

NAMASKAR Nepal

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Now after a pause of two months and the rainy season now over, we should like to get back to you again today with a new Newsletter.

Temba and I have now been back at home in Nepal for 1½ weeks. Slowly we are getting back to Nepalese everyday life again.

Yesterday morning it hit me completely: I was under the shower, covered in soap, and only a few drops of water came out of the shower head... and then the water stopped running completely. As the 4-hour, power-cut time had just begun, the water could not be pumped into the tank on the roof. What a good thing there was a well with a hand pump in the yard and Temba could bring me some cold water to wash it off.

While I was standing in the bathroom like this, waiting for the water, a great many thoughts rushed into my head. Firstly of course ...I thought of the comfort that we have in Germany and sometimes perhaps do not really appreciate. How wonderful that I could really enjoy it during these last eight months.

This problem of not being able to enjoy showering with sufficient, warm water every morning is minute, compared with the situation that refugees are in at the moment, or the living situation of the people here in Nepal.

In Nepal we hear very little about the refugee crisis. Information can be found on CNN or on the Internet. However, Nepal has already vanished from sight in the media in Europe for quite some time now. But nevertheless, the new Constitution of Nepal, that came into force last Sunday, was deemed worth mentioning in a headline or two. Altogether, this process has now taken 7¹/₂ years.

On Sunday evening the new Constitution was celebrated in Kathmandu and welcomed with a firework display. Motorbike convoys drove through the streets and a large number of people were waving the Nepalese flag. What gave rise to elation in some parts of Nepal prompted others to hold protests. In the southern Terai region rioting broke out and the big brother, India, tried to mediate between the inhabitants there (the ethnic group, Tharu and Madhesis) and the Nepalese Government. Also the non-laid-down regulation on inheriting the nationality solely through the mother gave rise to protests and incomprehension.

As a result of all this fuss about drafting a new Constitution the problems caused by the earthquake catastrophe were pushed aside. Articles and reports on aid funds that have been granted, but have not been implemented by the Nepalese Government, have caused a great deal of skepticism in Europe. Thousands of people without a roof over their head are still reliant on financial help and support from the state.

For at least one week the two carpenters, Volker and Niko, who supported us as voluntary helpers until the end of December, have been in Nepal. Tomorrow Temba will be driving with them both to Brabal, in order to make the initial arrangements for the reconstruction work. Insofar as this has not yet been done, the demolition of the devastated houses and sorting of the reusable materials has to be carried out. Temba will be seeing about the documentation and approval procedure in Dhunche, the district's capital responsible.

Our project group in Switzerland has meanwhile accomplished fantastic work and set up the ground plan for a house with an earthquake-proof construction. In addition, the different possibilities for stabilising the buildings were documented, as well as the information and recommendations that are to be observed.

At this point we should like to make reference once again to our first project and sustainability overview, "Earthquake Relief in Nepal" of 08.08.2015 under the following link:

http://www.sunaulosansar.org/berichte/en/Z01%20-%20Project%20Report%20Earthquake%20Relief_English_08082015.pdf

Namaste

Temba & Sabine