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After my first visit to Nepal in beginning of April 2015, I have been back in the country. This time I am here as part of a Logistics Emergency Response Unit at a global International Humanitarian Organisation. The circumstances for my stay in Kathmandu are directly work related this time. I have been here a month now and will stay until 1<sup>st</sup> August.

### Development in Nepal

The following is based on my conversations with Nepali youth whom I met in Kathmandu during my vacation. Furthermore I visited both rural and urban parts of the Kathmandu Valley on a motorbike trip. I met a very friendly Nepali population in Kathmandu. At first I found it positive to experience Nepali youths whom spoke good English and were not afraid to approach foreigners. It was fairly easy for me to get them to talk about their life, future plans and views of the Nepali situation. Sadly it was soon clear to me, that they were fighting a battle for survival – not only for themselves but for their families as well. Every moment they were thinking about money.

Money to earn. Money to spend. Money for todays and tomorrows challenges.

None of them saw a future for them in Nepal. A life abroad was a way to get a sustainable and resilient livelihood. They have been met by the challenge of getting work abroad. Most of them can only get jobs within sales, reception or cleaning. They do not feel their education levels are high enough even when they have been attending a Nepali university. Unfortunately, the current political situation in Nepal is not giving them hope for the country. The political instability and transitional phase as well as lack of government enforced law & order and lack of results have brought them to the conclusion, that they are alone in the world and do not see themselves as part of a community. One example is the investment in and construction of hydropower facilities.

Apparently some investors are awaiting approval for projects and others are waiting for the Government to construct transmission lines from the already completed and generating hydropower facility, before it can be used.

I was pleased to see the quality of the Banepa-Bardibas Highway. A lot of trucks were using the road and I am sure that the improved infrastructure can bring both export and import goods easier from or to the Kathmandu Valley. In the Eastern part of the Kathmandu Valley I saw the well organized fields in the hills.

Insufficient water supply seemed to be the cause of dry fields without crops. Food security is a great issue for the Nepali population. I did not have the possibility to look further into the lack of sanitation facilities and the need for adequate access to water for the households as well as crops and animals. According to info I received in Kathmandu insufficient water supply and bad sanitation is cause of diseases and health problems in the rural community.

Roads in the country side were rough but useable for animals, motorbikes and light cars. On my motorbike I was not able to drive more than 10-20 km per hour on some parts. For me it appears that poor infrastructure development, an impoverished population and the lack of a well-trained workforce in Nepal poses great challenges for the community.

Despite these drawbacks, Nepal presents an opportunity for businesses and investments. Humanitarian organizations, donors and investors are still willing to work in Nepal. The Nepali people I have met have mixed feeling about the help from abroad. They would like the Nepali Government to make more sustainable and resilient agreements with all the stakeholders. In other words, they want all programs and projects to be approved according to the benefits for the community and not just for short-term economic reasons. Otherwise it can hamper long-term economic growth.