



This report is produced by the OSOCC Assessment Cell based on secondary data from multiple sources, including the Government of Nepal, UNDAC, United Nations Agencies, non-governmental organisation and media sources.

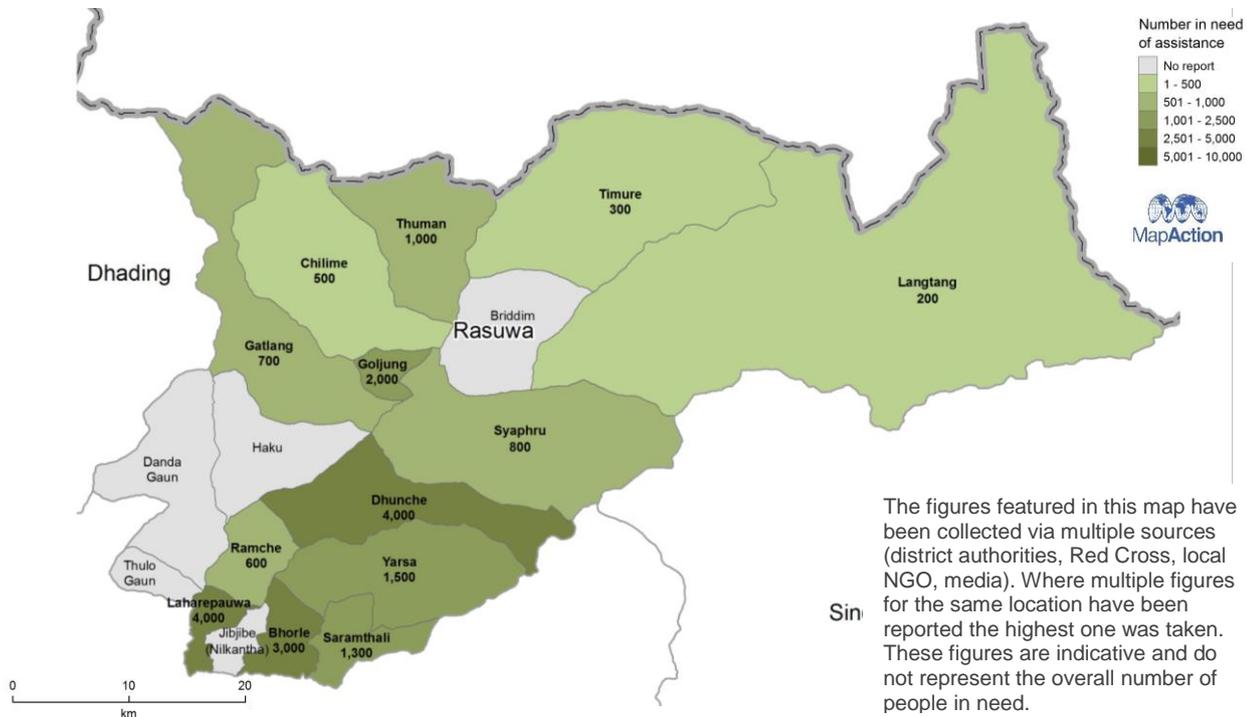
I. Situation Overview

Rasuwa is one of the worst affected districts by the 25 April earthquake. As of 8 May, 430 people have been reported killed and 753 injured (MoFA 08/05/2015). Most of those that died in the district were killed in an avalanche that buried inhabitants of Langtang village including tourists in the guesthouses. Some remote areas are yet to be reached or accounted for. More than 63% of the district's territory is at an elevation of more than 3000 meters. Of the remaining territory, most parts are located at an elevation between 1000 – 3000 meters (University of Copenhagen 2005) and parts of Rasuwa were without road access even before the earthquake, further challenging the relief effort. In the first few days after the earthquake very little information was available from Rasuwa. Field reports have gradually come in that help understand the situation.

Initial estimates based on Government data of damaged buildings in the affected districts, suggests that 82% of the population of Rasuwa have been affected by the earthquake. According to Government data, 8,000 buildings were destroyed in the earthquake. This figure is however unconfirmed and represents a preliminary estimate based on the combination of reports from a range of sources providing information on needs at the VDC level¹ (Please see map below for an illustration of aggregated number of reported people in need).

At the time of writing there were not very many organizations working in Resuwa although more organizations have indicated that they plan to undertake projects in Resuwa (OCHA).

Reported number of people in need (multiple sources)



¹ Sources include Humanitarian agencies sit-reps, assessment reports, government data, social and news media. Where multiple sources for the same VDC were found, the highest number was taken for the estimation

Three VDCs, Lantang, Rashwagadhi, and Mailung, are reported as highly affected. The VDC secretariat offices are overwhelmed and do not have the capacity to respond to the situation. This is reportedly due to officials having lost homes or family members ([Early Recovery Cluster 08/05/2015](#)).

| Pre-crisis facts | | Post-earthquake situation | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Total population (2011) | 43,300 (HH:9,778) | Estimated affected pop | 35,440 |
| Total number of VDCs | 18 | | |
| Total health facilities | 23 | Completely damaged health facilities | 16 |

Source: [Nepal Census 2011](#), [Nepal Human Development Report 2014](#)

Priorities for humanitarian intervention

The priorities mentioned in assessment reports and other sources align with findings in other affected districts:

- Shelter
- Health
- Food
- Water

II. Access to basic services Pre and Post- Earthquake Impact



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Earthquake Impact

The earthquake has led to widespread loss of food stocks due to destruction of storage space ([WFP 08/05/2015](#)). The loss of crops and livestock means that even if immediate food needs are met, medium to longer term food security may be an issue.

Langtang is one of the most popular trekking destinations in the country and thus, many people in the area have livelihoods connected to tourism. This is likely to suffer due to the damage and access issues caused by the earthquake.

Affected Livestock and Poultry:

| Households | Estimated population | Cattle pop. | Affected cattle pop. | Buffalo pop. | Affected buffalo pop. | Total affected cattle & buffalo pop. | Sheep pop. | Goat pop. | Pig pop. | Fowl pop. | Duck pop. | Poultry pop. |
|------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| 9,942 | 43,524 | 24,571 | 1,229 | 16,839 | 842 | 2,071 | 10,866 | 37,530 | 5,252 | 84,876 | 598 | 85,474 |

Source: MoAD 05/05/2015 (Department of Livestock Services)

Pre-Earthquake

Only 6% of the land in Rasuwa is favorable to agriculture. However, agriculture is the main economic sector, for 89% of the households ([Norhla](#)). Agriculture mainly consists of subsistence production, and is challenged by the very limited access the population in remote areas has to basic farming services and markets ([WFP 08/05/2015](#)).

February, March and April are generally considered the lean season. The fall rice harvest takes place around October/November, and the rainy season takes place between May and July. All 18 VDCs of the district are considered Minimally Food Insecure (Phase 1). Dhunche is the main market in Rasuwa district ([WFP 8/05/2015](#)).

Langtang is the third most-popular destination for trekkers in Nepal, after the Khumbu and the Annapurna regions. The spring season (March to May) is a popular hiking season near the valley. In the sparsely populated area, with a maximum of 2,500 people living in the main settlement of Langtang village, tourism is the main source of income of the people ([dpa 05/05/2015](#)).

Earthquake Impact

Government estimates suggest that 8000 buildings were damaged by the earthquake. Initial reports estimated that 95% of houses in the district had been destroyed. The majority of stone buildings have been destroyed, while brick buildings have been damaged to the extent that most of them have been rendered unsuitable to live in. Houses made of wood appear to have been less damaged (UK EMT 05/05/2015).

The displaced population has made their own temporary shelter using available materials, including materials from damaged houses, or are living under tarpaulins. There are reports of people sleeping outside even if their houses are still standing, due to fear of landslides. In Syapru besi there are entire communities displaced with most of them living under plastic sheeting, some in tents without proper techniques for tying off or setting them up away from structurally compromised building. Living conditions are varied, in some places (such as Syapru besi) they are described as crowded, with people staying together in clusters and with minimal protection against the elements while in Thulo Syapru village, there are plenty space. People are using tarpaulin and bamboo mat roofing. (SCI 08/05/2015).

Shelter priorities are tents, construction tools, stronger materials to withstand the monsoon (SCI 08/05/2015).

Pre-Earthquake

Most of the houses (89%) in Rasuwa are made of mud-bonded bricks and/or stone. Only 5% of the houses are cement-bonded. The remaining are made of reinforced cement concrete or wooden pillars. 72% of the houses have roofs made of galvanised iron, 11% made of wooden planks, and 9% are made of tile/slate, while the rest are made of thatch/straw. 89% of the households use wood as the main cooking source. 71% of the households use electricity are the main lighting source (Nepal Census 2011).

Earthquake Impact

Number of Health Facilities reported as damaged:

| Hospitals | | PHCC ² | | S/HP ³ | | Ayurvedic Facilities | | Private and others | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Completely damaged | Partially damaged | Completely damaged | Partially damaged | Completely damaged | Partially damaged | Completely damaged | Partially damaged | Completely damaged | Partially damaged |
| 1 | | | | 14 | 3 | | | 1 | |

Source: DHO/DPHO, MoHP 07/05/2015

Rasuwa District Hospital was severely damaged in the earthquake, and is not operational (WHO 30/04/2015). Three health professionals have been reported missing, and five were injured in the earthquake (Health Cluster 07/05/2015). Some patients have been referred to Kathmandu for treatment (WHO 06/05/2015). In one village, the cases of diarrhoea have reportedly increased by 50% following the earthquake (UK EMT 05/05/2015).

Save the Children reported on 2 government health posts. In Syapru besi, staffed with a Senior Auxiliary Health Worker and an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife, the health post facility was damaged and currently operational under tarpaulin. The patient load has increased by about 50% where around 30-35 patients visit a day. The most common diseases experienced now are diarrhoea, fever, injuries, vomiting and mental trauma experienced by both children and adults. In Thulo Syapru people are not currently accessing health services. The VDC had a small clinic established staffed with one Health Assistant and a midwife however, the clinic is currently closed. (SCI 08/05/2015).

Pre-Earthquake

The malnutrition rates prior the earthquake were: MAM - 5.1%; SAM - 2.8%. Before the earthquake, Rasuwa district had one district public health office, one hospital, ten health posts, nine sub health posts, one primary health centre, and two sub-centres (UN Nepal 2007).⁴

² Public Health Community Centre

³ Health Post

 **WATER SANITATION HYGIENE****Earthquake Impact**

Limited availability of drinking water and sanitation facilities has been reported (WFP 8/05/2015). Normal water supply systems are damaged so people are currently using open spring water sources or drinking water without treating it. There are reports that in some areas the main source of water is water streams located 2-3km from settlements. These water streams will not be suitable for safe drinking water when the monsoon season begins in June. Water from ground sources are being used without being treated or boiled (UK EMT 05/05/2015). Water storage is also an issue (SCI 08/05/2015). Anecdotal reports indicate that alternative sources of water are likely to be available if pre-crisis water sources are damaged and it is possible that there is variability in regard to access to water within the district.

With damages to both homes and toilets, open defecation is being practiced in open fields. There are a few toilets with plastic covers currently without a dug pit

Some reports have indicated that open defecation was prevalent in the district before the earthquake, however in number of latrines was almost equal to the number of HH (9741 latrines -2011 census to 9,778 households). Nevertheless, the increasing prevalence of this practice combined with people living close together in temporary shelters since the earthquake could increase the risk of contracting infectious diseases (WFP 08/05/2015). There are a few toilets with plastic covers currently without a dug pit (SCI 08/05/2015).

Clean water, water storage containers, private and clean latrines, and hygiene materials for women and girls and hygiene promotion are reported as sector priorities (SCI 08/05/2015).

Pre-Earthquake

88% of the population had access to tap/piped water. The rest of the population relies on spout water, wells (both covered and uncovered) and rivers/streams. Nearly half (43%) of the population did not have access to toilets (Nepal Census 2011).

 **NUTRITION**

Children are reported to have changed eating behavior post-earthquake. Their eating patterns are described as irregular. Pregnant and Lactating women and new mothers require nutritious food provision; there are a few reports of mothers stopping breastfeeding. Children under two also require nutritious food (SCI 08/05/2015).

 **EDUCATION****Earthquake Impact**

The Government estimates that 90% of schools in the district were destroyed by the earthquake (Education Cluster 27/04/2015). Teachers that were away on holiday when the earthquake happened have been unable to return (UK ETM 05/05/2015). The Department of Education has closed all schools in the affected districts until 14 May, pending safety evaluation of the school buildings (Local media 05/05/2015).

Pre-Earthquake

At the district level, 44% can read and write. Data from 2013 shows that the district has 106 Early Childhood Development facilities, 113 primary schools, 46 lower secondary schools, 25 secondary and 10 higher secondary schools. Average school attendance rate (Grade 1 – 5) in 2012 was 66.9%, and the net enrolment rate (Grad 1 -5) was 96.9% (Nepal Nutrition and Food security Portal 2015).

 **PROTECTION****Earthquake Impact**

Briddim, a VDC hosting a number of Tibetan refugees, reportedly suffered extensive damage in the earthquake (BBC 27/04/2015). There is concern that the ethnic Tibetans may be neglected in the relief effort, due to their ostracised social standing. Others in the remote areas who do not have citizen status or have lost their ID documents in the earthquake may also face challenges in receiving assistance.

⁴ Most recent available data

Pre-Earthquake

Rasuwa is ethnically mixed and diverse. There are more than 18 ethnic groups and most of the population (78%) belongs to Nepalese indigenous groups known as Janajati/Adivasi (IFC 12/2014). Rasuwa is also home to a number of Tibetan refugees, who in many cases lack citizenship status and live in marginalized communities close to the border of Tibet.

III. Humanitarian and operational constraints

- Active landslides in multiple sites – causing the road blocks in many places, the major threat for access – for vehicle as well as foot which is the major hazard for the village. People are scared (SCI 08/05/2015).
- CCCM reported on 6 May that landslides still block supply routes. The northern areas of Rasuwa lacked road access also before the earthquake. Much reconnaissance work is still to be done (CCCM, 06/05/2015).
- The Trisuli / Bidur to Dhunche road is open, but only small vehicles (4 x 4 jeeps) are allowed. There is a risk of new landslides. Relief vehicles should register with the police post in Kalikasthan before proceeding to Dhunche (Logistics Cluster 05/05/2015).
- In the days immediately following the earthquake, bad weather in Rasuwa hampered relief efforts (Sky News 07/05/2015).
- Airlifts are needed to deliver food; however, the number of available helicopters remains limited. (OCHA 1/05/2015)
- Access by foot is also difficult due to landslides which have blocked trekking routes and the steep terrain (UK EMT 05/05/2015).
- Road blockages have hindered access (USAID 01/05/2015).
- Two community radio stations in the district have reportedly been damaged in the district and need to be (IMS 29/05/2015).

IV. Information gaps

Information gaps by VDC

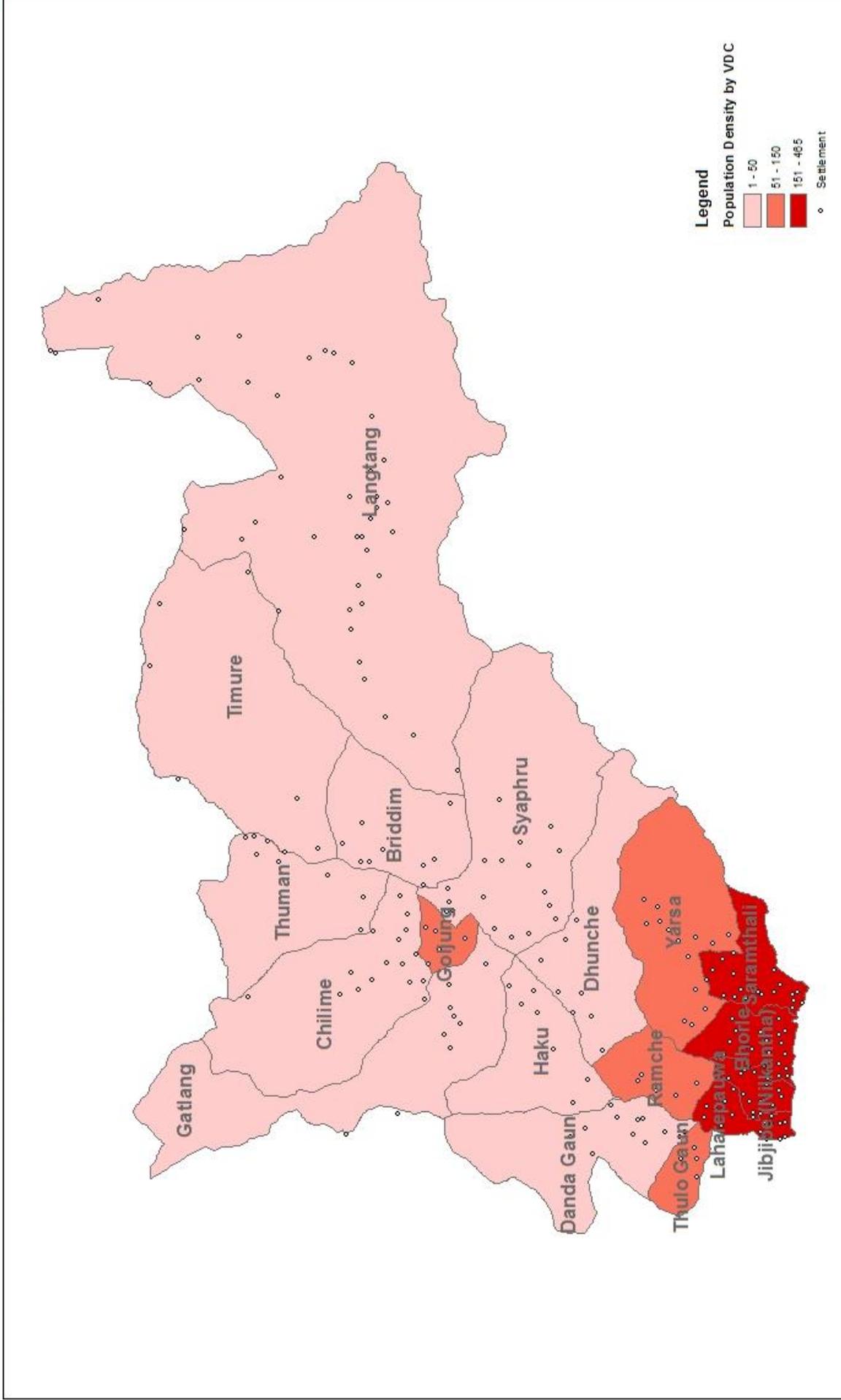
| Bhorle | Dhaibung | Laharepauwa | Thulogaun |
|-----------|---------------|--|-----------|
| Bridhim | Gatlang | Langtang | Thuman |
| Chilime | Goljung | Ramche | Timure |
| Dandagaun | Haku | Saramthali | Yarsa |
| VDC | Town/ village | Information | |
| Dunche | | • Landslides blocking roads in district HQ | |
| Langtang | | Dangerous landslides blocking footpaths between villagees | |
| Syafru | Syafru Besi | • Poor, crowded living condition in camps with minimal roof cover, plastic sheeting, tarpaulin, bamboo mat roofing and tents | |
| | Thulo Syafru | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main water source is now unprotected springs • 2 damaged and unusable school buildings • health post in Syafru besi town was damaged but currently operational under tarpaulin. Senior Auxiliary Health Worker and auxiliary Nurse Midwife available • reports of diarrhea, fever, vomiting, mental trauma • need for water storage containers, treatment, clean toilets, soap and hygiene promotion • Shortage of broad spectrum antibiotics • One case of gender-based violence reported • Active landslides in multiple sites, hazards for both vehicles and on foot | |

Sources: Save the Children, UNDAC, WHO, WFP

IV. Pre-crisis Indicators

| Indicator | Rasuwa | National |
|---|---|--|
| Population number (last census) | 43,300 | 26,494,504 |
| Gender disaggregation | 50.4 % female | 51.5% female |
| Age disaggregation | 0 to 4 yrs: 8.7% 5 to 19 yrs: 36% 20 to 59 yrs: 45% 60+ yrs: 10.3% | 0 to 4 yrs: 9.7% 5 to 19 yrs: 36.3% 20 to 59 yrs: 45.9% 60+ yrs: 5.3% |
| Population density | 28.04 ppl/sq. km | 180.01 ppl/sq. km |
| Average household size | 4.43 | 4.88 |
| People with disabilities | Male: 2.7% Female: 2.1% | Male: 2.2% Female: 1.7% |
| Life expectancy at birth (years) | 71 | 69 |
| Measles vaccination coverage for infants | 86% | 88% |
| Malnutrition prevalence | MAM: 5.1 SAM: 2.8 | MAM: 8.7 SAM: 2.7 |
| HDI | 0.461 | 0.490 |
| Literacy rate: | Male: 61% Female: 46.5% | Male: 75% Female: 57% |
| Main source of energy for cooking | Wood: 90% Liqu. petrol. gas: 8.3% | Urban: Liqui. petrol gas: 68.2%; wood: 25.9% Rural: wood: 73.1%; Cow dung: 12.5% |
| Main source of energy for lighting | Electricity: 71.5% Kerosene: 11.8% | Electricity: 67.7% Kerosene: 18.4% |
| Access to improved drinking water source | 88% | 85.9% |
| % of households with toilets | 56.3% | Urban: 90.1% Rural: 54.3% |
| Main religions | Buddhism: 70% Hinduism: 25.4% | Hinduism: 81.5% Buddhism: 9.1% Islam: 4.4% |

Rasuwa District: Population Density at VDC Level



Source: Assessment Registry (<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/assessment-working-group>)
Share Information report at nepalassessments@humanitarianresponse.info

Map Produced on:
11 May 2015