SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

On 25 April, a powerful earthquake (now termed in the media as the ‘Great Gorkha 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 of casualties is 7,885 while 17,803 people have been injured across the country. These numbers will likely continue to increase as more information becomes available from the affected districts. The number of affected districts is 57 out of 75, 12 of which are declared severely affected.

The most immediate needs are shelter, food and water and sanitation. The Government of Nepal has released Rs. 4,15,000,000 (US$4.14 million) to Village Development Committees (VDCs) and Chief District Officers (CDOs) for the provision of food, water and shelter. The Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) announced on 8 May the establishment of a Response Secretariat. MoFALD leads the Early Recovery Cluster and has drafted guidelines for the CASH for Work mechanism. In the same meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister expressed his commitment to ensure the protection of women, children and people with disabilities during the humanitarian response, and called for

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1 Update of Ministry of Home Affairs as of 10:50 on 8 May 2015
2 As identified by the Nepal Emergency Operations Center/MoHA

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Date: 08 May 2015

1.7 million children out of 4.2 million most affected population.
(NEOC/MOHA 26 April 2015)

In view of the scale and level of devastation and increasing number of casualties, resources are urgently needed for immediate response in the first 90 days.

UNICEF Nepal Earthquake Appeal
April 2015
$50.35 million

Highlights

To date, UNICEF has reached an estimated 216,882 people with sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality, 24,801 people with access to adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities while 104,504 people have benefited from hygiene education and materials through interpersonal communication in the severely affected districts.

The Education and Protection clusters have now established 38 Child Friendly Spaces for displaced communities in Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur serving over 3,300 earthquake affected children.

UNICEF has deployed staff in all 12 severely affected districts for coordination and implementation of the humanitarian response.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal has expressed his commitment to ensure the protection of women, children and people with disabilities as part of the humanitarian response.

An updated version of the Inter-Agency Flash Appeal was issued on 8 May. The Flash Appeal is expected to be further revised in 3-4 weeks.
all donor partners to support the Ministry to address the impact of the disaster in the immediate, mid-term and long-term phases.

In today’s Parliament meeting, the Prime Minister announced a Rs. 40,000 (about US$400) allocation to cover each deceased person’s religious rituals costs and a compensation of Rs 100,000 (about US$1,000) to the family of each deceased person. The PM also stated that schools, hospitals, bridges and power houses would be rebuilt within two years and that orphaned children would receive shelter and free education from the Government, among other compensatory schemes. The Government will also set up a Rs 200 billion (about US$ 200 Million) ‘National Reconstruction Fund’ in the coming weeks.

The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) declared that 260 health facilities have been destroyed while around 500 have been damaged by the earthquake. A majority of the hospitals, health posts and Primary Health Centers have been destroyed in Sindhupalchok, Nuwakot, Ramechhap, Gorkha and Dhading districts.

Access to roads and road networks continue to be a challenge. There is still an important gap in the amount of distributed assistance vis-à-vis the actual needs of the affected population in the severely affected districts. Lack of data and localized insecurity remain as well key bottlenecks in reaching the most vulnerable populations, especially women and children.

The presence of the 38 UNICEF-led Child Friendly Spaces has been garnering media attention in the last three days as an initiative that helps children, especially those in temporary camp settings, to “start to make sense of the devastation around them.”

**Humanitarian leadership and coordination**

The Government of Nepal through the Ministry of Home Affairs declared a state of emergency in the 57 affected districts on 25 April and the HC has activated the Humanitarian Clusters. The most severely affected districts are Kathmandu, Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Gorkha, Rasuwa, and Dhading in the Western and Central Regions. 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 Office of Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers have decided to deploy a relief team in each of the severely affected districts so as to expedite the distribution of relief materials and to conduct the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). Apart from the distribution of relief materials, each relief team is expected to prepare an Integrated Resettlement Plan; to inspect infrastructural damages and; to prepare a reconstruction work plan based on the PDNA. These teams will be deployed for one month.

**Humanitarian Strategy**

Most of the international humanitarian efforts are coordinated through the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The HCT has already flagged the possible impact of the forthcoming monsoon (estimated to start by 15 June onwards) and that it should be considered in response planning as the humanitarian situation may worsen once the monsoon starts.

**Government priorities**

The Government has emphasized the importance of coordination with the Chief District Officers (CDOs) in each district so as to facilitate aid delivery. Transparency is also required on data pertaining to donations and relief spending. Shelter, food and water are still the top priorities for aid in the affected districts. In terms of the education sector, the Government has announced that schools will reopen as of 15 May. The Ministry of Education along with the Education Cluster will prioritize districts for assistance, e.g. for the distribution of supplies, for rebuilding and repair of schools.

**UNICEF and Partners Response to Date**

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

- To date, UNICEF has reached about 216,882 people with sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality, 24,801 people with access to adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities while 104,504 people have benefited from hygiene education and materials through interpersonal communication in 10 districts.

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3 “260 Health Facilities Destroyed”, the Kathmandu Post, 8 May 2015.
4 “Creating Child-Friendly Spaces”, the Kathmandu Post, 8 May 2015.
• There is a significant presence of WASH partners particularly in Sindhupalchowk and Gorkha districts, however their combined delivery capacity still does not match the WASH needs on the ground.
• UNICEF visit to Chautara in Sindhupalchowk on 7 May showed gaps in number of VDCs being supported and limited amounts of hygiene kits and water purification supplies. There is also the need to support repair and rehabilitation of gravity water schemes and schools WASH facilities.

Nutrition
• Capacity scale-up: UNICEF signed 5 PCAs with national NGOs to scale up the response in 7 of the 12 severely affected districts so as to reach 314,000 children and 69,000 pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. A 3 day training of field based nutrition staff of partners was completed on 8 May.
• Complementary feeding: 147,829 boxed of multiple micronutrient powders to improve quality of complementary food for 126,000 children 6-23 months old in 12 severely affected districts were delivered to NGO partners.
• Therapeutic feeding: 3,020 cartons of ready to use therapeutic foods (RUTF) were delivered to 12 severely affected districts in order to support over 3,000 children affected by severe acute malnutrition.
• Vitamin A supplementation: 2 million vitamin A capsules and 2 million deworming tablets were donated by ‘Vitamin A Angels’ for a pre-Monsoon supplementation round in 21 affected districts which will take place end May. (NB: all children in Nepal received vitamin A supplementation and deworming tablets on 19-20 April).

Health
• Two emergency health kits which can serve the need of 60,000 people, were distributed to Lalitpur and Makwanpur District Health Officers (DHOs). Twenty-four (24) tents were also distributed to severely affected districts (Lalitpur, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Dhading, Kavre and Nuwakot). Eight hundred and forty (840) blankets were distributed to Lalitpur, Ramechhap, Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, Makwanpur, and Maternity Hospital in Kathmandu. One hundred clean delivery kits were distributed to Sindhupalchowk District Health Officer. Five hundred Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) were distributed in Nuwakot to the District Health Officer.
• UNICEF, together with WHO, is providing support to the National Health Education Information and Coordination Center (NHEICC) to disseminate key messages on Health among severely affected communities. UNICEF also developed an information package on Health, Nutrition and WASH.
• 48,000 vials of 10 doses of Measles Rubella (MR) vaccines arrived in Kathmandu airport on 8th May, with which 480,000 children in 14 affected districts will be immunized in a forthcoming MR vaccination campaign.

Child Protection
• Two sub-working groups under the Protection cluster have been formed:
  o One on ‘people with disability’ led by the National Federation of the Disabled, Nepal (NFDN) with support from Handicap International;
  o The other one focuses on ‘senior citizens’ led by Help Age.
• Through UNICEF advocacy, the new registration of children’s homes (orphanages) as well as inter-country adoption (ICA) have been suspended by the Government.
• Police forces are mobilized to prevent and to respond to human trafficking in all 75 districts.
• A notice was widely posted on social media (Facebook and Twitter) so as to discourage international volunteerism for the earthquake response, especially in respect of volunteer work for children, unless volunteers have the necessary technical skills and competencies for humanitarian work.
• The Nepal Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) intervened when the manager of a boarding school brought 45 children from the affected district of Dhading to Kathmandu. The children are being reunified with their families.

Education
• The Education and Protection clusters have now established 38 Child Friendly Spaces for displaced communities in Dhading, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur serving over 3,300 earthquake affected children.
• UNICEF trained 50 staff of NGO and CSO partners in setting up temporary learning centers based on specifications agreed with the Government.
• UNICEF has met with partners to map partner coverage for Lalitpur districts and identify PCA/SSFA coverage.
A Back to School strategy is being developed with UNICEF support and other partners along with C4D messaging to support it.

Supply and Logistics
- As of 8 May, tents, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, medical kits, IEC materials, blankets, insecticide treated bed nets, plastic buckets, school-in-a-box and ECD kits have been distributed to partners. The total worth of supplies distributed since 26 April amounts to $720,674.50.

HR Support
- A total of 88 additional staff are required for ICT, Supply and Logistics, HR, Administration, Operations, WASH, Education, Child Protection, Health and C4D. Out of this total, 41 new staff functions are currently covered in country, mostly through surge.

Communication for Development (C4D)
- Radio programme for women and children continues with Radio Nepal, carrying out programmes 4 times a day (with repeat broadcast during available slots) reaching an audience of 20 million people. The first slot (25 min) in the morning is covering key messages and updates on the response situation. The second (55min) is on psychosocial support for women and children, the third on psychosocial support (focusing on entertainment) for children (20 min) and fourth (45 min) on psychosocial support for the family (including men).
- Global partnership with Unilever for hand washing was used to develop co-branded materials – press ads, stickers, radio jingles, TV scrolls. These are being disseminated through various channels. Unilever has also committed to provide soap, water filters and toothpaste.

Media
- NCO and ROSA staff have responded to media enquiries and given interviews. On 7th & 8th May interviews were given to the BBC, The Guardian (2), Radio 1 Netherlands, Pro-TV Romania; Italian Freelance, Spanish Freelance; Al Jazeera; Radio 1 & Radio 2 (Dutch) TF1 – France; SRC – Canada; NHK TV;
- **Media missions** covered an orthopedic hospital that is housing patients under three large hospital tents provided by UNICEF; **Stories and images** were collected focusing on the rescue of children living in a Children’s Home damaged by the earthquake; Writers and photographers were sent to Kathmandu periphery, Gorkha, and Dhading districts in order to gather information on the situation of affected children.
- **Media alert**: Local media agencies were alerted upon learning the news of 46 children being bussed into Kathmandu. This resulted in positive news coverage with bold headlines in major national daily on 8th May about the dangers of unnecessary separation of children from their family.

UNICEF Spokespersons

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