junk heaps. Stones are simply piled on top of one another and bound together with bushes and bamboo. The corrugated iron provides roof cover. The front of the hut is open. Once again the family is cooking "traditionally", that is on an open fire. Sushila smiled as she said that, and added that as a stove maker she will set a good example and wants to start building a stove.

She doesn't want to start rebuilding the house till after the rainy season. She says that's necessary due to religious beliefs. It is bad to build in the month of Shrawan (June-July), as the soil isn't pure and so the house will not be stable.

Sushila and her family can survive the monsoon in their emergency hut. In the meantime they will collect and store building material so that building can begin as soon as possible in September.

#### **Sita Rupakheti**

has been working for us since 2013 and has built about 700 stoves. She lives in Jeevanpur, Dhading, where most of the houses have been completely destroyed. A pile of stones and some boards are all that could be saved from Sita's farm house. All supplies, clothes and household fittings are buried. They only have one battered old cooking pot. After 17 days of digging she found her stove maker cellphone. She brought it into the office to show us. The dowry for her daughter is also destroyed. The good news that the seven-month-old twins, her grand-children, survived unharmed. By good fortune they were lying in the side of the room opposite the area which was buried when the roof caved in. Sita's daughter grabbed the children and ran out of the house.

Sita's family of 15 worked together to build temporary accommodation. They used bamboo, old lead sheeting and plastic sheets. The government distributed tents but they were soaked and useless after the first heavy rain. Her family is now busy cleaning stones and sorting them into piles as well as rescuing boards and timbers which can be reused. Everything is checked; so they have a clear picture what they have and what additional material they need. Sita and her family want to start rebuilding immediately as the temporary accommodation is so terrible. They don't think that the religious guidelines are so important; rather they fear that they will become sick in the temporary accommodation. Sita also wants to build a new stove as soon as possible.

Nepal's government has increased emergency aid from 15,000 to 50,000 per household. The money should be distributed by the village mayors and can be used for urgent recon-



struction work. To date however the Rupakhetis haven't received any money. Aid agencies have visited the village and distributed aid goods. The family received about 40 kg of rice and a bag of salt.



Sushila Bhatta (left) and Sita Rupakheti

Each woman received 20,000 Rupees (ca. 180 Euros) from the stove maker emergency funds. They are in an unbelievably difficult situation and are deeply concerned for their families. They want to thank the donors in Germany and ask us a lot about life in Europe and whether there are earthquakes there too.

Both women will manage the challenge of rebuilding their houses and continuing to build stoves to be sure that their families have a future.

*Anita Badal*

## Imprint

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<b>English translation</b>	David Brodie
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