



International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

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ABSTRACT

Title: **Disability and emergency responses and rehabilitation in the aftermath of 25th April Earthquake in Nepal**

Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):

Background

The 25th April 2015 earthquake in Nepal with recurrent 400 plus aftershocks took lives of 8,659 injuring 21,952 survivors and destroying 774,138 buildings. Despite its absent experience in Disaster Risk Management (DRM), Karuna Foundation Nepal (KFN), an organization working for prevention of disability and Community Based Rehabilitation had a catalysing involvement in the disability inclusive emergency response and is involved in disability inclusive rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Methods

KFN transformed into a lean and mean action oriented relief organisation within 24 hours after the earthquake. KFN's approaches to emergency responses were based on the guidelines of Government of Nepal with extra effort to include persons with disabilities, 'disability first'. The practice of a decentralized approach of KFN with immediate involvement of local community, government, and local resources was crucial in the response. The organisation had a rich and solid network in the affected districts, was locally rooted, and had funds quickly available. KFN coordinated with different ministries at central level and with District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) at district to provide relief materials to the survivors ensuring that persons with disabilities were reached. KFN also lobbied with government for disability friendly infrastructure reconstruction.

Results

KFN reached around 15,000 households including 3,000 persons with disabilities from severely affected districts with relief materials. While 1,500 survivors received medical support through medical camps around 3,000 families benefitted from temporary shelter construction support. In the reconstruction phase the focus has been on disability friendly health posts and schools in a district.

Conclusions

Being a locally rooted organisation with an entrepreneurial and action oriented approach, putting disability first, the inclusion of the persons with disabilities by KFN in the emergency response was notable. The approach serves basis for learning and replication in post disaster scenario.

Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2015

Please submit your abstract to: disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk

Restricted to one first author abstract per participant.

If you have any questions, please write to: disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk