Nepal: Earthquake 2015

Office of the Resident Coordinator - Situation Report No. 01

(as of 25 April 2015; 8:00 pm)



Highlights

- Most affected areas are Gorkha and Lamjung Districts (north-west of Kathmandu). Damage in Kathmandu Valley limited to historical densely built up neighbourhoods.
- Latest government figures on total causalities are between 700 1000. This is expected to increase.
- Government has called emergency meeting with CNDRC followed by Emergency Core Clusters. Updates on this to be shared shortly.
- Total affected population not yet determined but 30 of 75 districts are reported to be affected.



Source BBC

Situation Overview

Disaster event

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).

Impacts

Government reporting 30 out of 75 districts affected in the Western and Central Regions, including Kathmandu Valley districts. This includes mountain and hilly areas, disperse rural populations as well as some very densely populated districts and Nepal's 2 largest cities – greater Kathmandu and Pokhara. Most affected districts are Sindulpalchowk, Kavre, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Dolakha in the CR and Kaski, Gorkha, Lamjung in the WR. Initial reports from UN field offices are that the Eastern Region is not badly affected and Terrai has been minimally affected.

Government reporting over 700-1000 dead; this is expected to increase. No figures yet on affected populations.

Impacts in Kathmandu valley include collapsed buildings and walls especially historic buildings in centres, but less overall damage and collapse of buildings than expected.

In Kathmandu Valley, hospitals area overcrowded, running out of room for storing dead bodies and also running short of emergency supplies. BIR hospital is treating people in the streets. There are reports that the hospital emergency stocks are depleting/used up and there is a need for a government decision on bringing kits from the military.

Majority of population remaining outside houses due to fear of aftershocks and structural damage to buildings.

Humanitarian needs

Government is requesting international assistance. Government is currently reporting that needs include:

+ For more information, see "background on the crisis" at the end of the report

- Search and Rescue capacity;
- medical teams, supplies and tenting for hospitals, and dead-body bags;
- heavy equipment for rubble removal;
- and helicopters for transport and access to blocked areas

Evolving response

GON has held a meeting of their Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC), followed by meetings with Cabinet and the humanitarian community. An HCT meeting followed in the evening.

Government reports that all hospital staff mobilized and are deploying small teams to hospitals in Kathmandu. Chitwan and Pokhara which both are well staffed are sending medical teams to worst affected areas - Gorkha and Lamjung.

Government is intending to set-up displaced camps in Kathmandu Valley and outside, where there are APF bases as these have established water supply and security.

Government is unclear on emergency food stocks.

Government was requested to mobilize the construction sector for rubble removal.

It is not clear whether GON will be setting up a response fund and there is still need to establish what resources government can mobilize.

Official requests have been made to Government of India and Government of China and both are being mobilized. Indian Super Hercules was sent at 6:00pm local time.

UNHCT is consolidating information on their capacity and supplies for Sunday, 26 April.

Meeting of clusters 11:00 am tomorrow and the first of daily meetings with the government at the National Emergency Operating Center at 3:00pm.

Operational/logistics update

National Emergency Operating Centre is operational.

The Kathmandu and Pokhara airport remains open. Some commercial flights appear to be coming in. Status of the feeder roads outside of Kathmandu Valley are still unclear.

Government has been requested but is still unclear on expedited customs clearance for emergency cargo and processes at the airport.

Background on the crisis

At 11.56 local time, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, with epicenter in Lamjung District, 30 kilometers east of Lamjung town.

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