

Welcome to the thirty-second issue of **OPEN MIC NEPAL** bulletin. The Open Mic project captures rumours and perceptions on the ground to eliminate information gaps between the media, humanitarian agencies and local people. By providing local media and outreach workers with facts, Open Mic aims to create a better understanding of the needs of the earthquake-affected communities and to debunk rumours before they can do any harm.

## CONCERNS

### JIWANPUR, DHADING

"We are going to build houses, but water is scarce."

### NALANG, DHADING

"The earthquake destroyed the springs around here, and all water sources have dried up."

### HADIKHOLA, MAKWANPUR

"There is still a shortage of clean drinking water."



### SHAHARE, DOLAKHA

"Water is scarce here. Even if we get the grant, we won't have water to build the house."

### JALKANYA, SINDHULI

"The tank that collected water from the source is broken. We have problems with drinking water here."

## ANSWERS

Local governments in earthquake-affected districts are assisting communities to restore the supply of drinking water by repairing/replacing water tanks and pipelines damaged by the earthquake.

If a spring has run dry because of the earthquake, community members will have to find an alternative source of water themselves, get a recommendation letter from the Village Development Committee secretary, and file an application with the District Drinking Water and Sanitation Division Office for technical and financial support.

The Office will test the water for safety and, with support from organisations, build a water tank and distribute pipes.

If the earthquake destroyed the water container in your village, you can contact your District Drinking Water Division Office.

If water pipes destroyed in the earthquake can be mended with little financial support, the Division office can assist the community by procuring pipes in coordination with the District Disaster Relief Committee.

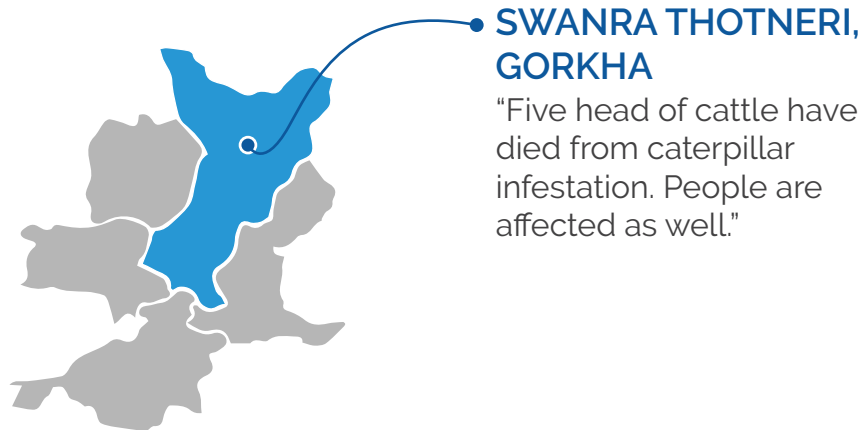
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## RUMOURS



## FACTS

An accidental consumption of one or two caterpillar(s) does not kill cattle. A cow or a buffalo has to eat hundreds of caterpillars for it to die of toxicity.

When a cow or a buffalo accidentally ingests a caterpillar, the insect's hairs might irritate the digestive tract of the animal, causing it to drool excessively and/or its stomach to bloat.

To prevent an accidental ingestion of caterpillars among cattle, grass stalks should be checked for the presence of the larvae.

If cattle have died in your area, they might have had other underlying conditions. Contact your district veterinarian at Livestock Services Office for inspection and monitoring.

In human beings, the hairs of the caterpillars might cause rashes and itchiness. Wash the part of your body that has come in contact with caterpillars. Contact the nearest health facility if the caterpillar touched your eyes or if you breathed in its hairs.

To control caterpillar infestation around your home, you can sprinkle home-made remedy such as cattle urine or a solution of Sichuan pepper and water. Avoid using insecticide, as cattle will be adversely affected if they eat the grass sprayed with such chemicals.

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# RUMOURS

## BANEPA, KAVREPALANCHOWK

"They say that non-governmental organisations cannot work directly with the communities to assist in the reconstruction of houses. They have to give the money to the government and the government will build the houses."



## MIRGE, DOLAKHA

"They say that a foreign organisation had wanted to build houses in this ward but the government didn't approve."

# FACTS

The National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) has requested non-government agencies to halt their plans for housing reconstruction until the eligibility criteria for the reconstruction grant are finalised and the reassessment survey in the area they want to work in is completed. Organisations, however, are allowed to build model houses and conduct mason training.

Individual organisations will need to sign an agreement with the NRA, detailing the kind of support—monetary, technical or material—they would like to provide. Previous agreements signed with the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction or with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development will also need to be approved by the NRA.

The NRA is working on the guidelines for the mobilisation of non-governmental organisations, in which these issues will be addressed more clearly.

The government wants to promote the owner-driven approach, in which the house owner takes the responsibility of building their house, with support from the government and/or other organisations.

According to the current draft of the procedure for the disbursement of the reconstruction grant, if a household receives support from an organisation, it will not qualify for the government grant.

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## CONCERNS

### BHIMPHEDI, MAKWANPUR

"We are curious to know why no one is interested in the reconstruction of historical heritage here."



## ANSWERS

The Department of Archaeology is drafting guidelines for the reconstruction of historical and cultural heritage destroyed by the earthquake.

Preliminary work, such as damage analysis, has already begun in some national sites with support from organisations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The Department has mapped the damage to culturally and historically significant structures in the earthquake-affected districts and has created a preliminary list of buildings that need to be renovated or reconstructed.

If you want to know if a local structure is on the list, contact your District Administration Office.

Renovation and reconstruction of monuments in the world heritage sites and tentative world heritage sites will be prioritised over those in local heritage sites.

The NRA plans to set up a Department of Heritage Preservation to oversee the reconstruction of both national and local cultural heritage sites.

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**The rumours and issues presented here were collected by frontline workers from partner organisations and #quakehelpdesk volunteers based on face-to-face conversations and community hearings with around 565 people in 7 districts between 11 – 18 February. The selection was done on the basis of prevalence and relevance. The information presented here is correct at the time of issue.**

Open Mic Nepal presented by:

