

Situation Analysis Nepal Earthquake

05.05.2015

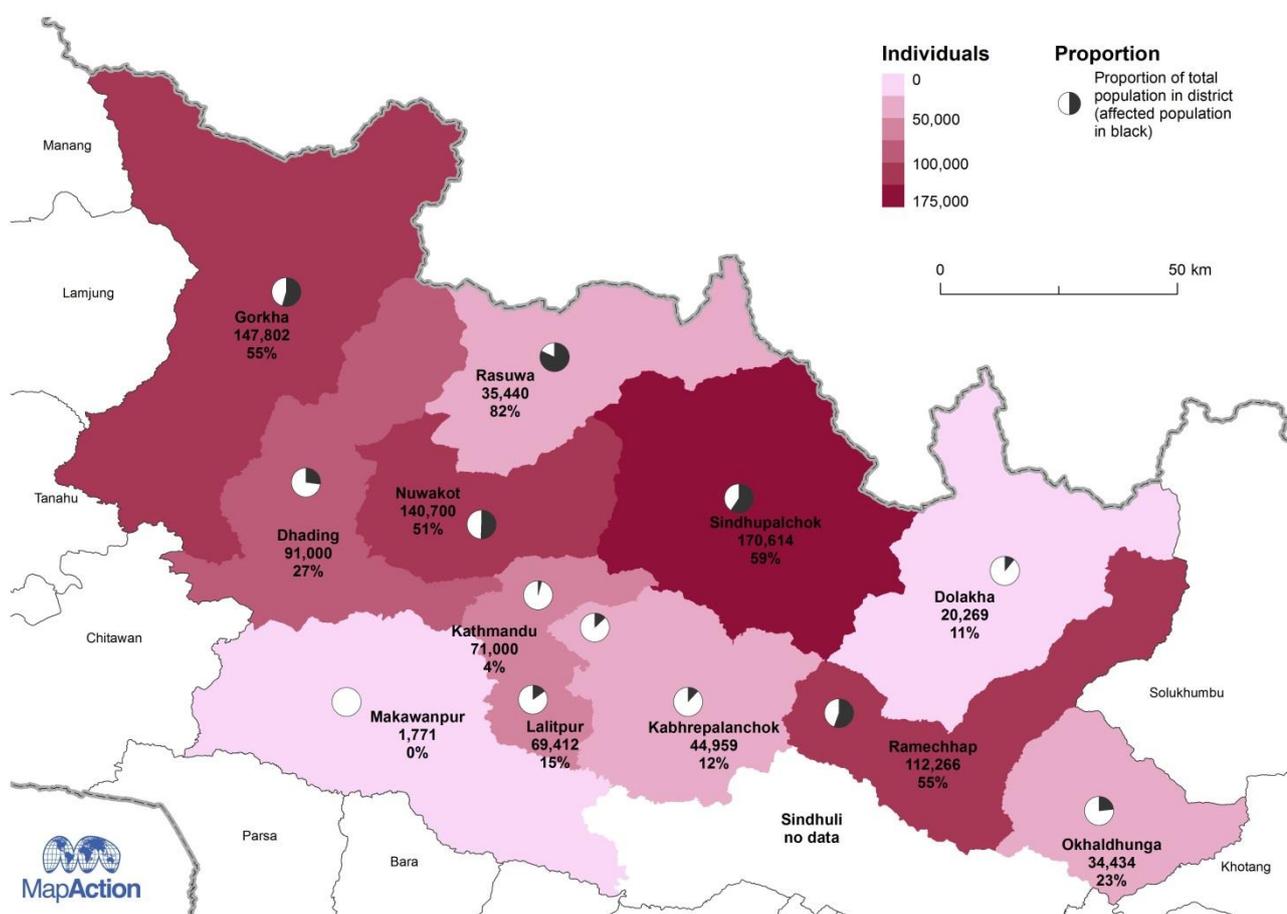


OSOCC
Assessment Cell

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The earthquake from 25 April (7.8 magnitude) was followed by a series of aftershocks up to a magnitude of 6.7, mostly to the east of the original epicentre causing further localised damage. As of 4 May, 7,365 people have been killed and more than 14,300 injured. 39 of Nepal's 75 districts have been affected. Access to remote areas remains a challenge. Initial reports were that up to 90 per cent of the houses in Gorkha and Sindhupalchok districts have been destroyed. UNDAC has established humanitarian hubs in Gorkha and Sindhupalchok.

Most affected districts (4 May 2015)



Based on estimates of damaged buildings. Analysis using data from: Multi-National Military and Coordination Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs, National Population Census (2011)

Priorities for humanitarian intervention (based on consolidated secondary data):

- Shelter: tarpaulins, tents, blankets, repair tools and other NFIs
- Food delivery
- WASH: water supply, sanitation
- Health: facilities, medicine
- Access to remote areas
- Ensuring equitable distribution of relief items
- Rubble removal

CRISIS IMPACT

- According to the government, the worst affected districts are Bhaktapur, Dhading, Dolakha, Gorkha, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Lamjung, Rasuwa, Ramechhap, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchok, Makawanpur, and Sindhuli ([LCT 02/05/2015](#)).
- Currently available information indicates that Sindhupalchok, Gorkha and Dhading are the priority districts for assistance. Although Rasuwa has a relatively small population, it is difficult to access and current information indicates over 80% of the population are affected.
- While the relief effort is now reaching beyond Kathmandu, access to remote areas remains a key challenge ([LCT 02/05/2015](#)).
- Figures on the total number of people affected by districts, or of the number of houses partially or totally damaged are still being analyzed. Initial estimates based on Government data suggests that around 980,000 people are directly affected in the 13 most impacted districts as a result of their houses being collapsed or significantly damaged (this figures does not represent the overall number of people in need).

District	Damaged non-public buildings	HH Size	Affected Population	Total Pop (Census 2011)	% (affected of total pop)
Sindhupalchok	39,494	4	170,614	287,798	59
Gorkha	36,226	4	147,802	271,061	55
Nuwakot	30,000	5	140,700	277,471	51
Ramechhap	24,300	5	112,266	202,646	55
Dhading	20,000	5	91,000	336,067	27
Kathmandu	17,750	4	71,000	1,744,240	4
Lalitpur	16,294	4	69,412	468,132	15
Kabhrepalanchok	9,505	5	44,959	381,937	12
Bhaktapur	9,000	4	39,960	304,651	13
Rasuwa	8,000	4	35,440	43,300	82
Okhaldhunga	7,568	5	34,434	147,984	23
Dolakha	4,968	4	20,269	186,557	11
Makawanpur	363	5	1,771	420,477	0
	223,468		979,629		

(sources GoN, UNDAC, Mapaction)

Vulnerable Groups

- The Dalit population is vulnerable due to marginal social standing and because they live apart from mainstream settlements ([IDSN 2012](#); [ACTED 28/04/2015](#)). There are concerns that they will miss out on relief.
- Tibetan refugees in Nepal are in most cases stateless and live in remote and already marginalised areas ([BBC 27/04/2015](#)).
- In many villages, the majority of working-age men are migrant workers abroad; leaving women, children, and elderly in charge of the recovery efforts ([WSJ 01/05/2015](#)). Social practices may make it difficult for female headed households to access relief items. Female headed households may be at a disadvantage in terms of clearing rubble, salvaging materials and repairing their homes.

Access to Essential Services

• Shelter

Shelter is a key priority sector for responding to this disaster. Initial reports reported that up to 90 per cent of the houses in Gorkha and Sindhupalchok districts have been destroyed ([OCHA 02/05/2015](#)). In Gorkha district less damage has been reported in the valleys, whereas settlements in rocky mountainous areas appeared much more affected (UNDAC 30.4). Further assessments are needed to verify these reports.

61,000 houses have been damaged in Nuwakot district ([UNICEF 02/05/2015](#)). Shelter remains a key priority. The distribution of tarpaulins and repair tools is considered a priority by the Shelter Cluster

(OCHA 02/05/2015). Some reports indicate that basic shelter materials are not locally available in adequate quantity (Save the Children 02/05/2015) .

In some villages in Gorkha, several families are sharing the same living areas. People use tents, cow sheds and tarpaulins for shelter (Save the Children 02/05/2015). This situation is likely to be similar in other districts. Reports indicate that shelters lack privacy and provide inadequate protection from the elements.

In Sindhupalchok, the level of damage significantly increases higher up the valley. Families live outside their homes under makeshift shelters of old tents, plastics, bed sheets, corrugated iron, and boards. Observations in villages showed that almost all houses made of stone and mud plaster are completely destroyed. Concrete framed buildings in the urban areas have also suffered collapse and some have sheared off their foundations (Save the Children 02/05/2015)

Issues over land ownership is becoming a concern, as people have lost their documentation and various claims over land are presented (Save the Children 04/05/2015).

The coming monsoon season is putting pressure on the urgent need to provide assistance to the victims of the earthquake (WFP 04/05/2015).

- **CCCM**

An estimated 37, 494 people live in 58 displacement sites in Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur (CCCM Cluster 02/05/2015). 70% of people that were initially staying in displacement sites in Kathmandu left those sites several days after the earthquake (CCCM Cluster 02/05/2015).

In Bhaktapur, there are 10,700 IDPs with the largest site hosting 2,500 IDPs (Save the Children 04/05/2015).

There is an insufficient number of partners to provide camp management services and engineering services to survey displaced sites in the Kathmandu Valley. The DTM has not been rolled out in all camp sites (OCHA 02/05/2015).

Some reports indicate that people will begin moving from the districts to Kathmandu if they do not soon receive assistance.

- **WASH**

Water contamination due to lack of latrines has been reported in remote districts (OCHA 02/05/2015). In some areas where water sources are no longer inaccessible, the population has resorted to using alternative sources. The quality of this water is unknown.

In Sindhupalchok, the main water source for many VDCs is spring water often located further away from the settlement. In some villages there is no access to safe sanitation and soap. There are reports of people resorting to defecation in open spaces. Domestic animals in sheds have been buried by debris and are reported to be decaying. Communities are also concerned with health issues stemming from the presence of decaying dead bodies (Save the Children 02/05/2015).

In Gorkha, some households are having trouble accessing clean water. Access to safe sanitation is a concern. Safe and private spaces for women to bathe, hygiene materials for women were also reported in some VDCs. Latrines in many of the VDCs are reported as not functioning, and there is a lack of soap (Save the Children 02/05/2015).

In Bhaktapur district, scarcity of drinking water has been reported, due to damaged water supply system (Kathmandu Living Labs 03/05/2014).

- **Health**

The district hospitals in Bidur, Chautara, Dhunche and Ramechhap are damaged and need long-term support (WHO 03/05/2015).

There is a need for hospital tents in all affected areas (WHO 03/05/2015). Surgical equipment and supplies are needed; there are long waiting list for surgeries in Kathmandu (WHO 03/05/2015).

Limited rehabilitation services are available (WHO 03/05/2015). Population is in need of psychosocial support (ECHO 03/05/2015).

There have been reports of influenza and diarrheal cases in Gorkha and Sindhuli districts (OCHA 02/05/2015). Communicating with communities necessary to prevent outbreaks of infectious diseases (WHO 03/05/2015).

- **Nutrition**

Nutrition is an underlying concern in Nepal. Half of the children in certain rural areas are stunted (WFP 27/04/2015). There is insufficient therapeutic food for reaching many of these children (OCHA 2/05/2015).

- **Food Security**

Markets are slowly recovering. Of 91 markets assessed in 10 districts 50 percent were reported as not functioning, with shops damaged/destroyed, food stocks completely depleted or ruined, or shopkeepers and traders displaced or affected. 40 percent were reported as showing early signs of recovery. These markets are currently not fully functioning and would be unable to support local demand, with a few shops open but most closed due to fear of aftershocks, structural collapse, security, or depleted stocks. 10 percent were reported as functioning, with shops open, food stocks available, but price increases and some commodities not available. (WFP 4/05/2015)

Agriculture is expected to have been critically affected, seriously affecting both livelihood and food security. About half of the food consumed in rural areas is self-produced (WFP 27/04/2015).

Wheat and barley have recently been harvested (WFP 27/04/2015). The winter crops that were stored inside structures destroyed in the earthquake have been lost.

Planting season takes place before the monsoon which runs from June – September. Last year's monsoon began on 20th June (GoN).

- Planting for maize was currently underway when the earthquake struck, and planting for rice and millet is due to start next month. It is likely that maize, rice, and millet production will be severely affected (WFP 27/04/2015).

- **Protection**

Reports of sexual violence incidents within camps in Kathmandu (ICC 03/05/2015).

Lack of WASH facilities and shelter conditions could make women and girls more vulnerable to protection risks.

Concern has been raised for the safety of people, in particular children, moving in and out of destroyed buildings (Save the Children 02/05/2015).

There have been delays in receiving shipments with items for distribution and materials for children and women friendly spaces (OCHA 04/05/2015).

Limited operational services to respond to cases of sexual and gender-based violence have been reported (OCHA 04/05/2015).

- **Education**

1,383 schools in 26 districts have been damaged (OCHA 02/05/2015). Learning materials were destroyed in the earthquake (Save the Children 02/05/2015). Children in the most affected districts are in need of safe learning spaces (OCHA 29/04/2015).

In most areas where reports have been received, schools have not re-opened since the earthquake. Tarpaulins and recreational materials are needed in the affected districts outside of Kathmandu valley (OCHA 04/05/2015).

OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

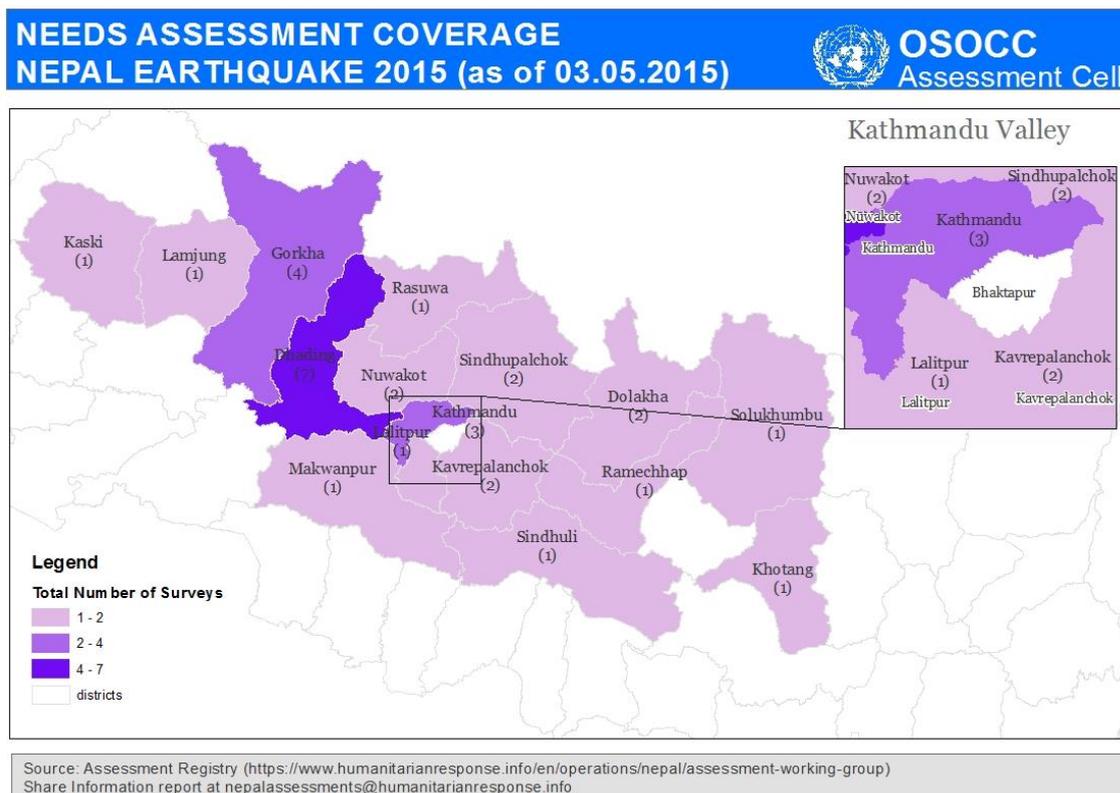
- 21 VDCs in Gorkha district have still not been accounted for, due to the remoteness of the villages (OCHA 04/05/2015). While most main roads are open, the status of secondary and tertiary roads in many of the regions affected is unclear and air assets will be required to support access to remote areas (Logistics Cluster 3/05/2015).
- Rasuwa district remains inaccessible by road as of 3 May (ECHO 03/05/2015).
- The following road closures are reported:
 - Sindhupalchok: Araniko highway between Bahrabise and Tatopani.

- Sindhupalchok: the road between Kathmandu and Melamchi is obstructed by landslide at Tipeni Bazar, 9 km before Melamchi.
- Dolakha: Charikot to Lamabagar VDC.
- Bhaktapur: Roads inside the main city are obstructed due to debris but are likely to be cleared by evening of 3 May ([Logistics Cluster 3/05/2015](#)).
- Fuel shortages are increasingly reported, impacting not only transport but also generator capacity for electricity supplies, food refrigeration, and hospital cold chains ([ECHO 01/05/2015](#)).
- Electricity, access to internet, and telephone networks remains intermittent ([ECHO 01/05/2015](#)). These services are not available in many of the most affected areas.
- Nepalese civil aviation authorities announced that they had closed the Kathmandu airport to the largest jets (C-17s), or those weighing more than 196 metric tons, for fear they could damage the runways ([New York Times 3/05/2015](#)).
- Only two helicopters are available for food distribution. Additional helicopters are required for areas inaccessible by road ([OCHA 04/05/2015](#)).
- Security in Sindhupalchok and the eastern districts is an issue. Two trucks carrying food were reportedly diverted in Dhading and Sankhu. The road was blocked for a food truck in Sindhupalchok, due to anger of perceived unfair distribution of food ([ICC 03/05/2015](#)). There have been reports of attacks on drivers and stolen relief items ([WFP 04/05/2015](#)).
- The capacity of the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) is overstretched ([ECHO 03/05/2015](#)).
- 72 village development committees (VDC) offices have been destroyed ([OCHA 04/05/2015](#)).

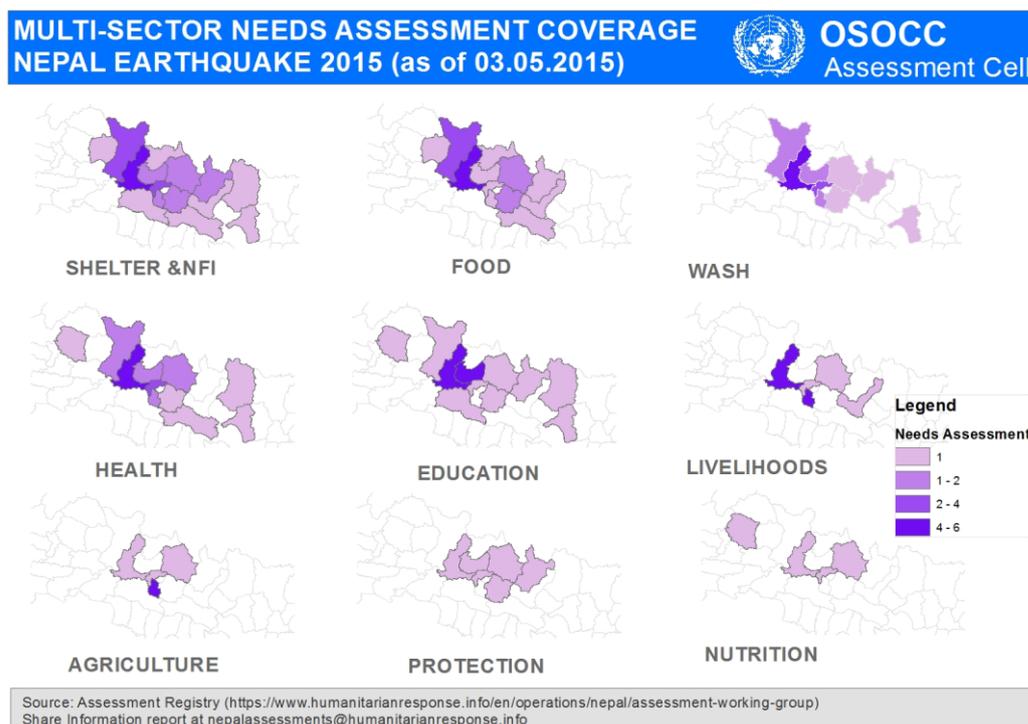
Bureaucratic Impediments: There has been some concern that relief supplies have been piling up at the airport and in warehouses because of bureaucratic interference by Nepalese authorities ([New York Times 3/05/2015](#)). Delays have been occurring at border crossings with India and at district headquarters across the country ([New York Times 3/05/2015](#)). Difficulties have been reported in obtaining landing permits for KTM airport, but an increasing number of humanitarian charter flights are accessing slots ([Logistics Cluster 3/05/2015](#)).

INFORMATION GAPS AND NEEDS

32 single assessment reports are available in the [Assessment registry](#) as of 3 May. Most visited districts are Dhading, Gorkha and Sindhupalchok.



Humanitarian organisations mostly assessed shelter and NFI, food security, WASH, health and education conditions in the affected districts.



- There is knowledge of 13 other assessments being currently undertaken or planned (Assessment Working Group meeting 4.5). See table below:

Agency	District	Sector	Status
ACORAB/Internews/ Amarc/Antenna	Sindhupalchowk, Dhading, Gorkha	information/communication/radio	Planned
United Mission Nepal	Dhading	multisectoral	Planned
ADRA Nepal	Dhading, Kabhrepalanchok (Kavre), Rasuwa	Food/WASH/Health/Shelter	Ongoing
Relief International	Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Gorkha, Lamjung,	WASH/shelter	Planned
World Vision	Gorkha, Lamjung, Sindhuli	multisectoral	Planned
Save the Children	Nuwakot, Ramechhap, Kavre	multisectoral	Planned
ACF	Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchowk	multisectoral	Ongoing
Christian Aid	Dhading, Gorkha, Sindhupalchowk, Kathmandu	multisectoral	Ongoing
CARE	Gorkha, Dhading, Sindhupalchowk	Rapid Gender Analysis	Ongoing
GBV subcluster	14 districts most heavily affected	GBV services	Planned
Samaratin's Purse	Rasuwa, Dhading	WASH/shelter/food/health	Planned
DWR	Gorkha	Debris and waste management	Planned
GOAL	Dhading, Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk	WFP	Ongoing
Nepali Redcross	50 districts in Kathmandu Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Gorkha, Dhading Ramechhap, Dalakh, Ras, uwa, Okhaldunga	Multi-sectoral IRA	Planned ongoing

- There is reports of duplication of assessment in Sindhupalchok. It is recommended to deliver assistance at the same time as conducting assessments as the population starts to show signs of frustration when they are interviewed, if no relief is being delivered at the same time. The main categories of the [humanitarian profile](#) for the Nepal earthquake disaster still have to be defined and quantified.
- Because of access limitations, there is little to no information on conditions of the affected population in remote or hard-to-reach areas where communication has yet to be re-established.
- There is an uneven amount of information currently available on the affected districts. Geographic prioritisation may change as more information becomes available.