

## Appeal from President

Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (ACORAB) of Nepal is deeply saddened by most tragic loss of human and animal lives, property and physical infrastructure caused by the earthquake of Saturday, 25th of April 2015 and the aftershocks that have continued to hit Nepal since then. ACORAB wishes to convey its heartfelt condolences to the families affected by the earthquake. ACORAB shares the grief of fellow countrymen and women at this time of great national tragedy, compounded by the colossal loss of lives and damages to properties, infrastructures, and historical heritage sites.

In spite of extremely challenging circumstances and amidst loss of infrastructures and equipment of the stations, community radios continue to serve local populations to ensure safety and security of lives and properties. ACORAB is highly appreciative of the exemplary professional and ethical standards demonstrated by the broadcasters. There is no doubt that community radios will continue to contribute towards efficient relief operations at the local levels.

The earthquake caused widespread damage to infrastructures and equipment of community radio. Many radios have been forced to go off-air causing widespread breaking down of communication at the local levels. Only community radios can ensure communication to the local populations in their own language and in a way that is relevant to their concerns. Therefore, community radios that have been damaged by the earthquake must be brought back on-air without any delay. ACORAB calls upon the Government of Nepal as well as all national and international supporters to assist in its efforts aimed at reviving the radio stations.

Mohan Chapagain

President

[www.acorab.org.np](http://www.acorab.org.np) The following five pictures are from ACORAB.







## Post EQ aftermath information update from Antenna Foundation Nepal (AFN)

List of victims and damage update (work in progress) per VDCs/Districts and mobility short term and long term

As a media organization, Antenna Foundation Nepal and its partner radio stations have relied heavily on the centralized official government data available on <http://drrportal.gov.np/> and <http://seismonepal.org> while disseminating information to maintain consistency as well as authenticity in emergency times as these. Other sources of information have been Twitter handle @NepalPoliceHQ which has been relatively highly active and resourceful.

However, a group of organizations working on radio including Antenna Foundation Nepal (AFN), ACORAB, AMARC, IMS, Internews, among others, jointly deployed an assessment team two days after the first quake on April 25, 2015 to affected districts and have prepared a draft report of the list of damages (Available with Sanjay Ji, GF). In terms of radio stations independently verified by Antenna Foundation Nepal among the 14 affected districts (classified by the government) as well as those broadcasting GF Programs, the details are as follows:

SN	Partner Station of AFN	District	Updates from Antenna
1	Kalinchowk FM	Dolakha	Tower is okay, transmitter damaged, all PCs damaged, station building damaged. Broadcasting 8 hours a day, Airing programs related to safety, health, earthquake. They have received a tent from EQ response team where they are working under the tent outside building, The EQ response committee is deciding the distribution areas and the VDC secretaries are working in field to collect data on daily basis.
2	Radio Sindhu	Sindhupalchok	There are major damages, for 3-4 days after EQ the situation was critical, Broadcasting started after 2 days of EQ, All the mobile phones in the village completely stopped working so the committee requested to start the radio for which they also provided Diesel, after which they broadcasted 18 hours a day, the role of media seemed to be very affective in order to console villagers in that situation
3	HajurKo Radio	Ramechhap	Tower is okay, building has some damages, due to back up problem broadcasting only 2-3 hours a day, airing programs related to safety, health, drinking water. The VDC secretaries are all in field with the technical person.
4	Radio Dhading	Dhading	There are some minor damages on building, broadcasting stopped for 2-3 hours after EQ, however, programs based on safety, health are being aired continuously along with PSAs. Radio Dhading is providing the daily updates of damages in the district and updates on distribution of relief materials through the station.
5	Radio Nuwakot	Nuwakot	There were minor damages to the building, broadcasting was stopped for 2 days after that airing is normal as before, Receiving the PSAs from the EQ response committee and airing them along with other health, safety and cleanliness related news, also airing the programs related to purification of drinking water.

6	Radio Namobuddha	Kavrepalanchok	Tower is bent a little with other minor damages to the building and equipments, Radio Namobuddha playing very important role in conveying various messages regarding exam postpone news to students, they also provided relief to those whose were in a huge mental trauma due to the unrelavant rumors after airing the live interview with LokVijaya Adhikari, Bhukampabidh, they also aired the phone numbers and names of VDC secretaries which helped the villagers on receiving the relief materials.
7	Radio Gorkha (not under GF, but airing programs voluntarily)	Gorkha	There is a major damage in the building, Collecting and receiving the info in daily basis and airing through the station
8	Radio Marsyangdi	Lamjung	There is problem in ups , broadcasting stops during loadshedding, Has been airing various programs like Nepal Kampan, Jeevanrakshya, Jana Jeevan related to earthquake, safety, health issues and its preventions for which Nepal Police and Health post members are assiting and providing their time to convey positive messages.
9	Radio Sindhuligadhi	Sindhuli	Tower is okay, Radio building is damaged, airing 2-3 hours a day. It is airing the programs regarding safe drinking water, health and based on human safety. The VDC secretaries are in field with the technical persons and collecting data and deciding whether the houses are safe or not to stay.
10	Radio ThahaSanchar (not currently under GF)	Makawanpur	Radio station is okay though they have shifted to the reception area for safety, compound wall is damaged. Reporters and others from the station have visited to 9 other district for data collection, PSAs and other earthquake related messages are being aired continuously. Live programs not being possible, they are airing the recorded interviews from different specialists to provide relief to the listeners to some extent. All the VDC secretaries are in the field.

In terms of the general media, the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) as up to 19 May 2015 says:

Death of Journalist/s: 1

Death of Relative/s: 28

Injured Journalist/s: 13

Injured Relative/s: 13

Media Houses with Physical Damage: 57

House/s of Journalists Damaged: 175

Houses of Journalists Inhabitable: 542

District wise, the implications have been focused primarily on Central Region (661 Cases) followed by Western Region (100 Cases) and Eastern Region (60 Cases).

However, there is need to independently verify claims from media houses as the findings of the groups working on radio point out that there is high discrepancies among radio stations currently making damage claims with hope of receiving equipment support as “free” assistance during this period. Unverified reports have also pointed out that some claims have been coming from radio stations that already not operational prior the earthquake.

Overview of relief and rehabilitation support till date

As aftershocks continued, different organizations have formed independent teams who have visited the field to assess the media situation first hand. A general understanding has been to share what each organization is doing, promote coordination and avoid duplication. A larger group meeting is hosted by ACORAB regularly and is attended by OCHA on behalf of the UN Coordination Committee under the “communications” cluster group. Details of support so far in the knowledge of the smaller group working on radio are mentioned on the draft report (Available with Sanjay Ji, GF). Details of Antenna Foundation Nepal’s support rendered so far are as follows:

1. Transmitter, dipole/s and coaxial cable to get Radio Sindhu operational in Sindhupalchowk since 27 April 2015.
2. Relief material sent with AFN Staff JB Ruwali to MulpaniVDC, Dadhing.
3. 14 PSA/s on post EQ scenario produced voluntarily for UNICEF in partnership with Search for Common Grounds to be aired by FM Stations.
4. Six other PSAs on post quake scenario produced voluntarily and placed on CIN, ACORAB to be aired by FM Stations.
5. Regularly broadcasted live radio program on post earthquake scenario on Fridays through “Nepal Chautari” on government’s search and rescue update, relief distribution mechanism and possible health risks and preparations. One of the episodes was a Q&A with Information Minister Minendra Rijal.
6. Broadcasted radio program “Madanee” under GF funding

A team from Antenna Foundation Nepal has also visited Dading and Gorkha districts to assess the situation as well as gather stories from areas where media has not reached so far.

#### Response and representation in the District EQ response committee

Radio partners AFN contacted verified that the representatives of the EQ response committee were priority decided and led by the CDO which comprised of representatives from Red Cross, NGO Federation, security forces, Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ), FNCCI, LDO and political parties. In Gorkha and Lamjung, it is reported that the EQ response committee now decides where relief materials should be distributed. Initially, there were tarpaulin shortages in Gorkha and relief funds could not be coordinated due to political differences. Likewise, reports confirm there was also political differences in Lamjung for a week and a monitoring team from the district headquarter has now resolved the situation. The role of media has been praised in Kavrepalanchowk, especially for “HajurKo Radio” where students thanked for the information relayed on their examinations. However, the relief distribution efforts has been reported to have been distributed without following proper procedures resulting in non-assessable areas having been ignored. Likewise, Dadhing has created 4 EQ response centers to facilitate distribution efforts. In Nuwakot, there are reports of complaints of relief materials not reached with a powerful Nepali Congress politician diverting relief efforts to areas of his choice.

In all places, our media partners have reported that the EQ response committee is media friendly with some even maintaining transparency by sharing meeting decisions to media persons through e-mail.

#### How is the VDC secretaries responding to the new crisis and how is it affecting the distribution of existing local services

AFN’s media contacts report that there have been high praises on the role of VDC Secretaries for being out in the field during these times. In Ramechhap, the VDC Secretaries have visited houses with technical team/smarming which house is habitable and inhabitable. They seem to be the main sources of the government in data collection as well as relief materials distribution. Radio stations have also announced names and phone numbers of VDC Secretaries, CDO and LDO so people can directly contact them. Due to local elections not having taken place for a long time, people are not aware of the government authorities in their areas. The general report from our media partners say that the work of the VDC Secretaries has been satisfactory though there has been massive complaints from the public that they are not happy.

#### Space to support innovative intervention

AFN proposes to:

- Document series of positive, bold and daring stories of people who have survived earthquake from across the most affected quake-hit districts to inspire and build confidence of people; help communities heal and rebuild their lives by consolidating previous experience of AFN in projecting positive outlook towards life during critical time of conflict through "MeroJindagiMero Biswas".
- Produce "comedy" content in both radio and TV as a psychosocial relief to respond to anxiety and fear of people and instill positivity in their lives.
- Organize larger interactions inviting all stakeholders in earthquake affected VDCs and Districts on "Village reconstruction and Community rebuilding"

#### Future plans and way forward

Radio Nepal has been the only operative radio during the critical time of recent earthquake fulfilling people's want for information; considering the vacuum created by other radio stations, their unpreparedness to withstand or operate, Antenna Foundation Nepal will conduct a training focusing around issues like covering disasters, how to liaise professionally with government officials, military and humanitarian actors/organizations and how to connect and interact with listeners in need.

The idea is to not demand much from local radio partners during these trying times but encourage local level production to build capacities and contribute to at least cover their staff salaries. However, one needs to be tacky in this approach to ensure that "begging" mentality is not encouraged among radio stations.

#### Resettlement Plan

There is need to ensure the role of the media in the government's resettlement plan.  
[Yet-to-be-discussed internally]

#### Role of political parties, local youth and private sectors

[Yet-to-be-discussed internally]

#### Media coverage

The media coverage has been slowly shifting to rebuilding and reconstruction from previous updates on relief and rescue efforts, damage, casualties, people's reaction, measures to prevent disease outbreak among others. AFN minutely observed 30 different prominent newspapers coverage of Kantipur, Annapurna Post, Gorkhapatra and Naya Patrika from the gender lens; and found that majority of coverage were about living condition of nursing mothers and their nutritional needs taking shelter in tarpaulins; woman's self involvement in building shelter; worries of parents about education of their children; dilapidated condition of child shelter homes and misery of children living in it; father-in-law in care of injured daughter-in-law; elderly women working in field who have lost family members and other belongings; elderly women in state of despair at old age homes; psychological problems among children. News on crucial role played by HAM Radio in disaster and missing of Gorkhapatra sports reporter Suman Bomjan was found related to media.

S.N	Newspaper	Date	District	Location	Gender Issue	Media Issue
1	Kantipur	02-May-15	Kathmandu	Basantapur	Kumari/Living Goddess	
2	Kantipur	11-May-15	Lamjung	Illampokhari	Relief (cash distribution) to 61 yrs woman for funeral	

3	Kantipur	15-May-15	Kathmandu	Pashupati	elderly women at oldage home pic	
4	Kantipur	02-May-15	Kathmandu	Kotgaun	Status of woman in maternal phase	
5	Kantipur	11-May-15	Lamjung	Simjung	Woman in building a temporary shelter	
6	Gorkhapatra	17-May-15	Kathmandu	Kathmandu	Unlivable Child Shelter homes	
7	Gorkhapatra	17-May-15	Kathmandu	Tudikhel	Awaiting nutrituous diet nursing mothers	
8	Annapurna Post	16-May-15	Dhading	Ri-gaun	Father-in-law caring injured daughter-in-law	
9	Kantipur	17-May-15	Kathmandu			Ham Radio in disaster
10	Kantipur	17-May-15	Dhading	Dhadingbesi	Rescued children in Shelter Home	
11	Kantipur	17-May-15	Dolakha	Sundravati	Elderly women receiving 2 mana rice as relief pic	
12	Kantipur	09-May-15	Sindhupalchowk	Duwachor	Displaced children worried about education	
13	Kantipur	09-May-15	Dhading	Katunje	Lack of care to nursing mother	
14	Kantipur	09-May-15	Nuwakot	Baguwa	Women and children most affected	
15	Kantipur	09-May-15	Dolakha	Rampa	Risk among nursing mothers living in sheds	
16	Naya Patrika	13-May-15	Kathmandu	Thapathali	Women treated in premise of Maternity Hospital (pic)	
17	Gorkhapatra	04-May-15	Bhaktapur		Noodles and bitten rice for nursing mothers	
18	Annapurna Post	08-May-15	Kathmandu		Damaged Child welfare organization	
19	Gorkhapatra	04-May-15	Lalitpur	Sanagaun	Younger sister being saved by elder sister	
20	Gorkhapatra	03-May-15	Kathmandu			Loss of sports news reporter Suman Bomjan
21	Naya Patrika	08-May-15	Kavre	Devitar	children in misery after death of parents	
22	Naya Patrika	10-May-15	Sindhupalchowk	Sipapokhare	worries of parents about education of children	
23	Gorkhapatra	09-May-15	Kathmandu			Sports journalist Bomjan
24	Kantipur	05-May-15	Makwanpur	Kankada	Chepang nursing mother in search of tarpaulin	

25	Kantipur	05-May-15	Kathmandu	Naglabheri	Elderly women who lost her husband and house working in field	
26	Annapurna Post	08-May-15	Dhading	Kewalpur	Women in need of shelter	
27	Annapurna Post	06-May-15	Dolakha	Charikot	13 yrs old daughter in care of parents	
28	Annapurna Post	06-May-15	Nuwakot	Chaughada	Psychological problems among children	
29	Annapurna Post	06-May-15	Sindhupalchowk	Pangtang	mother hugging a 5yrs daughter rescued after hours(pic)	
30	Annapurna Post	05-May-15	Kavre		Women awaiting relief	
31	Annapurna Post	05-May-15	Kathmandu	Khandahar	awaiting government relief	
32	Annapurna Post	06-May-15	Makwanpur		Children taking shelter in Tarpaulin	
33	Gorkhapatra	01-May-15	Kathmandu			search of sports reporter
34	Kantipur	19-May-15	Rasuwa	Dandagaun	Misery of nursing mothers	

[www.afn.org.np](http://www.afn.org.np)



Nepal Radio Sindhu Studio 2



Nepal Radio Sindhu Studio 5



Nepal Gorke-Barpak radio show production



Nepal Radio Sindhu Studio 1

Following are five pages of report details. Note: they appear to be using the term mixture for an audio mixer. Phone numbers have been erased.

Name of station	District	Contact Person	Contact no.	Equipment status	Building Status	Staff Status	Food Status	Any Assistance received	Transmission on/off
<b>Kathmandu</b>									
01. Radio Mero F.M. 93.5 MHz	Dillibazar,	Bal Ram Shrestha		Transmitter minor damage, 3 pc damaged, studio damaged, processor damaged, tower bent	Minor Priority - (need tents)	None	None	None	ON
02. Radio Newa F.M 106.6 MHz	Kirtipur -2,	Santa Raj Shakya		pc damaged. tower is unstable,	Minor (roof cracked)	None	None	None	OFF
03. Radio T.U F.M 107 MHz	Katmandu	Smanta Acharya		None	None	None	None	None	OFF
04. Radio Upatyaka 87.6 MHz	Teku,	Shree Ram Tiwari							
<b>Lalitpur</b>									
01. Radio ECR FM 104.2 MHz	Thaiba-1	Raju Prakriti Premi		mixture slightly damaged, 1 pc damaged, transmitter on loan, new transmitter is on hold in	Minor	None	None	None	ON
02. Radio Sagarmatha, 102.4 MHz	Bakhundol	Tikaram Rai							
03. Radio Lalitpur 100.9 Mhz	Gotikhel, Chapagaun	Amritnath Timalsina		5 kv ups, 4 batteries, LCD monitor and laptop destroyed, back up problem, tower is bent	Major	None	None	None	OFF
<b>Nuwakot</b>									
01. Radio Nuwakot F.M. 106.8 MHZ	Kalyanpur-1	Shree Ram Adhikari		2 recorders, 1 laptop destroyed, minor damage to mixture.	Minor	None	None	None	ON
02. Radio Jalapa 104.5 MHz	Kakani-3, Ranipauwa	Kapil Dev Khanal		Battrey short circuit, hybrid telephone damaged, pc and	Minor	None	None	None	ON
03. Radio Trishuli 88.4 MHz	Bidur 4	Kapil Dev Khanal		minor damage to equipments	Minor	None	None	None	ON
04. Radio Bagmati 103.4 MHz	Nayabajar								
<b>Kavrepalanchowk</b>									
01. Radio Namobuddha 106.7 MHz	Kavrepalanchowk-7	Jagat Dong Bhakta Syantang		tower bent, minor damage to the	Minor	None	None	None	ON



Name of station	District	Contact Person	Contact no.	Equipment status	Building Status	Staff Status	Food Status	Any Assistance received	Transmission on/off
<b>Ramechhap</b>									
01.HajurKo Radio 102.1 MHz	Ramechhap-9	Deepak Ghimire		ups damaged, Back up problem	Minor	None	None	None	ON
02.Radio Tifadi 99.1 MHz	Manthali 6	Tulsi Shrestha							
03.Radio Ramechhap 95.8 MHz	Ramechhap	Ram Babu Giri		back up problem, minor damage to tower, transmitter and studio	Major	None	Need Supplies	None	OFF
04.Radio Kairan F.M 96.4 MHz	Bamti Bhandar 4	Dev Kumar Sunar							
05.Radio Likhu 91.3 MHz	Gupteswor 4	Dev Kumar Sunar							
<b>Bhaktapur</b>									
01.Radio Janasanchar 107.9 MHz	Bhaktapur	Suresh Prasad sayanju		Earthing problem has caused problems to the transmitter	Minor	None	None	None	ON
<b>Dhading</b>									
01.Radio Dhading 106 MHz	Nilkantha-5, DhadingBesi, Pucharbazar	Akash		minor damage to equipments	Minor	None	Need Supplies	None	ON
02. Radio Loktantra 89.4 MHz	Nilkantha-5	Deepak Koirala Ktm Contact person:							
03. Radio Trishuli F.M. 105.6 MHz	Nilkantha-5	Gopal Tiwari		minor damage to equipments	Minor	None	None	None	ON
04. Krishi Radio 105 MHz	Kewalpur-9	Upendra prasad Adhikari		minor damage to equipments	Major	None	None	Search for common ground provided them with 1 pc and 2 recorders	OFF
05. Radio Bihani 97.6 MHz	Nilkantha-5	Suresh Shrestha (program)		500 wt transmitter damaged, using 100 watt back up transmitter, ups damaged, tower slightly	Minor	None	None	None	ON
06. Radio Rajmarga 92.1 MHz	Naubirshe 1	Narayan Chandra Subedi		1 laptop and pc damaged, minor problems with mixer.	Minor	None	None	None	ON

Name of station	District	Contact Person	Contact no.	Equipment status	Building Status	Staff Status	Food Status	Any Assistance received	Transmission on/off
<b>Gorkha</b>									
01. Radio Gorkha 92.8 MHz	Prithvinarayan municipality	Kishor Jung Thapa		Audio processor, mixture, studio, hybrid telephone, 3 pc,	Major	None	None	UNESCO, tent house, BBC media action, 1 pc, AMARC/A CORAB 1 hybrid telephone	ON
02. Radio Manaslu 103.9 MHz	Gorkha Municipality-3	Deepak Jalan		back up problem, studio damaged, hybrid telephone.	Major	None	None	None	ON
03. Manakamana F.M 98.7 MHz	Manakamana 3, Gorkha	Saroj Shrestha		LCD, LED destroyed (2),	None	None	None	None	OFF
05 Merosathi FM	Aabukhaireni-6, Tanahun	Bipin Malla		None	None	None	None	None	ON
06 United FM									
07 Rado Aarughat									
<b>Lamjung</b>									
01. Radio Marsyangdi 95.0MHz	Besisahar-2, Trivenitole	Anju Rimal		tower uplink building destroyed, ups damaged, (broadcasting from makeshift building)	None	None	None	None	ON
02. Radio Lamjung 88.4 MHz	Gausahar ,1	Raj kumar panday		None	None	None	None	None	ON
03. Radio Chautari F.M 98.7 MHz	Besisahar -1,	Suni khal Krishna K.C		Tower building destroyed, ups, battery, device, barracks, destroyed	Major	None	None	None	ON
04. Radio Bhotewodar 90.8 MHz	Bhotewodar 8,	Samjana Tamang		Tower problem ,ups and transmitter problem,	Minor	None	None	None	ON