SITUATION IN NUMBERS

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. (Source: 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 have been supporting the initial response by the Government and civil society actors. UNICEF has designated this crisis as an internal Level 2, which allows the Organization to mobilize support and funding at the onset of a crisis.

Date: 28 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 $48.6 million through the Inter-agency Flash Appeal.

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

On 25 April, a powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 7.9 struck Nepal with its epicenter 50 miles (80 km) east of the capital Kathmandu (Lamjung). Tremors and strong aftershocks could still be felt for the next 48 hours. In addition, the rains have started as a precursor to the monsoon season. The confirmed total number casualties is 4,358 and 8,174 are injured\(^1\) across the country. This is a fourfold increase since day 1. The highest number of casualties was in Kathmandu district, recording a total of 1,039 deaths and 2,142 injuries. The numbers will continue to increase as information becomes available from a large number of affected districts. Altogether, 35 out of 75 districts have been reported to be affected, 21 of which are declared most affected\(^2\).

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 is currently staying in 16 informal camps in the Kathmandu Valley itself.

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

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\(^1\) Update of Ministry of Home Affairs as of 14:55 on 28 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.

**Humanitarian leadership and coordination**

The Government of Nepal has declared a state of emergency in the 35 affected districts and has activated the Humanitarian Clusters. Most severely affected districts are 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. 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 the sub-cluster co-lead for Child Protection under the Protection Cluster.

**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 affected districts.

**Summary Analysis of Initial UNICEF Programme response**

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

- On 27 April, UNICEF WASH team conducted initial assessments in Bhaktapur. The team estimates only 20 per cent of the affected population have access to temporary water supply managed by private volunteers through trucking. Urgent need for temporary toilets, proper solid waste management, and distribution of family hygiene kits, water purification tablets, and non-food items (NFIs) to 250 affected families.

- A scoping mission was conducted in Dhading, Gorkha and Lamjung, where hygiene kits, aqua tabs, water purification sachets, tarpaulins were distributed. In Lamjung, 90 per cent of the houses were found to be damaged, affecting 3000 households.

- On 28 April, UNICEF conducted assessments in Gorkha, where out of 317 dead bodies, 240 have been identified. With potential outbreak of diseases due to the presence of dead bodies, there is an urgent need for water purification chemicals and units, tarpaulin sheets, soap, and hygiene kits.

- UNICEF also conducted assessments of 323 schools in 16 affected districts and found 222 schools partially damaged, 52 fully damaged and only 49 of the schools with WASH.

- UNICEF redirected supplies from Biratnagar for distribution in Bhaktapur, including 4,709 packets of water purifications tablets, 494 IEC materials, and 494 hygiene kits, and 10,291 plastic mugs, 6,131 plastic buckets. Another 500 aqua tabs, 500 plastic mugs, 15 plastic toilet pans, 250 WASH IEC brochures, 500 plastic buckets were redirected from Kathmandu to Sinamangal WSSDO zonal office for distribution to affected population.

- Hygiene kits pre-positioned in UNICEF Field Office in Biratnagar have also been redirected to Sindhupalchowk (100 kits) and Dolakha districts (68 kits).

- Kits comprising of Aquatabs, and NFIs as well as IEC materials related to WASH have been distributed to 500 families living in four camps in Kathmandu Valley.

- Cluster members are putting up 90 toilets in temporary camps and have distributed 200 hygiene kits in Bhaktapur district.

- WASH supplies (hygiene kits 220 sets, Aqua tabs – 5 cartons and chlorination sachet 2,640) have reached Dhading district headquarters. These will be handed over to the DDRC and distribution will start on 29 April along with other NFIs.
Based on the urgent need identified by the scoping mission, 2,000 tarpaulins, 3,000 hygiene kits, 3,000 aqua tabs, 2,000 plastic buckets (20lts and 10 ltrs), 1,500 Piyush (water purification liquid) bottles have been dispatched to DDRC Gorkha and partners will start distribution on 29 April.

Water tankers have started distributing water in the temporary camps in Kathmandu Valley.

**Nutrition**

- Identified 3 W information on the 21 districts affected and assigned responsibilities to partners for immediate assessment. On 29 April, an orientation on rapid nutrition assessment will be held.
- The Cluster also reviewed prepositioned nutrition supplies available for the response. These include IEC materials for counselling and information dissemination, management of MAM and SAM cases as well as prevention and control of micro-nutrient deficiency disorders through Vitamin A, MNPs and IFAs.
- It was also agreed that UNICEF will draft the message on infant feeding in emergency (IFE) to be discussed at the cluster meeting on 29 April.

**Health**

- More than 80 percent of health facilities in the five severely affected districts have been extensively damaged and services are being provided outside of the buildings.
- Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) indicated that support is needed in four key areas: diarrhoeal diseases, management of injured people, logistics and medicines.
- The number of IDPs are increasing as people tend to stay in hospital after initial treatments. MoHP will set up a transit camp to accommodate them.
- Support is extended by UNICEF to NHEICC to air public health messages through FM radio in all 35 districts.
- 10 sets of IEHK, 72 big tents, 200 surgical units and MR vaccines will be arriving on 29 April.

**Child Protection**

Although information on overall protection situation is limited, cluster members have already started to collect information using the cluster check list. The Women and Children Offices in 33 districts are expected to provide more information soon to facilitate a more effective response. Together with Government, UNICEF and partners are trying to ensure Child Protection in the most affected areas by:

- Mobilizing a team of social workers, who will start identification of separated children by 29 April 2015.
- Activating a family links website: [http://familylinks.icrc.org/nepal-earthquake](http://familylinks.icrc.org/nepal-earthquake), which offers people the possibility to search through the list of missing persons and those who have responded that they are alive; register names of persons with whom they have lost contact and register names of persons who wish to inform others that they are alive.
- Psychosocial messages have been adapted to earthquake context and have being aired on 28 April in Kathmandu and will be aired on FM stations covering 33 affected districts on 29 April.
- UNICEF and partners will be providing psychosocial support in two of the biggest camps in Kathmandu from 29 April.
- On 29 April, recreational materials and tarpaulins for 100 child-friendly spaces will be distributed to cluster members.
- On 29 April, 5 social workers will be deployed in two main camps to start identification of separated children.
- Awareness raising messages have been sent to 4 webs on issues related to orphanage volunteering.
- Clothes for children aged 5-18 have been dispatched to Gorkha district from the prepositioned supplies in Nepalgunj and distribution will begin on 29 April.
Education

According to EMIS data, there are 3,353 schools in the severely affected districts, 2,903 schools in the most affected districts, and a further 9,762 in the partially affected districts. Extent of damage in all districts is still being assessed. The government will need significant support from humanitarian partners to establish temporary learning spaces in the short and medium term to keep children safe, and also allow opportunity to bring back some normalcy in their lives.

The following actions have been initiated:

- Procurement of tents and shelter materials for Child-Friendly Spaces in coordination with the Protection Cluster.
- School-in-a-Box, ECD and Recreation Kits are also in the pipeline.
- The Education Cluster is working with the Protection Cluster to orient partners on key messages relating to psychosocial support and life-saving messages to convey to displaced children and communities.
- Partner agencies are deploying teams to Sindhupalchok, Bhaktapur, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Gorkha and Nuwakot to support the response.

Supply and Logistics

- As of 28 April, pre-positioned emergency stocks of tents, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, IEC materials, plastic buckets worth $21,424.17 have been distributed to partners.

HR Support

- A total of 57 Surge Staff is required for ICT, Supply and Logistics, HR, Administration, Operations, WASH, Education, Child Protection, Health and C4D. HR Support was also requested to facilitate having local writers and photographers on board for media and communication requirements in the field.

Media and External Communication

- Two surge staff arrived for media and external communication, scoping in the field has been initiated to collect first-hand information on the status of women and children and to report on the distribution of WASH materials.
- NCO and ROSA staff have been giving over two dozen interviews. These included the Breakfast Show in New Zealand, CNN, The Hindu, ITV, Maariv paper and website in Israel, the Wall Street Journal, media from Slovenia, over a dozen short interviews spread over time with CBC, 3 French radio stations, 2 Spanish TV, Europa Press, etc.
- Media interest to follow UNICEF supplies, including to the most affected districts if and when possible.
- Steps taken to bring on board local photographers, writers to collect stories/images from the hardest hit districts.

Communication for Development

- Airing of key messages was expanded to 175 FM stations from Central and Western Region. The airing is happening 10 times a day.
- Support to BBC’s “life line” programme was extended to address concerns and disseminate key messages
- Standardization of key messages to ensure agencies and partners send out coherent messaging.
- WASH Section has established a partnership with the National Red Cross to cover 21 districts. Activities will focus on:
  o Hygiene and sanitation promotion messages through miking twice a day in camp settings.
  o Group sessions on use of water purification methods, hand washing and other hygiene practices with camp members.
  o Identification of key issues, including hygiene and sanitation, facing camp population.
  o Establish feedback loop and provide key issues to BBC media Action for radio programme on earthquake rescue and response.
  o Identification of adolescents and youth at camp sites and in communities to train them to participate in the relief and response work.
Some glimpses from today:

UNICEF distributing buckets with water purifiers in the temporary earthquake displaced camp areas at the golf area adjacent to the Tribhuwan International Airport. UNICEF staff providing water sanitation to the displaced families. Over 1,000 persons are now living in displacement in this area alone (Photo: UNICEF/Nepal/NNewar)

Most people in Kathmandu as elsewhere are living in open areas under tarpaulin tents. The rains today, and the monsoon rains around the corner show the dire need for shelter - tarps or tents (Photo: UNICEF/Nepal/SSingh)

UNICEF Spokespersons

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