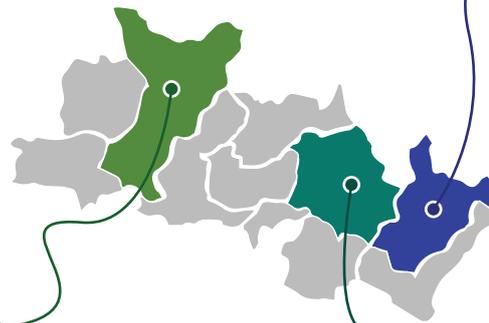


Welcome to the tenth issue of **OPEN MIC NEPAL** bulletin. The Open Mic project captures rumours and perceptions on the ground to eliminate information gaps between the media, humanitarian agencies and local people. By providing local media and outreach workers with facts, Open Mic aims to create a better understanding of the needs of the earthquake-affected communities and to debunk rumours before they can do any harm.

RUMOURS



ASHRANG, GORKHA

"There are rumours that the earthquake victims will be given a goat each in Dashain."

MELUNG, DOLAKHA

"They say that the government will distribute rice, beaten rice and 10 kg of mutton to every family."

CHAUTARA, SINDHUPALCHOK

"The government will distribute Rs 35,000 to every family before Dashain."

FACTS

The government has not made any plans to provide goats or mutton or additional funds to earthquake-affected families in Dashain.

The government, in coordination with the World Food Programme and other organisations in the food security cluster, plans to distribute rice and pulses to affected families in the Village Development Committees (VDCs) categorised as vulnerable to food insecurity in 14 priority districts.

Under this plan, 20 VDCs in northern Gorkha and 13 in Dolakha will receive food packages. These packages will be distributed as part of a 'food for work' programme, under which families will need to provide labour for 40 days on community projects such as construction of temporary shelters and reconstruction of irrigation channels and roads.

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Food Security Cluster Focal Point
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RUMOURS



• **TAPLE, GORKHA**

"We worked hard as volunteers during the earthquake. We've heard that the government will pay female health care volunteers for their help. How much money have they allocated and when will we receive the money by?"

FACTS

The government has no plans to recompense the female health care volunteers who volunteered their service in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake. While volunteers across the country came together to support their communities, the government did not specifically mobilise them.

The government, in coordination with organisations such as the United Nations Population Fund, has been providing motivation package, or a medicine-hygiene kit, to each of the female health care volunteers in earthquake-affected districts.

The package contains items such as sanitary napkins, a nail cutter, oral contraceptives, oral rehydration solutions, and paracetamol tablets, among others.

Female health care volunteers get paid when they are mobilised for services such as during vaccination campaigns. Payments for such services are made right away whenever the volunteers are mobilised.

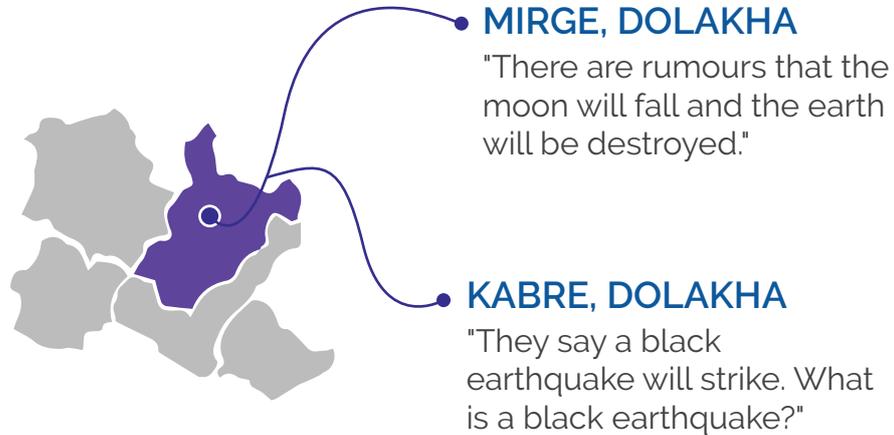
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RUMOURS



MIRGE, DOLAKHA

"There are rumours that the moon will fall and the earth will be destroyed."

KABRE, DOLAKHA

"They say a black earthquake will strike. What is a black earthquake?"

FACTS

There is no scientific evidence that the moon will crash into the earth anytime soon.

The moon is kept on its orbit around the earth by the gravitational pull that the earth exerts on it. The moon exerts gravitational force on the earth as well.

For the moon to fall into the earth, an object as big and dense as the moon would need to collide with it. None of the asteroids in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter are as big as the moon.

There is no such thing as a black earthquake. Earthquake has no colour. It is a wave of energy released when earth's tectonic plates move. Scientists can study how earthquakes occur but not predict when they occur down to the day and time.

Do not believe anyone who says she/he can predict the timing of the earthquake.

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CONCERNS

KUSHADEVI, KAVREPALANCHOWK

"My youngest son used to work in the city. I haven't heard from him since the earthquake. I have asked around the place he lived at and the place he worked at, but no one has seen him. I am worried about him."



LANGTANG, RASUWA

"The government is hesitant to provide relief to the families whose members are missing as a result of the earthquake."

ANSWERS

If a member of your family is missing, you should file a report at your local police station. You can also search for or register the missing person at www.missingperson.gov.np, a website set up by the Nepal Police.

Family members can also access this service via a toll-free telephone number, 1 66 0014 1516.

The Nepal Red Cross Society is also assisting families to locate missing family members. You can contact your local Red Cross Society chapter to register or search for missing relatives.

If the missing can be considered dead, families of the missing will receive the same relief package as any other family who lost its loved ones to the earthquake. There are no special support packages for the families of the missing.

Those who have lost their family members in the earthquake but have not recovered the bodies can contact the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) to apply for the compensation package.

The family will have to provide evidence that the missing individual perished in the earthquake.

The DDRC will then investigate the circumstances and determine whether the family can receive the compensation package.

If the DDRC deems the family eligible, it will receive Rs 100,000 in compensation and Rs 40,000 for funeral rites.

Families not satisfied with the DDRC's decision can file a complaint with the Central Disaster Relief Committee at the Home Ministry.

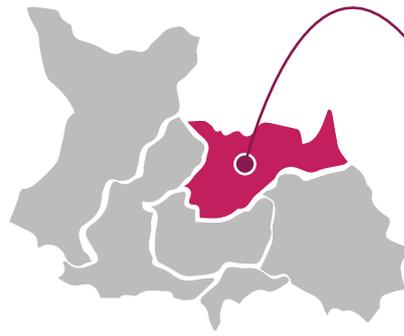
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CONCERNS



• DANDAGAUN, RASUWA

"Along with other infections, conjunctivitis is spreading in the community."

ANSWERS

Some cases of conjunctivitis have been reported in Rasuwa, but the Rasuwa Public Health Office says they have not received a report of a widespread infection.

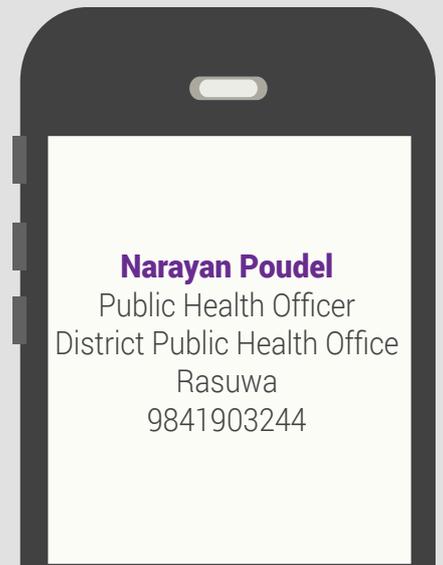
Conjunctivitis is an inflammation of the conjunctiva. Conjunctiva is the thin covering of the eyes and the eyelids.

Most cases of conjunctivitis is caused by bacteria and virus and clear away within a week or two on its own. Eye drops or ointment, available in health posts, can be used to alleviate the discomfort.

Conjunctivitis caused by allergies is not contagious but the one caused by an infection is. A healthy person can get infected if he/she comes in contact with the discharge from an infected eye.

Proper hygiene can help prevent the spread of conjunctivitis. If you come in contact with a person with infection, wash your hands with soap and water before touching your eyes. Do not share towels, handkerchiefs, bed sheets, pillows or cosmetics with the person.

If the infection does not clear up on its own within two weeks, if the pain in the eye becomes severe, if your vision gets affected, or if light is painful to your eyes, go to the nearest health facility immediately. The redness of the eye could have more severe underlying cause.



The rumours and issues presented here were collected by frontline workers from partner organisations and #quakehelpdesk volunteers based on their face-to-face conversation with around 235 people in 9 districts between 27 August - 3 September. The selection was done on the basis of prevalence and relevance.

Open Mic Nepal presented by:

