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Dear Members and Friends of the GNHA and Friends of Nepal,

26.4.2015

The victims have not yet been counted and the extent of the devastation cannot yet be foreseen. The earthquake is a disaster that had been expected to happen at some time soon; however, the exact moment was impossible to predict. The geologists were nevertheless quite certain that there would be a huge earthquake.

Everybody seemed to expect it would happen, but only a few were prepared for it. And this disaster has come at a moment when the political forces are at loggerheads without any glimpse of a constructive alternative. And the fact that the administration is known to be weak, or to put it bluntly, incapable, is also a matter of concern.

It will be the civil society that suffers and the civil society that we shall likewise have to build our hopes on - that it will manage to cope with this drama in a responsible and solution-oriented way. And there is still no end in sight. It will take a few days yet before the avalanche of bad news reaches us from the more remote districts where the epicenter of the earthquake was located.

Aid is therefore imperative. And in this case, time means human life. Therefore the large organizations are the ones that are in demand first, of course, as they have the experience and necessary logistics, where a natural disaster of this kind is concerned. But we, as the GNHA, also feel responsible and must ask ourselves now what we can do.

For 25 years the GNHA has been running a Dispensary for the poor and needy in the largest state hospital, Bir Hospital. Pictures of the Emergency and the crowds of people outside could be seen in the News here on TV. This Dispensary has an excellent reputation. Other donors, and even government authorities, have used our infrastructure quite frequently, too, in the past for providing medical help for those in need. This infrastructure is intact. We have extremely motivated staff. The demand for wound dressings, medicine and vaccines will also be very high over the medium-term. We urgently need financial assistance for their procurement.

Besides providing acute assistance in the medical field, we shall nevertheless also have to prepare ourselves for providing assistance in the villages. We do not even know yet what the devastation there is like. The GNHA supports schools in the very region where the epicenter on 25th April was located (80 km west of Kathmandu), and where the epicenter of the severe aftershock on 26th April occurred (60 km east of Kathmandu). We support 40 schools and are subsequently active in 40 villages. However, we do not know yet what the present structural condition of many of these simple buildings is like. One can assume from the prevalent local building construction, that many of them are damaged or even destroyed. Our aim must be to enable these schools to resume their activity as quickly as possible. The best way to help these traumatized children is to see that they very quickly return to regular, stable structures. We shall ensure that we can provide assistance wherever repair work and restoration measures are needed in these schools. In most of the schools the mothers have formed groups, and subsequently we shall also be able to help families, if necessary, that are suffering existential hardship as a result of the earthquake. Also in this area we have a team of highly motivated and experienced staff who are able to assess the situation on-site and suggest solutions.

Nevertheless, we need your financial assistance to do this and are therefore appealing for your help; we also request you to inform your circle of friends and acquaintances, so that we can handle the disaster and its consequences effectively.

Therefore we request your support in the form of a donation to our GNHA account.

Deutsch-Nepalische Hilfsgemeinschaft e.V.
Commerzbank Bank Stuttgart
IBAN: DE03 6008 0000 0182 4971 00
BIC: DRESDEFF600
Intended purpose: "Earthquake Relief" (Erdbebenhilfe)

We shall be keeping you up-to-date on our homepage www.dnh-stuttgart.org under the heading "Erdbeben (Earthquake)". We beg your compassion for the Nepalese people.

I thus extend my heartfelt greetings.

Andreas Falk

President of the GNHA