

Update: Nepal Earthquake

Emergency Rapid Response by **UBS Optimus Foundation** – 29 May 2015

The devastating earthquakes in Nepal affected an estimated 3.2 million children. One month on, many families are still living in makeshift shelters as heavy monsoon rains approach.

On 25 April 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal. Just 17 days later a second quake struck the country. The two quakes caused untold devastation, killed over 9,000 people and injured more than 17,000, including many children. While life is starting to return to normal in parts of the country, many families are still homeless. And with heavy monsoon rains fast approaching, there is a real risk that preventable yet highly contagious diseases will spread. So your help will still be needed in the coming months.

Helping people get back to normal

In the initial phase of the response we funded Save the Children to deliver life-saving Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) kits to 2,400 households, including roughly 5,000 children. These household, hygiene and shelter kits are being distributed in Sindhupalchowk and Gorkha, two of the worst-affected and most-remote districts in the country.

The kits contain a variety of essential items such as plastic sleeping mats, blankets, a cooking pot, soap, toothbrushes and shelter preparation essential to protect children and families during the upcoming monsoon season.



Tens of thousands of newborns at risk

An estimated 93,000 pregnant women were among the population hit by the powerful earthquakes. Many of them

are now living in the open with their babies. The weather is cold and conditions are becoming increasingly unsanitary. And in many areas the power supply has been disrupted. This lack of reliable electricity means many hospitals and health facilities cannot deliver much-needed emergency maternal and child health care.



10,000 children will benefit

To address this we are funding 100 Solar Suitcases from We Care Solar for use by their local partner organization One Heart Worldwide. The suitcases capture solar energy and use it to bring essential light and power to health facilities. They will be used for emergency medical care with a focus on obstetric and maternal needs in remote locations. An estimated that 20,000 women and children will benefit from this intervention in the next year. And it doesn't end there. In the longer term, the suitcases will be redeployed to rural health outposts without access to electricity.



Double your impact: matching donations

UBS continues to match all client donations for relief and rehabilitation efforts in Nepal. That means your donation will be doubled and channeled to effective relief efforts throughout the country. Further, all our administrative costs are covered by UBS so 100% of your donation goes to the relief effort. UBS will match donations up to a total of CHF 1 million.

UBS Optimus Foundation

Management

Augustinerhof 1, 8098 Zurich

Tel. +41-44-237 27 87

sh-ubs-optimus-foundation@ubs.com

ubs.com/optimus

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