

March 2016

# PROJECT SIMPLE

## Nepal Earthquake Fundraiser

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### Many Thanks

We would like to thank you kindly for all your posts on Facebook, emails to your friends, conversations, and donations given to support the Nepali earthquake victims this past March. Together we raised \$1900 to contribute to those that still suffer from the April 2015 earthquake. With much enthusiasm we write to inform that the donations allowed us to gift 10 smokeless metal wood burning stoves, 25 bags of rice (each 30 kgs./ 66 lbs), and 280 notebooks for the school children!

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## Why stoves, rice, and notebooks?

For two weeks we carefully conversed with locals to determine what they felt was most immediately and sustainably needed in their communities. With much consideration, it was decided that smokeless stoves would not only immediately help the families that received one, but it was also a great long term investment bettering the health and lives of the families in the village. All though we were unable to purchase and transport enough stoves for every home in the village, our Nepali friends ensured us that neighbors will start to visit and experience the difference and hopefully desire to have/save for one as well. And, if any new visitors would like to donate to this area, they will be encouraged to continue helping with the initialization of stoves, working towards a smokeless village.

The benefits from these smokeless stoves are many: the houses are able to stay warmer, the villagers use less wood (spending less time cutting, cooking, and saving more trees), and most importantly the stoves offer a healthier environment for the whole family (helping their lungs, eyes, and preventing diseases). The stoves that were purchased are very similar to the Smokeless Metal Stove (SMS), or the Improved Cooking Stove (ICS) model. To learn more about the benefits and design of these stoves please click on the following links:

SMS [http://www.rids-nepal.org/index.php/Smokeless\\_Metal\\_Stove\\_SMS.html](http://www.rids-nepal.org/index.php/Smokeless_Metal_Stove_SMS.html), or  
ICS [http://www.fastonline.org/CD3WD\\_40/JF/JF\\_VE/SMALL/20-454.pdf](http://www.fastonline.org/CD3WD_40/JF/JF_VE/SMALL/20-454.pdf).

Through the multiple discussions with our trusted friends we learned a lot about the Nepali culture and cast system, and one thing became clear, that if possible it was very important that we tried to give something to everybody in the community. That is why it was decided to purchase rice. The village members selected 25 families from the lowest level in their cast, and we distributed the 1650 lbs of rice (30 kg/66 lb bags) to those that they felt were in most need. The 25 chosen were either elderly, sick, or had no children that could help the family financially by leaving the village for work. Also to support the idea of helping the whole community, 280 notebooks were purchased and handed over to honest genuine teachers and directly disturbed by them into the hands of the school children.

## **Before and After!**

The rural villages are physically isolated due to geography, and most of the people still live in "temporary houses" made of the donated plastic and metal tin sheets. The houses before were made of wood or stones and mud. Most have not yet rebuilt because of lack of time, help with labor and money, or they wait because "the earth continues to still move" and landslides are still occurring. To rebuild one very small simple house the estimated cost is at least \$5-7,000, in time/money they would spend to purchase and transport the materials (due to politics, the current economic situation, new forest restrictions, and lack of public transit and roads).

The small houses we visited and witnessed are usually one bedroom, about 16x12 feet, sleeping anywhere from 3-7 people. In this room they store their harvest, sleep, and cook. The fire pit is centrally located and continuously lit when the family is at home, with no chimney or way for the smoke to escape.

The first night we slept with locals we found coughing to be necessary and our eyes watered tremendously, due to the continuous swirling of trapped smoke. After the installation of the stove, it was amazing to witness the immediate results of having no smoke inside... the difference was night and day. For the next few hours we all sat around the stove together, watching it as if it was a TV, admiring all that it was. Neighbors also sporadically entered, shy and giggling, with interest in viewing the difference. The families who received the stoves were also very happy to learn that when/if they do rebuild their house, the stoves last for years and can easily be moved!

**Thank you again for helping directly better the lives of these Nepali people. Because of you, they will be breathing cleaner air with a fresh new hope for the future of their village.**

Please stay tuned... for many photos from this project are coming your way!

In the meantime, we invite you to visit our Financial Report below for details about the ways in which the donations were used. This report quickly and simply helps to demonstrate how the project was organized and flexibly executed.

## Nepal Earthquake Fundraiser Financial Report

1 USD American Dollar = 103.13 NPR Nepal Rupees

(Exchange rate received March 7th - March 22, 2016)

Date (2016)	Item/Service of Purchase	Item Price (NPR)	Amt.	Total (NPR)	Total (USD\$)
4/13 - 4/18	ATM fee to withdraw donations (Maximum amount allowed to withdraw at one time was \$350)	500	6	3000	29.09
4/29	Paypal (keeps 10% of each transaction)	10%	1	19594.70	190
4/17	Taxi to Inquire about the Smokeless Stoves (guide needed to accompany us and translate)	500	2	1000	9.7
4/19	Notebooks for school children	11	280	3080	29.87
4/19	30KG Bag of Rice (Store #1)	1400	6	8400	81.45
4/19	Bicycle Rickshaw to transport 6 bags of rice from Store #1 to Hotel	300	1	300	2.91
4/19	30KG Bag of Rice (Store #2)	1420	9	12825	124.36
4/19	Taxi to transport 9 bags of rice from Store #2 to Hotel	1000	1	1000	9.7
4/18	Large Family Smokeless Stoves (3 pot surface)	18000	3	54000	523.61
4/18	Small Smokeless Stoves (2 pot cooking surface)	10000	3	30000	290.89
4/19	30KG Bag of Rice (Store # 3, rice transported in route by Jeep)	1325	10	13250	128.48
4/19	Large Truck to transport all supplies (9 hour commute half on unpaved mountain dirt tracks)	15000	1	15000	145.45
4/19	Tip for our the truck driver (who helped us to load and unload supplies)	2000	1	2000	19.39
4/21	Food for Guide 1 & 2	450	2	900	8.73
4/21	Bus back to Kathmandu	225	4	900	8.73
4/21	Guide 1	2000	3	6000	58.18
4/21	Guide 2	2000	2	4000	38.79
4/21	Taxi from Bus Station to Guides Office in Kathmandu	300	1	300	2.91
4/22	Final Payment for remaining Small Smokeless Stoves (2 pot cooking surface)	10000	4	40000	387.86
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>215,549.70</b>	<b>\$ 2090</b>



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