

Situation Analysis

7.3 Magnitude Nepal Earthquake

12.05.2015



OSOCC
Assessment Cell

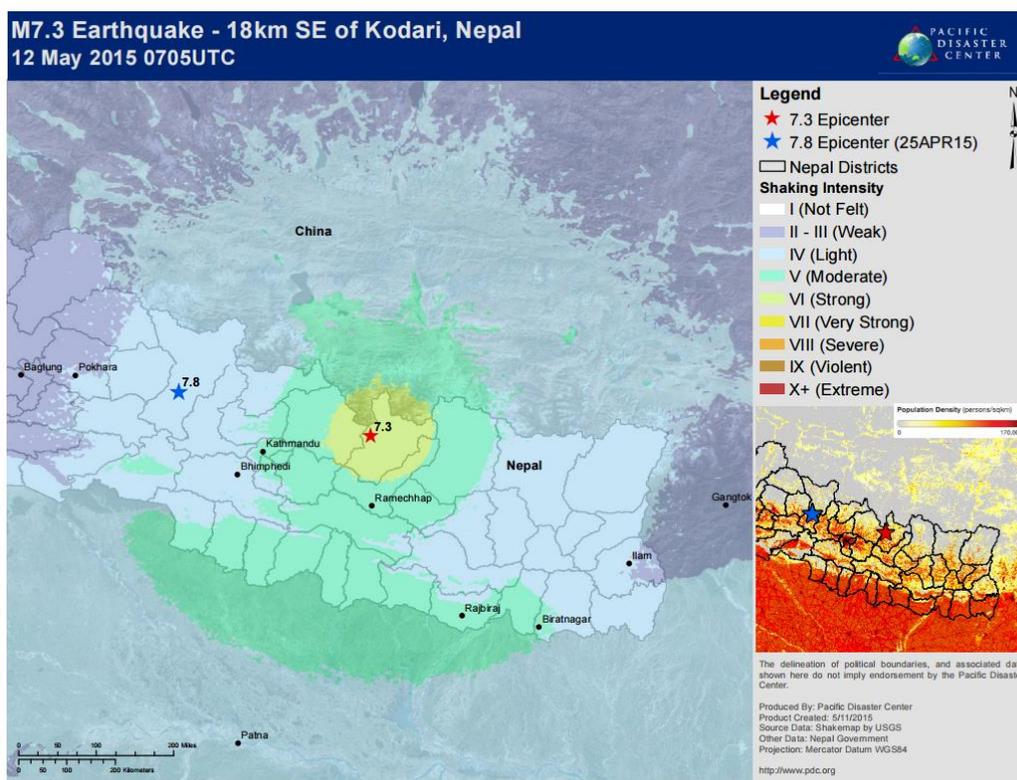
SITUATION OVERVIEW¹

A 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal 12 May, 12:50am local time. The epicentre was located 76km northeast of Kathmandu, in Dolakha district. The earthquake was felt as far as New Dehli, India and Dhaka, Bangladesh ([USGS 12/05/2015](#)) The earthquake was followed by several aftershocks; the largest one with a magnitude of 6.3 ([GDACS 12/05/2015](#)).

The initial 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 25 April had an epicentre in Lamjung district, 77km west of Kathmandu. The depth of the 12 May earthquake was 15km. ([USGS 12/05/2015](#))

According to the Government, 31 out of Nepal's 75 districts have been affected by the 12 May earthquake ([BBC 12/05/2015](#)). Sindhupalchok district, the worst-affected district by the initial earthquake, is expected to be further severely affected, as is Dolakha. Reports are also coming in of injured people and damaged buildings in Sindhuli, Gorkha, Ramechhap, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, and Lalitpur ([Government 12/05/2015](#)).

As of 12 May 17:00 local time, 36 dead and 1117 injured people have been reported ([MOHA 12/05/2015](#)). At 16:00pm local time, 4 people have been reported dead in Chautara, the district municipality of Sindhupalchok. Buildings have been reported damaged in Chautara. Humanitarian agencies are present in Chautara, where a humanitarian hub was established following the initial earthquake. At least 12 people have been injured in three major landslides in Sindhupalchok ([The Hindu 12/05/2015](#)).



Source: [Pacific Disaster Centre 12/05/2015](#)

¹ This overview was put together immediately after the earthquake using a range of sources including social media, radio, reports from people in the affected areas and background information. The work was done by a combination of Geneva based analysts and the Assessment Cell team based in Kathmandu. All findings are preliminary.

Landslide risk

The weather before the new earthquake and in the following days is of concern. On 10 May, heavy rain and hail caused significant flooding in and around Chautara, affecting people who lost their homes living in tents ([OCHA 11/05/2015](#)). Weather conditions are also aggravating the landslide situation. Reports about new landslides above Namche have already been received ([Doctors for Nepal 12/05/2015](#)). People are reportedly trapped in Tatopani, due to landslides (UNDAC 12/05/2014).

Weather forecasts for the most areas closest to the epicenter include periods of thunderstorms for the coming 5 days ([Accuweather Nepal](#)).

Concerns have been raised about the Sun Koshi landslide dam. The recent earthquake occurred very close to this pre-existing dam, which formed in 2014. The dam did not fail in the 25 April earthquake, but cracks around the margins of the landslide were visible in satellite imagery after the 25 April earthquake (ref: British Geological Survey; Earthquakes without Frontiers). It is possible that the 12 May earthquakes have either (1) weakened the dam, making it more prone to failure; or (2) weakened the slopes above the dam, making additional landslides possible.

As of 12 May 16:00pm local time, ten people have been reported killed in Bihar, India ([Times of India 12/05/2015](#)).

Priorities for humanitarian intervention

- Information
- Search and Rescue. More than 35 national search and rescue team have been deployed. In the Chautara city area Nepal Army, AFP and Police having been assisting in search and rescue efforts. A team of six USAR personnel (MSB) have also undertaken assessments in the immediate vicinity (UNDAC 12/05/2015).
- Access to cut off areas
- Shelter: tents, tarpaulins
- Food delivery for newly displaced people

CRISIS IMPACT

Access to Essential Services

- Shelter
 - Increased destruction from the 25 April earthquake is reported especially from Sindupalchok. There are reports of destroyed buildings in Chautara ([GDACS 12/05/2015](#)). According to a social media source, buildings in Chautara were still occupied despite damage from the first earthquake ([Social media 12/05/2015](#)). Many building cracked from the previous earthquake have now collapsed completely. It is also expected that in the greater Chautara area there will be many new houses that have collapsed or are damaged (UNDAC Flash Update Chautara 12/05/2015). 500 people congregated at the Chautara humanitarian hub during the aftershocks ([OCHA 12/05/2015](#)).
 - Many people are outside on the streets in Kathmandu, afraid to go inside ([Al Jazeera 12/05/2015](#)), in the hours after the quake streets were congested with people trying to reach their families.
 - It is expected that people will avoid returning home even if their houses are still standing, due to fear of new earthquakes or aftershocks. This may cause some of those that returned home in the days following the 25 April earthquake to become temporarily displaced again. Within Kathmandu, 2,000 people are reported to be putting up tents on a golf course ([IOM via social media 12/05/2015](#))

- Tribhuvan University buildings have collapsed, no one was reportedly inside (Local source 12/05/2015).
- Shops have been closed for some time after the initial earthquake ([Reuters 12/05/2015](#)).
- There are reports of destroyed buildings in Gorkha ([GDACS 12/05/2015](#)), Ramechhap ([BBC 12/05/2015](#)), and in Dolakha ([The Guardian 12/05/2015](#)).
- Health
 - The Norwegian Red Cross are reporting that injured have been arriving at its makeshift hospital in Chautara ([Norwegian Red Cross 12/05/2015](#)). Many people have been injured and are being brought into the Norwegian field hospital, there are conflicting reports as to whether there have been any serious injuries or deaths.
 - The Omkar Polyclinic in Lalitpur has reportedly collapsed (Local Source 12/05/2015).
- Protection
 - Concerns were already prevalent regarding distribution of aid and living in makeshift shelters. Conditions are likely to deteriorate with more people affected by the new earthquake.
- Education
 - The Department of Education had closed all schools in the affected districts following the 25 April earthquake, pending safety evaluations. The closures have now been extended another two weeks ([The Hindu 12/05/2015](#)). Some schools were open for orientation days and special programs. School buildings have, according to local sources, collapsed, but the situation needs further investigation. Children were reportedly injured during the rush to get out in various schools in Chitwan, Kabre, Ramechhap and Sindhuli.

OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

- The Kathmandu international airport closed immediately following the earthquake, however the airport is now operational ([The Hindu 12/05/2015](#)).
- It has been reported that the main road from Chautara to Kathmandu has reportedly been closed due to the risk of landslides however people have made the journey from Chautara to Kathmandu using this road since the earthquake.
- Several major landslides have been reported in Sindhupalchok and Dholaka ([CNN 12/05/2015](#), [Local sources](#)). Also in Sanjat district landslides have been reported (local sources 12/05/2015).
- Reports of several roads being blocked by landslides.
- The earthquake is expected to further limit access to remote areas.
- Nepal Police is recommending the use of SMS as phone lines are overwhelmed ([Nepal Police 12/05/2015](#)).

INFORMATION GAPS

- All information in this briefing note is preliminary. Parts of the affected areas had not been assessed from the previous earthquake on 25 April.
- There has only been limited communication with certain areas such as Solokhumbu and Khotang so that the impact of the earthquake is not known as yet.

Annex: Baseline information pre-12 May earthquake

Districts	Total Population*	Estimated Affected Population	%Affected Population (up to 12 May 2015) as a result of 25 April earthquake	Deaths reported	Injuries reported
Not Previously Designated as "Mostly or Other Affected"					
Khotang	206,312	9598	5	0	4
Solukhumbu	105,886	11,049	10	22	80
Previously Affected					
Bhaktapur	304,651	31080	10	319	1861
Dolakha** (epicenter)	186,557	20400	11	77	304
Kabhrpalanchok	381,937	141900	37	317	2780
Kathmandu	1,744,240	110560	6	1203	4634
Lalitpur	468,132	69625	15	177	2529
Okhaldungha	147,984	36400	25	19	53
Ramechhap	202,646	78873	39	27	34
Rasuwa	43,300	35440	82	558	753
Sindhupalchok	66,688	191419	67	3213	859
Sindhuli	296,192	21377	7	8	



MapAction

Nepal: Earthquake Population in areas without vehicular access showing areas likely to be affected by 12 May earthquake

Map shows population in VDCs and those reported to have no vehicular access, in areas likely to have been affected by the 12 May earthquake. Access data reported by the Nepal Food Security Monitoring Programme via WFP / Logistics Cluster prior to 12 May.

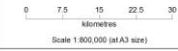
Data sources
 Situational data: WFP/Logistics Cluster from Nepal Food Security Monitoring Programme (NeKSAP)



Boundaries: UN OCHA Settlements, CSM Physical Features, Geonode Earthquake Epicentres, USGS Population: 2011 Census data

- Village Roads
- Town Primary
- City Secondary
- Tertiary

- Earthquake Epicentres (12/05/2015)**
- Magnitude 4 - 4.5
 - Magnitude 4.5 - 6
 - Magnitude 6 - 10



Created 12 May 2015 / 18:00 UTC +05:45

Map Document MA134_V01_RemoteAccessPop_12May

Projection / Datum Geographic / WGS84

Glade Number EQ-2015-00068-NPL

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