

Nepal: Earthquake 2015

Office of the Resident Coordinator - Situation Report No. 05

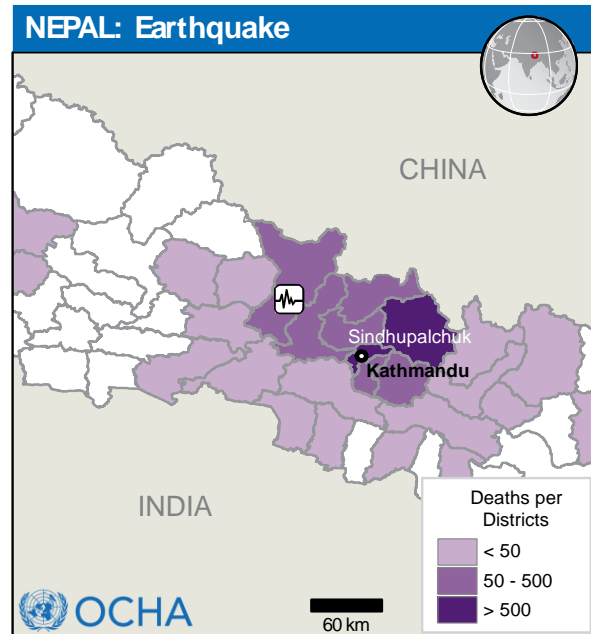
(as of 28 April 2015, 7:00pm)



This report is produced by the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Nepal in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued on 28 April 2015. It covers the period from 27 to 28 April 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 29 April 2015.

Highlights

- As of 28 April, the Government reports 4,358 deaths and 8,174 injured people. Search and rescue teams have saved 14 people from the rubbles.
- In addition to continued efforts in the Kathmandu Valley, the response continues to broaden to include more remote areas, including the most affected districts of Dhading and Gorkha.
- Up to 90 per cent of the health facilities in Ramechapp, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk and Gorkha have been severely damaged.
- Many people are leaving the Kathmandu Valley and joining families in less-affected areas.
- There is anecdotal evidence of unrest in relation to limited water supplies. Uneven distributions pose a risk of generating animosity amongst the affected people.



4,358

Dead (as of 28 April 2015)

8,174

Injured (as of 28 April 2015)

8 million

Affected (as of 27 April 2015)

14 live rescues

(as of 28 April 2015)

16 camps

(identified by the Government as of 27 April 2015)

Situation Overview

Four days have passed since the 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the Central and Western Regions of Nepal. Aftershocks continue to affect the daily lives of people as they continue to sleep outdoors, in damp and cold conditions. The Government is encouraging people to return home, wherever possible.

Over the past 24 hours, the Government reported an increase in the number of deaths from 3,351 to 4,358 people. At the same time, the number of injured has risen from 6,833 to 8,174 people (Source: NEOC - <http://neoc.gov.np/en/>). These numbers are expected to increase further as information from remote areas becomes available and more affected areas are searched and assessed.

As of today, international search and rescue (SAR) teams have rescued 14 people from the rubble. At the moment, in-country and committed SAR capacity is sufficient to cover all sites. No additional deployment is needed and all SAR teams which have not deployed yet are advised to stand down. In addition, the

Government has requested that any Foreign Medical Team (FMT) that have not yet arrived to Kathmandu also to stand by.

Immediate needs include food, shelter, WASH, as well as medical tents, medication, surgical kits and body bags.

In the Kathmandu Valley, public life remains quiet. While small grocery shops are open, large businesses and some banks remain closed. While automatic banking machines are functional, replenishment is occurring at select areas at a slow pace.

With fuel reserves running low, cars and trucks are lining up at gas stations in town. All major roads are open for traffic. However, some side access roads remain blocked. Fuel is also needed to pump water from the ground and maintain services at hospitals and other critical facilities facing frequent power outages.

Mobile networks in Kathmandu remain functional. However, network outage and overloads remain common. Power throughout the city is limited with most households and offices mainly relying on generator power. As a result, many people are leaving Kathmandu Valley and returning to families in areas, which have not been affected by the earthquake.

Information on affected districts outside the Kathmandu Valley highlights the severity of the impact on communities. While district specific information continues to filter in, over 8 million people are estimated to be affected in 39 districts, of which over 2 million people live in the 11 most severely hit districts¹.

Total population affected (estimates)	8.1 million	
	4 million males	4.1 million females
	390,000 boys under 5	360,000 girls under 5
	220,000 males over 65	225,000 females over 65
Households with shelter damage (estimates)	640,000	
People affected by damaged homes	2.8 million	
	1.3 million males	1.5 million females
	120,000 boys under 5	120,000 girls under 5
	92,000 males over 65	96,000 females over 65

These figures are based solely on baseline data and models. These are indicative figures which can be used only for preliminary planning.

The Kathmandu International Airport is open 24 hours and serves as the main logistics hub. However, due to incoming goods and response teams, as well as departing people, including many foreigners, the Airport is congested. The Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) is set up in the vicinity of the Airport to ease the flow of life-saving commodities. Two logistics hubs will be set up at and Pokhara and Birgunj to effectively manage the supply of relief items.

The focus of the response has shifted outside of Kathmandu to cover the most affected districts.

Meteorologists have predicted rainfalls for the coming ten days.

Humanitarian Response



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

The Government identified 16 camps in Kathmandu Valley. Formal camp service delivery mechanisms and providers are still needed.

Response:

CCCM site profiling will start on 29 April with the 16 camps sites in Kathmandu Valley and later be expanded outward to affected districts.

All 16 camp sites have Government cluster nominated focal points. The Cluster is currently reaching out to the 30 CCCM trained government officials for management support.

Gaps & Constraints:

Clarity is required to identify site/camp set up in Gorkha District where 80 per cent of the infrastructure has been affected.

Shelter, WASH and protection mechanisms in the 16 camps have not yet been established or are not functioning at optimum capacity due to the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) phase



Early Recovery

The Cluster focuses on debris management and emergency livelihood.



Education

Needs:

According to EMIS data, there are 3,353 schools in the severely affected districts, 2,903 schools in the most affected districts, and a further 9,762 in the partially affected districts. Extent of damage in all districts is still being assessed.

Affected children need to access safe places to play, receive psychosocial support and lifesaving messages. Initial reports from affected districts indicate that a huge proportion of school facilities have been totally destroyed or severely damaged due to the earthquake. Schools that are still standing are being used as shelters by displaced populations.

Response:

Procurement has started for tents and shelter materials for Child Friendly Spaces in coordination with the Protection Cluster. School in a Box, Early Childhood Development Kit (ECD) and Recreation Kits are also in the pipeline. The Education Cluster is working with the Protection Cluster to orient partners on key messages related to psychosocial support and lifesaving messages to convey to displaced children and communities. Partner agencies are deploying to Sindhupalchok, Bhaktapur, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Gorkha and Nuwakot.

Gaps & Constraints:

The government will need significant support from partners to establish temporary learning spaces in the short and medium term to keep children safe.



Food Security

Needs:

The Food Security Cluster had a meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD) on the 27th of April and the Government requested the cluster members to provide food security assistance to earthquake affected areas outside of the Kathmandu Valley. A total of 12 districts have been prioritized for the provision of food assistance. A formal letter of request has been sent in this regard. As per a preliminary assessment, around 20,000 MT of food is needed per month to support the affected people in 12 affected districts. Data on needs will be available only after the completion of a rapid needs assessment.

Loss of livestock and a need for veterinary medicines and animal feeding have also been reported.

Response:

The cluster is dispatching rapid needs assessment teams to the prioritized 12 districts. Efforts to coordinate rapid assessments with other partners are under way. This includes market assessments as well.

Approximately 120 MT of food is currently available in the country. The cluster has dispatched food assistance to Gorkha and Dhading with existing in country food stocks and is also organizing air support (via two helicopters) to get food to the areas unreachable via road transport.

Around 30 MT of high energy biscuits and some fortified food (rice-soya blend) will be flown in from Dubai. Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot remain the priority districts for the cluster.

Gaps & Constraints:

Since several agencies are fielding needs assessment teams, a need for better coordination is necessary to avoid overlap and misunderstanding.



Health

Needs:

The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) continues to assess the needs in the 11 worst affected identified districts and to manage and deploy the teams on the ground.

In terms of health infrastructure, preliminary information indicated that most of the health facilities (60 - 90%) outside the district headquarters (DHQ) of Ramechapp, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk and Gorkha have been severely damaged and the hospitals in DHQ of Dolakha, Nuwakot are partially damaged. MoHP is making alternative arrangements (tents, camps) to provide medical treatment outside DHQ in the worst affected districts. Around the hospitals the water supply is fast deteriorating and sanitation conditions are becoming hazardous.

Response:

More than 20 Cluster partners are supporting the response by providing specialized personnel and medical supplies and body bags, water filters and purification materials, setting up and providing basic construction materials for field hospitals. Injured from Sindhupalchowk and Dhading were airlifted to Dhulikhel hospital and field workers are being deployed to more remote affected areas.

Foreign Medical Teams have set up temporary hospital facilities in the affected areas (e.g. Pakistani Army is running the temporary hospital in Bhaktapur).

Gaps & Constraints:

Additional medical tents, surgical equipment and accessories and medicines for managing injuries are still needed. Post trauma and rehabilitation care for spinal cord injury patients; mobile toilets and messaging on post-earthquake disease outbreak are also required.

MoHP has appealed to foreign governments not to send additional medical teams. The Government of Nepal will assess the situation and advise if the situation evolves.

There is a need for transit camps and rehabilitation care particularly for those released from health facilities who are in need of post-treatment assistance and have no one to care for them.

Better tracking of health interventions is required.



Logistics

Needs:

Limited helicopter capacity is available but additional support is required to transport relief goods. There is a need to establish staging areas outside Kathmandu Valley to serve areas with no or limited road access.

Response:

The Humanitarian Staging Area is functioning well with 32 Mobile Storage Units available for humanitarian organisations. Six M18s are currently in the country, with support from foreign military assets, with a maximum capacity of two tonnes.

Pokhara Airport is functional and can be used for Hercules planes to strengthen relief supply chains. Two operational hubs will be set up at Nepalgunj and Birgunj to effectively manage the supply of relief items.

Due to incoming goods and response teams, as well as outgoing foreigners, the Tribhuvan International airport remains congested. The Cluster is working with local authorities to facilitate de-congestion, including taking advantage of DHL's support.

Gaps & Constraints:

The Kathmandu International Airport can only handle planes with a maximum weight of 190 tonnes, limiting incoming relief supply. This is further compounded by continued blockages at the airport due to lack of landing and off-loading slots.

There are concerns regarding the limited availability of jet fuel at the airport.



Nutrition

Needs:

Nutrition assessment for all 21 most affected districts is still to be planned and initiated.

Response:

The Cluster has identified 3W information for 21 affected districts and assigned responsibilities for immediate assessment. An orientation on 29 April 2015 will support partners in carrying out a rapid nutrition assessment.

The nutrition cluster reviewed the prepositioning of items for nutrition response such as IEC for counseling and information dissemination, management of MAM and SAM as well as prevention and control of micro-nutrient deficiency disorders through Vit A, MNPs and IFAs.

Immediately following the rapid nutrition assessment, interventions will be done in all prioritized affected districts.

Gaps & Constraints:

There is an identified need for supplementary feeding for children under 5 and for pregnant and lactating mothers, as well as treatment of severe acute malnutrition for children living in camp settings and in affected districts.

**Protection****Response:**

A matrix for response by the cluster members will be available and a team of social workers will be mobilized and will start identification of separated children by 29 April. Cluster members have already started to collect information using the cluster check list.

Gaps & Constraints:

Information on overall protection is limited. Information from affected districts is expected to be received shortly through Women and Children Offices in 33 districts.

**Shelter****Needs:**

The initial rapid assessments are being conducted at the district level. The Government of Nepal estimated that some 70,000 houses have been destroyed and another 530,000 damaged during 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.

Response:

Agencies have distributed 8,000 tarpaulins and 1,000 shelter kits in various affected districts. The distribution is set to increase in the coming days.

Gaps & Constraints:

There is a need to identify suitable shelter arrangements for people displaced and people whose houses are damaged or observed as insecure, including identifying short term and long term solutions.

There is still a need for more NFIs, tarpaulins and shelter kit distribution. However, in-country stock of tarpaulins and fixing materials is limited. Tarpaulins should be distributed with appropriate fixings.

General lack of information on damage requires agencies to work on assumptions especially around housing options.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene****Needs:**

A scoping mission conducted in Gorkha, Lamjung and Dhading, where at least 90 percent of the houses are damaged, identified hygiene kits, aqua tabs and water purification / chlorination sachets, as well as plastic buckets and tarpaulins are urgently needed in all affected areas. Some 3,000 people in these districts require sanitation facilities.

Response:

Cluster members are putting up 90 toilets in temporary camps and distributed 200 hygiene kits in Bhaktapur district.

In Dhading, the DDRC received WASH supplies (hygiene kits 220 sets, Aqua tabs – 5 cartons and chlorination sachet 2640) and will begin distributing them tomorrow, 29 April, along with other NFI.

As a result of the scoping mission in Gorkha and based on and urgent needs identified, the cluster is supplying 2000 Tarpauline, 3000 hygiene kits, 3000 aqua tabs, 2000 plastic buckets (20lts and 10 ltrs), 1500 bottles of Piyush . Distribution will start 29 April.

Piyush (water purification drops) is being distributed by several partners in the affected areas and a water treatment plant has already been prepositioned.

Water tankers started distribution of water supply in the temporary camps.

Gaps & Constraints:

The water quality provided by the private tankers do not meet the safe drinking water standards and the distribution of chlorination materials is urgently needed in the 16 Kathmandu camps where water from private tankers are being distributed.



Communicating with Affected Communities

Radio and social media are the most effective ways of communicating with the affected communities.

Response:

In terms of supporting response efforts, the radio programming has begun communicating basic lifeline messaging via shortwave frequency which reaches nationwide. Television and radio program is scheduled to launch over the next few weeks to communicate messages to affected communities.

Gaps & Constraints:

Agreement on common, accurate and consistent messages is required across clusters. The messages should be shared with partners as soon as possible to begin immediate common communication efforts.

There is a need to determine which radio stations are operational for immediate communications and which radio stations require equipment support. Current radio broadcasts uses shortwave frequency, which is nation-wide. As a result localized content is limited.

Identifying other partners and sources of communicating is required to improve communication with affected communities.

General Coordination

The Government of Nepal is leading the response efforts through the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) which is now fully operational. The Nepal Army continues to coordinate foreign military elements through the Multi-National Coordination Centre (MNCC) at the Army Headquarters.

The UNDAC-established Reception and Departure Centre at the Kathmandu Airport continues to process and triage the incoming international Search and Rescue (SAR) teams. Currently, the following countries are registered as having SAR Capacity in Nepal: Belgium, China, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, and USA. The SAR teams that have not yet arrived in Kathmandu are encouraged to stand down as the current

committed support is sufficient to cover all affected sites. All Foreign Medical Teams that have not yet arrived to Kathmandu were also advised to stand by.

The HCT holds daily meetings at 15.00. The HCT is expected to launch the Flash Appeal in support of the Government response in the afternoon of Wednesday, 29 April.

The relief capacity provided by India has been dominant in the early stages of the response: 13 aircraft and 7 choppers, buses and trucks carrying medical supplies and relief items, and a mobile hospital were dispatched since the earthquake hit on Saturday. According to media reports the Government of India sent 22 tonnes of food, 50 tonnes of water, and 10 tonnes of blankets, together with other relief items. 20 teams of National Disaster Relief force were also sent to Nepal, together with engineer task forces and medical teams.

The role of the private sector in responding to the earthquake is yet to be clarified, but an initial contact with a view to ensure coordination has already taken place. Meanwhile, Cooperativa Muratori & Cementisti (CMC), an Italian construction company operational in the Sindhupalchowk district, increased capacity at its hospital in Melanchi providing emergency care (the operation remains under the Ministry for Urban Development and information is shared through the health cluster lead WHO). Clusters are encouraged to identify such initiatives and recognize the private sector contribution to the humanitarian operation. Clusters are encouraged to share information on private sector contribution.

For adequate and timely response, all inquiries on the humanitarian response should be directed to eqcoordination@un.org.np. Additional information can be requested, submitted or found as follows:

- **UNDAC:** nepalundac@gmail.com
- **Information** on humanitarian response and coordination, as well as scheduled meetings are reported: <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/nepal>
- Reporting and tracking **in-kind donations:** logik@un.org
- Report **cash contributions:** fts@un.org
- **Financial Tracking Service (FTS):** <http://fts.unocha.org>
- Popular **crowdsourcing** sites include <http://kathmandulivinglabs.org/earthquake/main> and <http://www.nepalquake2015.org/>
- **Urban Search and Rescue Teams on OSOCC Announcements:** <https://vosocc.unocha.org/>

¹ The districts of Nepal were given a severity ranking (1-5) based on the amount of territory exposed to different levels of shaking (as per USGS data). The number of homes likely to be damaged was calculated by identifying the houses which used poor quality material for the outer walls and/or foundation, and the amount of shaking to which they were likely exposed. These calculations were all compared with actual figures on casualties coming from the Government to ensure the estimates were in line with what was

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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being reported. Some minor adjustments to the severity ranking were made based on the casualty data. The overall estimates for the affected population (including those whose home may be fine but still in need of water, food, etc.) were based on the Government's guidance that 50 percent of the population in each of the affected district is affected.