

Nepal: Earthquake 2015

Office of the Resident Coordinator - Situation Report No. 6

(as of 29 April 2015)



This report is produced by Office of the Resident Coordinator in Nepal supported by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 28 to 29 April 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 30 April.

Highlights

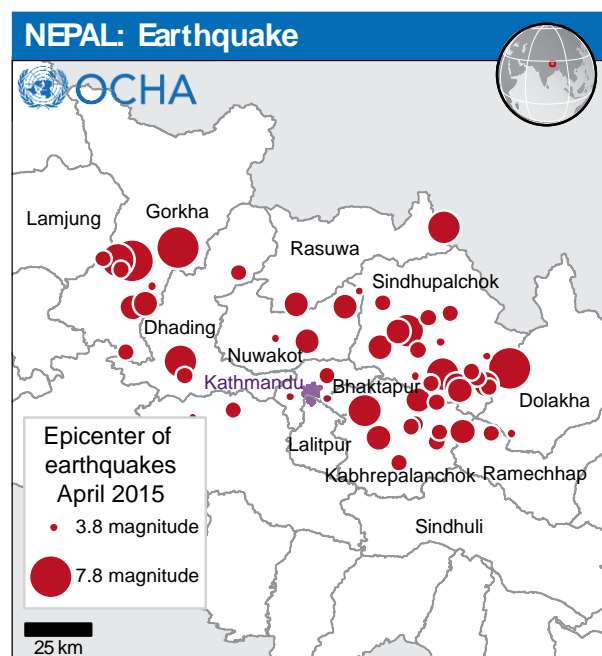
- As of 29 April, 11:00 am, the Ministry of Home Affairs reported 5,006 deaths and 10,194 injured people.
- It is estimated that 2.8 million Nepalese are displaced, as over 70,000 are believed to be destroyed and another 530,000 homes damaged across the 39 affected districts.
- A Flash Appeal was launched for US\$415 million to support the provision of vital humanitarian relief for people affected by the Earthquake.
- The Government of Nepal identified shelter, WASH, health and food as key priorities.
- More than 3.5 million people are estimated to be in need of food assistance.
- Humanitarian partners have started the distribution of shelter kits, hygiene kits and dispatched 80 metric tons of emergency items including tents, blankets, health kits and telecommunication equipment.

5,006
dead

10,196
injured

\$415
million
needed for vital
humanitarian relief

Source: National Emergency Operations Center, Ministry of Home Affairs (29 April); HCT Flash Appeal



Map Sources: UNCS, Nepal Survey Department, USGS
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 29 April, 2015

Situation Overview

The death toll from the 7.8 magnitude earthquake which struck Nepal on 25 April continues to increase as additional information becomes available from areas outside of Kathmandu. As of 29 April (11:00, UTC+5:45), the National Emergency Operations Center reported a total of 5,006 dead and 10,194 injured people (1,039 deaths in Kathmandu, 250 in Bhaktapur and 159 in Lalitpur districts).

A total of 3,673 houses were destroyed and 7,700 partially damaged by the earthquake. The number of damaged houses is expected to increase with earlier Government estimates indicating that there could be up to 530,000 damaged houses.

Debris, logistics and damage to communication infrastructure continue to hamper the relief operations. Search and rescue (SAR) is still limited outside of the Kathmandu Valley. Some villages can only be reached by foot with some areas taking up to four to five days to reach. Fuel to transport SAR teams is limited. There is a need to prioritize restoration of communications infrastructure, casualty management and basic relief in remote areas.

Local schools and organizations have started mobilizing buses to help earthquake victims to travel out of Kathmandu to Itahari in the east and Butwal in the west.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, 16,824 security personnel from the army and police are deployed for the rescue operations. As of 29 April, they are supported by a total of 54 international SAR and foreign medical teams (FTMs) with 1,719 personnel, according to the Reception and Departure Centre.

National and international rescue and relief efforts have expanded to nine districts (Sindhupalchowk, Kathmandu, Nuwakot, Dhading, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Kavrepalanchowk, Gorkha and Rasuwa).

[+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report](#)

Aftershocks which followed the 7.8 magnitude earthquake continue to pose a threat. Preliminary information suggests that many areas affected by the earthquake will be at risk to landslides, particularly in the Himalayan region of northern Nepal and in the foothill areas. The local weather bureau forecasted rains in the coming days which will increase the risk of landslides in these areas and further constrain the response.

Isolated security incidents have been reported impeding relief distribution in some areas.

On 29 April, the Humanitarian Country Team launched a Flash Appeal seeking \$415 million to provide life-saving assistance and protection to over 8 million people affected by the earthquake. To enable humanitarian partners to scale up its operations, the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) approved a \$15 million grant from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund. Upon the invitation of the Government, the ERC is scheduled to visit the earthquake affected areas on 30 April.

Funding

On 29 April, the Humanitarian Country Team launched a Flash Appeal seeking \$415 million to provide assistance to over 8 million people affected by the earthquake. A total of \$15 million from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund was allocated to support the Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Emergency Shelter, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Food, Health, Logistics and Protection clusters.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

Humanitarian Response



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- To effectively target support, the number of internally displaced persons (75,000 people are estimated for Kathmandu Valley) needs to be consolidated as identification of camp sites in the Kathmandu Valley is ongoing.

75,000

estimated number of people in Kathmandu Valley camp sites

Response:

- CCCM site profiling is ongoing in the 16 identified camp sites in the Kathmandu Valley.
- The Government has deployed officials to the 16 camp sites while cluster partners will complete a WASH assessment.
- The site profiling is expected to be ready by 29 April and will identify the number of IDPs, demographics, vulnerable groups and baseline data on WASH, shelter, food access, health issues, protection concerns and education access.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access to safe shelter, WASH and basic commodities at the 16 camp sites remains challenging.
- The absence of camp management and lack of data collection regarding needs of people at sites is still required, particularly for large sites with 5,000 or more IDPs. Within these sites, there are concerns of overcrowding with lack of access to basic services.
- In addition to the 16 identified sites, there are spontaneous areas that are being used but are not mapped.



Early Recovery

Needs:

- Initial estimates show that 400,000 families will require early recovery assistance, but specific details are yet to be collected from the affected districts. Reviewing the widespread damage and potential impact on means of livelihood, the Cluster has planned to intervene in three key areas: debris management, emergency livelihoods and support to local authorities to continue uninterrupted operation and emergency service delivery.

400,000

estimated number of people who will require early recovery assistance

Response:

- It is expected that by mid next week a clearer picture will emerge. Most cluster partners are planning to implement cash-for-work based assistance directly contributing to increased emergency employment.

**Education****Needs:**

- The Cluster is close to completing a rapid impact estimation of the level of damage to school facilities across 14 affected districts to start determining the needs for temporary learning spaces and emergency learning supplies. Estimations of schools being used as shelters are also being collected.

Response:

- The Education and Protection clusters have established a joint sub-group to address the need for child-friendly spaces (CFS).
- Initial response for the valley districts – Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur is underway. Cluster partners are setting up CFS in the 16 identified sites identified by the Government. The CFS will include a safe, dry place for children aged 0 to 18 to access recreational materials, psychosocial support and key lifesaving messages provided by volunteer facilitators.
- The Education Cluster is drafting facilitator key messages and partners are in the process of identifying volunteers to manage the spaces.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is limited access to supplies to meet education needs. The Cluster is working to identify local and regional suppliers to meet this need.
- Children in the most affected areas, in and out of the Kathmandu Valley, will need to access safe places to play, receive psychosocial support and lifesaving messages.

**Emergency Telecommunications****Response:**

- Satellite equipment arrived in Kathmandu to support the operation.
- The Cluster has installed portable satellite terminals at the Reception and Departure Centre and SAR base at Kathmandu Airport.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Re-routed commercial and charter flights carrying relief items and responders challenge humanitarian operations.

**Food Security****Needs:**

- Twelve districts (Makawanpur, Dolakha, Kavre, Kathmandu, Ramechhap, Bhaktapur, Sindhupalchowk, Dhading, Gorkha, Nuwakot, Lalitpur, Rasuwa) have been identified for immediate food assistance.
- Immediate food assistance is required for 1.4 million people over the next three months.

1.4 million
people require food
assistance over the
next three months

Response:

- The Cluster has dispatched a rapid needs assessment team to the 12 prioritized districts, which will provide initial data by 30 April.
- On 29 April, distribution of 100 metric tons of food has begun in Gorkha and Dhading district. Two helicopters are available from 29 April to transport food to areas inaccessible via road.
- The Cluster will distribute ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF) for blanket supplementary feeding for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Landslides in Gorkha and Dhading district have delayed the distribution of food assistance to affected people.
- There is a significant resource gap to address the tremendous food security needs in the country.

**Health****Needs:**

- Gorkha, Dhading, Raswa, Sindupalchowk, Kavre, Nuwakot, Dolkha, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Ramechhap are the priority 11 districts for health intervention where medical tents with 50 bed capacity, essential medicine, and services in camps are urgently needed.

Response:

- Medical teams and field hospitals are ready and waiting for the Government's advice to dispatch if and when needed.
- To date cluster members provided emergency teams and two mobile medical center with doctors, medical equipment, drugs, hygiene materials, foods and rescue material.
- In addition, post-surgery care, tarpaulins to the Civil Hospital and SKM hospital, 200 body bags to Forensic Medicine Department, Physical Rehabilitation service for free to disaster victims, and reproductive health kits which will address needs for 90,000 people have been provided.
- The cluster supported the NHEICC to draft public health message to be delivered through FM radio in all affected districts.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Adequate health services are lacking in the camps and more work needs to be done in coordination with the WASH Cluster.
- Support for mass casualty management is urgently needed in addition to the re-establishment of disrupted life-saving health services.

**Logistics****Needs:**

- Organisations have been requested to remove humanitarian relief cargo from the Kathmandu Airport apron as soon as possible due to subsequent congestion in the parking area.

Response:

- A staging area was established at the Kathmandu Airport. The Humanitarian Staging Area (HAS), which connects directly to the apron of the airport, is fully operational and four Mobile Storage Units have been set up.
- An inter-agency fleet has been contracted and the road transport will be made available to the humanitarian community.
- Despite the heavy rain, the first UNHAS helicopter flight delivered food and shelter items from Kathmandu to Gunda VDC in the Gorkha District.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Although operational, congestion at the Kathmandu Airport is being reported and it is already showing signs of possible delays to the processing of cargo entering the country.
- Following the increase in air movements, a maximum weight limitation of 190 mt has been implemented, including the weight of aircraft, fuel and cargo.
- Limited aircraft slots are becoming a constraint. The slot system, jointly managed by Airport Authorities and the Nepalese Army, is severely challenged by the increase in airplane movements and cargo deliveries.
- All domestic airports are reported to be functional but are experiencing limited operations. Landing permissions have been given at Pokhara, Biratnagar and Nepalgunj Airports to C17 airplanes and those with similar capacity.
- Although roads in the Kathmandu Valley areas are reported to be accessible, the status of roads in many of the regions affected is unclear and air assets may be required to support access to rural areas.



Nutrition

Needs:

- 486,898 mothers of children under the age of five and pregnant women should benefit from the protection, promotion and support of optimal child feeding practices and related maternal nutrition.
- 14,455 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 21 most affected districts should benefit from therapeutic feeding and care through community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) programmes.
- 346,395 children 6-59 months old should benefit from micronutrient supplementation interventions, including vitamin A supplements/multiple micro-nutrient powders and deworming tablets.
- 288,662 children 6-59 months should benefit from interventions to prevent/treat moderate acute malnutrition.
- 184,521 the pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers should benefit from iron and folic acid supplementation as per national guidelines.

486,900

estimated mothers of children under age of 5 and pregnant women require maternal services



Protection

Needs:

- According to the Women and Children Offices (WCO), the immediate needs for children and women in the most affected districts are dignity kits.
- Over 16,500 women are estimated to be lactating and require special care.
- It is critical that separated children are reunited with their families as soon as possible.

1,500

dignity kits distributed in Sindhupalchok

Response:

- Cluster members have distributed 1,500 dignity kits in Sindhupalchok on 29 April. The cluster is procuring 10,000 dignity kits for distribution in Lamjung, Nuwakot, Rasuka, Kavre and Sindhuli.
- Two day care centers are opened in Kathmandu Valley and psycho-social support is initiated in Gorkha, Kaski, Sindhuli, Kavre, Ramechhap and Kathmandu.
- The Cluster trained 42 facilitators to manage the child friendly spaces and they are ready to start activities as of 30 April.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Camps are not yet equipped to provide safe spaces for children or lactating mothers.
- There are no mechanisms in place to prevent the illegal movement of children or to provide adequate assistance to single women and female headed households.



Shelter

Needs:

- The initial rapid assessments are ongoing at the district level. The Government of Nepal has indicated initial estimates of some 70,000 destroyed houses. According to secondary data analysis, over 530,000 houses have been damaged by the impact of the earthquake.
- Many people are living in the open, despite the damp and cold climatic conditions. While prolonged displacement should be avoided, families need to return to their homes subject to building safety.

70,000

estimated houses destroyed

Response:

- Cluster partners continue to distribute shelter items to affected people. This includes 21,151 tarpaulins and 4,000 NFIs (blankets and solar lamps) across the affected districts.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Logistics are an ongoing concern and challenge for cluster partners working in the more rural and remote areas, some of which are a three days walk away. General lack of information on damage requires partners to work on assumptions, especially around housing options.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- It is estimated that 4.2 million people need urgent WASH services.

Response:

- Partners distributed 100 hygiene kits in Sindhupalchok, built temporary toilets in Tundiklél, and provided WASH supplies for 500 families in Sinamangal.
- Aqua tab and hygiene kits were dropped by helicopter to seven remote villages in Dhading.

4.2 million
estimated people need
WASH services

General Coordination

The Government of Nepal is leading the response through the National Emergency Operations Centre (<http://neoc.gov.np/en/>).

Foreign military assets are coordinated by the Nepal Army through the Multi-National Coordination Centre located at the Army Headquarters.

A contact list has been made available on social media containing contact information for responders to coordinate their relief efforts with the Government of Nepal. Please visit: <http://bit.ly/1EPQuXp>

As of 29 April, a total of 54 International SAR and FMTs have registered at the Reception and Departure Centre at the Kathmandu Airport. Many of the Medium and Heavy SAR¹ teams deployed with canine units (147 dogs). Their response is coordinated on-site and using the V-OSOCC (<https://vosocc.unocha.org/>). The teams which arrived to Nepal to support the Government's efforts are from Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, USA.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is coordinating arrivals, dispatch and allocation of medical teams to affected areas in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP)

In Kathmandu, there will be daily HCT (14:00) and Inter-Cluster Coordination – ICC (15:00) meetings to support the system-wide response. Key issues discussed in the ICC meeting included: transportation options and joint relief missions, joint assessments and information sharing. For information on upcoming meetings please visit: <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/nepal>

At the UN House in Kathmandu, the Office of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator conducts daily orientation sessions (08:30) on the cultural and social context in Nepal. Attendance is highly recommended for incoming responders.

Background on the crisis

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal on 25 April at 11:56 local time creating large scale damage and many casualties. The epicenter was located 81 km northwest of the Nepali capital Kathmandu in Lamjung District at a depth of 15 km. The earthquake has caused a number of landslides and avalanches. Strong aftershocks, including a 6.7 magnitude quake on 26 April, continue to threaten the lives of thousands of people and to further damage buildings and infrastructure. The most affected districts are being reported to be Bhaktapur, Dhading, Dolakha, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Gorkha Lamjung, Rasuwa, Ramechhap, Nuwakot, and Sindhupalchowk.

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For more information, please visit www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/nepal>
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