

# Praying With and For World Vision Malaysia

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By Sunjuli Kunwar, WV Nepal emergency communications officer

## Amidst the ruins, Runa stands ▶▶



In the village of Lalitpur, only a few houses can be seen. Everywhere else, piles of bricks and dirt remain where buildings and houses once stood. One of the houses reduced to a pile of rubble was Runa's. A mound is all that is left of her beloved home.

"It is like a dream... a nightmare. I still cannot believe that my house is now gone. Nevertheless, it doesn't matter anymore. What matters is that my family and I are safe. The important thing is that we survived; we can always build a new home," says 19 year-old Runa, a former World Vision sponsored child.

It was a normal Saturday morning for Runa. She was busy with her weekend chores as usual, hanging clothes on the rooftop of her two-storey house.

Then, the earth shook. She heard shattering noises above as her tin roof rattled. Her water tank cover shook violently. When the shaking stopped, Runa and her family fled outdoors. Her house was still standing. Minutes later, however, the earth shook again. It took only a few seconds for her entire home to collapse. Everything crumbled around them, and in the end all that remained was their tin roof and scattered clothing, some still hanging on the clothesline.

The earthquake destroyed everything in their village, Runa said, in what she described as a state of despair. She estimates that around seven of her neighbours have died, while others are

still missing. It saddens her to learn that the people she grew up with are gone. The family living next door suffered three deaths: a five-year-old, a one-year-old and a grandmother who suffered from hearing problems. Their bodies were discovered when a bulldozer came to clear away the rubble and uncovered the grandmother holding the baby in her lap, the older child close to her. They were already dead.

“I was totally blank for some time, and my legs were shivering. I could not believe what was happening in front of our eyes. It was frightening! We feel lucky to have survived. I am thankful that no one in my family was hurt, and I was on the rooftop,” she said.

Runa and her family spent nights after the earthquake in a makeshift tent that they set up in the open space near their home. The tent, she said, was not enough. “It is especially difficult for girls like me to go out as many toilets have been destroyed,” she said.

“All my books and uniforms are under the debris, I just don’t know what to do, how I will go back to college,” Runa said, trying to hide her tears. She is a nursing student and classes were supposed to resume next week.

Runa finds strength through her friends, who encourage her to move on. Like her, they lost much and yet are willing to share whatever they have left. Consoling her, they said, “You are alive; that is what matters, we can share our uniforms and books with you so that you can come back to college and be with us again. Don’t worry.” It was an amazing moment to see her friends being there for her and trying to help her recover from her pain. Her friends were teary-eyed as they listened to her story. Yet, they were glad to see her alive.



Picking through the rubble of the Nepal Earthquakes.

After they wiped their tears, Runa said she was feeling better and wanted to offer whatever she could to her community. “My community has suffered a lot and it would be a great thing if I could do something in any way I can, to give back to my people.” As she spoke, her face lit up with a smile.

Runa and her friends will be helping to care for the injured in Lalitpur. World Vision is setting up a Child Friendly Space (CFS) in the area and Runa is happy to play her part in it.

## About the Nepal Earthquake



6-year old Abishek's school was merely damaged in the initial 7.8 earthquake, but collapsed during the second earthquake.

On the 25th of April 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake shook the country of Nepal. Its epicentre was about 81km from the capital of Kathmandu. The total population of the affected 39 districts is 8.1 million, with over 2 million people living in the 12 most severely affected districts. In an unfortunate exacerbation of events, a second 7.3 magnitude earthquake occurred on 12 May. Its epicentre was about 76km northeast of Kathmandu and has resulted in 96 deaths as of 14 May. According to a UNICEF report on the disaster, 940,000 children are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and a portion of these children left homeless are particularly vulnerable. The government of Nepal has declared a state of disaster, calling on the international community to send in humanitarian aid.

In response, the international community has come in full force, with governments and international NGOs working with local NGOs under the coordination of the government of Nepal. There has been a flood of relief items and human resources to assist in the emergency relief and recovery. However, there have been hindrances in bringing aid to the communities. For example, Nepal's international airport has not had the capacity to handle the heavy traffic of cargo. There are still many communities in the more rural areas that are yet to be reached.

World Vision's initial response is focused in the Area Development Programme (ADP) areas of Lamjung and Sindhuli districts as well as three districts in Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, and Lalitpur districts) and Gorkha district. The response includes meeting the affected population's immediate needs, especially in shelter, non-food items, health (medical supplies, medicine, body bags, and tents for hospitals), food, safe drinking water and hygiene kits, establishing child-friendly spaces (CFS), generators, mobile storage units, and communications equipment. Thus far, World Vision International Nepal has reached out to 32,715 beneficiaries (as of 14 May 2015) and has established 12 CFSs. However, WVIN's current target is to aid 100,000 people (20,000 households). Therefore, there is still much to be done.



Survivors of the Nepal Earthquakes look on at the remains of their homes and neighbourhoods.

# Prayer Points

## for the Nepal Earthquake and Response 2015

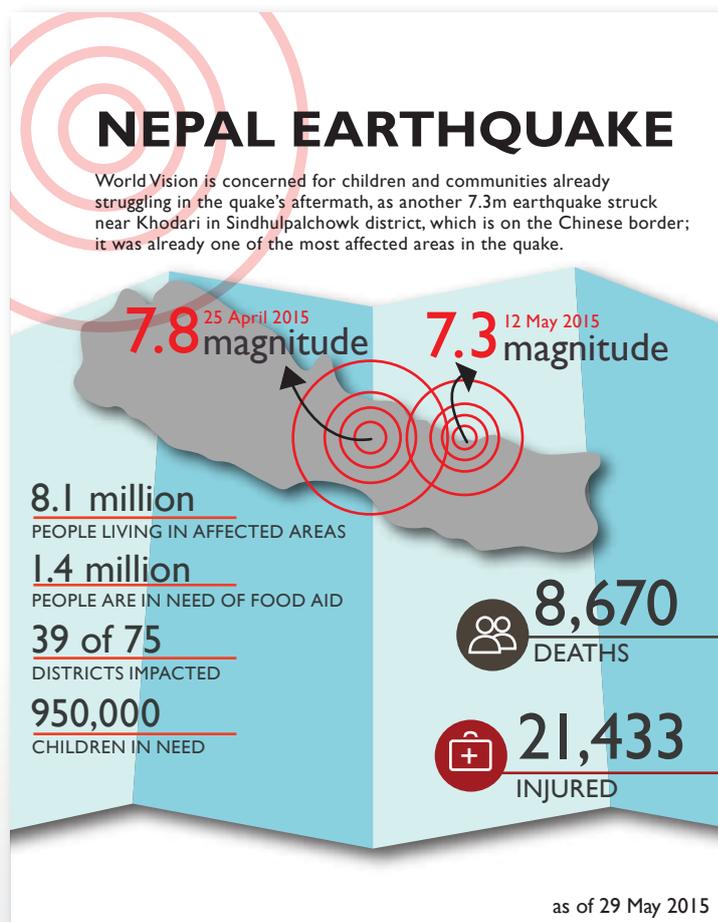
Pray that **God's comfort and peace** will fill those who have lost loved ones as a result of the earthquake

Pray for those who are **still looking** for their family members and friends

Pray for the **government of Nepal**: for an increased ability to coordinate and be effective in responding to this unfortunate event; for **wisdom, competence, and integrity** in all decisions made

Pray for the international community: effective mobilization of all necessary resources to come to the aid of those affected in Nepal

Pray for **increased strength** for humanitarian aid workers, especially for the WVI Nepal staff, who are currently working to bring aid to those who need it most



Pray for **wisdom, sensitivity to God's guidance, and increased strength** for the WVI Nepal leadership and staff even as they move to respond to the needs surrounding them

### Love in action

Please contact World Vision Malaysia at **603 7880 6414** or email us at [my\\_church@wvi.org](mailto:my_church@wvi.org) to find out how your church can partner/support us in helping the people of Nepal.

If you would like to financially support our ongoing relief efforts, visit <https://www.worldvision.com.my/Donations/Pages/EmergencyReliefFund.aspx> and click on '**Nepal Earthquake**' to make a contribution.



World Vision is an international Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

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