



# महिला पुनर्स्थापना केन्द्र (ओरेक)

## Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

### Press Release and Appeal

#### Appeal to Provide Gender-sensitive Relief Support for Earth-quake Survivors

According to the information provided by the Home Ministry of Government of Nepal, the devastating earthquake on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 has put the death toll to 7,484. Out of the total number of deaths, the personal details of 2,740 have already been identified, and the record shows 1135 women, 851 men, 441 female children, 339 male children and four children whose biological sex identification has been difficult simply based on their names. The report says that fourteen thousand people have been injured due to devastating earthquake.

Though natural calamity does not discriminate on the basis of wealth, age, sex, educational level and disability, its effects occur at different levels and with different intensity to different groups of people. Moreover, due to our social construct, women and children are left with greater effects of such disaster. The situation of adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers is different, sensitive and challenging from reproductive, gender role and social viewpoints. Therefore, there is an urgent need to become sensitive to women's concerns while addressing them through earthquake relief support mechanism. With this view in mind, Women's Rehabilitation Centre, in coordination with National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders, would like to humbly request as well as urge Nepal Government, National and International Non-governmental Organizations, different groups, and individuals involved in supporting earthquake survivors to address the special needs of the pregnant, lactating women, adolescent girls and children following the gender-sensitive guidelines as stated below:

- 1) Make sure of safety and security of women, adolescent girls and girl children in the temporary shelters/camps provided to the earthquake survivors.
- 2) Keeping in view the women's needs, provide safe space for taking rest, psychosocial counseling and space for children's play.
- 3) Make provision of adequate lights during night time in the temporary camps.
- 4) As there might be no electricity in many camps and also the uncertainty of power cuts where there is supply provision, make sure to provide handy torch lights.
- 5) In every camp, there should be made a provision of a space for personal cleanliness and a separate temporary toilet and this should not be next to men's toilet.
- 6) Provide cotton cloth or sanitary pads for women, adolescent girls and also have someone to demonstrate how to use and dispose the sanitary pads after use.
- 7) Keeping in view the health needs of women, and girls make a provision of inner-wear and wet wipes for personal cleanliness and a private space to change clothes.

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महिला अधिकार तथा सामाजिक न्यायमा आधारित दिगो विकासको प्रवर्द्धनका लागि जुटौं ।

- 8) Make a provision of safe space for pregnant and lactating women to rest and for child breast-feeding and also provide nutritious food, warm cloths and materials for personal hygiene and sanitation.
- 9) Make a provision of a separate and comfortable space/corner for new born babies and mothers for exclusive breast feeding and rest.
- 10) Make a supply of nutritious food to the lactating women and also have a provision of proper place to prepare that food.
- 11) Keeping in view the possibility of occurrences of violence against women, adolescent girls and girl children, all should be provided information to remain alert about such events and they should also be provided with a whistle.
- 12) Provide women police personnel in every camp so as to prevent violence against women and take preventive measures against different forms of violence against women and girls.
- 13) If there is any incident of violence against women in the camps, it should be reported without hiding and delay to the concerned agencies. The hotline number of WOREC to report such incidents is **1660-01-78910**.
- 14) Among the women, pregnant and lactating women, elderly women, girl children and differently abled women need to be given priority.
- 15) Women should not be taken merely as receivers of the relief support, but they should have meaningful participation and leadership in the earthquake relief support program.



Dr. Renu Rajbhandari

Chairperson

Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) and National Alliance for Women Human Right Defenders (NAWHRD)