

Monday, 11. May 2015



We meet another fourteen persons in front of the BIR Hospital. Among them were Louis and the cameraman Constantino from France, as well as the Nepali Journalist Bhojraj. They together were making a documentary for TV channel.

The film crew wanted to make a documentary about the young Sudan, the coordinator of **I 2 we**. The project, which has been placed in front of the entrance of the BIR hospital, has a total of 700 volunteers. Sudan has collected some very young people, including Biswas, and also a friend of Kritan, they looked very tired, it was obvious from their appearance that they had put much efforts on the relief and

rescue works. Immediately after the earthquake, the volunteers including Sudan are sleeping at the entrance of the hospital. They have done a lot, so he and his great team needs a high praise, even if one or the other action seems a bit immature. But even the large established organizations and, of course, we small NGOs are not much better either, as well as our efficiency is not always optimal. How would you be able to prepare such a disaster and how do you get to the information, to a place where how many people are affected by the impact of the earthquake and what help they need exactly. It often happens, for example, the teams with doctors and nurses end up in some places where not much help is required, sometime the team is overstaffed and thus valuable energy is wasted while just missing other places where doctors and nurses are seriously required.

On our long journey to Baskharka in the district Sindhupalchok, near the Chinese border (not to be confused with the Baskharka near Pokhara) we had, already retired doctor Nirmala and the young doctor Sunil.



On the way we bought about 150 liters of edible oil in packets for cooking, plus disinfectant soaps and a few other things. This was in addition to the donated food from different people and organizations.

About a six hour drive was ahead of us. The was taking a long time because the film crew repeatedly was pictures, like the cars for example, go around the curve under the camera or they just shot people giving sweets to the children. I was not enthusiastic about the approach and expressed my opinion Louis Constantino took it wrong, which in turn lead to small friction. Later, I had the impression that they realized that the things that they were doing was not proper and they stopped such behaviors.



We drove on roads that were heavily constrained by Earth masses, due to landslides. The roads were getting worse. Sometimes we got stuck in the mud and had to get out of there the car and then push it. The water pipes that were once moved among the ways to bring the water from one side to the other were damaged by the earthquake, this lead to the spillage of water in the muddy way which made it worse.

Although most houses had been destroyed the villagers here, mostly farmers just harvested potatoes and wheat in a very simple way. On the steep slopes they did the cultivation, one can somehow say Terrace

economy. Often the field was only one to two meters wide and ran on a hill along.

Then we finally reached our destination. The sight was horrible; one needs to be very strong mentally, in order to cope with what he or she sees. Baskharka we saw thousands of collapsed houses, without seeing even a single preserved house. What a miserable situation it was. Baskharka was completely destroyed; the houses out of 300 inhabitants 34 of them were killed. The seriously injured had been immediately taken to Kathmandu. The doctors in our team now treated minor injuries and people with common complaints.



In front of us there was some another organization for once! In other places we were often the first. They had brought a few bags of rice to the village and then drove back.

They built a temporary shelter made of tarpaulins and used irons and wood from the collapsed houses. They cooked the food together, even on that day we saw them cooking together for all of them. Also they were sleeping together under a tarp.

They still have enormous fear and many sit outside. These people are not capable to build the houses at least at present before the monsoon. At least about half a million of such houses are needed that would last a year or two. If not arranged soon it is very likely that the monsoon will claim more lives.



Already in about 3 weeks, there will be monsoon, the heavy rains last for 2 to 3 months. The things that they get also gets spoiled if they are not stored protected enough.

People get constantly wet and in the cold nights that would get even worse. In addition, there will be landslides, there is a fear that the people living in the tents are likely to be buried alive. The important thing to think is also about the location, the locations are so far even to reach with the vehicle even when it is not raining. The situation if likely to get very worse when no vehicle can reach there after huge landslides. People willing to help also won't be able to take their help till there.



In this village we saw no signs of reconstruction. There could be several possible reasons for it to exemplify few that people are totally in terror that they have no time to think about rebuilding their house, the other reason could be they are still scared that some

earthquake would hit their village again and bring their house again down. In some places they still have some plants to harvest from the fields and it is very possible that after the entire harvest the entire village would move into the valley below. No matter what they decide, they would need tarpaulins to protect themselves against the rain and the wet



conditions and to cover their belongings.

In the village we could see only a few young men and women. A local man told us that most of them live abroad. We suspect that they are working as modern slave labor for little money in Qatar for the next World Cup or in other similar places. The Nepalese working abroad send little money they earn to their family in the home and thus contribute up to 25 percent of total income.

Even though the drinking water probably tastes different after the earthquake, it is apparently still drinkable at this location. Due to the poor sanitation situation the



residents here have become prone to diarrhea and also there were the first signs of infectious diseases. I care little about the children, here at this location we found some children who were orphans or half-orphan. Such as the girl in the picture has lost her mother and her seven-year-old brother in the earthquake. Several times she came to me, trying to get my attention. I found it very sad because I couldn't talk to her. I went to her and showed her the spontaneous BACHATA dance step. Seeing this, the other children came to us and some of them then tried to imitate the steps, others seemed to be enjoying the scene. That was a wonderful experience because the children laughed and were diverted almost an hour and were very cheerful.



Some of the kids stuck with their parents and grandparents and so this means some of them lost the apathy of the past days.

Biswas, a volunteer from I 2 we team uses the good way to teach children hygiene rules. As we said goodbye, the children started to shout BACHATA, BACHATA after me. After this I remembered about our long difficult trip over muddy tracks on the hard bed of the pick-ups.



The ride back was extremely dangerous, because it was lightning scarily and then followed the rain shortly. The wet roads were extremely slippery and high up in the much steep mountains. The driver too was very afraid and therefore was driving very fast. This is due to the superstition of the Nepalese, for example, they are little reluctant to drive at night, as I was told. Since we have had two nurses seated at the front passenger seat in the car, we sat more than 10 hours behind in the back. Because the vehicle has no suspension, it didn't help my back at all.

We were happy when we came into the Kathmandu Valley from the mountains. All the time we were thankful that we could make it back. Looking at the rain and some small shocks, it looked like the way to Sindhupalchowk would get blocked very soon.



Translator: Kritan

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