

Report 27-05-2015 - Birgit Kirsch from Kathmandu

Yesterday in the evening and today in the morning again two quakes hit. Yesterday there was a fierce thunderstorm. We felt the second quake while being at Tundikhel tent camp in the city center of Kathmandu. You often have the feeling that something is shaking. I have this feeling all the time, at the moment. I really cannot differentiate it any more.

The chief of Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) was ousted on Monday because of insufficient handling of the disaster management. This man simply did not show up at his office.

Tundikhel: 600 pairs of thongs

Nepali typically walk in thongs, even at great heights and while carrying huge loads on their backs. Today in the morning we picked up several sacks of things at a merchant. We drove them to Tundikhel Camp in Dawas' school bus. The ladies of the NGO WOREC who support the camp informed the military. So we could pass the security. The Nepal Army agreed to help organizing the distribution and came with an enormous amount of men.

I made several observations: the chain of orders is not so strict: soldiers discussed democratically how to organize it. I liked it. Also, the soldiers from many different casts and tribes seemed to get along very well.

The surge of people from the camp was overwhelming. The army contained the crowd in squatting rows. The children were served first. With their new flip-flops they had to wait behind the distribution tent to avoid them "accidentally" again getting in line. Especially with the last group the soldiers had a lot to take care of.

Several women from the UNICEF tent came to help us. Today I saw many smiling faces and some mothers even had tears in their eyes. I can only imagine what fate they store in their memories. The soldiers enjoyed the event very much. The WOREC ladies calculated the demand very well. Our sacks lasted to the end. At Tundikhel camp Nepalmed is now very well known. We were asked over and over again and Dawa patiently explained.

School in Beni, Solu Khumbu:

Dawa Sherpa received a call from a primary school in Beni, his home village. It is completely destroyed. A temporary school shall be constructed. Dawa wants to go there immediately after my departure. He also wants to see his parents and relatives.

Dawa calculated the cost of tarps and roof material with around 1500 Euro. The government promised to reconstruct the school from their funds, at some point in time. I will give him this amount from the Nepalmed donations. So he can immediately bring the material. And I know that it works out. He knows very well how to activate his people.