

Situation in Nepal 1.10.2015

Currently, the country suffers from two massive problems:

1. **Consequences from the earthquake:** for the Nepalese citizens, alarmingly little has been done. In the areas devastated by the earthquake, hardly anything has been reconstructed. And the summer monsoon with massive rain showers has led to more than usual mud and rock slides as cracks caused by the earthquake made the homes/rocks/mountains instable. This again caused death and additional destruction of homes. According to estimates of the United Nations, approx. 3 million people are still homeless, live in provisional shelters such as tents - and the winter is coming! On September 03, Spiegel-online reported that the 3.6 billion Euros of aid monies promised on a donor conference after the earthquake, have not been called by Nepal as the government has concentrated on the adoption of the new constitution and criminally neglected aid measures and reconstruction measures after the earthquake. The trekking routes closed after the big spring earthquake have been released again for the Annapurna and the Mt. Everest - mainly because Nepal needs the revenues generated from tourists. Langtang and Manaslu trekking is still not possible.
2. **Outbreaks of violence after adoption of a new constitution:** the new constitution is highly controversial in the country - by new territorial structures, some ethnicities feel defrauded, deprived of their commonality and with it of their influence. Already in the run-up, violent demonstrations had developed which escalated massively after the adoption of the constitution - above all in the South (Terai) and East of the country. Meanwhile, India blockst he majority of the border crossings into Nepal, with resulting food, petrol, cooking gas etc. becoming short in supply. Aircraft of international airlines can no longer refuel in Kathmandu. The import from China - being possible until the earthquake - likewise stagnates as the main road has been destroyed and not rebuilt again. According to MAITI, the situation is dramatic!

The consequences for Nepalese girls are grave: **times of catastrophes are heydays for girl traffickers.** Parents who have hardly any food, have no roof over their heads or are afraid of outbreaks of violence, are thankful if their daughters are offered alleged perspectives, e.g., as house maids in India. Girl slave traders sometimes even pretend to be staff members of the charity organization MAITI which has a very good reputation in Nepal. Parents hand out their daughters to them who nearly always end up in Indian brothels. It is necessary to open serious perspectives to the young women/girls in their own country. For this reason, pro filia transferred the funds for 6 tailor shops to MAITI in the summer. In each shop, 6 young women who have been trained before in the rehabilitation centre, will find jobs. These tailor shops are currently being set up. As the government is failing completely, particularly aid organisations are required now which supply aid and support.

In November, we intend to visit our projects again in Nepal which are located primarily in the East of the country. Currently, MAITI advises us against going there now as many roads are blocked there, cars are allowed to travel only every 2nd day and fuel for private vehicles is no longer available. In addition, violence increases and more than 40 persons have been killed already. What a wretched country!

Dr. Johanne Feldkamp/pro filia