

Samaritan's Purse receives \$300,000 from Canadian government to help earthquake victims

Christian aid organization providing shelter materials, water, medical aid, & survival kits to Nepal

May 4, 2015 – The Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) has granted Samaritan's Purse Canada \$300,000 to help the Christian disaster relief and development organization expand its response to the devastating April 25 earthquake in Nepal.

The earthquake destroyed more than 160,000 homes, and has affected more than 4.2 million people. The Nepalese government continues to appeal for international assistance. Food, water, and shelter are the main needs. Samaritan's Purse is committed to assist 30,000 households in Nepal and is focusing on districts where about 90 per cent of homes have been completely destroyed.

The funds will enable Samaritan's Purse and its Nepalese partners to provide urgently needed assistance to more than 11,800 earthquake survivors, many of whom lost everything when the 7.8-magnitude quake struck early last Saturday—killing more than 7,250 people.

With the funding from the federal government, Samaritan's Purse is distributing 2,700 relief packages containing pre-cut tarps, blankets, jerry cans, cooking kits, and hygiene kits. The funding will pay for the items, which Samaritan's Purse Canada will buy, transport, and distribute in quake-damaged communities. The items are intended to meet the basic household needs of those families most harmed by the earthquake.

"We are grateful to the Canadian government for entrusting us with these funds," said Samaritan's Purse Canada Executive Director Fred Weiss. "We invite donations from individual Canadians to help us provide aid to as many people in Nepal as possible."

Samaritan's Purse Canada has worked in Nepal for 13 years and has a team of 35 experienced emergency responders, including six medical personnel. Initial team members were on the ground within 48 hours. The charity also has a network of local partners in Nepal bringing physical, medical, and spiritual aid to earthquake victims.

Samaritan's Purse has a long history of responding to disasters both in Canada—such as the 2013 Southern Alberta floods—and around the world. It provided long-term aid after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and 2011 earthquake in Japan. It is still doing recovery work in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan in late 2013, and it has been instrumental in fighting the 2014-2015 Ebola crisis in West Africa. We are expecting a similar long-term relief and recovery response for Nepal.

Donations Needed

To support Samaritan's Purse's efforts to help Nepal's earthquake victims, please visit SamaritansPurse.ca and click on "Donate" or call **1-800-663-6500**. **All donations made by midnight May 25 are eligible for matched funding by the Canadian government.**

About Samaritan's Purse Canada

Samaritan's Purse is a Christian relief and development organization that takes its name from Jesus Christ's biblical story of the Good Samaritan. Like that Good Samaritan, who found a beaten man and

helped restore him, we aid victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty, famine, and persecution. Besides Operation Christmas Child, our initiatives include providing safe water, vocational skills, and agricultural supplies and training to families in the developing world. Learn more at [SamaritansPurse.ca](https://www.samaritanspurse.ca).

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