

Nepal visit February 2018: Chautara District Hospital

After the tragic earthquake of 2015 almost 500 health posts were destroyed in the villages in central Nepal. Thanks to our donors we rebuilt 12 of them, made of prefab material, ready within 6 months.

Chautara District Hospital was one of the affected health care delivery sites. Within 9 months of the earthquake about 100 patients daily (outpatient) were being seen in the simple building we built. After 2 years of the earthquake, on one of our visits, we were horrified to see that the emergency room, male and female wards were still housed in tattered tents. There was no sign that the main hospital would be built any time in the near future.



New district hospital building: We then reached out to our donors. And after a lot of red tape and back and forth we received permission to build a prefab, almost 2500 square feet building. Within 3 months a new building was built. It has electricity, septic tank, and solar water heating capabilities.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The picture below from left to right: ANMF Nepal coordinator, Shaswat Acharya, Dr. Janak Koirala, myself, and **Dr Poma Thapa, MDGP, (the District Health Officer)**. Dr Poma is a force to be reckoned with despite her petite and charming personality. She had just stepped out of a complicated but successful cesarean section saving both mother and baby. It was very refreshing and heartening to listen to her plans on how to make best use of the building. Besides Dr Poma there are 9 other MBBS doctors working in Chautara.



The room below is the **emergency room**. As Dr Poma says the ER is the face of the hospital; needs to be neat and clean. She was very grateful to ANMF donors. She said it was almost impossible to manage patients (many with COPD) in the dirty, dusty, torn tents and later corrugated sheet make shift rooms.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There is large room that Dr Poma wants to partition into **male, female wards, and a nursery**. Four total **toilets**, separate for men and women, which she insisted the contractor place exhaust fans in. Additionally there is a nurse's station and staff room with toilet.



The first building (below) we built is now being used as a maternal center where family planning/contraception, ultrasound, and vaginal deliveries are being carried out.



The total health care delivery (except surgery) in Chautara is now being conducted in buildings that were funded by ANMF. Meeting Dr Poma was the highlight of the visit. I am confident that the buildings will be used well under her guidance and supervision. And the people of Chautara District will get the care that they need.