

Nepal: Earthquake 2015

Office of the Resident Coordinator - Situation Report No. 04

(as of 27 April 2015, 7:00pm)



This report is produced by the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Nepal in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued on 27 April 2015. It covers the period from 26 to 27 April 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 28 April 2015.

Highlights

- As of 27 April, the Government reports 3,351 deaths and 6,833 injured people.
- 8 million people in 39 districts have been affected, of which over 2 million people live in the 11 severely affected districts.
- Priority needs include food, water, shelter and medication. Over 1.4 million people are in need of food assistance.
- A Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) in Kathmandu International Airport has been set-up to mitigate congestion at Kathmandu Airport.

3,351

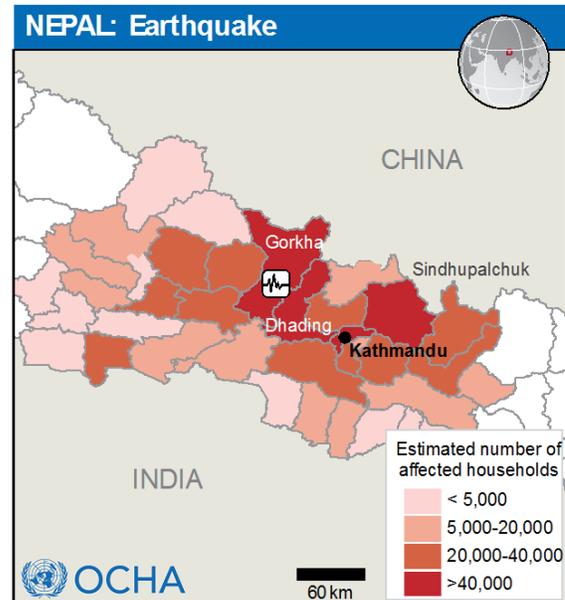
Dead (as of 27 April 2015)

6,833

Injured (as of 27 April 2015)

8 million

Affected (as of 27 April 2015)



Map Sources: UNCS Nepal Survey Department, UN-Nepal, USGS Nepal CBS. 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 27 April, 2015.

Situation Overview

Three days after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the Central and Western Regions of Nepal, aftershocks continue to affect the daily lives of people. Many people continue to sleep outdoors. On 27 April, the Government has issued a public statement dispelling rumors of another imminent large earthquake and encouraging people to return home, where possible. (Source: NEOC - <http://neoc.gov.np/en/>)

Over the past 24 hours, the Government increased the number of deaths from 2,288 to 3,351 people. At the same time, the number of injured rose from 5,850 to 6,833 people. These numbers are expected to increase further as search and rescue teams reach remote areas. Most of the deaths are recorded in Bhaktapur, Kathmandu and Lalitpur.

According to initial estimations and based on the latest earthquake intensity mapping, 8 million people in 39 districts have been affected, of which over 2 million people live in the 11 severely affected districts. The estimated number of affected people was calculated using data from the 2011 Census and Government guidance that 50 per cent of the total population in affected districts is affected. This includes the number of households living in poor quality and vulnerable homes with outer walls and/or foundations made of substandard material. The number of households affected was further estimated based on the intensity of the earthquake as it was estimated to have been felt in each location. These figures are

based solely on baseline data and models. It is an indicative figure which can be used only for preliminary planning.

According to early indications, 1.4 million people are in need of food assistance. Of these, 750,000 people live near the epicenter in poor quality housing. Impact on agriculture based livelihoods and food security is expected to be extremely high.

Immediate needs for health include medical tents, medication, surgical kits and body bags.

In the Kathmandu Valley, public life remains quiet. While small grocery shops have opened their doors today, large businesses remain closed. With fuel reserves running low, cars and trucks are lining up at gas stations in town. Banks remain closed. While automatic banking machines are functional, replenishment is not occurring.

Mobile networks in Kathmandu remain functional. At the same time, network outage and overloads are still common. NCELL has provided Rs.20 per day for customers and 50 free SMS per day while Nepal Telecom has provided no-charge for short term calls.

Power throughout the city is limited with most households and offices mainly relying on generator power.

A Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) in Kathmandu International Airport has been set-up to avoid congestion at the main entry points of affected areas and ease the flow of life-saving commodities, where large-scale relief activities are being undertaken. While main feeder roads are open, many side roads remain blocked and inaccessible.

Meteorologists have predicted rainfalls for the coming ten days.

Humanitarian Response



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Response:

The Government has identified 16 open spaces around Kathmandu to be used as camps. Shelter support has been requested for all 16 identified sites. A six member surge team is incoming to manage the 16 identified camps in the Kathmandu Valley.

Five shelter camps have been established in areas belonging to the Armed Police Force. These have water sources.



Education

Response:

The Cluster is coordinating closely with child protection experts to provide psychosocial support in child friendly spaces.

Cluster members have been appointed for the most affected districts. These members will coordinate response with District Education Officer's (DEO), including gathering information on extent of damage to schools and schools being used as temporary shelters.

Messages are being developed with child protection and communication with affected communities to provide information for psychosocial support, WASH, health, nutrition, and child protection

Gaps & Constraints:

The cluster will liaise with DEO's and child protection to determine the human resource needs to support these child friendly spaces.



Food Security

Needs:

The Food Security Cluster agreed that the Government will concentrate on food distribution efforts in the Kathmandu Valley with cluster members focusing on districts affected outside of the Valley. According to early indications, 1.4 million people are in need of food assistance. Of these, 750,000 people are in living near the epicenter in rural housing. Impact on agriculture based livelihoods and food security is expected to be extremely high.

Response:

Food trucks are on their way to affected districts outside the Kathmandu Valley. Food distribution will start on 28 April 2015.

Four assessment teams have been deployed to cover Gorka, Lamjung, Sindhupalchowk, Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Dolakha, Ramechhapp, Kavre, Bhakapur and Lalitpur.

Gaps & Constraints:

Strengthening coordination within the cluster is necessary to ensure agencies have a clear overview of what response efforts are ongoing and how efforts can be aligned.

Clarity on the use of existing food stocks from the Nepal Food Corporation (NFC) is required to determine levels of support required for food security.



Health

Needs:

There has been an influx of search and rescue (SAR), including medical teams to support the response effort. The Government requests that all incoming medical teams coordinate with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to ensure efforts are aligned and reaching affected areas.

Hospital capacity is overwhelmed with no Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds available in hub hospitals. Dead body management has been a challenge and surgical facilities are overwhelmed. Hospitals are require medical supplies, such as oxygen, and health human resources, particularly surgeons, orthopedics, and paramedics.

Field hospitals are expected to arrive to Nepal within 24 to 48 hours. Agencies are requested to provide updates to the Cluster on what medical support is ongoing or planned.

Response:

Central level coordination is based in the Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC). A regional surge team is expected to arrive on 28 April 2015 to support response coordination efforts. The MoHP has assigned senior directors to coordinate district health response efforts. In addition, the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) has been requested for a rapid structural assessment of central level hospitals.

Four national medical teams have been mobilized to Gorkha district with one international medical team mobilized to Dhading district to support health response efforts. The Cluster has mobilized ten tents for the MoHP and central level hospitals and delivered four IEHK to the MoHP. Five surgical kits have been distributed to different hospitals and 450 body bags handed over to the Nepal Army.



Logistics

Needs:

The magnitude of the disaster and large scale response calls for enhanced logistics coordination and information sharing amongst the humanitarian community, required to mitigate the duplication of efforts and maximize the use of available logistics assets.

Due to the mountainous geography, infrastructure damage, collapsed bridges and damaged roads, access to many of the affected areas is reported to be extremely limited. The status of the roads is unclear which may further interrupt the delivery of humanitarian relief items.

Additional air and road transport support will be made available depending on need to ensure the humanitarian community can delivery of humanitarian relief items.

Response:

A Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) in Kathmandu International Airport has been set-up to avoid congestion at the main entry points of affected areas and ease the flow of life-saving commodities, where large-scale relief activities are being undertaken.

A Logistics Cluster Coordination Cell has been established in Kathmandu to support the Government of Nepal and overall coordination of the Logistics Cluster operation.

Logistics Cluster will liaise with the National Authorities through the deployment of dedicated staff to coordinate Civil-Military interaction with national and international military entities present in the region.

Gaps & Constraints:

Large aftershocks continue to hit the region which could cause further damage to infrastructure already weakened by the initial earthquake.

Congestion and delays to the processing of cargo entering the country at Kathmandu International Airport could hamper and slow down the international relief efforts.

Although the road between the airport and Kathmandu city is open and viable, access in less urban areas, remains unclear.



Nutrition

Needs:

The estimated target under five children, pregnant and lactating mother has been calculated and it will be decided from next cluster meeting which is going to be held on 28 April 2015.

Response:

Nutrition cluster has been discussed with the cluster members and will be identified district support lead agencies for each of the districts and it will be decided from next meeting.

Gaps & Constraints:

It is found that there is big gaps for supplementary feeding for the most vulnerable group of people and WFP has been asked to talk in the WFP team for the meeting.


Protection

Needs:

Affected people need tents, dignity kits, recreation kits. Urgent needs also include psychosocial support, the establishment of safe spaces, protection of women and children from gender based violence, family reunification of separate children and clothes for women and children.

Response:

Procurement has started for the distribution of dignity kits (NFI kits) and material for child-friendly spaces. The Cluster started training people to start protection programmes on the ground.

Cluster members have agreed on initially establishing Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in Bhaktapur, Lamjung and Gorkha and Sindhupalchok.

Gaps & Constraints:

More partners are required to cover protection needs in all affected districts.


Shelter

Response:

7,760 tarps have been delivered to District Operation Centres for onward distribution to affected people.


Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Response:

Government assessment teams have been deployed to eleven affected districts with support from cluster agencies.

Gaps & Constraints:

The Cluster requires the following additional supplies: 25,000 Hygiene kits, 20,000 Tarpaulin, 40 tanks of 2500 ltrs, two Generators for the operation of deep bore holes for water supply, 20,000 packets of aqua tabs, household water storage containers, additional emergency pumps and equipment.

Limited distribution of emergency WASH supplies (Hygiene kits) in Dhading+ Bhaktapur

Communicating with Affected Communities

Needs:

There is a need to better determine the needs of the affected population to support development of specific sector messages. In addition, equipment, such as radios, is required to distribute to camps and communities to facilitate communications.

Response:

Radio programming has begun on multiple radio stations reaching affected populations focusing on key messages on aftershocks and community support. This radio programming will continue to air daily and programming can evolve to include 2-way communications and additional sector specific messages. Coordination between cluster agencies is ongoing to determine further partnership opportunities for communication.

The National Health Education and Communication Centre (NHEICC) has begun communicating pre-agreed key messages through several radio programs. While messages are primarily focused on health, the NHEICC is also to disseminate other sector messages through its channels.

Gaps & Constraints:

Insufficient data on affected population needs has hampered the development of key sector specific messages. With more information becoming available, agreement on common messages will be reached and shared with cluster agencies.

Coordination among all agencies communicating with affected communities remains a challenge. As a result, there have been rumors circulating in communities, focused on the frequency of aftershocks. Agreed common messages and dissemination across agencies will be critical to ensure affected communities receive accurate information.

General Coordination

The Government of Nepal is leading the response efforts. The National Emergency Operations Centre is operational.

The HCT has established coordination hubs at the NEOC, the Humanitarian Staging Area, and at the UN office. UNDAC has established a Reception and Departure Centre at the Kathmandu Airport.

The Nepal Army has established a Multi-National Coordination Centre (MNCC) at the Army Headquarters coordinating foreign military elements.

With regular coordination meetings in place, cluster co-leads are encouraged to update the online meeting calendar at www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/nepal

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

All in-kind donations should be reported and tracked via logik@un.org. The HCT is working on drafting a Flash Appeal in support of the Government response.

Background on the crisis

At 11:56 local time, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, with epicenter in Lamjung District (north-west) of Kathmandu; south of China border). This was followed by dozens of aftershocks including a 6.7 magnitude earthquake on 26 April 2015 at 12:54 local time.

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