

Nepal Earthquake 2015 - Samaritan's Purse Evaluation

Donor report: [Nepal Earthquake 2015: Relief and Early Recovery Report](#)

Raised: No information found

Spending: No information found

Expertise: Christian development that provides multi-service humanitarian aid

Good charity picks missed: Samaritan's Purse?

As in investing, the mistakes of omission need to be factored in accountability. Charity Intelligence did not recommend Samaritan's Purse in April 2015 ([original recommendations made in April 2015](#)). Samaritan's Purse may have outperformed relative to other charities providing disaster relief in meeting the needs in Nepal.

Key Activities

Samaritan's Purse Nepal disaster relief was turbo-charged by connecting with the US Marines deployed to Nepal. Nothing gets tonnes of supplies into remote locations faster than a massive military airlift. Samaritan's Purse was on the ground in Dolakha, the region most affected by the after-shock, or second earthquake.

Samaritan's Purse details its food distribution: it provided 14,830 households with each family receiving 15kg of rice, 2 kg of lentils, 0.5l of oil, and 0.25kg of salt. Through a partnership with the World Food Program, a UN-agency funded by governments, Samaritan's Purse distributed Plumpy'Doz to 7,856 children under two. This specialty food stops malnutrition, which was an initial fear in Nepal that did not occur on a large scale.

Samaritan's Purse's director reports its shift in aid to all in Phase 1 to targeting Nepal's most vulnerable people affected. He also notes,

"It soon became evident that households needed a more substantial temporary shelter than tarps to sustain them through the monsoon period."

Samaritan's Purse switched to providing corrugated galvanized iron sheets and locally-bought Quonset shelters. This local-sourcing benefits market recoveries.

Samaritan's Purse has built the most homes of the ten charities assessed by Charity Intelligence. It has built 350 earth-bag houses, with 50 more coming[i]. Earth-bag houses should be more earthquake-resistant than bricks and plaster. Permanent houses are Nepal's greatest need according to independent surveys done by GroundTruth Solutions.

Comparing Results: Homes built in Nepal

Like many charities, Samaritan's Purse does not publish financial information on its disaster relief. This information is critical for donors to understand the scope of the disaster spending relative to the activities. Numbers matter. Without financial information found for Samaritan's Purse, donors have only pictures of homes built to compare results. From the pictures, Samaritan's Purse and World Renew look better.

** If you are a Samaritan's Purse donor and agree, please contact the charity and let them know you want more financial disclosure about its disaster work.*

Additional Sources:

Caralee Giebeig, "[Rebuilding in Nepal After Devastating Earthquakes](#)", Samaritan's Purse, August 31, 2017