

## Earthquake Survivor/Responder Interview

Note: “community” has several expressions and sub-meanings, depending on context. We may substitute different local word (gaon, jul, lungba) as appropriate

Date and time:

Location of interview (district, village, ward):

Interviewer(s):

Respondent:

### I. Questions About You

1. Your age

2. Your sex/gender

3. Your place of birth, and how long did you live in your birth place?

4. Where do you live now?

5. What is your mother tongue?

6. What language do you use most in your daily life?

7. What other languages do you know to speak?

8. What is your job/occupation? Where do you work?

9. How much formal education did you receive? Where did you go to school?

Did you ever reside in a monastery or nunnery? If so, which one? For how many years?

11. Do you have children? If so, do they live with you or are they in school/monastery elsewhere?

12. Please list the number of people who live in your home. Please list their (approximate) range of ages and their relationship to you (e.g. blood relative, through marriage, other). Do they live with you full-time?

13. Are your parents living? If so, where?

14. Do you have siblings? If so, how many and where do they live?

## II. Questions About You At Time of First Earthquake

(26 April, 2015; 12 Baisakh 2072)

1. Where were you at the time (what village/town/country)?
2. Were you inside a building or structure, or were you outside? What type of structure?
3. What were you doing at the time of the earthquake (working outside, working inside, relaxing, traveling, other)? Who were you with?
4. What was your first thought at the time that you felt or learned about the earthquake? Did you know that it was an earthquake right away?
5. If you were inside, were you able to get outside? Were you able to help anyone else? What happened to the structure you were in?
6. If you had to leave your home, where did you go? Tell me about your experiences there.
7. Where did you sleep the night of the earthquake? If you slept outside, for how long did you do that? What did this feel like?
8. If you were far away from the, epicenter and did not feel it very much, what was your response when you learned of the earthquake?
9. If you were far away from Nepal at the time of the earthquake, how did you learn about it?

## III. Questions About Injury and Loss of Life from the First Earthquake

1. How did your heart-mind (*man, sems*) feel after the first earthquake? How did your body (*jiu, lu/sugpo*) feel? [How do you feel now after many aftershocks, and some time passing?]
2. Were you injured in the earthquake? If so, what did you do to address these injuries? Were you able to get care? If so, where, when, and from whom? Describe your injury.
3. Did you receive any treatment immediately? Who provided the treatment? Where? What type of treatment did you receive?
4. If you did not receive treatment immediately, how long did you wait to receive treatment? Who provided the treatment? Where? What type of treatment did you receive?
5. Were any of your friends or family injured in the earthquake? If so, what were their experiences of care? Who helped them?

6. Did any of your family members or friends die as a result of the earthquake? If so, how did you learn of this? Who told you? If you were not provided with information from family or friends, how did you find out? How long after the earthquake did you learn this information? How did you learn that the person was killed?

7. (in Gorkha only) If those close to you perished in the earthquake, were you able to assist in recovering the body/bodies? Were you able to have death rites / burial performed? Who helped with this?

#### **IV. Questions for Local Residents (Mustang, Manang, Gorkha, Kathmandu) Only**

1. Describe your community before the earthquake. Describe your home for me. How many households are in your community, and where is your household located?

2. How old is your home, and who built it? (How many generations ago was it built)?

3. Before the earthquake, had you made any recent changes (tin roof, additional rooms, etc.)?

4. Who lives in your home right now?

5. What languages are spoken most in your community? What languages do people know how to read and write?

6. In your estimate, before the earthquake, about how many people in your community are local natives, and about how many have come from other places? From what places?

7. What are your most vivid memories of your community before the earthquake?

8. What were your community's problems and strengths prior to the earthquake?

9. Was your home damaged in the earthquake? If so, please describe how.

10. If there is a school and/or a community center in your village, was it damaged in the earthquake? What can be done to repair these?

11. Have any agriculture or field areas of your community been damaged? What can be done to repair these?

12. Have any religious or sacred structures of your community been damaged? What can be done to repair these? Do you have the expertise to help rebuild and re-consecrate these places?

13. Is there a clinic or health post in your village or VDC? Was it damaged in the earthquake? Are there any medicines there now? Is there a healthcare provider there now? Is this health post still useful? If not, what can be done to repair this?

14. What was your opinion of district and national politicians before the earthquake?
15. What was your opinion of local, district and national politicians after the earthquake?
16. Describe any experiences you may have had with government officials after the earthquake.
17. Describe any experiences you may have had with foreign or Nepali emergency response personnel.
18. Who were they? How did they arrive? What did they provide? Who decided which households received which items? Did everyone in the village get the same things or did some households get more than others?
19. Describe any damage done to your house by the earthquake and what is its condition now. Have you started rebuilding? What are the future plans for this childhood home? Since the earthquake, have people who used to live here that you do not normally see in your village visited the village after the earthquake? returned to help? If so, how has this been? If not, how has this been?
20. Give an example of one or two such people. Where do they normally live? What is their connection to the village? What is it like communicating with them? What language do you use? Do you find it to be easy or difficult to speak with them?
21. Did you have had other Nepalis or foreigners come to help your village, what has this been like? What is it like to communicate with them? What language do you use? Do you find it to be easy or difficult to talk with them?
22. In general, what causes an earthquake?
23. Why do you think this particular earthquake occurred? What is the cause of this earthquake and the aftershocks?
24. Prior to the earthquake, did anyone in the village perform any type of rituals that were meant to prevent events such as earthquakes?
25. Since the earthquake, does anyone in the village perform any type of rituals that are meant to prevent a future earthquake?
26. Since the earthquake, does anyone in the village perform any type of rituals that are meant to atone for the root causes of the earthquake?
27. How do you identify now after the earthquake? What comes after "I am a...." when you tell people who you are as a resident of this region?
28. Now that the earthquake has come, what are the biggest changes it brings to you, to your family, to your village? How has it changed your life?

29. Now that the earthquake has come, will it change any of the ways that people work together in this village? Will it change any of the rituals or ceremonies that people here feel it is important to perform?

30. How are you personally feeling now? Are you recovered from your injuries? Has a sense of peace or happiness returned? If you have worries or fears, what are they? Are there people who can help you feel better or things you can do to feel better?

## **V. Questions for Returning Residents Only**

1. When did you leave your community? For what reason?

2. Where have you been living, and what have you been doing? Have you come and gone between your village and somewhere else in the past, or is this the first time you left?

3. Did you feel the earthquake directly? If you did not, how did you find out about the earthquake? Did someone from your community contact you? Did you hear from someone else? Did you hear about it from social media, television, radio?

4. After the earthquake, why did you decide to return to your community?

5. Have you returned to your community since the earthquake?

If no, are you making any plans to return? Are you doing anything to help from afar (e.g., fundraising, spreading the word through Facebook, etc.)? Please provide specific details.

If yes, how long after the earthquake did you return? How did you get there? Who did you go with? Did anybody help fund your trip? Who? Describe your experiences. For those encountered in village: How long have you been in your community since arriving? Where are you staying?

6. For those encountered in Kathmandu or elsewhere: How long did you stay in your community? How long did you stay?

7. What were your first impressions/reactions when you first saw your community after returning?

8. What was the condition of your childhood home before the earthquake? What condition is your childhood/parents' home in now? What are the future plans for this home?

9. What have you been doing since you returned after the earthquake? Describe your experience in detail. What stands out in your mind?

10. Who did you work with [e.g., Youth Organization (shunu kyidug), Women's Association (maili samite)] How have other villagers who have not left treated you and your efforts to help after the earthquake?

11. How have public officials, the military or non-local aid responders treated you and your efforts to help?

12. Describe the situation of those people you have been assisting. What stories stand out in your mind?

13. How do you feel about the results of your actions? Would you do this again?

**14. In general, what causes an earthquake?**

15. Why do you think this particular earthquake occurred? What is the cause of this earthquake? Did you and your friends discuss possible causes of the earthquake? What causes did you discuss? Did you see or participate in any discussions on Facebook about what caused the earthquake? Please provide details on those discussions (who initiated them, how did people respond, etc.).

16. Prior to the earthquake, do you know if anyone in the village performed any type of rituals that were meant to prevent events such as earthquakes?

17. Since the earthquake, do you know if anyone in the village performs any type of rituals that are meant to prevent a future earthquake?

18. Since the earthquake, do you know if anyone in the village performs any type of rituals that are meant to atone for the root causes of the earthquake? Since the earthquake, have you attended any rituals or teachings in Kathmandu that are related to the earthquake? Please provide specific details.

19. What impact has event and your decision to return to help the earthquake had on your life? Has it affected your short-term or long-term plans? If so, how?

20. What do you think will happen to your village now? Will your village be able to recover? Are people beginning to rebuild? What are some of the challenges or problems that people are facing? Why do you feel this way?

**21. How are you personally feeling now? Are you recovered from your injuries? Has a sense of peace or happiness returned? If you have worries or fears, what are they? Are there people who can help you feel better or things you can do to feel better?**

## **VI. Questions for non-Local Responders Only**

1. Are you a disaster professional or a volunteer?

2. Why did you respond to the earthquake?
3. When did you respond to the earthquake?
4. Do you have special professional training that relates to your response?
5. If you were a volunteer, were you recruited or did you decide to help on your own?
6. If you are a volunteer, did you received training prior to responding? Did you receive training after you responded to a call to come to Nepal? Describe your training.
7. After you arrived in Nepal / this community, how did you get access to the disaster area? What problems did you encounter?
8. If you were in an area immediately impacted/damaged by the earthquake, please tell your story of the immediate aftermath of the earthquake in that area.
9. Describe the condition of those you were assisting. What cases stand out in your mind?
10. How did you help people, animals, property? How did you know what to do? What is/was your role in earthquake response? Describe your experience in detail. What stands out in your mind?
11. How were you and your efforts treated by public officials or the military, if you encountered them?
12. What other disaster response experience have you had, if any? How does this experience compare?
13. What are/were the moments you were most proud of, satisfied by? What were the most frustrating or challenging moments?
14. How did/does stress and fatigue affect you? How did/do you cope?
15. How do you feel about the results of your actions? Would you do this again?
16. Why do you think this earthquake occurred? What is the cause of this earthquake?
17. What impact has your decision to respond to this earthquake had on your life? Has it affected your short-term or long-term plans? If so, how?
18. What do you think will happen to the people and environments you helped to serve? Will this community be able to recover? Are people beginning to rebuild? What are some of the challenges or problems that people are facing? Why do you feel this way? How does it compare to other communities facing similar challenges if you have had comparable experiences at other points in your life?