



Man walking through rubble. (Photo: UNICEF Nepal)

NEPAL

Humanitarian Situation Report #3



Highlights

UNICEF and partners are intending to reach approximately 1.7 million children who represent 40 percent of the 4.2 million affected population in 21 of the most affected districts of Nepal. (NEOC/MOHA)

UNICEF Nepal Country Office started responding immediately after the disaster by using its pre-positioned emergency relief supplies. This includes the provision of tents for hospital use, distribution of hygiene kits, and support to water trucking services to 16 informal camps for displaced population in the Kathmandu Valley.

UNICEF Nepal Country Office is operational and staff on the ground continue to support the response by the Government and civil society actors.

Date: 30 April 2015

UNICEF started responding immediately to the earthquake with internal resources of US\$2 million for health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education and child protection.

In view of the scale and level of devastation and increasing number of casualties, far more resources will be required for response and recovery.

UNICEF is currently appealing for US \$50.35 million through the Inter-agency Flash Appeal.

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

On 25 April, a powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 struck Nepal with its epicenter 50 miles (80 km) east of the capital Kathmandu (Lamjung). The confirmed total number casualties is 5,027 and 10,235 are injured¹ across the country. The numbers will continue to increase as information becomes available from a large number of affected districts. The initial estimate of 35 out of 75 districts affected has now risen to a total of 57 districts, 21 of which are declared most affected².

The earthquake also triggered a fatal avalanche on Mount Everest. The last large-scale earthquake took place in 1934 (Nepal-Bihar Earthquake) with a magnitude of 8.3 and killed over 8,500 people. Most of the displaced population are currently located in 16 informal camps in the Kathmandu Valley.

The most immediate needs are shelter with people struggling to find tents and plastic sheeting to protect themselves from the sun and rain. WASH is also a dire need given the absence of clean water source and latrines. Further, to help

¹ Update of Ministry of Home Affairs as of 16:00 on 29 April 2015.

² As identified by the Nepal Emergency Operations Center/MoHA

protect children and facilitate their psychosocial recovery from the traumatizing experience of the earthquake, and to help reduce their vulnerability in camp settings, services such as Child-Friendly Spaces are needed.

As of today, international search and rescue (SAR) teams have rescued 69 people from the rubble. Due to cultural sensitivities, those SAR teams that are not willing to recover dead bodies are asked to leave. Refusal to recover dead bodies by a SAR team has caused tensions in Sindupalchowk district. At the moment, in-country and committed SAR capacity is considered sufficient to cover all sites and are encouraged to plan their exit strategy in the coming days.

In Kathmandu Valley, there are signs of slow recovery. Small grocery shops started to open, although major business establishments and banks still remain closed. Improvements in electricity supply have been observed with a current coverage of 40% within the Valley. There are still challenges in acquiring fuel, which is urgently needed to be able to pump water from the ground and maintain services in hospitals and other public facilities.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Government of Nepal through the Ministry of Home Affairs has declared a state of emergency in the 57 affected districts and has activated the Humanitarian Clusters. Most severely affected districts are Kathmandu, Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Gorkha, Rasuwa, and Dhading in the Western and Central Region. A total of 4,261,210 people are seriously affected, out of which an estimated 1.7 million (40 per cent) are children below the age of 18 years.

The Clusters have been assessing the latest situation and organizing initial needs assessments in each area, which is now being coordinated through OCHA. Sectoral response plans are being developed and immediate interventions are taking place to meet the most urgent needs. The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) is operational and coordinating the response with support from UN agencies and humanitarian partners.

UNICEF is co-leading the WASH, Education and Nutrition Clusters and is an active member of the Health Cluster. The office is also now the Cluster Lead for Protection as well as the sub-cluster co-lead for Child Protection.

UNICEF submitted a CERF proposal for US\$5 million (WASH (US\$3.5) and Protection (US\$1.5)).

Humanitarian Strategy

All humanitarian efforts are being coordinated through the UN Humanitarian Country Team. Both the Clusters and the UN Humanitarian Country Team (UNHCT) are meeting daily to assess the situation and review interventions being undertaken.

Government priorities

As a first step, the Government has prioritized the provision of temporary shelter for those who are displaced and staying in the 16 temporary camps in the valley. Needs are expected to rise substantially as more information becomes available through Clusters and assessments in most affected districts.

Summary Analysis of Initial UNICEF Programme response

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNICEF WASH response strategy drafted, indicators developed and four priority districts were identified for immediate intervention by UNICEF (Kavre, Dhading, Kathmandu and Bhaktapur).
- Existing partnership with Red Cross and ENPHO included emergency response.
- Request for proposal for PCA has been floated through a simple web based format.
- In Kavre district, UNICEF provided 20,000 laundry soaps, 5000 Aqua tabs, 1504 bucket 10Ltr + mug, 2500 Piyush 60 ML bottles; 90 plastic toilet pans, 6 rolls of tarpaulin sheets for latrines and distributed 500 WASH information pamphlets to 500 of the estimated 50,000 affected families.
- In Dhading district, Hygiene kits and Aqua tablets have been dropped to 7 remote village development committees (VDCs) using helicopter along with food.
- On 28 April, UNICEF conducted a quick appraisal of Kathmandu Valley Water Supply Limited (KUKL) and found 12 tankers with capacity to carry water supply ranging from 5000 to 14000 litres to the 16 temporary camps in Kathmandu Valley.

- WASH with the Logistics team are working on arrangements to airlift 25,000 Hygiene Kits, 4000 latrine slabs from Pakistan to Pokhara; and truck 15,000 hygiene Kits, 4000 tarpaulins to build temporary latrines from India to Bhaktapur.

Nutrition

- 21 districts have been identified for nutrition interventions. Lead partners in each district were also designated, including district support lead agencies for nutrition in emergency response. Partners are currently assessing nutrition capacity gaps in the affected districts
- Five core response interventions were agreed upon: breastfeeding, complementary feeding, supplementary feeding, therapeutic feeding and care and micronutrients for children.
- Roll-out of key interventions will build on existing partner supported programme in the district with appropriate scale-up/emphasis to respond to the needs of the children and women affected.
- The district Support Lead agencies will receive supplies (RUTF, MNP and anthropometric equipment) through the district Health office.
- All IEC/BCC materials including messages and breastfeeding monitoring tools are ready and will be applied in all districts with the key interventions.
- Gap still exists with supplementary feeding for affected children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating mothers, which is a critical life-saving measure in the first days of the emergency.

Health

- District Health Office (DHO) is coordinating district level health response; reproductive health (RH) sub-cluster is established and UNICEF is taking the lead in supplying newborn kits. UNFPA takes the lead on RH kits and gender-based violence (GBV) awareness.
- On 29 April, UNICEF conducted a field assessment of camps in Kathmandu Valley and will start assessing cold chain capacity at district level.
- Health camps have been set up in Bal Mandir (informal children home) in Dhadhing.
- Psychosocial problems are now recognized as an important health issue in these areas.
- WHO established a GIS mapping of affected districts based on data collected and it will be shared this afternoon through the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) website.
- On 29 April, one cargo arrived with medical supplies, vaccines and tents. Two more cargo planes arrived in the afternoon with similar supplies.
- Shortage of essential drugs is a challenge and procurement is in process. However, tents for the hospitals are still the most critical need, given the destruction of 95% of health facilities in the affected districts.
- For media and C4D: Key health messages are circulated in all 35 districts with multiple channels (TV, radio/FM) and health desks are established at MoHP, while interviews were given with Dutch Natcom, two Dutch media, three Korean media though Korean Natcom.

Child Protection

- Protection cluster will focus its immediate response in the 11 most affected districts.
- UNICEF and Partners are assessing two camps for identification of separated children. Handicap International is carrying out identification of separated children in 5 district hospitals.
- Psychosocial services have been initiated in Gorkha, Kaski, Soindhuli, Kavre, Ramechhap and Kathmandu (DWC, CIVICT, Kopila, and UNICEF).
- On 29 April, Technical working groups (TWGs) for Gender-based violence (GBV), Family Tracing, Psychosocial support and child-friendly spaces (CFS) have been established. UNICEF is represented in all of them.
- UNICEF has developed a statement on child adoption which is being reviewed by Government and partners.

Education

The Education and Protection clusters have established a joint group to address the need for child-friendly spaces (CFS) in the affected areas. Initial response for the valley districts (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur) is underway.

The following actions have been initiated:

- Cluster partners including UNICEF are setting up CFS in **26 sites/IDP shelter locations** in the valley identified jointly with government. These will include a safe, dry place for children aged 0-18 to access recreational materials, psychosocial support and key life-saving messages provided to volunteer facilitators.
- UNICEF has also distributed, 24 tarpaulins and 6 ECD kits (1 kit can be used in a child-friendly space with at least 35 children) to the temporary camp in Tundikel. Another 100 school kits have been sent to Gorkha.
- UNICEF is reviewing existing arrangements to mobilize available resources and is collecting information on how many schools and ECD centres are being used as shelters.
- UNICEF is assisting in translating in Nepali the global guidelines on using schools as shelters in emergencies for wider dissemination.

Supply and Logistics

- As of 29 April, pre-positioned emergency stocks of tents, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, IEC materials, plastic buckets, school-in-a-box and ECD kits worth US\$39,566.66 have been distributed to partners.

HR Support

- A total of 75 Surge Staff is required for ICT, Supply and Logistics, HR, Administration, Operations, WASH, Education, Child Protection, Health and C4D, 35 of which are international.

Communication for Development

- Key hygiene and sanitation messages in three camp settings of Kathmandu and two camp settings in Bhaktapur were carried out using microphones.
- Key messages on hygiene and sanitation, and psychosocial messages are being broadcast on 30 FM stations in 6 affected districts. Messages were also aired on Radio Nepal, Kantipur FM and Image FM.

Media

- Nepal Country Office and ROSA staff have been responding to media interviews with support from newly arrived Communication surge capacity. Interviews were given to: Good Morning Britain TV (live); Good Morning Britain TV (recorded); The Daily Telegraph; ITN-TV for channels 4 and 5; Folha de SaoPaulo; NHK TV; BBC.org; Radio 1 (Dutch); Aamulehti paper (Finnish); FR2; Radio Classique.
- Media interest to follow UNICEF supplies, including to the most affected districts being coordinated with various programmatic clusters. These will pick up following the arrival of supplies by flight.
- Press Release prepared on Flash Appeal and Q&A on key issues and sensitive topics also drafted.
- Communication staff have visited various sites in the valley to assess the situation on the ground. Photographers have been deployed in the valley to get images reflecting the situation of children.

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