

NAMASKAR Nepal

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One year later... it happened so much and so little

There are so many contradictions - typically for Nepal:

- ❖ *The world's highest mountain – Mount Everest with 8.850 m in Khumbu and the lowest with 60 m in southern Terai.*
- ❖ *Holy places sanitized by incense and stinky rubbish next door*
- ❖ *Tradition in outlying areas and on the same place grandpa is using a smartphone*



Using a smartphone in remote villages

Local and international relief organizations have changed a lot. The Nepali army and civil protection saved lives under ruins.

People in Kathmandu and other affected areas had access to drinking water installations. Food, tarpaulins and CGI sheets were delivered to suffering people.

A lot of schools offered free lunch. School uniforms and backpacks were delivered – which symbolized a restart. Families moved in emergency shelters. The reconstruction of houses has started and still continues.

Little support came and still is coming from the Nepal government.

Delay by founding the “Nepal Reconstruction Authority (NRA).” Delay by announcing the new building codes. Delay by calling the international relief fund. Delay by distributing national aid to affected families.

Thousands are still living in emergency shelters. Due to the government, people constantly have to wait. They are forced to persevere and accept what happens. Activities are nipped in the bud. Only a few take their matters in their own hands.



Destroyed houses provisionally repaired by corrugated metal

According to the media, 31.000 families have started to reconstruct their houses on their own. As a consequence, NRA agency decided to weaken their strict rules. At the beginning, no family should receive payment for compensation when they already started reconstruction. Now, payment should be given to households who already started reconstruction and are able to prove earthquake resistant construction.

Because of the earthquake more than 770.000 houses are destroyed. The government announced a compensation of NPR 200.000 (ca. EUR 1,740) . Since now, only 641 households in Singati (Dolakha District) received the first rate of NPR 50.000 (ca. EUR 435). (Source: Kathmandu Post, 18th of April 2016)

In an interview, Sushil Gyewali, chief of NRA agency, told that he is confident completing the reconstruction within the next 5 years. Therefore, the agency wants to publish a document one year after the earthquake. It should contain conditions and plans for the reconstruction in the next years.



Kathmandu Durbar Square – Kumari-House with shoring

At the beginning of spring our rebuilding project is going forward. Everything is in a constant state of flux. Renovation and growth symbolizes spring. This becomes a key mode for our project.



Workers from Okhaldhunga (district in Eastern Nepal)

Since 27th of March 2016 a Nepalese group from Okhaldhunga district is working diligently in Brabal. Stones are grubbed out and tapped into the right form. Wheelbarrows with soil are moved. People from the village are doing woodwork, building doors and window frames. The 1st of April 2016 is a historical day: the street from Thulo Barkhu to Brabal is now continuously open. It is like a domino effect. One domino moves another and the system is running. A truck with 4 barrels of soil is coming. The first charge of sand and cement is reaching Brabal the 4th of April 2016.



The route goes to the entry of the village Brabal

It moved my heart when I saw the pictures from the route and the tumbled trees. How often have we passed the wonderful route from Thulo Barku to Brabal in the idyllic landscape? Road construction in isolated areas in Nepal. Boon or bane? The road opens new opportunities and transport is much more easier. At the 4th of April 2016 the cornerstone was laid. Therefore, a Buddhist priest read holy text and did a incense ceremony. Six days later, at the 10th of April 2016, the fundament was laid for the new house.



Fundament of the first model house in Brabal

Now, the most difficult und most unknown part for the village people begins: building the first seismic belt. Measured, bended, weighed, mixed – exactly as the specification from the building dossiers and codes tells them to do so. At the 12th of

April 2016, the seismic belt is ready. Just in time for the Nepali turn of the year.



Iron hooks has to be placed exactly



Wooden shuttering for the first seismic cement belt

The settings of the doors - especially front doors - have to be in the right cardinal direction. A front door cannot be placed via north. In Nepal, people believe that this causes misfortune. All doors were set at the 15th of April 2016. The work on the second seismic belt was easier. So windows could even be set at the 21st of April 2016. The third seismic belt is under construction right now.



The doors are set



Construction's progress in Brabal – Installation of windows

We expect the first model house to be completed at the middle of May and people can move in before the monsoon. If things are going rightly, the second model house can shortly be build.

We would like to pay your attention on our facebook site where we introduce in series people from brabal. The work's progress can been seen on:
www.facebook.com/helpforlantang.



Kamsya Tamang, housewife & farmer from Brabal

On our website www.sunaulosansar.org you can find more information to our projects for earthquake aid, drinking water supply and waste disposal (in collaboration with Engineers Without Borders e.V. Karlsruhe).

Namaste!!

Temba & Sabine