



# NEPAL: Western Nepal Earthquake 2023

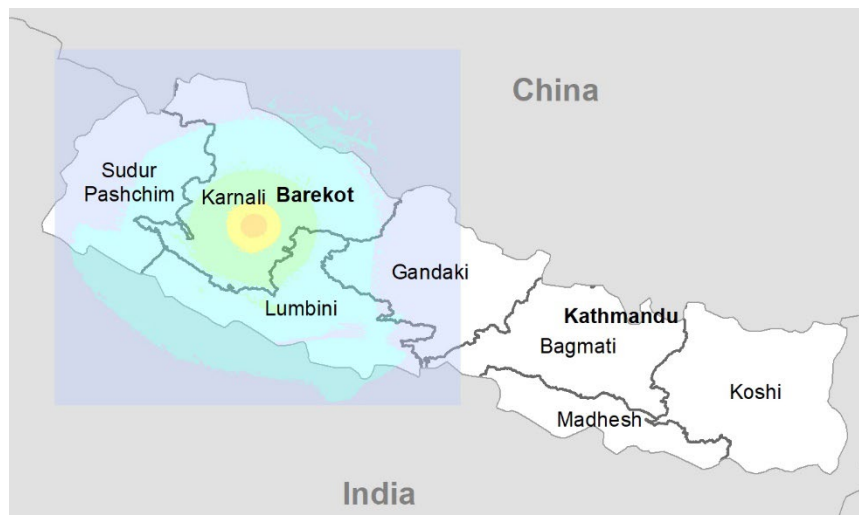
## Situation Report No. 01

As of 06 November 2023

This report is produced by Humanitarian Country Team Nepal in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by the UNRCO. It covers the period from 04 to 06 November, 2023.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On 6 November the Government of Nepal stated that search and rescues operations had concluded, with the focus now on providing humanitarian assistance to those impacted by the earthquake.
- More than 382 aftershocks were reported forcing people to spend nights in the open or makeshift shelters in freezing overnight temperatures.
- 153 (Male: 70, Female: 83) people died and more than 338 (Male: 138, Female: 200) were injured as a result of the earthquake.
- As per the secondary data sources, 92% of the buildings in the highly impacted municipalities are constructed from stone masonry which has high fragility of damage.
- The Government's Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA) launched on 05 November is underway, and the initial report is expected on 6 November.
- According to the initial findings of the IRA, over 4,000 homes were damaged in the hardest hit districts.
- On 5 November, the Government held an emergency cabinet meeting where officials decided to accept international assistance to address the needs of people affected by the earthquake.
- Humanitarian partners have begun to mobilize relief supplies from available in- country stocks, but more is likely to be required to meet the needs of those affected.



**1.3 M\*** exposed people    **0.25 M\*** targeted for assistance    **153** deaths    **338** injured    **2954** partially damaged    **937** complete damage    **91** school building damage

Vulnerable Groups (Based on national figures)	Caseload (0.25 M)
Male	127,750
Female	122,250
Household	57,208
Differently abled	5,500
Women of Reproductive Age	70,000
Elderly	25,525
Population below 14 Years	69,575

Data Source: - \* Estimated based on different analysis of available secondary data, satellite images, USGS data, earthquake risk. Other data are from government sources.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW



Photo courtesy: Prakash Kumar Shahi, Bheri Municipality

Three days after a magnitude 6.4M earthquake struck Karnali Province in western Nepal, on 3 November 2023, Government officials informed search and rescue missions had ended. The focus now is on providing shelter, water and sanitation, emergency food and protection to people displaced from their homes and on delivering essential lifesaving assistance to Jajarkot and Rukum West districts, districts worst hit by the earthquake. According to officials, thousands of homes were fully damaged, and rescue teams are reporting a lack of temporary shelters, with thousands of people reportedly sleeping in the open or makeshift shelters in freezing overnight temperatures. These districts are some of the most impoverished in the country, raising vulnerability concerns for those with already stretched coping mechanisms.

The true extent of the earthquake's impact and resulting humanitarian needs are yet to be seen, pending the results of the Government's Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA) launched on 05 November, but concerns over funding gaps required to meet anticipated needs already exist. On 5 November, the Government of Nepal held an emergency cabinet meeting where officials agreed to accept international assistance to address the need of the people affected by the earthquake. Officials acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the support extended by neighboring nations and international organizations.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The Government of Nepal is leading response efforts with support from neighboring countries and international humanitarian organizations. To strengthen response coordination, the Government established Surkhet as the primary center for relief collection and designated Nepalgunj as the secondary center. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, more than 1,000 search and rescue workers from the Nepal Army, the Nepal Police, and the Armed Police Force were deployed for search and rescue operations, together with five aircraft. The Government expedited medical treatment for injured individuals and provided some relief support to those affected. Some food, tarps, and tents have already reached the affected areas, while additional supplies are in transit. The Government informed it would provide an immediate relief payment of two lakh Rupees (US\$1,515) to the families of the victims of the earthquake, and requested local associations, political parties, and those willing to aid earthquake-affected people to make their contributions into the Government treasury.



4 November 2023, UNICEF's prepositioned relief supplies arrive in Khalanga in Jajarkot District

On 05 November, the Government of India provided a first batch of relief consignment emergency relief materials worth US\$1.2 million aid those affected by the earthquake. A C-130 aircraft of Indian Air Force transported over 11 tons of items such as tarpaulin, blankets, sleeping bags, and vital medical equipment including portable ventilators and essential medicines. The Indian Ambassador was on hand to deliver the relief materials to the Deputy Prime Minister at Nepalgunj Airport.

Humanitarian partners have begun to mobilize relief supplies off available in-country stocks, but more is likely to be required to meet the needs of those affected. The humanitarian community in Nepal is coordinating with the Government and authorities at the federal, provincial and local levels and has initiated inter-cluster meetings to assess sectoral impacts as well.

## Camp Coordination and Camp Management

### Needs:

- Displaced populations are forced to spend nights under the open sky. There is an urgent need to identify appropriate locations/ open spaces for setting up sites to provide refuge to the displaced populations.
- Displaced populations are in need of accommodation in collective sites or existing public structures.

### Response:

- The cluster members are working in close coordination with the Provincial Ministry- the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Urban Development and supporting with immediate relief items and dispatched the items to the affected locations but distribution are yet to commence.

- IRA report is yet to be released and this will also support in developing a road map for the cluster, who will be working in coordination with District Disaster Management Committees, local authorities and security forces in terms of identification of appropriate sites and with site layouts to host displaced populations. placed

#### Gaps and Constraints:

- Official data on displacement is yet to be received from the affected areas.

### Early Recovery

#### Needs:

- Strengthened information management and coordination.
- Debris management including capacity building and PPE kits.
- Minor infrastructure rehabilitation interventions through cash for work
- Support Government officials in retrieving damaged records, office equipment and facilities.
- MSME and livelihoods support.
- Disaster risk management.

#### Response:

- Two information management coordinators deployed at provincial level by humanitarian partners.
- One national drone and pilot deployed.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Data related to damage and loss: both sectoral and geographical.

### Education

#### Needs:

- Rapid structural damage assessments of affected school buildings and initial educational needs assessment.
- Psychosocial support to teachers, SMCs/PTAs, parents, and students in affected areas. Earthquake survivors may suffer from trauma, affecting their ability to engage in learning.
- Design and plan temporary learning centers (TLC) considering the winter season.

#### Response:

- Karnali Province Educational Cluster: Assigned responsibilities and mobilized nine cluster members in five affected districts to coordinate and data collection. Shared a generic template among cluster members for preliminary damage assessment of schools.
- Federal Education Cluster: Provided technical support for data collection and is actively engaging in coordination meetings at both the federal and provincial levels, as well as inter-cluster coordination.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Schools are closed due to the Tihar holiday, challenging information gathering related to educational needs and state of infrastructure.

### Food Security

#### Needs:

- Ready to eat food for displaced families as immediate response. Additional needs to be determined based on the ongoing IRA.

#### Response:

- On 4 November, at the request of the Government, five metric tons of emergency ready to eat food rations (BP-5) was dispatched, including two metric tons (MT) to Rukum West and three MT to Jajarkot, which can cover approximately 1,250 households or 6,250 beneficiaries for three days (four kgs per household, with an average household size of five).

- An additional 1MT of emergency ready to eat food was requested by the Karnali provincial government for Jajarkot and was dispatched from Nepalgunj on 05 November and will cover an additional 250 households or 1,250 beneficiaries.
- A total of 9MT of ready to eat food (BP-5) remains in stock for further distribution if need be.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- To be determined based on the ongoing IRA.

## Health

#### Needs:

- Immediate medical treatment of those injured during the earthquake.
- Continuation of essential health services and surveillance of displaced populations for early detection and timely response to acute public health events.
- Provision and availability of 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.
- The situation of vulnerable populations, including pregnant and lactating women, children, elderly and people with disabilities is likely to get exacerbated with the winter season.

#### Response:

- Four Emergency Medical Teams were deployed by the Ministry of Health and Population. WHO, along with other health partners, have committed to support with IEHK kits, RH kits and other commodities.
- Health partners are coordinating at federal and provincial level for pre-hospital, hospital, and post-hospital care, together with continuous surveillance for disease outbreaks.
- On 5 November, 14 sets of inter-agency reproductive health kits dispatched to health facilities, including post rape treatment kits for the continuation of sexual and reproductive services. The kits can provide services to 100,000 affected people.
- Two tents (24 sq.m) were dispatched on 5 November to Jajarkot to establish temporary health posts.
- Dignity kits with menstruation hygiene supplies and winter kits were also dispatched.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Health facilities are overwhelmed in the worst hit districts.
- Mapping of camps and shelters from the nearest health facilities is lacking and required for a rapid response in case of acute public health events.
- Partially and fully damaged health facilities may not be able to provide all required health services.
- Given the damage to some health facilities and roads, essential sexual and reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care, antenatal and post-natal checkups in the affected areas are limited.

## Nutrition

#### Needs:

- Pre earthquake, the prevalence of stunting was at 36 per cent and wasting at 4 per cent. Natural disasters and high food insecurity (32 per cent) aggravate the prevalence of different forms of undernutrition in Karnali province.
- Considering total six affected municipalities (two in Rukum West and four in Jajarkot), more than 19,000 children under age five and more than 5,000 pregnant women (expected) are at risk of malnutrition and in need.

#### Response:

- The cluster member are supporting communities in protection, promotion and support for breastfeeding and complementary feeding.
- Prevention of acute malnutrition through blanket supplementary feeding and targeted supplementary feeding program
- Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) through therapeutic feeding program.
- Micronutrient intervention especially MNP, Vitamin A, IFA supplementation to children and pregnant/lactating women.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Proper information on affected population, beneficiaries and actual situation of service delivery platforms.

 **Protection**
**Needs:**

- Establishment of accessible child and women friendly spaces.
- Mobilization of psychosocial counselors and community based psychosocial workers to affected areas.
- Assessment of protection needs.
- Awareness raising interventions on gender-based violence, trafficking, child protection, psychosocial support including messaging using different platforms.
- Obtaining lost/buried legal documents.

**Response:**

- Mobilization of psychosocial counselors and community psychosocial workers.
- The Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizens is allocating one percent of budget from development partners for the emergency.
- Protection related materials – dignity kits, baby sets, blankets have been dispatched to the affected areas on no regret basis.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Limited information on protection needs due to the ongoing IRA.
- Challenges foreseen on health response to GBV as the trained personnel are deployed for general health response.

 **Shelter**
**Needs:**

- Non-food relief items (NFIs) and emergency shelter requirements are high as the number of houses damaged and number of people displaced continues to rise.
- Assessment, data collection and Information management are the key needs for appropriate and required supply of NFIs and its distribution.
- Transitional shelter assistance is critical as the winter season has already begun in the hardest hit areas.

**Response:**

- Some Government food, tarps, and tents have already reached the affected areas, while additional supplies are in the pipeline.
- Humanitarian organizations have dispatched the following from in-country stocks; 906 shelter kits, 2,267 tarps, 3,100 blankets, 1,200 mattress, 400 nylon ropes, 400 kitchen utensils are already in process of distribution with dispatched.
- 450 HHs to be provided with transitional shelter support.
- National and provincial shelter clusters actively working in technical coordination and information management.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Lack of information management, data collection, and assessments remain the major gaps in identifying the shelter needs of affected people.
- Delays in the supply, transportation and distribution of NFIs from different strategic warehouse locations due to logistical constraints.

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

- 15,000 hygiene kits and buckets with plastic cups.
- 2000 carton soaps, 500 toilet (fiber) pan sets, 100 emergency toilets, 10,000 plus ( water purification tablets), 7,000 packets of Aquatabs,

- 200 bags of bleaching powder.
- 10 water quality test kits, WASH facilities in 50 shelters, improvement of WASH services in 50 health facilities, repair of 100 water supply projects.
- 100 WASH promoters, 50 water supply technicians have estimated to mobilize in affected areas.
- Inter-cluster coordination with health, education and shelter is recommended to ensure WASH services.

#### Response:

- WASH cluster meetings held at federal and provincial level, update to 4W response monitoring requested by provincial cluster. Cluster stockpiles, commitment and need has been collected by provincial cluster.
- Total funding needs of the cluster are estimated to be 99 million Rupees.
- 250 hygiene kits arrived in Jajarkot and awaiting approval for distribution.
- 250 hygiene kits by Care were dispatched to Jajarkot.
- Provincial Cluster will facilitate, coordinate and monitor WASH programmes in the affected areas in coordination with humanitarian partners. The Provincial Cluster assigned Helvatas to coordinate in Jajarkot, UNICEF in West Rukum and SUSWA in Salyan. The Federal Cluster plans to visit affected areas shortly.
- The Government committed to repair and reconstruction of damaged water supply projects.
- 274 hygiene kits and buckets with plastic cups were distributed in Nalgadh municipality.
- On 5 November, 667 hygiene kits, buckets with plastic cups and pious reached the district headquarters of West Rukum.
- On 6 November, 1,233 hygiene kits, buckets with plastic cups and pious reached Jajarkot.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Pending the results of the IRA, limited information exists. The full extent of the damage to the water supply scheme is unknown.
- One door system recommended in Jajarkot is unclear as all supplies need to be provided to the receiving committee at the district who then decides who and how transportation and distribution will be conducted.
- District and local level cluster have not been activated.
- IEC materials to be provided and information to be provided while distributing supplies.
- Inadequate coordination between federal and provincial clusters.
- Limited budgets with the federal ministry for earthquake response.

## Emergency Telecommunications

#### Needs:

- Telecommunications networks are functional as of now.

#### Response:

- The ETC Cluster, chaired by the Minister for Communication and Information Technology, met on 04 November with participation from ETC members.
- The cluster decided on the provision of free voice and SMS services in affected areas for five days by Nepal Telecom (NTC), and a request to circulate authenticated news by communications and social media.
- Cluster co-lead remains on standby to provide support to the Government response if requested and required. Additional needs to be determined based on the ongoing IRA.
- ETC Cluster will continue to keep close contacts with both National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) and District Emergency Operations Center (DEOC) for any further assistance required.

#### Constraints:

- Telecommunication networks surge due to overcapacity in the affected areas.
- Breakage of fiber limiting high speed data transmission.

## Logistics

#### Needs:

- Access to remote areas and communities in mountainous locations.

**Response:**

- The network of Humanitarian Staging Areas, particularly Kathmandu, Surkhet and Nepalgunj, is activated and available for use by the humanitarian community.
- Government and humanitarian agencies' relief items including Shelter, WASH, Health and others are available at the HSA in Surkhet for immediate dispatch at the request of the Government. Relief items from the HSA in Kathmandu are being released, mostly health and shelter items.
- On 4 November, the National Logistics Cluster supported the dispatch of 4.7 cubic meters (CBM) of relief supplies including blankets, tarpaulins, and sleeping bags of MoHA pre-positioned at HSA Kathmandu for Rukum West and Jajarkot.
- On-demand logistics services for the humanitarian community remain available.

**Constraints:**

- No major gaps or constraints reported. Minor road closures were reported due to landslides; however, Government departments are clearing affected roads.
- All local and international airports are functional and operational.

**GENERAL COORDINATION**

The Cluster Leads and Co- leads meeting was held at MoHA on 4 November. The meeting focused on the initial humanitarian response planning and responding to the gaps from the federal level. Provincial Humanitarian Coordination Meeting at Surkhet, Provincial Capital to strengthen the inter-cluster coordination and supporting the authorities in addressing the gaps and needs in humanitarian response. District Coordination Meetings are taking place. Clusters are meeting at province are meeting on daily basis and federal level once in two days.

**Background on the crisis**

*A magnitude 6.4M earthquake struck Karnali Province in western Nepal at around 11.47 p.m. local time (UTC 6.02 p.m.) on 3 November 2023, with several aftershocks occurring thereafter. The epicentre was in Ramidanda in Jajarkot District, some 65 kilometres northeast of Surkhet, the capital city of Karnali Province. Tremors have been felt in the adjacent Sudurpashchim and Lumbini provinces. This is the largest earthquake to impact Nepal since the 7.3M earthquake in 2015, and it is the latest in a series of earthquakes to hit western Nepal in the past year; Jajarkot, Doti, Bajura, Bajhang, Darchula, Achham and Dolpa are among the districts in western Nepal affected by various earthquakes since November 2022. The impact of this latest earthquake is thus compounding the difficulties and vulnerabilities of communities still recovering from previous shocks, in areas where low socio-economic indicators and stretched coping mechanisms were already prevalent. Many of the earthquake-affected areas – including Jajarkot, Rukum West, Rukum East, Dailekh, Salyan Rolpa, Nawalparasi East, Dang, Baitadi, Jumla, Pyuthan and Achham – experience significant seasonal labour migration of men, with mostly women and children remaining in local communities.*

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