

**Brief outline of Concept Note on
Temporary Library at Shelters and Schools
Kathalaya Inc.**

A plan to keep Nepalese children reading while they are waiting for schools or “Temporary Learning Centers” (TLC) to be constructed. A long term plan to support education in damaged communities needs to be addressed, but children have needs now.

Everyone’s immediate focus has naturally been on food & shelter and health issues. Now as communities are taking it upon themselves to start to build temporary shelters and manage food and health supplies we need to look at children’s needs. There are groups that are providing counseling and play groups, but unfortunately because of logistics these are still mostly only being offered in Kathmandu and surrounding areas.

We propose sending small packages of books, games and toys with the ongoing relief supplies. Children need to have something to take their minds off of their situations. Books and stories are a great way of escaping from your day to day troubles. Playing games will help them pass time and give parents some freedom to discuss solutions away from young ears.

More importantly if children are actively involved in reading on a regular basis during this rebuilding time they will probably be more interested in returning to school when the time comes. We read every day in the newspapers about the dangers to children being exploited at this vulnerable time. If parents see their children doing normal activities in their own damaged environments may be they will not feel the need to send them away to be cared for. This initial inflow of educational and recreational materials will also help build trust within the communities that more of these supplies will come into their schools in the future, further supporting the idea that if their children stay in the community they will have access to quality materials.

Kathalaya has developed a mobile bag library package for each shelter for a group of 50-60 children. Picture of the bag is attached. The package includes the following

1. Package 1 - Books with 50 titles for grade 1-3
2. Package 2 -Books with 50 titles for grade 3-5
3. Package 3 -Sports materials for 30-40 children

We plan to send around 1500 sets to the most affected areas in partnership with Government line agencies and local NGOs.

Currently we have accessed few shelters at Kathmandu where children are dire need of play materials and books. Different local organizations are working with children for counseling work but they do not have the books and playing materials. If we immediately support them with the

resources, will be great support for now and tundikhel needs a big resources of more than 1000 books library (bus library) immediately where 3500 population with 507 children lives there.