

## **28th April, 2015 - Newsletter No. 2: "Earthquake in Nepal"**

It is the third day after the earthquake disaster in Nepal.

The first relief organisations have arrived on the scene. The international rescue operations are under way in Kathmandu. Numerous helicopters are now flying to the Everest Base Camp to rescue the mountaineers. The airport has opened again for international flights. Horrifying pictures of the devastation can be seen. For fear of further aftershocks the people are spending the nights outside their homes.

This is the sort of information from the Himalayan state that the German media is reporting on. It is simply incredible that other regions such as Gorkha (located near the epicentre), Manaslu, Annapurna, Langtang and the Upper Mustang are not even mentioned in any of these reports at all.

The authorities are very well aware that for the most part, the Langtang region is devastated and that a great many people - local residents, tourists, trekking teams - are in the trapped Kyjiangin Gompa (3,900 m). The downward route is blocked by avalanches and access is only possible by helicopter. It seems as if the few helicopters that Nepal has, are only being used in the Everest region. This is beyond our comprehension. And what does the situation look like below Kyangjin Gompa in the Langtang Valley, Bamboo, Ghodatabela, Sherpagaon, etc. etc.? Are there any survivors? A great many people who support Nepalese children and families in the region are extremely worried about their loved ones and are contacting us. Even Reinhold Messner has spoken about the rescue being on a 'two-class' scale.

<http://www.spiegel.de/panorama/erdbeben-in-nepal-reinhold-messner-kritisiert-rettung-a-1030863.html>

And what makes it even more difficult is the fact that the weather conditions for domestic and helicopter flights are bad. This morning I received a call from Lukla from our trekking guide who said that he is on his way with some guests in the Everest region. He said that he already had the boarding cards for the return flight to Kathmandu. I have just been told that the flight could not take place because of bad weather. In Lukla there is even Internet access and our guests were able to send an email to their homes. This is wonderful, of course, but it is all absolutely crazy.

Yes – "crazy" in the true sense of the word.... The entire country has been elevated by 3 m and Kathmandu now lies one metre higher.

<http://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/natur/erdbeben-in-nepal-hat-staedte-um-drei-meter-verschoben-a-1030886.html>

I am in contact per SMS with other guests and our team who are also in the Everest region. They are all well; the infrastructure and supply around the village of Phortse (approx. 3,680 m) is still intact. In Namche Bazaar (approx. 3,440 m) a great many houses have been destroyed. According to the latest news reports, our trekking guide is in the process of looking for accommodation for the guests.

Our guests in Upper Mustang have not noticed the earthquake quite as much. They are well and there is contact per SMS and mobile telephony.

My last contact with Temba was on Sunday morning. He told me that his cell phone battery was getting low and that there was no power supply available. He is now in Brabal (Langtang region) and trying to get to Kathmandu, driven by his concern about the family, our guests and our team. What the road conditions are like I do not know. And whether there are even any means of transport is doubtful. I hope and pray that he arrives back safe and sound in Kathmandu – please send your positive thoughts, strength and energy.

It is very difficult - no, it is in fact impossible - to set up an account/subaccount in Germany for our relief organisation abroad in Sunaulo Sansar.

We have now found a good alternative solution. All the donations intended for our Temba's Nepal Trek Team and families, and for the Sunaulo Sansar NGO can be transferred to the account of the German Nepalese Help Association (DNH e. V.) in Stuttgart ([www.dnh-stuttgart.org](http://www.dnh-stuttgart.org)). It is important here to state the purpose of use: **"Sunaulo Erdbebenhilfe" (Sunaulo Earthquake Relief)**.

For donations that are intended for the rescue operations of the GNHA (DNH), please just enter **"Erdbebenhilfe" ("Earthquake")** only, without adding Sunaulo. The 40 school projects of the DNH are located in villages in the mountainous regions that have been hit the most, i.e. Dhading, Kavre, Sindhupalacho, Dolakha.

Here once again the Bank Account details:

**Deutsch Nepalische Hilfsgemeinschaft e.V.**  
**Commerzbank Stuttgart**  
**IBAN: DE03 6008 0000 0182 4971 00**  
**BIC: DRESDEFF600**

Donation receipts will be issued by the GNHA (DNH) at the end of the year. For enabling better coordination it would be advisable and important for those who wish to support us and Sunaulo Sansar NGO, to send us a short message under [info@sunaulosansar.org](mailto:info@sunaulosansar.org) including the full address, donation amount and of course, the specific purpose, if desired. The donations are to be used for housing reconstruction work (for Temba's Nepal Trek Team and their families, and also in the Langtang region) and for supporting hospital bills and medication for particularly severely affected relations and families.

In addition we should like to draw your attention to a very good article, "Don't rush to Nepal to help. Read this first", which the GNHA (DNH) has sent us, under the following link:

<http://gu.com/p/47q55/sbl>

We are so grateful for all the excellent support and the many words of empathic solidarity. The sympathy and compassion are enormous and it is certainly most

encouraging to see how deep the bond is between the people here and the Nepalese people.

We should like to take this opportunity to let all the relatives of our guests know that we are with them in our thoughts in this difficult situation. We are doing everything in our power to get things underway. Our thoughts are with you.

Namaste

Sabine & Temba