Nepal: Earthquake 2015
Situation Report No. 9 (as of 2 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 1 to 2 May 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 4 May.

Highlights

- On 2 May, another 5.0 magnitude quake occurred near Pokhara at 05:35 UTC compounding fears of further devastation.
- Up to 90 per cent of the houses in Gorkha and Sindupalchowk districts have been destroyed.
- Shelter remains a key priority. The Shelter Cluster is advocating for prioritizing the distribution of quality grade tarpaulins and repair tools.
- The Emergency Relief Coordinator reinforced the need to put measures in place to expedite customs clearance procedures, including simplified documentation and inspection.
- Health teams have been deployed to Gorkha and Sindhuli districts to respond to reports of influenza and diarrheal cases.

$415 million need for vital humanitarian relief
90 % destroyed houses in Gorkha and Sindupalchowk
16 lives rescued by search and rescue teams

Source: Nepal Flash Appeal; Assessment Capacities Project; Urban Search and Rescue Cell

Situation Overview

One week after the devastating earthquake in Nepal, families urgently need quality grade tarpaulins and shelter repair tools, food and medicine, as they continue to stay in the open. On 2 May, another 5.0 magnitude quake occurred near Pokhara at 11:30 (UTC+5:45) on 2 May compounding fears of further devastation (United States Geological Survey).

According to the Government and humanitarian partners, most stone and mud houses across earthquake-hit districts have been damaged or destroyed. Stone and mud are the main construction material used in mountainous areas.

In comparison to data from the 1934 earthquake in Nepal-Bihar, the number of houses damaged in 2015 is significantly higher. Up to 90 per cent of the houses in Gorkha and Sindupalchowk districts have been destroyed. Across large parts of Dhading, Dolakha, Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts, more than 80 per cent of houses have been flattened. The Government is currently projecting the caseload to increase to a total number of 500,000 destroyed houses. The data correlates with findings of the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team.

Obtaining landing permits at the Kathmandu Airport are limited with the increasing number of humanitarian charter flights. Main roads are open. However, landslides have challenged transportation of relief items to some areas. Many affected villages are without road access at all.

For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report.
On 2 May, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) met with the Prime Minister of Nepal as part of a three day visit to the earthquake affected areas. The ERC reinforced the need to put measures in place to expedite customs clearance procedures, including simplified documentation and inspection. The Prime Minister committed to ensure humanitarian access. Government officials who are found to constrain the delivery of aid will be held accountable.

Humanitarian partners continue to receive unconfirmed reports of unequal distribution and politicization of humanitarian relief continue. According to the Food Security Cluster, relief trucks have been stopped and diverted by communities in Dhading District and Sankhu Village Development Committee (VDC) in Kathmandu District. This poses additional challenges to the Government and humanitarian partners who work around the clock to transport aid to those in need.

The World Food Programme’s preliminary assessment estimates that 50 per cent of 91 already assessed markets are functional or showing signs of recovery. Another 50 per cent of shops have been damaged or destroyed. Food stocks have been depleted or ruined and shopkeepers have been displaced or affected.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have reported that 25 National Societies are supporting the Nepalese Red Cross Society providing critical life-saving relief. They have provided nearly 15,000 tarpaulins and some 1000 blankets, as well as several hundreds of hygiene kits and thousands of water purification tablets.

One week into the response, multinational forces along with the Nepalese Army have treated 570 patients, conducted major surgeries, rescued 942 stranded people, including 20 foreigners, delivered over 100 tonnes of food and relief supplies. Forces have cleared roads in Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Dhading, Gorkha, Okhaldhunga, Kavre, Ramechhap, Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Makawanpur, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Kathmandu and Solukhumbu districts.

Health teams have been deployed to Gorkha and Sindhuli districts to respond to reports of influenza and diarrheal cases. In addition, health care services, including for pregnant women, remain a key concern. Complications during and after delivery are amongst the main causes of mortality and disability for women. In the case of the disruptions to medical services, the numbers of complications are likely to increase. Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) calculations project that for an estimated 8 million people affected, approximately 2,400 women are at risk of suffering maternal or obstetric complications.

On 2 May, the Government confirmed that 6,659 (12:00, UTC+5:45) people have died. In addition to the national rescues, international search and rescue teams have saved 16 people from under the rubble. The earthquake has left 14,062 people injured and many more exposed to lack of life-saving services and the support of a social network.

Funding

The Financial Tracking Service (FTS) has reported an increase in the amount of humanitarian pledges, commitments and contributions that have been provided for the Nepal earthquake response. As of 2 May (10:00, UTC+5:45), the total stands at $68 million.

Food Security, Shelter and NFIs, Early Recovery and Health clusters have received a total of $7.5 million to support activities requested in the $415 Flash Appeal launched by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) on 29 April.
Humanitarian Response

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:
- The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in spontaneous camps keeps increasing. Most of the IDPs are now living next to their damaged houses.

Response:
- The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) teams are identifying and conducting rapid profiling of camps in Sankhu, Jorpati, Gongabu, Dhapasi, Manamaiju in Kathmandu districts. DTM is a cluster tool used to assess sectoral needs in camps.
- Camp management is being provided in Halchowk, Sinamangal, Shankha Park in Kathmandu and Bhaktapur Durbar Square.
- The Cluster carried out a structural/site evaluation at Balambu village in Kathmandu.

Gaps & Constraints:
- There is an insufficient number of partners to provide camp management services and engineering services to survey displaced sites in the Kathmandu Valley.
- The DTM has not been rolled out in all camp sites.

Early Recovery

Needs:
- Debris management is required to enable continued search and rescue and humanitarian relief operations.
- Restoring community infrastructure to deliver public services is essential.
- Cash-for-work activities in support of emergency livelihoods would be of benefit to the recovery of affected communities.

Response:
- A Joint Secretary has been appointed to the Chief District Office in the most affected districts to support with monitoring and coordination.
- The Government has appointed a Joint Secretary to each electoral constituency and each district.
- The Government has assigned focal points in each district to assist the local development officers to implement funds released for relief and recovery assistance as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development.
- Volunteers have been mobilized to support government engineers to assess structural integrity of houses and public buildings to facilitate the return of the displaced and resumption of basic social services.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Local government personnel who have been affected by the earthquake have still not reported to duty. Deployment of additional staff is needed to assist Village Development Committee (VDC) Secretaries and municipal staff to coordinate and operate local level relief and recovery activities.
- Monitoring and accountability mechanisms of district, village and municipal monitoring supervision committees need to be strengthened.
Education

Needs:
- According to Government data from 26 districts, 1,383 schools have been damaged by the earthquake.

Response:
- The Education and Protection clusters have established 13 Child Friendly Spaces for displaced communities in Kathmandu, Kokhana, Halchowk and Bhaktapur districts serving over 1,300 children.
- Art activities, games, sports, and psychosocial support and key life-saving messages relating to WASH, Nutrition, Health, and Child Protection are being provided.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Information on the full extent of damage to educational facilities in Gorkha, Sindhupalchowk, Dolkaha and Rasuwa districts is still not available.
- Access to districts beyond the Valley continues to be a major challenge.

Emergency Telecommunications

Response:
- Satellite communication capacity has been provided to 14 response organizations.
- Over 70 humanitarian responders have registered to use ETC services in the Humanitarian Staging Area at Kathmandu Airport. Internet connectivity was installed at the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC).
- The Cluster is supporting emergency responders with radio programming to ensure communication lines are established for relief distributions.

Food Security

Needs:
- Over 3 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:
- Food distributions are ongoing in seven districts (Gorkha, Dhading, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchok, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu). Distributions are scheduled for Rasuwa and Kavre within the next two days.
- As of 1 May, the following food items have been delivered in 11 districts: 84,462 cartons of noodles; 25,959 cartons of biscuits; 18.9 MT of salt; and 31 MT of sugar.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Security in Sindhupalchok and the eastern districts is an issue. Two trucks carrying food were reportedly diverted in Dhading and Sankhu.
- Only two helicopters are available for food distribution. Additional helicopters are required for areas inaccessible by road.
Health

Needs:
- The Government has added Okhaldhunga District to the number of priority districts requiring urgent health intervention.
- Medical tents and orthopedic supplies are urgently needed.
- Assessments indicate mental health and general health services are needed in Langtang Valley and Rasuwa District.

Response:
- As of 1 May, some 25,000 patients have been provided with health services in the Kathmandu Valley.
- Over 80 Foreign Medical Teams are in-country and some 68 teams have been tasked to deliver health care in the most affected districts.
- By helicopter, the Cluster deployed mobile clinics in villages around the Langtang Valley and Rasuwa District.
- Health teams were deployed to Gorkha and Sindhuli districts to respond to reports of influenza and diarrhoeal cases.

Gaps & Constraints:
- There is a gap in responding to the post-operation discharge and rehabilitative care of patients.
- Specialized health care services for groups with special needs including pregnant women and lactating mothers and neonates remains an issue.

Logistics

Response:
- Six Mobile Storage Units (MSU) are now fully operational. An additional MSU is being erected at the Humanitarian Staging Area.
- Logistics hubs are being established in Deurali (Gorkha District), Dhumikhel (Kavre District), Bharatpur, Pokhara and Birgunj districts.
- 25 trucks have been contracted with a capacity to transport 10 to 15 MT each.
- The Cluster facilitated 40 rotations of road transport from the Humanitarian Staging Area to Kathmandu for 21 humanitarian responders.

Constraints:
- Obtaining landing permits at the Kathmandu Airport is a challenge with the increasing number of humanitarian charter flights.

Nutrition

Needs:
- There is a need to provide therapeutic feeding to 15,000 children (6 to 59 months) old with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and supplementary food to 70,000 children (6 to 59 months) with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- Blanket supplementary feeding is needed for 200,000 children and pregnant and lactating women.
- Lactating mothers require support to be able to breastfeed 168,000 children (0 to 23 months). Families need nutritious food to feed 126,000 young children (6 to 23 months).

Response:
- A statement discouraging the distribution of infant milk formula was approved and disseminated to all district authorities and partners.
- The Cluster is continuing to provide services in five key areas (breast-feeding, complementary feeding, supplementary feeding, therapeutic feeding and micronutrients and maternal nutrition).
Gaps & Constraints:

- There is insufficient therapeutic food for 10,000 children with SAM and supplementary food for 70,000 children with MAM.

Protection

Needs:

- Reports of unequal distribution and politicization of humanitarian relief continue to be received by humanitarian partners.

Response:

- An additional three Child Friendly Spaces are now operational in Bhaktapur and Hulchowk districts.
- 16 children (11 Girls and 5 Boys) were provided with psychosocial counseling support in Khokana (Lalitpur District) and Tundikhel (Kathmandu District) and 29 children with psychosocial first aid.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Consignment of protection materials to establish child and women friendly spaces continues to be delayed.

Shelter

Needs:

- According to the Government, the earthquake destroyed 160,786 houses and damaged 143,642 (as of 1 May, 16:30, UTC+5:45). The Government is currently projecting this caseload to increase to a total number of 500,000 houses destroyed.

Response:

- The Cluster has distributed 50,793 tarpaulins to 29 affected districts of which 36,884 tarps have been delivered to 14 Chief Districts Offices.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There are reports from cluster partners of delays in importing shelter supplies through the Kathmandu Airport
- Some distributions are being postponed until there is enough material to sufficiently cover the needs of target areas to ensure an equitable response.
- Access to remote areas continues to be a challenge.
- Affected people are already rebuilding. Support is needed to ensure they build back safer.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- The Cluster plans to provide WASH services to an estimated 4.2 million people. Out of the total population to be served, 51 per cent are female, 49 per cent are male. Over 40 per cent are children.

Response:

- Water trucking was provided in the 16 camps in Kathmandu.
- The Cluster distributed 61,200 oral rehydration salts, 21,084 soaps, 196,050 aqua tabs, 77 squatting toilets in eight districts.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Water contamination due to lack of toilets has been reported in remote districts.
General Coordination

The Government of Nepal continues to lead the response through the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC). On 2 May, the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs chaired an inter-cluster coordination meeting at the NEOC. In support of the Government, the On-Site Operations and Coordination Center (OSOCC) has been set up to coordinate the international support to the humanitarian response.

A Communicating with Communities Working Group has been established to support mapping two-way communication needs of the affected communities. A 4W has been developed including contact details and responses of partners. The Working Group is developing a common service project to systematically collect and analyze feedback from the affected communities through a number of platforms including face to face, radio broadcasting, online and by phone.

On 2 May, the Inter-Cluster Gender Task Force was convened to harmonize gender-related activities and analysis of assessments to develop key messages for the response and to ensure that gender check-lists are adapted to the local context. The Task Force will inter-face with all clusters through gender focal points to ensure gender is mainstreamed into the response.

The Multi-National Military Coordination Centre (MNMCC) is coordinating all foreign military assets. The Nepalese Army has appointed a dedicated liaison officer from the MNMCC to the National Emergency Operations Centre of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Humanitarian-Military Operations Coordination Centre (HuMOCC) was established to provide the physical space dedicated to facilitating the interface between humanitarian and military actors. For further information, please contact the UN-CMCoord team at: cmcoordinenepal@gmail.com or visit the UN-CMCoord page.

On 30 April, the Cash Coordination Group formed four groups to: define a minimum expenditure basket, standardize cash-for-work rates, harmonize the types of cash modalities to be used and develop a common assessment tool.

The international search and rescue (SAR) teams are expected to begin developing exit strategies and submit their demobilization plans in the next 48 hours. The Reception and Departure Center is expected to shift its function to support departing SAR teams.

Presently, the following coordination cells support the various components of the response: the Humanitarian Staging Area in the vicinity of the Kathmandu Airport, the Reception and Departure Centre at the Airport, the Multi-National Military Coordination Centre with an UNDAC-established Civil-Military Coordination Cell, the Foreign Medical Team Coordination Cell, the SAR Coordination Cell, and the Logistics Cell.

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 6,204 people dead and destroyed 138,182 houses as of 1 May. 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 seeking $415 million to provide life-saving assistance and protection for millions of people affected by the earthquake. 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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