

BHUTAN NEWS SERVICE

# Fire Aid Distribution Report

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Cash Donation from GHRD and BCN, Nederland

**February 25, 20210**

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*Vidhyapati Mishra and Indra Timsina of Bhutan News Service have prepare this report and submitted to Global Human Rights Defense through Bhutanese Community in the Netherland*

## **Introduction**

Following the fire outbreak that destroyed dozens of huts in Beldangi-I camp on January, Bhutan News Service, Kathmandu, took a humanitarian initiative to collect cash donation from resettled Bhutanese in various countries, their community organizations and some potential organizations which have been supporting Bhutanese refugees since years. For proper channelization of donations, Bhutan News Service set up a separate PayPal account in [Bhutannewsservice.com](http://Bhutannewsservice.com) and [Apfanews.com](http://Apfanews.com) with an appeal, both textual and audio formats. Several community organization formed by resettled Bhutanese also convinced fellow Bhutanese to extend their helping hands.

## **Contributions from donors**

In a duration of around two weeks, the donations for the fire victims from various countries totaled 185,184 (One hundred eighty five thousand one hundred eighty four Nepalese rupees). The highest donation (6700 NOK) was received from resettled Bhutanese in Norway coordinated by Association of Bhutanese in Norway. This was followed by donations from Bhutanese in Australia.

Global Human Rights Defense (GHRD) also extended its humanitarian donation, through Bhutanese Community in the Netherlands (BCN), to share sufferings of fire victims. GHRD and BCN jointly contributed 300 Euros (28844 Nepalese rupees) for fire victims through Bhutan News Service.

## **Distribution of cash donation**

Bhutan News Service organized a relief aid distribution program on January 19, 2010, in coordination with camp management committee of Beldangi-I camp, and distributed cash donations to 452 fire victims of 76 huts based on the degree of damaged caused by fire and status of the victims. For this purpose, total fire-gutted huts were categorized as:

- Family with burnt or dismantled hut
- Affected family on special needs (eg. disability, vulnerability, etc)
- Family with partial burnt or damaged hut



BNS volunteers and Camp management committee representatives packing cash donations in separate envelopes.



A fire-gutted hut under construction at the time of distribution of cash grants to victims.

For addressing the victims in need, the following criteria were adopted in a meeting with camp committee representatives and other volunteers in order to distribute cash donations from GHRD and BCN.

- Nepalese rupees 600 per hut to a family on special need
- Nepalese rupees 58 per person of a family with burnt or dismantled hut
- Nepalese rupees 10 per person of a family with minor damage to hut

Through camp management committee and BNS volunteers, fire victims were asked to gather in a place, near by the hut from where fire broke out. Various guests including representatives from Government of Nepal, Lutheran World Federation, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Bhutanese Refugee Women Forum, Camp Management Committee and camp-based Armed Police Force among others were invited as observers.



Camp Secretary, T.B.Gurung, and Manager of Bhutan News Service, Vidhyapati Mishra, delivered short speeches addressing the victims and mode of supports received from various countries. Likewise, Indra Timsina of Bhutan News Service run the event to make it a grand success. They very well briefed the victims on amount of cash donation each person was to receive. Based on the list prepared, head of family was awarded cash donation in an envelope containing denominations. The family head was asked to open it and check for surety. s



Camp Secretary, Beldangi-I



Field Assistant, UNHCR, Damak



Indra Timsina, BNS volunteer



Security chief (left) with BNS Volunteer

## Responses from victims



BNS volunteers asked some of the victims on the spot to comment on the cash donations. Most of them were spellbound to make any comments. 'We never expected that our people, who are physically far from us, would extend such supports', they expressed.

For 24-year-old Sancha Man Subba, whose hut was completely damaged by fire, it was a big surprise to see donors with cash grants to help rebuild his hut. He was wordless when Bhutan News Service asked him to share his feelings. *Excerpts:*

***You have been receiving material supports from donors around your vicinity. Today you received cash donations from GHRD and resettled Bhutanese. What is your feeling?***

*On behalf of fire victims, I appreciate the supports from various countries like Norway, America, the Netherlands, and specially GHRD from the Netherland. We are very much thankful to GHRD and other Bhutanese abroad who have donated for our suffering. They are far but they have understood our problems and supported us. I extend my gratitude to them.*

***Do you think they have understood your sufferings truly?***

*Yes, they did. Without knowing our situation, they might not have supported. They contributed cash for supporting the victims. We are really proud that GHRD is supporting us on humanitarian basis. We welcome GHRD in our camps.*

For another victim Sabash, GHRD is physically far and has not seen its presence in camp. He expressed his gratitude to GHRD and others since they supported in such a situation when he got his everything including shoes and clothes burnt. 'Even 50 rupees makes a difference when we even don't have a pair of clothes to wear', he said.

## **ANNEXES**

**Annex 1 : Meeting Minute**

**Annex 2 : Cash donations received by fire victims**

**Annex 3 : Letter addressed to fire victims from BCN**

**Annex 4 : News coverage of the event in BNS website**

## Annex 1 : Meeting Minute

for RTM

**Meeting minutes**

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010

In regards to the distribution of relief package program for fire victims, in presence of the following person discussed and decided how to distribute the fund as follows;

1. Viewing the suggestion from resettled Bhutanese we have decided to distribute NRS 28844 (received from Netherlands), NRS 156340 (received from Norway, Australia and America) and Nrs 48116 (collected in camps by CMC) in cash to all individuals of fire victims.
2. The amount is distributed to 452 refugees of Sector A/3 of Beldangi-I camp.
3. The meeting decided to categories the fire victims into three groups
  - a. Special need family:-
  - b. Burnt and Dismantle huts family:
  - c. Minor dismantle Hut's family:

Criteria for distribution of amount received from Netherlands

- NRS 600 per hut to special need family
- NRS 58 per person to burnt and dismantle hut family
- NRS 10 per person to minor dismantle family

Criteria for distribution of amount received from Norway , Australia and America

- NRS 360 per person to special need family
- NRS 350 per person to burnt and dismantle hut family
- NRS 200 per person to minor dismantle family

Criteria for distribution of amount collected at CMC bel-I

- NRS 600 per hut to special need family
- NRS 60 per person to burnt and dismantle hut family
- NRS 50 per person to minor dismantle family

4. The meeting decided to invite UNHCR, LWF, RCU and reporters during the time of distribution of the relief package.
5. The relief package is distributed on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at Beldangi-I under the chairmanship of Mr. TB Gurung-the camp secretary of Beldangi-I.
6. All the reports related to this distribution shall be provided to Bhutanese community in Netherlands.
7. The meeting also decided to use some of the cost like printing, photocopy and other related during the distribution of the money.

**Presence:**

1. Vidhyapati Mishra Manager BNS
2. TB Gurung Camp Secretary Bel-I
3. Indra Kumar Timsina BRCF
4. Mon Maya Tamang Gender Focal Point CMC
5. Krishna Maya Dhakal Dy C/S

*[Signature]*  
19/2/10

## Annex 2 : Cash donations received by fire victims

**Bhutanese Refugee Camp**  
**Beldangi-I**  
**Relief package distribution program for fire victims of Beldangi-I**  
**Donation from GHRD & GHRD**  
**Distributed on 19th February 2010**

**Mr. TB Gurung Camp Secretary, Ms Mon Maya Tamang Gender Focal Point, Mr. Indra Kumar Timsina BRCF and all CMC members supported BNS representatives to distribution of relief package for fire victims of Beldangi-I**

Sector	Hut No	Population	Name	Condition of the Hut	Vulnerable if any	Amount	Signature of Receiver	Remarks
A/3	434	7	Pabitra Rai	Primary Dismental		406		
A/3	446	8	Tej Bdr Guung	Burnt		464		
A/3	480/481	8	Dhan Maya Tamang	Burnt		464		
A/2	298	8	Rupa Maya Bhattarai	Dismental	All member Disable	464		
A/3	438	9	Ratna Bdr Rai	Burnt		522		58@ per person for burnt and dismental hut
A/3	470	9	Chandra Bdr Pradhan	Burnt		522		
A/3	486	9	Chandra Bdr Poudyel	Dismental		522		
A/3	426	9	Karna Bdr Gautam	Dismental		522		
A/3	435	9	Prithi Lal Tamang	Dismental		522		
A/3	463	9	Gyan bdr Chhteri	Primary Dismental		522		
A/3	467/468	11	Harka Bdr Manger	Dismental		638		
A/3	441	7	Tanks Nath Gajmer	Burnt		406		
A/3	436	12	Dhan Bdr Tamang	Dismental		696		58@ per person for burnt and dismental hut
A/3	378/379	12	Nanda Lal Parsai	Dismental		696		
A/3	477/78	13	Mon Bdr Gurung	Burnt	3 disable members	754		
A/2	256 & Extn	13	Som Bdr tamang	Dismental	3 Disable members	754		

*Handwritten notes:*  
 18th Feb  
 58@ per person for burnt and dismental hut  
 Rupa C.M.C.



Mr. TB Gurung Camp Secretary, Ms Mon Maya Tamang Gender Focal Point, Mr. Indra Kumar Timsina BRCF and all CMC members supported BNS representatives to distribution of relief package for fire victims of Beldangi-I

Sect or	Hut No	Population	Name	Condition of the Hut	Vulnerable if any	Amount	Signature of Receiver	Remarks
A/3	462	2	Goma Guragai	Dismantal	Vulnerable	600	[Signature]	600@ per hut to Special need people.
A/3	464	1	Suk Man Rai	Dismantal	1 member only	600	[Signature]	
A/3	421	2	Purna Bdr Subba	Dismantal	1 old couple	600	[Signature]	
A/3	454	2	Mon Bdr Tamang	Dismantal	1 Disable member	600	[Signature]	
A/3	485	2	Sher Bdr Manger	Dismantal	2 Disable members	600	[Signature]	
A/2	163	2	Bir Maya Rai	Dismantal	Vulnerable family	600	[Signature]	58@ per person for burnt and dismantal hut
A/3	474	3	Bikha Bdr Rai	Burnt		600	[Signature]	
A/3	416	3	Damber Singh Gurung	Burnt		600	[Signature]	
A/3	471	4	Til bdr Pradhan	Burnt		232	[Signature]	
A/3	473	4	Sha Bdr Pradhan	Burnt		232	[Signature]	
A/3	364/365	4	Bum Bdr Tamang	Burnt		232	[Signature]	
A/3	374	4	Jit Bdr Tamang	Dismantal		232	[Signature]	
A/3	417	4	Kran Gurung	Dismantal		232	[Signature]	
A/3	418	4	Suk Man Tamang	Dismantal	1 Disable member	232	[Signature]	
A/3	429	4	Bishnu Maya Tamang	Dismantal	Women Headed Family	232	[Signature]	
A/3	469	4	Laxuman Manger	Dismantal	Vulnerable family	232	[Signature]	

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Handwritten notes on the right margin of the first table, including "Mon Maya Tamang" and "Indra Kumar Timsina".

Mr. TB Gurung Camp Secretary, Ms Mon Maya Tamang Gender Focal Point, Mr. Indra Kumar Timsina BRCF and all CMC members supported BNS representatives to distribution of relief package for fire victims of Beldangi-I

Sect or	Hut No	Population	Name	Condition of the Hut	Vulnerable if any	Amount	Signature of Receiver	Remarks
A/3	451/452	4	Charpa Rai	Dismantal		232	[Signature]	58@ per person for burnt and dismantal hut
	Bista	4	Yam Bdr Bista	Dismantal	Vulnerable family	232	[Signature]	
A/3	423	5	Omi Bdr Thapa	Burnt		290	[Signature]	
A/3	444	5	Bir Bdr Darjee	Burnt		290	[Signature]	
A/3	445	5	Lachi Maya Darjee	Burnt	1 Disable member	290	[Signature]	
A/3	472	5	Dhan Bdr Pradhan	Burnt	1 Disable member	290	[Signature]	
A/3	482	5	Phurba Singh Tamang	Dismantal		290	[Signature]	
A/3	483	5	Chandra Bdr Subba	Dismantal		290	[Signature]	
A/3	439	6	San Man Gurung	Burnt		348	[Signature]	
A/3	443	6	Pharshu Maya Rai	Burnt		348	[Signature]	
A/3	475	6	Tek Bdr Gajmer	Burnt		348	[Signature]	
A/3	479	6	Hari Bdr Gurung	Burnt		348	[Signature]	
A/2	258/259	6	Lal Bdr Tamang	Burnt		348	[Signature]	
A/2	267	6	Pancha Bdr Subba	Burnt		348	[Signature]	
C/2	267	6	Sancha Rani Subba	Dismantal		348	[Signature]	
A/3	420	6	Ghani Maya Biswa	Dismantal		348	[Signature]	

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Handwritten notes on the right margin of the second table, including "Indra Kumar Timsina" and "Beldangi-I".

Mr. TB Gurung Camp Secretary, Ms Mon Maya Tamang Gender Focal Point, Mr. Indra Kumar Timsina BRCF and all CMC members supported BNS representatives to distribution of relief package for fire victims of Beldangi-I

*Expenses on hiring of security*

Sect or	Hut No	Populatio n	Name	Contition of the Hut	Vulnerable if any	Amount	Signature of Receiver	Remarks
A/3	427	6	Dewa Tamang	Dismantal		348	<i>Dewa</i>	500 per person for burnt and dismental hut
A/3	450	6	Amber Bdr Rai	Dismantal		348	<i>HB Rai</i>	
A/3	428	6	Bag Mos Tamang	Primary Dismantal	1 Disable member	348	<i>[Signature]</i>	
A/3	465	6	Kumar Chhetri	Primary Dismantal		348	<i>[Signature]</i>	
A/3	440	7	Bharat Singh Gurung	Burnt		406	<i>[Signature]</i>	
A/3	442	7	Lok Nath Gajmer	Burnt		406	<i>[Signature]</i>	
A/3	476	8	Dal Man Lamgadey	Burnt		464	<i>[Signature]</i>	
A/3	424/425	7	Kamal Tamang	Burnt		406	<i>[Signature]</i>	
A/3	437	7	Janga Bdr Rai	Dismantal		406	<i>[Signature]</i>	
A/3	466	7	Amber Bdr Tamang	Dismantal		406	<i>[Signature]</i>	
A/3	484	7	Di Maya Tamang	Dismantal		406	<i>[Signature]</i>	

*Ampl. C.M.C.*

Mr. TB Gurung Camp Secretary, Ms Mon Maya Tamang Gender Focal Point, Mr. Indra Kumar Timsina BRCF and all CMC members supported BNS representatives to distribution of relief package for fire victims of Beldangi-I

*Expenses on hiring of security*

Sect or	Hut No	Populatio n	Name	Contition of the Hut	Vulnerable if any	Amount	Signature of Receiver	Remarks	
A/3	377 & extrn	15	Phul Maya Tamang	Primary Dismantal	1 Disable member	870	<i>[Signature]</i>	100 per person for minor dismental hut	
A/3	448 & extrn	17	Mon Bdr Gurung	Dismantal		986	<i>[Signature]</i>		
A/3	382/383	13	Kama Bdr Tamang	Minor Dismantal		130	<i>[Signature]</i>		
A/3	357	9	Nir Prd Kadel	Minor Dismantal		90	<i>[Signature]</i>		
A/2	180	8	Prem Bdr Chhetri	Minor Dismantal		80	<i>[Signature]</i>		
A/3	461	7	Prem Bdr Gurung	Minor Dismantal		70	<i>[Signature]</i>		
A/3	347	6	Lachi Maya Biswa	Minor Dismantal		60	<i>[Signature]</i>		
A/3	366	5	Bishnu Lal Baniya	Minor Dismantal		50	<i>[Signature]</i>		
A/3	386	5	Dhan Singh Tamang	Minor Dismantal		50	<i>[Signature]</i>		
A/3	441 B	5	Pampha Gajmer	Minor Dismantal		50	<i>[Signature]</i>		
<b>Total</b>						<b>27248</b>			
Expenses on hiring sound set during the distribution of money						850			
Printing of documents and photocopy						230			
Flash print to keep at Notice board the names of donors for fire victims						518			
<b>Total expenses for Management Cost</b>						<b>1598</b>			
<b>G. Total</b>						<b>28844</b>			

*Ampl. C.M.C.*

### Annex 3 : Letter addressed to fire victims from BCN

Dear everybody,

The Bhutanese Community in the Netherlands (BCN) is a newly established welfare forum of the Bhutanese in the Netherlands. BCN is primarily established to help Bhutanese in the Netherlands for their integration into the Dutch society. BCN also intends to help vulnerable people as per its capacity.

BCN family is shocked and deeply saddened on hearing the fire breakout in Beldangi I that displaced hundreds of our people from their huts. We are moved to hear that the victims could not save any of their belongings. BCN has been obtaining up to date information from Mr. TB Gurung (the camp secretary), Mr. Indra Timsina and Mr. Vidhyapati Mishra. We thank everyone for providing us with the information.

BCN has coordinated with, Global Human Rights Defence (GHRD), the Hague based human rights organisation and collected a small amount of money as a token of help and a good will gesture. We are with you and we share your sufferings. The amount collected to reach the fire victims in Nepali currency is 28844.00 rupees

BCN and GHRD feel very sorry for the encountered loss and hardships that people are facing.

Dr. Lakshi Shakal,  
The Netherlands.

## **Annex 4 : News coverage of the event in BNS website**

### **BNS distributes cash support to fire victims**

Posted on 20 February 2010 by Editor

February 20: Bhutan News Service (BNS) in close coordination with the Camp Management Committee (CMC) in Beldangi-I camp distributed relief package to fire victims in the camp on Friday amidst a special function.

BNS distributed cash donation to fire victims in presence of representatives from the UNHCR, LWF and Armed Police Force. The donation package ranged from Nepalese rupees 1300 to 7000 based on family sizes.

Through online 'call for support', BNS had collected Nepalese rupees 156339.33 from resettled Bhutanese in various parts of the world. Similarly, Bhutanese from Adelaide, Albury, Wodonga and Melbourne of Australia shared their souls by extending monetary cash to the fire victims.

Association of Bhutanese in Norway alone had contributed the greatest amount followed by resettled Bhutanese in Australia. Bhutanese Community of Australia had played crucial role in donation.

Camp Secretary, TB Gurung, handing over cash grant to a fire victim during the program

On the program, the CMC also distributed Nepalese rupees 32000 cash collected from various camps while the Netherlands-based GHRD and Bhutanese community in the Netherlands also distributed Nepalese rupees 28844 to the fire victims, through representatives of BNS and CMC.

Vidhyapati Mishra of BNS, who reached camp from Kathmandu to distribute the cash support, also handed over 'match box' and 'lighter' as symbols of fire control to camp secretary TB Gurung during the program.

Fire victims highly praised those who managed their hard times to collect the funds. "We are really thankful to Parshuram Luitel in Australia, Ramesh Gautam in Norway, the BNS team, and the entire Bhutanese community in diaspora for extending us support," said TB Gurung during the program.

[Click here](#) for details of the support through BNS. [Click here](#) to download powepoint for photograghs and other details.

By Arjun Pradhan/BNS