Nepal: Earthquake 2015
Situation Report No. 13 (as of 11 May 2015)

This report is produced by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 8 to 11 May 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 13 May.

Highlights

- On 10 May, heavy rain and hail caused significant flooding in and around Chautara, affecting people who lost their homes living in tents.
- Stockpiling and pre-positioning of relief items in remote areas is critical. Continued rains are likely to further hamper access by road to the most-remote Village Development Committees.
- Families who need to demolish their homes should report the estimated costs to the concerned sub-national authorities in order to be considered for Government support.
- As of 10 May, the Government has released a total of 2.84 billion Nepalese Rupees (approximately US$ 21 million) to support relief operations in the affected districts.

$423 million requested in revised Flash Appeal
10% funded

2.8 billion Nepalese Rupees released by Government to affected districts
731,000+ people reached with food distributions in 11 districts

Source: Financial Tracking Service (16:00, UTC+5:45 UTC+5:45); Ministry of Home Affairs; Food Security Cluster

Situation Overview

Humanitarian hubs in Gorkha and Sindhupalchowk districts report that there are still urgent needs in remote and mountainous areas where access remains difficult and continues to impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Ministry of Home Affairs has requested organizations responding in the field to liaise with the District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs) to optimize resources and ensure that relief reaches vulnerable groups in remote communities in an equitable manner.

As of 9 May, 330 humanitarian agencies are implementing some 2,200 humanitarian activities. To inform the planning and coordination of relief and early recovery in support of Government efforts, operational information are being consolidated from partners on the ground into a 4W to illustrate who is doing what, where and when.

On 10 May, a district authority-led rapid multi-sectoral assessment started across all Village Development Committees (VDC) in Sindhupalchowk to generate a harmonized set of basic data for all clusters at the VDC levels. Cluster-specific assessments will complement the rapid multi-sectoral assessment.

Heavy rain and hail on 10 May caused significant flooding in the Chautara area affecting people without homes now living in temporary shelters.

Unseasonal rains continue to further impede access by road to the most-remote VDCs. Forward planning is also required to reflect the impending challenges that the monsoon season will bring. Humanitarian partners in the field stress the urgency of stockpiling in remote areas to ensure access to life-saving relief items over the upcoming months.

In Gorkha District, there are reports of people temporarily moving from settlements to central distribution points,

* For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report
such as Baluwa. Communities started rebuilding homes with available wood, mud, stones and corrugated iron sheets. They are requesting additional quality shelter equipment.

Homes beyond repair or deemed unsafe, need to be demolished and debris cleared urgently but time limitations may not allow for this before the monsoon starts.

On 8 May, the Government announced relief support for people whose homes were destroyed or need to be demolished. People should submit the estimated costs to their relevant sub-national authorities prior to demolition.

As of 10 May, a total of 2.84 billion NPRs (approximately US$ 21 million) were released by the Government of Nepal to affected districts for relief support, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Funding

On 29 April, the Humanitarian Country Team launched a Flash Appeal to provide life-saving assistance and protection for millions of people affected by the earthquake. The appeal was subsequently revised to include projects in the Online Project System.

The revised appeal is seeking $423 million to further scale up the ongoing relief efforts. As of 11 May (16:00, UTC+5:45), the Financial Tracking Service reports that US$42.3 million have been received against the appeal. This includes $15 million allocated from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund.

An additional $380.7 million is urgently required.

Gender in the Nepal Earthquake Response

Within five days of the earthquake, a Gender Task Force, comprising more than 20 UN agencies and non-governmental organizations, was established in Kathmandu to ensure effective integration of gender programming in the humanitarian response. Cluster focal points were identified, assessment questions and key messages developed, to support community outreach programmes. At the district level, a strategy to establish a support network in the humanitarian hubs and link up with local women organizations is being rolled out.

On 5 May, a baseline gender profile was issued to support response planning. Initial rapid gender analyses were completed for three districts (Gorkha, Lamjung and Dhading) and is being finalized for Sindhupalchowk.

Women and girls continue to be at risk of gender-based violence (GBV), which is exacerbated by the disaster. They need immediate access to life-saving services, support and protection. The GBV sub-cluster has developed a referral pathway and is strengthening services to respond to reported protection cases. Safe spaces for women were established and dignity kits distributed.

For additional information, please contact: Ms. Anu Pillay, Emergency Gender Adviser (pillay@un.org; +977 980 858 9962) or visit: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/gender-task-force

Humanitarian Response

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- Of the 140 camp sites (hosting some 41,890 people) in Kathmandu Valley only nine per cent have some type of camp management, 48 per cent are overcrowded and 91 per cent do not have segregated toilets according to the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).
- Reports were received of caste discrimination in camps and spontaneous sites. There is a need to ensure the reports are verified and addressed in collaboration with the Protection Cluster.

Response:

- DTM teams were deployed to Makwanpur and Dhading districts to verify reports of spontaneous settlements set up by people who lost their homes.
• There is a lack of trained camp managers at the district level.
• Emergency shelter and food is inadequate in most of the displacement sites.
• Rubble removal is required to improve the camps.

**Early Recovery**  

**Needs:**
- An estimated 27 million cubic metres ($m^3$) of debris need to be cleared.
- The demolition of damaged buildings is urgent.
- Due to a heightened risk of landslides, 200 families from Haku, Dandagaun and Thulogaun Village Development Committees (VDCs) in Rasuwa District temporarily migrated to Gerkhu, Manakamana VDCs in Nuwakot District.

**Response:**
- The Government deployed an additional five VDC secretaries in Rasuwa District.
- Gorkha District established information and grievance handling officers at three major relief distribution points.
- Cash-for-work activities will begin to support debris management (including demolition of buildings) in Sindhupalchowk (Irkhu, Kunchowk and Karthali VDCs).
- NPR 500 million (approximately $4,900,720) was provided by the Government to the 14 affected districts for relief assistance to enable early recovery.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- There are inadequate technical experts to assess which houses can be used or demolished.

**Education**

**Needs:**
- At least 950,000 children in Nepal will not be able to return to school unless urgent action is taken to assess schools in the affected districts and provide temporary learning spaces where schools are destroyed.

**Response:**
- With technical support from the cluster, 1,100 teachers were oriented on back-to-school messages, psychosocial first aid for children in nine districts.
- In coordination with the Protection Cluster over 200 volunteer facilitators were trained to support services in 45 child friendly spaces for displaced communities in Sindhupalchowk, Dhading, Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts serving over 4,500 children.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- Limited supply of emergency education kits.

**Emergency Telecommunications**

**Response:**
- Over 300 humanitarian responders from 90 organizations are now using ETC internet services in Nepal.
- Shared internet services are available in six locations in Nepal (Humanitarian Staging Area and UN House/OSOCC in Kathmandu; Deurali Humanitarian Staging Area; Chautara Humanitarian Hub; and NGO hubs in Bidur and Arughat).
- The cluster has arranged for responders (upon display of their IDs) in Bharatpur to use the NCell office as an internet café.

**Constraints:**
- The movement of equipment into the country and to field locations remains a challenge.
**Food Security**

**Needs:**
- Over 3.5 million people are estimated to be in need of food assistance. Of them, an estimated 1.4 million most affected people have been prioritized for immediate food assistance.

**Response:**
- To date, food distributions reached 731,180 people in 11 priority districts.
- Food assistance activities using cash are being planned for Makawanpur District based on the market functionality assessment.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- Time is critical for procuring and supplying rice seed to farmers affected by the earthquake. Rice seed needs to be procured and seed beds need to be prepared within the next 2 weeks.
- More partners are still needed at field level for food and agriculture inputs distribution.

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**Health**

**Needs:**
- According to the Ministry of Health and Population, 26 hospitals were damaged and more than 900 village health facilities outside the Kathmandu Valley are non-functional.
- Some 17,870 people were injured. There is an immediate need to restore primary health care services and provide rehabilitation support to discharged patients.
- The Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) estimates that each month about 1,500 pregnant women are likely to experience complications during pregnancy and childbirth requiring medical care.
- More than 535,000 children under age-5, 60,000 pregnant women and 637,000 adolescent girls are at risk of illness requiring special care in 14 districts according to the Health Management Information System (HMIS) data.

**Response:**
- The cluster distributed 45 tents in 10 districts (Dolkha, Ramechhap, Dhading, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk, Gorkha, Kavre, Rasuwa, Kathmandu and Lalitpur) and medical equipment and supplies to Rasuwa, Gorkha, Dhading, Lalitpur, Kavre and Sindhupalchowk to support maternal and neonatal health, reproductive health and child health services.
- Medical equipment and supplies for sexual reproductive health services to meet the needs of 90,000 people for three months were delivered in Rasuwa, Gorkha, Dhading, Lalitpur, Kavre and Sindhupalchowk districts.
- The Cluster has distributed clean delivery kits to 1,100 pregnant women in Sindhupalchowk, Gorkha, Rasuwa, Dhading and Lalitpur districts.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- Availability of accurate information on health facilities and health workers from seriously affected sites.
- Availability of logistics to deliver health supplies and personnel to remote areas.

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**Logistics**

**Response:**
- To date, the UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) has transported 124 passengers from seven organizations and 48.5 metric tons (MT) of relief items to 14 districts.
- The current storage capacity offered in country to the humanitarian community amounts to 4,480 m2 in Kathmandu, Dhusikhel, Deurali (Gorkha District) and Chautara (Sindhupalchowk District)
- Additional truck fleets (4x4) with 3 MT of capacity each, have been placed in the Chautara and Deurali regional hubs for forward delivery.
As of 10 May, the cluster handled approximately 6,500 m³/1,400 MT of relief cargo through the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) in Kathmandu for 49 humanitarian organizations. Updated logistics info and roads maps are available from the Logistics Cluster Nepal Operation website: http://logcluster.org/ops/nepal

Constraints:
- Kathmandu International Airport imposed limitations regarding the landing times on incoming aircrafts carrying relief cargo. Aircraft can land between 06h00 and 10h00 and between 18h00 and 00h30, this restriction will also apply to aircrafts transporting humanitarian aid.

Nutrition

Needs:
- 168,000 mothers of children (0 to 23 months old) require breastfeeding support.
- An estimated 126,000 children (6 to 23 months old) require nutritious food.
- 70,000 children (6 to 59 months old) with moderate acute malnutrition require supplementary food and approximately 15,000 children (6 to 59 months old) with severe acute malnutrition require therapeutic feeding.
- 362,000 children (6 to 59 months old) and 185,000 women require micronutrients.
- 200,000 children (6 to 23 months) and pregnant and lactating women require blanket supplementary feeding programme.

Response:
- 128 MT of ready-to-eat supplementary food and 182 MT of high energy biscuits are mobilized to support blanket supplementary feeding programme in approximately seven districts.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Lack of skilled nutrition staff at the community level.

Protection

Needs:
- Shelter homes are overcrowded and women’s workloads have increased. There is of lack access to dedicated spaces for women to use as toilets.
- On 8 May, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)’s monitoring of Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha and Kavrebalanchowk indicated that people residing near the highway have received more relief materials than those in the remote areas. There is a need to strengthen coordination among government agencies, political parties and civil society.
- The NHRC monitoring also revealed that the relief packages wasn’t distributed to home owners in the district headquarters but not to tenants.

Response:
- Three additional safe spaces for women were established in Kathmandu, Kavre and Dhading for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and lactating mothers.
- On 8 May, the Central Child Welfare Board issued a notice addressing child care homes and other institutions, including schools to avoid cases of separating children from their care givers. This notice was aired via radio nationwide.
- 1,294 protection (shelter and WASH) kits were distributed in Bhotechaur and Haibang in Sindhupalchowk, prioritizing people with disabilities, elderly, female heads of households.

Gaps & Constraints:
- The situation analysis in districts is weak. Existing and planned assessment efforts by partner agencies need to be consolidated for analysis.
Shelter

Needs:
- As of 11 May (15:00, UTC+5:45) t 288,798 houses were totally destroyed and 254,112 partially damaged, according to the Government...
- Distribution of tarps and shelter fixings remain a priority.

Response:
- To date, the cluster distributed a total of 82,719 tarps, 6,099 tents and 11,698 household kits (including blankets).
- A guidance document on fixings and tarpaulins was developed in Nepali.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Due to access issues associated with the impending monsoon season, agencies are encouraged to start distributions in hard to reach areas.
- Currently there are about 470,000 more tarps en route to Nepal, but there are concerns due to the recent humanitarian flight restrictions.
- Gap analysis of the number of distributions compared against number of homes damaged/destroys shows that Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, and Nuwakot have the greatest needs.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:
- According to data collected, the level of damage to water systems may be lower than initially estimated. The most recent information is being processed to generate a revised caseload.

Response:
- 40 organizations are reporting into the 4W matrix responding in 17 districts.
- More in-depth information will be able in coming days on beneficiaries.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Due to ongoing assessments and new information is being received daily, it is currently difficult to precisely define existing needs. It is expected that a more accurate analysis of the situation will be available in the coming week.

General Coordination

On 9 May, the Government requested district authorities and clusters’ cooperation to conduct joint and detailed assessments to further inform emergency and early recovery responses.

Humanitarian partners are requested to work within the clusters, avoid individual agency assessments and liaise with the DDRC and Chief District Officer. The contact list of Under-Secretaries assigned to support the districts is available at: http://bit.ly/1Ef6usZ

Coordination hubs are operational in Chautara (Sindhupalchowk District) and Gorkha Bazaar (Gorkha District). The geographical coverage map is available at: http://bit.ly/1QyFAHG

There is a need to identify dedicated district cluster coordinators and strengthen reporting of response activities in the VDCs.

In Sindhupalchowk, the Government established a registration process for all NGOs that plan to provide assistance in the district. Incoming NGOs are requested to proceed to the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre in the humanitarian hub in Chautara to obtain registration forms. The district government is convening cluster lead meetings every Wednesday and Sunday at 7:30 a.m.

In Gorkha District, general coordination meetings are held on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 8:00 a.m. at the DDRC office.

There is a need to establish district cash coordination platforms. At the national level, the Cash Coordination Group meets regularly and is currently supporting the Government in refining cash-for-work guidelines and developing policy on emergency unrestricted or multi-purpose cash assistance.
Foreign medical teams (FMT) deploying to the affected districts should coordinate with the district medical officers and the FMT Coordination Cell established at the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) in Kathmandu.

Medical teams are requested to submit deployment information at least three days in advance to: fmt.coord.nepal@gmail.com. At present, 99 FMTs are active, 17 FMTs ended their mission and 26 FMTs are awaiting tasking or have not registered with the Health Cluster or the MOHP.

The Humanitarian Country Team continues to regularly convene coordination meetings which are held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 2:00 p.m. at the UN House in Kathmandu.

Background on the crisis
On 25 April (11:56, UTC+5:45), a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal with the epicenter located 81 km northwest of the capital city of Kathmandu. The earthquake severely impacted 13 out of the 75 districts in the country, left over 7,000 people dead and destroyed nearly 191,000 houses. Hundreds of aftershocks have been reported including a 6.7 magnitude earthquake. With the severe devastation of the disaster, the Government of Nepal requested for international humanitarian support to the UN Resident Coordinator on 26 April. UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination teams were immediately deployed to support the Government and the Office of the Resident Coordinator. On 29 April, the Humanitarian Country Team launched a Flash Appeal to provide life-saving assistance and protection for millions of people affected by the earthquake. On 4 May, the appeal was revised seeking $423 million to support the relief operations for three months. To enable humanitarian partners to scale up the response, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) approved a $15 million grant from the Central Emergency Response Fund. The Resident Coordinator was also designated as the Humanitarian Coordinator for Nepal.

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