

NEPAL: Western Nepal Earthquake 2023

Situation Report No. 02

As of 10 November 2023

This report is produced by the Humanitarian Country Team Nepal in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by the UNRCO. It covers the period from 07-10 November 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 8 November, a total of 466 aftershocks in western Nepal were reported. On 6 November at 16:30hrs, a strong aftershock of local magnitude (ML) 5.8 occurred around Ramidanda in Jajarkot district causing further damage to already partially damaged homes and buildings.
- According to the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC), approximately 62,039 households were affected (35,489 partially damaged, 26,550 completely damaged) by the earthquake on 3 November.
- The NEOC estimates some 250,000 people were exposed to hazards and are at risk. The number of reported deaths stands at 153 people, while the number of people injured increased to 364.
- Humanitarian partners are dispatching humanitarian relief items from in-country stocks with some delays in distribution related to last-mile transportation to remote and hard to reach areas.
- Coordination was strengthened at the provincial level, with provincial humanitarian and cluster coordination meetings regularly taking place to review pending needs and ensure an intersectoral to



6 November 2023, 12-year-old Dhanraj BK sifts through the rubble of his earthquake-hit home with his mother Meena, Athbiskot Municipality in Rukum West. Picture courtesy of UNICEF

review pending needs and ensure an intersectoral response to affected people.

- On 9 November, 12 tons of relief supplies from the Government of India arrived in to Nepalgunj Airport, western Nepal, while on 8 November, 50 tons of relief supplies from the Government of China arrived in Pokhara International Airport.
- With the winter season and dropping overnight temperatures, there is an urgent need to complete the distribution of NFIs, warm clothing and winterized shelters.

Disaggregation of affected population based on national figures	
Male	127,750
Female	122,250
Male with Disability	3,056
Female with Disability	2,555
Women of Reproductive Age	70,000
Elderly	25,525
Population below 14 Years	69,575

250,000* People targeted for

Assistance

153

Deaths

364 Injured **35,489** Partially Damaged Households **26,550**

Completely Damaged Households

* Figure provided by the National Emergency Operation Centre.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Following the earthquake on 3 November, more than 466 aftershocks were reported forcing people to spend nights in the open or in makeshift shelters in freezing overnight temperatures. On 6 November at 16:30hrs, a strong aftershock of local magnitude (ML) 5.8 occurred around Ramidanda in Jajarkot district causing further damage to already partially damaged homes and buildings.

According to the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC), approximately 62,039 households (250,000 people) were affected (completely and partially damaged) by the earthquake on 3 November in 13 districts of Karnali, Sudur Paschim, and Lumbini provinces. The current winter season highlights the urgent and critical need for warm clothing, winterized shelter, healthcare, water, and food items. Households most affected have lost their homes, livelihoods, and other assets including food stocks, and NFIs and could remain displaced for an extended period until temporary/transitional shelters are constructed or the Government launches recovery and reconstruction efforts. According to the initial reports by the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative in Karnali, the earthquake also caused significant damage to livelihoods, affecting cattle farming and beekeeping, together with agricultural production and infrastructure which serves as a primary source of income in the region.

The Provincial Disaster Management Council has entrusted Provincial Ministries with the responsibility of delivery of emergency relief supplies and services at the province, district, and local level. On 7 November 2023, President Ram Chandra Paudel visited the affected districts to oversee relief efforts, emphasizing the government's commitment towards providing timely assistance to people in the impacted areas.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The Government of Nepal is leading response efforts with support from the private sector, local NGOs, neighboring countries, and international humanitarian organizations. Affected communities have emphasized the need for vital relief items such as food, warm clothes, insulation foam, blankets, reliable shelter materials and a collective, long-term commitment to rebuilding damaged homes and supporting affected families.

UN agencies have strengthened their cluster co-leadership functions, prepositioned relief items, and facilitated the transportation and storage of assistance. Several agencies are also reprogramming their current activities to meet the pressing humanitarian needs of people affected by the earthquake. Additional response and coordination capacity in terms of additional personnel, is also being brought into the country to bolster the response. In addition to immediate live-saving assistance, UN agencies are now planning interventions for the next phase of reconstruction and recovery support.



7 November 2023, People receiving relief supplies prepositioned by UNICEF in Chaurjahari Municipality in Rukum West District in western Nepal in support of earthquake-affected communities. Picture courtesy of UNICEF

Provincial Humanitarian Staging Areas (PHSA) and forward logistical bases in affected areas were established and are being used for the stockpiling, transporting, and distribution of relief items on behalf of different humanitarian agencies, including temporary shelter, emergency food, and non-food items. Around 10,000 tents were collected from various government and non-government agencies, with 3,000 tents distributed to affected areas, and 7,000 more tents en-route.

With markets fully functional in the earthquake affected areas of Rukum and Jajarkot districts, in Bheri Malika Municipality, local authorities launched Cash Voucher Assistance (CVA) to enable households to purchase essential cooking utensils. Using internal funds, the provincial government provided a package of cash assistance, based on impact (between 5-25 lakh rupees/USD\$3,750 - \$18,750), to municipal authorities to support local relief efforts.

On 9 November the Government of India delivered its third tranche of relief supplies to Nepalgunj Airport in western Nepal, amounting to 12 tons of blankets, sleeping bags, tents, and essential medical supplies. Similarly, on 8 November, 50 tons of relief supplies (worth \$2 million) carried by two Y-20 aircraft from the Government of China arrived at Pokhara International Airport, where Ambassador Chen Song handed them over to Hon. Deputy Prime Minister Narayan Kaji

Shrestha. These supplies are in addition to the 2,300 tents, 2,000 blankets, 700 tarpaulins, and 500 sprayers China previously provided via ground transport through the dry port of Rasuwa, and the relief supplies provided by the Government of India on 5 November.

Humanitarian partners are mobilizing relief supplies from available in-country stocks, but more will likely be required to meet the needs of those affected. The provincial government is also facing challenges in effectively distributing humanitarian items in a timely manner. While the current quantity of relief materials is sufficient, the lack of adequate last mile transportation has resulted in delays in the distribution of supplies to remote and hard to reach areas.

👬 Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- Identification and mapping of appropriate open spaces for setting up temporary sites to provide refuge and services to displaced people.
- Shelter winterization kits including warm clothing and blankets.

Response:

- Coordination with the World Bank to utilize information captured through drone mapping and satellite imagery to identify open spaces in affected areas for the possible establishment of temporary shelters.
- Engagement with the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) at federal level and the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Urban Development (MoPIUD) at the provincial level in the mapping of open spaces.
- Dedicated human resources deployed at the provincial level to work closely with the MoPIUD to support cluster coordination.



A mother with her baby in a temporary shelter supported by Nepal Red Cross Society in Rukum West district. Picture courtesy of the IFRC.

Gaps and Constraints:

• Official data on displacement is being sought, however no displacement figures have been provided by the Government.

Early Recovery

Needs:

- Information management and coordination.
- Debris and domestic animal carcass removal including capacity building.
- Small infrastructure rehabilitation interventions through cash for work.
- Support to Government services related to retrieving damaged records, office equipment and facilities.
- Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) and livelihoods support.
- Disaster risk management.

Response:

- Two information management coordinators deployed at the provincial level.
- One drone pilot and drone deployed.
- Debris removal support including 200 shovels, 200 pans and 200 safety kits.

Gaps & Constraints:

• Data related to damage and loss, by sector and geographical location.

Education

Needs:

- Initial assessments indicate that 142 school buildings were fully damaged, 343 partially damaged and 89 school toilets
 partially damaged. This means that at least 80,000 children do not have access to education and the situation is likely
 to prolong unless access to quality formal and non-formal education is urgently restored allowing continuity and delivery
 of education services to children in the most affected districts.
- Psychosocial support to teachers, School Management Committees/Parent Teacher Associations, parents, and students in affected areas.
- Resource mapping of cluster members to support learning continuity, psychosocial support, damage assessment, and temporary learning center (TLC) set-up, etc.

Response:

- Educational materials were prepositioned in four field office warehouses, including 418 teacher school kits, 1,069 senior student kits, 2,026 junior student kits, and 121 early childhood education kits, to reach approximately 20,000 children.
- On 8 November, orientations were held on IEMIS/EiE software module for 12 local education officers of Jajarkot and Rukum West districts, who will then further train schools on the software for reporting purposes.
- The cluster lead/Center for Education and Human Development is advocating with Government authorities to mobilize resources from the President's education reform program budget to support school building construction.

Gaps & Constraints:

• Earthquake survivors, including teachers and students, may be experiencing trauma that may impact their capacity to participate in the learning process.

Food Security

Needs:

- Ready to eat food and dry rations for displaced families as an immediate response.
- With markets fully functional, cash assistance to cover food needs for the first month.
- Livestock veterinary services including vaccination for injured livestock, including feed and livestock shelter support.
- Agriculture recovery support due to the interruption of paddy harvesting and incoming wheat cultivation season.
- Replacement and repair of agricultural tools and inputs, and grain storage capacity.

Response:

- Dispatch and distribution of eight metric tons (mt) of ready to eat food (BP-5) to cover 10,000 people for 3 days.
- 7mt of ready to eat food (BP-5) remains in stock for additional distribution if required.
- A rapid assessment report was produced and disseminated by the cluster, identifying very severely and severely impacted geographical areas and the number of households/people in immediate need of humanitarian assistance.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, (MoALD) and the Food Security Cluster lead, provided 40,000
 hermetic bags to earthquake affected farming households in Jajarkot and Rukum West districts to allow farmers with
 damaged storage bins, dependent on the paddy harvesting season, to safely store seeds and grains.
- The Government to conduct a detailed agriculture and food security assessment in both the Jajarkot and Rukum West districts.

Gaps & Constraints:

• Food assistance requirements are to be determined based on assessment results and Government requests.

🕈 Health

Needs:

- Immediate medical treatment for those injured during the earthquake.
- Continuation of essential health services and establishment of active surveillance of displaced people for early detection and timely response to acute public health outbreaks.
- Provision and availability of sexual and reproductive health, maternity and child health services, mental health, and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Three health facilities with birth centres were damaged with services interrupted in Jajarkot and Rukum-West districts.
- With many children injured directly by the earthquake, large disruption of critical health services, including maternal and newborn the days and weeks ahead will bring increased



Dignity kits being dispatched to Jajarkot and Rukum West districts. Picture courtesy of UNFPA

risks to children's health – through exposure to harsh winter weather, respiratory infections, waterborne diseases and disruption to urgent primary care and local health facilities.

• Close to 5,000 pregnant women are likely to require maternal and newborn care, with an additional 12,000 children potentially needing interagency emergency health services and 18,000 adolescents requiring psychosocial support.

Response:

- Four Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) were deployed by the Ministry of Health and Population.
- To ensure the continuity and resumption of critical health services in damaged health facilities, three medical tents were installed in Nalgad Municipality of Jajarkot, and Aathbiskot and Sani Bheri of Rukum West.
- 100 newborn incentive kits, including warm clothes for newborns and mothers, and 300 health kits provided to health facilities.
- Eight Reproductive Health Kits were dispatched, including post-rape treatment kits, clinical delivery assistance, miscarriage management, and disposable equipment for referral hospitals to three facilities for the continuation of sexual and reproductive services.
- Two sets of Emergency Health Kits (basic units) were dispatched with each kit containing essential medicines and medical items for 1,000 people for a period of three months.
- Three MHPSS counselors were dispatched, and additional counselors will be dispatched to set up counselling desks at health facilities for community outreach. Additionally, provincial health authorities deployed joint government and health partner teams in seven of the most affected municipalities to facilitate coordination and information gathering to inform the ongoing health response.
- Technical and human resource support for planned Active Syndromic Disease Surveillance.
- Technical support for event-based surveillance using Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS).
- Review of Risk Communication & Community Engagement (RCCE) materials for priority health threats following an acute earthquake event in coordination with National Health Education, Information and Communication Center (NHEICC).
- Technical support for minimizing disabilities of injured persons.
- Support Mental Health & Psycho-social Support (MHPSS) including Psychosocial Counselling of earthquake survivors.
 Technical support to Family Welfare Division to implement National Vaccination Advisory Committee's
- recommendation.
- Technical support for rehabilitation.
- IEHK Basic Modules (2 sets)
- Wheelchairs and other rehabilitation equipment.
- Fleet support for field operation (6 vehicles).

Gaps & Constraints:

- Health facilities are overwhelmed in the worst affected districts.
- Mapping of displacement sites and shelters from the nearest health facilities is lacking and required for a rapid response in case of acute public health outbreaks.
- Partially and fully damaged health facilities may not be able to provide all required health services including, but not limited to, safe deliveries, antenatal and post-natal care.
- Information on affected populations, beneficiaries, and the impact on service delivery.

A Nutrition

Needs:

- Prior to the earthquake, there were already elevated levels of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies such as anemia in Karnali province, with high levels of stunting and wasting. With the disruption of basic services such as health and WASH due to the earthquake, the nutrition situation is likely to deteriorate resulting in increased risk of malnutrition.
- According to the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) 2022, 36 per cent of children under five suffer from chronic (stunting) and four per cent from acute (wasting) malnutrition. The level of stunting in the province is above the national average of 25 per cent and classified as high, based on the WHO threshold.
- UNICEF estimates that 1,280 children under the age of five will need severe acute malnutrition treatment, while 32,426 children will need vitamin A supplementation and multiple micronutrient powder. In addition, 6,000 pregnant women will require iron folic acid tablets.
- Micronutrient deficiencies such as anemia among children (40 per cent) and women (21 per cent) are also high.
- Behavioral Change Communication to protect, promote and support infant and young child feeding through community health workers and volunteers.

Response:

- To coordinate the needs assessment and response, all nutrition related sub-committees were activated, including the NuTEC (Nutrition Technical Committee), SHR Committee (sexual and reproductive health), Local Level Rapid Response Team, and the Provincial Incident Command system.
- Provincial Health Logistics Management Center (PHLMC) has stock of 500 Cartoons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and 38,452 boxes of Multiple Micronutrient Powders (MNPs) which can be mobilized as part of the response.
- Vitamin A and deworming distribution to children, and pregnant and lactating mothers.
- Breastfeeding protection, promotion, and support along with counselling.
- Iron-Folic Acid supplement distribution to pregnant and adolescent girls.
- Screening of children and treatment of malnourished children (outpatient therapeutic care-RUTF).
- Breast Milk Substitute Act awareness and reporting of any violations
- Seven teams under the leadership of Provincial Health Directorate were formed and deployed to affected areas.
- Developed data collection matrix for the use by field teams to collect data and formulate a response.
- Mapping of stock status at Provincial Health Logistics Management Centre completed.

Protection

Needs:

- The earthquake disrupted family routine and cohesion and may lead to increased risk for violence, exploitation, and abuse, particularly around the most vulnerable groups, including and women. children. Children and women from the affected areas are at increased risk of experiencing Gender Based Violence (GBV) especially in context where GBV and other harmful practices are already widely prevalent.
- Over 10,000 vulnerable children, including unaccompanied/separated children, will need child protection services, including emergency support and access to child-friendly spaces (CFS).
- Over 25,000 people, including over 8,500 children, will require psychosocial support, and around 10,000 will require Prevention & Response to Gender Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) sensitization, including referral and response.
- Establishment of accessible women friendly safe spaces where women and girls can feel physically safe and emotionally safer.
- Continued demand for additional psycho-social interventions for most vulnerable groups including women and children.
- Awareness raising interventions on GBV, trafficking, child protection, psychosocial support including messaging using different platforms.
- Warm clothes for vulnerable people (women, children, person with disability, elderly people).
- Retrieval or replacement of loss/buried legal documents from destroyed homes or buildings.

Response:

- Distribution of 470 baby packs, 561 blankets, 716 winterization kits to Jajarkot and Rukum West districts.
- 4,500 *kishori* kits,7,500 dignity kits and 580 solar lamps distributed to affected women and adolescent girls.
- Mobilization of 45 psychosocial counselors and community psychosocial workers (CPSWS) to provide psychosocial support to the affected population.

- 16 child friendly (CFS) are being established in Jajarkot and Rukum West, of which six are already operational.
- Three female friendly spaces established and operational in Jajarkot and Rukum West.
- Support for the Forum for Women Law and Development (FWLD) legal-help desks in the two earthquake affected areas, with provincial back-up in Surkhet, Karnali Province, and Federal back-up in Kathmandu. The legal help desk will focus on; 1) Providing support in retrieving the documents like citizenship, birth registration, property related documents, etc. which have been lost or damaged; 2) Providing support to the affected people in getting the relief and ensuring that no one is deprived of relief because of lack of citizenship certificates or legal identity documents; 3) Addressing GBV, child abuse and other related cases of violence, considering the possibility of such issues taking place in a vulnerable time of disaster and helping the survivor to access legal remedies.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited capacity of local actors to respond to protection needs.
- Community based psychosocial workers (CPSWs) are reluctant to mobilize as some are traumatized by the earthquake.
- Availability of limited comprehensive GBV services
- More efforts are required on intersectoral coordination.

Shelter

Needs:

- Over 62,000 fully and partially damaged homes were reported. This includes 26,550 fully damaged and 35,489 partially damaged homes.
- Assessment, data collection and information management for the appropriate distribution and sourcing of NFIs.
- Transitional shelter assistance is critical as the winter season has begun in the hardest hit areas.

Response:

- Government tarps, and tents have reached affected areas, while additional supplies are in the pipeline.
- Humanitarian organizations have dispatched the following from incountry stocks; 1,306 shelter kits, 4,267 tarps, 4,100 blankets, 1,500 mattress, 500 nylon ropes, and 400 kitchen kits with distributions ongoing.
- 450 households were provided with transitional shelter support.
- National and provincial shelter clusters actively working in technical coordination and information management.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of emergency shelter management capacity in remote districts.
- Lack of detailed assessments and additional household level needs analysis.
- Additional tents rather than tarpaulins as they can be installed faster and provide better protection from cold temperatures.
- Delays in the supply, transportation, and distribution of NFIs from strategic warehouses due to remote locations.
- With IRA findings, additional NFIs are required to cover the increase in needs.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Safe water and sanitation are urgent needs to prevent outbreaks of waterborne disease. In most of the earthquake affected areas, existing water supply systems were already fragile or unreliable and many are reported fully damaged.
- 150,000 people, including 51,000 children, need water, sanitation, and hygiene services.
- 15,000 hygiene kits and buckets with plastic cups.
- 2,500 carton soaps, 500 toilet (fiber) pan sets, 100 emergency toilets, 10,000 Pious (water purification tablets), and 7,000 packets of Aquatabs.
- 200 bags of bleaching powder.

Earthquake affected houses of Triveni, Ward 1, Nalgad Municipality, Jajarkot. Picture courtesy of UNDP Nepal

- 10 water quality test kits, WASH facilities in 50 shelters, improvement of WASH services in 50 health facilities, repair of 100 water supply projects.
- Mobilization of 100 WASH promoters and 50 water supply technicians.
- Inter-cluster coordination with health, education, and shelter clusters to ensure the provision of WASH services.

Response:

- The Federal Water Supply and Sanitation office provided a water quality van and distributed bleaching powder, plastic jerricans (50lt) to affected people in Jajarkot.
- 220 hygiene kits were distributed in Nalgad Municipality and 150 hygiene kits distributed in Bheri Malika Municipality of Jajarkot district.
- 2,174 families received hygiene kits, plastic buckets and cups in Nalgad municipality of Jajarkot, and Athbishkot and Chaurjahari municipalities of Rukum-West district.
- The provincial WASH cluster will facilitate and monitor WASH programmes in the affected areas in coordination with humanitarian partners.
- Social and behavior change initiatives are targeting 75,000 individuals through Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes, disseminating key messages on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, health, nutrition, education, child protection, social protection, and AAP.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited coordination between federal and provincial clusters.
- Limited budget for the earthquake response by the Federal Ministry.

Emergency Telecommunications

Needs:

- Nepal Telecom and Ncell mobile networks are working in most of the affected areas.
- The Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal (ACORAB) reported three radio stations in Jajarkot and Rukum West with extensive infrastructural damage, while four other radio stations have suffered partial damage, with cracks in their buildings and impairments to their equipment.

Response:

- Emergency support to continue community radio broadcasting by providing laptops, microphone, mixers, internet back up, headphones, hybrid phone and safety equipment like helmets for five most affected community radios of Rukum and Jajarkot.
- Production and broadcasting of PSAs and radio programmes on psychosocial counselling for radio coverage population.
- Handson mentorship to community radio broadcasters during earthquake reporting including crisis-related factchecking.

Needs:

- Road connectivity is unobstructed, and the transportation system is functioning normally. Availability and capacity exist for ground transport of essential humanitarian supplies. However, some access constraints to the most remote areas and communities remain.
- Financial support for increasing requests for emergency logistics support.

Response:

- The network of Humanitarian Staging Areas (HSA), particularly Kathmandu, Surkhet and Nepalgunj, remains active and available for use free of charge by the Government. On-demand logistics services for humanitarian partners remain available, though limited to available funding.
- Emergency logistics services support (coordination, transportation, and storage of relief items) of 12mt of Government relief items, 34mt of UN/other partners' relief items from the HSA) in Kathmandu.

Constraints:

• Lack of storage facilities for relief supplies in the earthquake affected districts.

 Growing number of requests from humanitarian organizations to provide transportation assistance with limited secured funding for transportation support. Logistics Cluster is seeking donor support to cover critical transportation costs. Funds are currently being channeled to support the Government distribution.

GENERAL AND CVA COORDINATION

Humanitarian coordination is taking place through the national coordinacion system, led by Government counter parts with co-leadership by cluster lead agencies. Humanitarian agencies are also meeting at the inter-cluster level in Kathmandu to provide cluster specific updates, seek agreement on planning figures and plan intersectoral interventions to displaced families. At the provincial level, a sub-national coordination forum was established together with local authorities to coordinate the distribution of relief supplies at the field level. The Humanitarian Country Team is holding operational meetings with greater frequency in Kathmandu to discuss ongoing needs, the required response and seek solutions to operational challenges impacting the response.

On 8 November, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law (MOIAL) conducted an inter-cluster meeting with nine clusters to discuss integrated information management, the progress of the ongoing response and joint initiatives to implement response activities in an effective and coordinated manner. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary of MOIAL, and cluster leads and co-leads provided updates on their sector-specific interventions, planned activities, challenges, and way forward.

On 9 November, the Ministry of Finance held a meeting in Kathmandu with development partners on recovery and reconstruction of earthquake affected areas. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) presented on the loss and damage of individual households and public buildings, and the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction presented on reconstruction modalities which include owner driven reconstruction, green resilient inclusive development to build back better. The NDRRMA is leading the damage and loss assessment in consultation with the National Planning Commission, line ministries, provincial planning commission and ministries.

CVA Coordination: Following the earthquake, the Government activated clusters and planned a response both in-kind and in cash across various clusters. Along with sectoral cash, the Government also decided to cover food needs of affected population through Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPC) for a month. The Cash Coordination Group (CCG) immediately called for a meeting to understand the market situation and its capacity, supply-chain and access of household to the marketplace as well as assessment protection risks. The CCG, with support from member agencies, kick-started the work on joint Rapid Market Assessment (RAM) for MPC. The CCG is also under discussion to conduct multi-sectoral market assessment for sectoral cash. Moreover, the CCG is jointly working earthquake contingency planning through cash preparedness framework primarily focused on harmonize planning, efficient distribution and avoid duplication between various sectoral cash as well as between cash and in-kind.

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