

Situation Report: Boys' Dormitory Building After the Earthquake

The west wing of the Tapriza School was constructed in 2004. The area for construction was a slope and the ground was levelled before the construction. It is a two-- storeyed building. The ground floor comprises of six classrooms. There are three big rooms on the first floor. It is used for the boys' dormitory, where seventy boys sleep in bunk beds. The other two are bedrooms for teachers and cooks.



Before the earthquake the building was already in a poor condition. The ground under the west wing had sunk and made renovations necessary. Maintenance work had been done, but the earthquake on the 25th of April 2015 further damaged the building. TWO rooms in the middle of the upper floor are completely damaged and there are many cracks in the ground floor classrooms. The Tapriza School management reported the damages to the Dolpa District Police Office and the Education Office at Dunai. The west wing is not safe to live in anymore. Sooner or later it will collapse, which is a threat to the students, teachers, and everyone at the school, especially with the prediction of further earthquakes. With the heavy rains of the monsoon the risk of a further collapse increases drastically. It urgently needs to be rebuilt.





The photograph shows some cracks in the middle room. The cracks are similarly visible from the room on the other side of the wall.

For the meantime the students have shifted into the dining hall. The bunk beds were put inside because the concrete floor was too cold to sleep on. The teachers and cooks are sleeping in the guest rooms.



This solution can only be temporary. The students have to eat outside again because there is no space inside.



The lack of classrooms is the biggest concern. Because there are no other rooms to shift the classes into, they are still being held in the ground floor of the damaged building. It is a great concern to the school management and a solution needs to be found as quickly as possible.

Action plan

The west wing of the Taprizia School needs to be torn down and rebuilt. The plan is to build another two---storey building. It is necessary to level a larger area and build an extremely solid fundament. Additionally, extra costs are calculated for earthquake safety. As far as possible, the stone and wood will be reused. The new building will be extended and designed to fit the new requirements of the Taprizia School. Larger classrooms are necessary to accommodate the increased classes.

For demolition and reconstruction of a solid secure building according to current earthquake safety standards an amount of US \$ 60'548 is required urgently.

The construction cannot start until after the monsoon, because it is not possible to get labourers and material now. The plan is to obtain all the required material and organise the manpower to start building in autumn. In the meantime we will buy tents to provide safe classrooms and more protected space for this school year. The tents can afterwards be used for school outings or to sleep outside during potential future earthquakes. If the construction progresses according to schedule, the majority of the work will be hopefully finished by the beginning of school in spring 2016, so that life at the school can finally return to normality.

The oldest part of the Taprizza School compound, the one-storey entrance area with offices, teacher's room, and the storehouse, is also unstable. It is not in such a precarious condition as the boy's dormitory, but will also need rebuilding (3 year plan). As the two buildings are attached to each other and one part of the boys dormitory already covers the one-storey entrance section, it might be the most sensible to rebuild at least parts of this section at the same time. In this case, the budget will have to be extended.

The budget was put together based on information on labour and material costs obtained before the earthquake. The prices for material, transport and work however will have risen considerably due to the high demand after the earthquake. Despite the fact that it is hardly possible to construct completely earthquake-resistant buildings in this remote area, we would like to extend the budget in order to include as many measures as possible, so that we can provide more safety for the future. We will consult with engineers and architects to figure out appropriate means and estimate an accurate budget.

We are grateful for your consideration of our appeal

With best regards

Dunai, district capital of Dolpo, 11th of May 2015

Semduk Lama, Taprizza School Manager