

# NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

## CPS UPDATE

We are so grateful for all your emails, texts and calls expressing your concern, encouragement and best wishes following the awful earthquake in Nepal on 25 April.

All our Nepali family at CPS are safe and well albeit a little traumatized after the events.

### The earthquake and aftershocks

Julia, Karen and Jan arrived in Kathmandu on the evening of Friday 24 April for their annual trustee visit and as always took all the children and staff (33 of us in all) for the traditional picnic, this time to Nagarkot about 32 km east of Kathmandu up in the foothills.

When the earthquake (7.8) struck around midday we were walking up a forest path towards the Nagarkot tower, a local landmark. The ground started swaying, and then the rumbling and shaking began, building up gradually. We knew immediately what was happening so all sat down on the path to wait it out, keeping as calm as possible. We were so fortunate to be out of Kathmandu in an open space with no buildings around and if it hadn't been for our visit and the picnic, everyone would have been in a far more dangerous environment in the city.

We headed back into Kathmandu around 5pm, having experienced several aftershocks through the afternoon, as it was crucial that we arrived before dark. It was an unnerving experience as we had no idea what we would find. En route, the town of Bhaktapur in particular experienced lots of damage and the ring road was badly buckled in parts. Fortunately we made it back to find that both CPS houses were intact apart from a collapse of the boundary walls of House 1. Everyone spent that night out in the garden.

We experienced a very large aftershock (6.7) around 24 hours later on Sunday lunchtime while we were at the orphanage in the houses. Being inside at the time was a very scary experience and thankfully we all evacuated into the garden safely and very quickly!

At this point, Julia, Karen and Jan made contact with the British Embassy and were advised to remove themselves to a place of safety – the British Army Gurkha camp – where they stayed until their return home.

On Tuesday, as there had been no aftershocks for 24 hours, Julia, Karen and Jan decided to visit CPS to check on the situation and say a very sad goodbye.

They managed to get flights back to the UK on Wednesday.

### **The present situation for CPS**

All of CPS have been sleeping in the garden under a makeshift shelter since the earthquake.



(We have just received an email from Bharat, our manager, to say that they are now back sleeping in the house.)

School is closed.

Thanks to our well, there is water for washing and our solar panel is providing lighting when the power goes off.

There are shortages of all essentials. CPS have stocked up on food and drinking water.

Bharat is aware of the danger of disease and will make hygiene a top priority.

### **What can CPS do to help?**

#### **Neighbour to neighbour aid**

Dwellings have collapsed, and many people are in need of the basic essentials. At time of writing, there has been no systematic distribution of aid on the ground in our area. Bharat and his team of our older boys and friends will provide 'grassroots' assistance by systematically touring the local areas, establishing individual need and supplying makeshift shelters, water, food, clothes and blankets.

#### **New children**

By juggling our bed spaces and stretching our capacity, CPS are able to provide a permanent home to 4 more children, giving priority to those orphaned as a result of the earthquake.

### **Temporary support**

CPS will provide temporary support to any local children found by our team in need of shelter, food and water.

### **Funding**

Many of you have already offered to help with funding and have made emergency donations via virginmoneygiving - our sincere thanks for your amazingly generous support.

We will keep you updated with the news from CPS and Nepal on a regular basis as and when we receive it.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT AT THIS CHALLENGING TIME.**