

Nepal Earthquakes

SIX MONTHS LATER



On April 25, 2015, a powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake rocked central Nepal. And again on May 12, a second major earthquake struck Nepal with almost 400 aftershocks, causing continued waves of panic to the people near the epicenters. As a church, we have been and will continue to walk with our sisters and brothers of Nepal, responding to their immediate and long-term needs.



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Thank you!

Six months after the first earthquake, we remember and pray for all who lost their lives, homes and livelihoods to the earthquakes. Almost \$2 million has been collected to respond to this disaster through Lutheran Disaster Response. Thank you.

After six months, the immediate response phase is winding down; Lutheran Disaster Response is now dedicated to long-term recovery in Nepal. Together with our partners, we are planning to help affected communities “build back better.” This will include rebuilding damaged homes and water and sanitation structures, while also empowering communities and meeting critical livelihood needs. The largest support of Lutheran Disaster Response will be for marginalized and vulnerable populations, especially in rural and remote areas.



United Mission to Nepal



ACT/Christian Aid/Yeeshu Shukla



ACT/FCA/Anhti Helin



ACT/Christian Aid/Yeeshu Shukla

Lucky to be alive

Thanks to your support, Lutheran Disaster Response is able to help those whose homes and livelihoods were destroyed by the earthquakes. These gifts are helping people like Padam Bahadur Tamang rebuild from the rubble.

Padam lived a simple but happy life in Nepal. All of that changed after the earthquake. “I am homeless now,” he said fighting back tears.

Not only did Padam lose his home, he also lost his livelihood. “We used to store grains in our house; now the grains lie somewhere in the rubble.” Along with the grains, Padam also lost his three goats and cow.

He is thankful for the help and relief packages he has received. And although Padam and his family are living in dire conditions, he considers himself lucky. All of his family members are safe when 56 people in his village lost their lives in the earthquake.



Padam Bahadur Tamang

The Lutheran World Federation

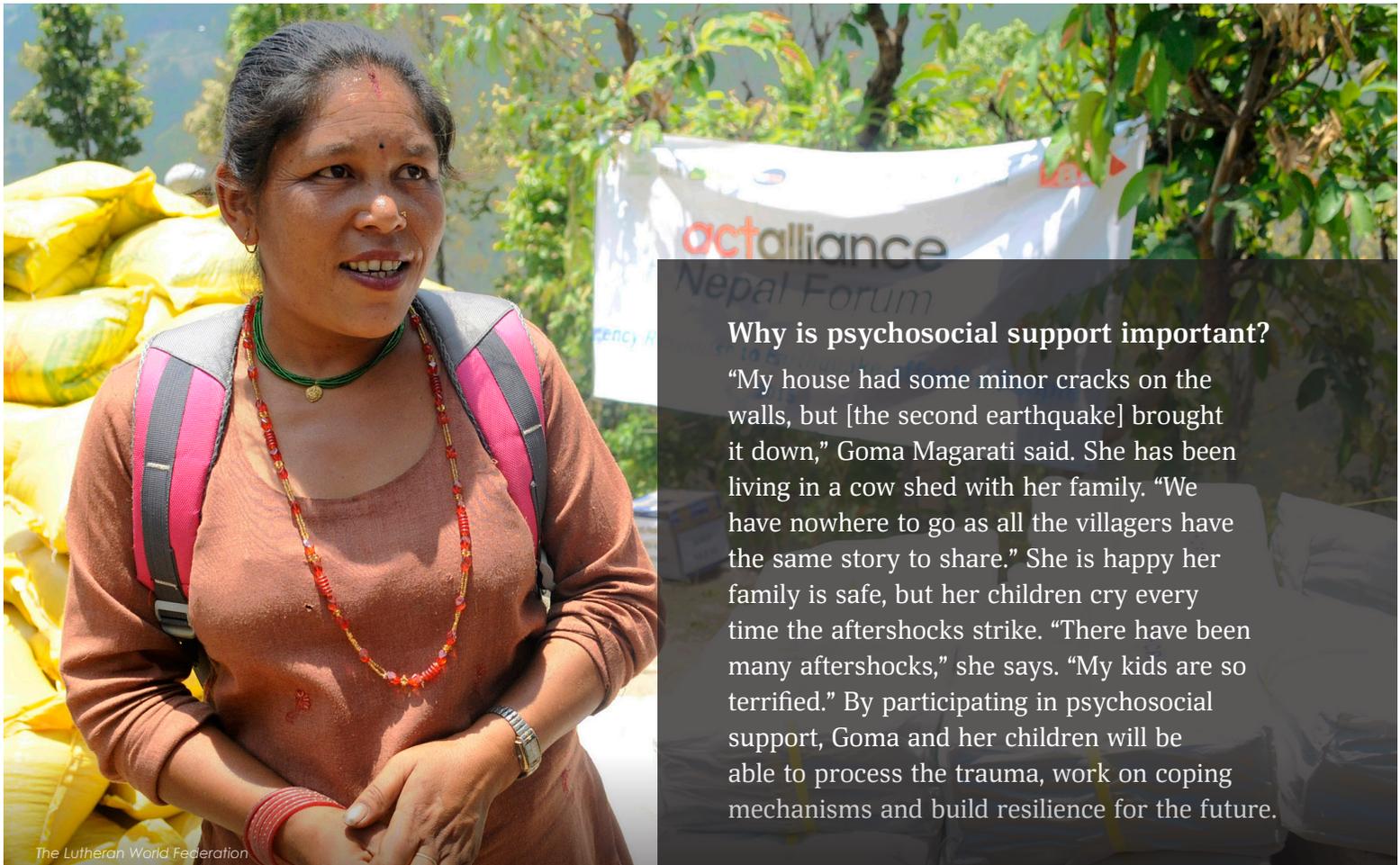
Trusted partners

Lutheran Disaster Response works with an extensive network of partners who are actively engaged in communities on the ground. Within days of the first earthquake, resources were already being mobilized in response to those affected. Six months later, we are still there and will continue to work with our trusted partners as we transition from immediate relief to long-term response.

By working together, we can do far more than we ever could alone.

The Lutheran World Federation

In partnership with The Lutheran World Federation, we have supported the distribution of shelter **repair materials, ready-to-eat food, blankets and hygiene kits** to more than **21,000 households**. Long-term response efforts will include community-based **psychosocial support** for about **14,000 people**. Working with community leaders, this support will help people build their strength and resilience, improving coping mechanisms for the future.



Why is psychosocial support important?

“My house had some minor cracks on the walls, but [the second earthquake] brought it down,” Goma Magarati said. She has been living in a cow shed with her family. “We have nowhere to go as all the villagers have the same story to share.” She is happy her family is safe, but her children cry every time the aftershocks strike. “There have been many aftershocks,” she says. “My kids are so terrified.” By participating in psychosocial support, Goma and her children will be able to process the trauma, work on coping mechanisms and build resilience for the future.



Lutheran World Relief

Together with Lutheran World Relief, we have provided temporary shelter and emergency **food assistance** to more than **30,000 individuals**. Nearly **10,000 quilts**, **1,000 personal care kits** and **100 water filtration units** have also been distributed. As we move into the next phase of recovery, we will work to build livelihoods. Many farmers lost everything – their crop, tools, livestock, and in many cases seeds for the next planting season. In addition to helping more than **1,600 family farms**, a **cash-for-work program** focusing on repairing roads throughout the rural areas is being implemented.



United Mission to Nepal

Partnering with United Mission to Nepal, we have distributed **emergency food**, basic **kitchen items** and **hygiene kits**, as well as **temporary shelters** and **blankets** reaching more than **12,000 households**. Community-based health trainings have also taken place. A program that promotes sanitation, provides education on proper hygiene, constructs toilets, and supplies water tablets for safe drinking water has been initiated.

We also helped with repairs and rebuilding projects for Elim Kids Academy, a Christian school that the ELCA helps support by providing scholarships and teacher training programs.

Moving to long-term response, we are working with **90 families** that are members of a **savings and credit cooperative** that was started by the ELCA more than 15 years ago. As part of the earthquake response, we will work to assist these families with income-generating activities and provide financial support for home rebuilding.

Looking ahead

“What am I supposed to do now?” says Rosni Paryar, 19, as she looks at her collapsed house. Rosni was preparing for an exam when the earthquake hit and destroyed all but one of the houses in her village of Kusunthali. She now lives with her parents and three siblings in a temporary shelter.

Rosni is trying to find a job to help her family make ends meet. But it is proving to be a challenge. Her father, an artisan, is also struggling.



Rosni Paryar



Sharmila Paryar

Artisans have different needs from other groups in the Kusunthali village. None of the families own any land beyond what their house was built on. Almost all depend on tailoring and daily wage labor to survive. With no land to show for, few can take out loans. The income for artisans has been sharply reduced since the earthquake: almost all sewing machines were buried in the rubble. People like Sharmila Paryar continue to sew clothes by hand. But even so, business is slow. Virtually none of the former clients visit the village now.

The story of Rosni and her family can be heard all over the country. That is why we are committed to providing the tools and resources needed to help people and families like Rosni’s get back on their feet. Thanks in part to your support earthquake affected artisan families stand a much better chance to rebuild and bring long-term sustainability to their lives. Thank you!

Give now

Your support is still needed to assist in the rebuilding efforts following the Nepal earthquake. Gifts designated for the “Nepal Area Earthquake” will be used entirely (100 percent) to assist those directly impacted.

Online www.ELCA.org/disaster

Phone 800-638-3522

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Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response and write “Nepal Area Earthquake” in the memo line.

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