

As with other mountain areas of Nepal, Gorkha contains popular locations for foreign trekkers. This provides an important source of income through the employment of local people as guides, porters and in guest houses. With many trails blocked by landslides, the income-generating opportunities are limited. In addition the trails are the only access routes for people and goods to move in and out of the remote areas. Clearing these trails and using them to provide relief materials and services is a priority.

Gorkha's population is geographically wide-spread, with small settlements and villages scattered in between deep valleys and mountains. Accessibility to mountainous areas was already very limited before the earthquake, due to the topography and poor road conditions (LCT 28/04/2015). The majority of houses are mud-bonded and constructed of bricks or stone (Nepal Census 2011). Wood is the main source of energy for cooking (Nepal Census 2011). According to the 2011 census, 72.9 % of the population in Gorkha lived in households with latrines, and 65.4% had access to improved drinking water sources. Almost 45% of the population are under 19 years old (Nepal Census 2011).

Pre-crisis facts		Post-earthquake situation	
Total population (2011)	271,061 (HH: 66,506)	Estimated affected pop	147, 802 (55%)
Total number of VDCs	67	Estimated no. of VDCs highly affected	38

Sources: Nepal 2011 Census, MapAction, UNICEF

Worst affected VDCs

Severe Impact	High Impact
Barpack	Simjunch
Laparak	Kerauja
Gumda	Uhiya
Saurpani	Samagaun
Lapu	Lho
Manbu	Prok
	Chumchet
	Kashigaun
	Sirdibas
	Bihi
	Chhaikamp

(UNDAC 3/5/2015)

Priority Needs (based on multiple sources)

- Access to remote mountainous areas to fill information gaps
- Shelter and NFIs: tents, tarpaulins, blankets, repair tools, storage containers for water and food
- WASH: clean water supply, sanitation
- Health: facilities, medicine
- Food security
- Ensuring equitable distribution of relief items



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



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Earthquake Impact

Information on access to and availability of food is mixed. Food stocks have been severely affected in VDCs in the mountainous areas, as houses storing food stocks were destroyed in the earthquake and people have been unable to salvage them (WFP 04/05/2015). Equipment to prepare food has also been lost in destroyed houses (PHASE 27/04/2015). Food distributions have taken place using trucks and helicopters making food less of a concern in some areas but in others the population still has not received any food assistance. For example, Sairpani VDC was supplied several times by helicopters, but only villages near the landing zone were provided. There are concerns that there will be severe shortage of food after 1 – 2 weeks for some locations if a good distribution plan is not developed for each VCD affected. (UNDAC 07/04/2015).

Agricultural livelihoods have been significantly impacted for some households, and need to be restored to prevent risk of further food insecurity (WFP 04/05/2015). Livestock was also lost in the earthquake (Save the Children 04/05/2015).

Affected Livestock and Poultry:

House-holds	Estimate d pop-ulation	Cattle pop	Affect ed cattle pop	Buffalo pop	Affected buffalo pop.	Total affected cattle & buffalo pop	Sheep pop	Goat pop	Pig pop	Fowl pop	Duck pop	Poultry pop.
67,204	264,178	101,048	5,052	85,165	4,258	9,311	27,297	130,533	10,088	348,459	1,348	349,807

Source: MoAD 5 May 2015 (Department of Livestock Services)

Pre-Earthquake

In remote areas, households mostly rely on own production and market access was limited even before the earthquake (WFP 04/05/2015).

February to April is generally the lean season, during which people rely on the last harvest (that occurred around October or November). Food stocks diminish during this period, while awaiting the next harvest in May through to July. Gorkha is classified as Minimally Food Insecure (defined by most households being able to secure food and non-food needs without changing livelihood strategies). Food stocks as of November 2014 were sufficient for 4 months. Thus, the district would have currently been experiencing a lean season, with stored food stocks having been low from around March to April 2015 (NeKSAP 2014).



SHELTER

Earthquake Impact

Shelter is reported as the most pressing need by the population (Local media 05/05/2015). UN and NGO reports from the area have confirmed shelter as the priority need in the district.

147,802 people, 54.5% of the population, have been estimated to be affected based on government figures of damaged houses and average household size in Gorkha (MapAction 05/04/2015). At present there are differing estimates of the number of damaged houses, damage within the VDCs varies and the number of affected people remains an approximation.

Two broad types of displacement sites are observed:

- displacement outside of villages (for example, Baluwa where people from 3 surrounding areas have set up temporary shelters, and which is also a transit site for travel and pick-up of aid; and Barpack, where large groups have formed temporary settlements near their destroyed villages) – generally these types of sites have a higher level of need,
- displacement within villages, where the majority of people are sleeping directly outside their destroyed or damaged houses.

The CCCM cluster intends to both identify only sites that require support in terms of site management and improvement, and also to track the story of earthquake displacement as a whole. (CCCM 07/05/2015)

The displaced population is primarily staying under tarpaulins, tents, or in temporary shelters they have constructed themselves from available materials, as well as in livestock sheds. Some reports indicate that

health posts, hospitals, and schools are also being used as temporary shelters ([Save the Children 04/05/2015](#)).

There are reports of several families sharing the same living quarters, which is a concern in terms of increased health risks ([Save the Children 02/05/2015](#)). Continued aftershocks have added to fears of returning home, even if houses are still standing ([Local media 05/05/2015](#)). A lack of basic shelter materials available locally in some areas has been reported ([Save the Children 04/05/2015](#)). This required further investigation of the markets.

In the mountains, temperatures are dropping to below zero at night, worsening the conditions for people living in temporary shelter ([WFP 05/05/2015](#)). The UNDAC team in Gorkha report that the population needs tents and blankets urgently. They need also tools kits in order to rebuild their houses. In add structural assessment in the public building and some houses to determine which standing buildings can be safely used are needed rapidly and before the monsoon season. Heavy rain could weaken structures and carpentry already affected by the earthquake and cause collapses. ([UNDAC 07/04/2015](#)).

The urgency of reconstruction/second phase shelter response beginning now was raised, in order to prevent any future movements away from home villages that may be driven by the monsoon, if solutions are not provided now. The focus on first phase distributions of plastic sheets needs to quickly shift gear if this is to achieve coverage by monsoon. ([CCCM 07/05/2015](#))

Aside from the issue of insufficient shelter, the earthquake has seriously impacted the stability of land in the mountain regions. Some villages have been made extremely unsafe by the earthquake due to fissures/cracks emerging in the hills or mountains. There are reports of some villages in this situation beginning their own investigations into relocation options, including negotiation of land leases with lower lying villages, and searches for alternate mountainside locations ([CCCM 07/05/2015](#)).

CCCM reports that Baluwa has become a key transit point for people walking in and out of the mountainous regions to the north which are inaccessible by road. The road beyond Baluwa, towards Barpack, is blocked by landslide. There are buses taking people in and out of the valley, with people going in to visit family, and vice versa. People are coming down from the higher villages to receive aid distributions and then returning. This thoroughfare swells the population to varying degrees in the site from day to day (CCCM 06/05/2015).

The site may remain a settlement as well as a key transit point, with possible growth closer to monsoon. With current cultivation activities likely to see people tending to their own lands in the coming weeks, there is likely to be continued movement in and out of Baluwa and possibly more people will elect to move there for monsoon. The need to prepare for this was expressed by the community. Presently information hasn't been received on similar "transit sites" but this is a trend that may emerge in other areas (CCCM 06/05/2015).



HEALTH

Earthquake Impact

Number of Health Facilities reported as damaged:

Hospitals		PHCC		S/HP		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
0	2	0	3	25	33	1	3	4	

(Source: DHO/DPHO, MoHP, 7 May)

As of 7 May, two hospitals in the district were reported partially damaged, three primary health care centers are partly damaged, 25 health posts are partly damaged, and 33 completely destroyed (DHO/DPHO, MoHP 07/05/2015).

The prevalence of living conditions in which several families share living quarters and people generally living close together without adequate WASH facilities, adds to concerns of the possibility of outbreaks, in particular water-borne diseases. Cases of diarrhea and influenza have been reported, which, given the crowded conditions in shelters increase infection risks ([Health Cluster 04/05/2015](#)).

Mental health problems stemming from the traumatic experience of the earthquake are reported as a concern ([MSF 05/05/2015](#)).

Pre-Earthquake

Cholera is endemic in Nepal. In 2009, an epidemic of severe diarrhea led to 50,000 cases, 330 deaths in the country ([UNICEF 4/09/2009](#)).



WATER SANITATION HYGIENE

Earthquake Impact

The situation in regard to access to safe drinking water requires further investigation. In the VDCs visited by the UNDAC team, Gangkhu, Ghyachok, Sairpani, the population was found to have access to freshwater sources and water was not an issue ([UNDAC 07/04/2015](#)). However, of 17 VDCs covered by an assessment in Gorkha, 41% of the VDCs reported difficulties in accessing clean water ([Save the Children 04/05/2015](#)).

Again there is conflicting information on the sanitation situation. The UNDAC team's assessment found pit latrines to be the most common form of toilet and that people were able to fix them ([UNDAC 07/04/2015](#)). In other reports, lack of adequate sanitation is reported as an issue by some organizations. While access to latrines was an issue even before the earthquake, the situation is described as having deteriorated ([WFP 04/05/2015](#)). Latrines in many of the VDCs are reported as not functioning ([Save the Children 02/05/2015](#)).

Although open defecation was also practiced before the earthquake, it is possible that the change in social dynamics as a result of the earthquake with people reported as living closer together and sharing shelters has also changed practices and may result in this being more of a concern.

Menstruating women face difficulties post-earthquake. Lack of safe and private spaces for women to bathe, in addition to a lack of hygiene materials, was also reported in some VDCs.

Pre-Earthquake

The Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS) reported in 2011 that in Sindhupalchok, 70.1 % of the population had access to a water source, while 44.1% had access to sanitation. The main sources of water are public taps (85.7%), private taps (3.5%), springs (10.6%) and dug wells (0.2%) making up the remaining sources ([DWSS 03/2011](#)).



EDUCATION

Earthquake Impact

According to preliminary statistics of District Education Office, structures of more than 80 per cent of 498 government schools have been reduced to rubble, and the remaining 20 per cent have been partially damaged, making it impossible to run classes ([Himalayan Times 07/05/2015](#)). The Department of Education has requested that all schools in the affected districts remain closed until 14 May, while school buildings are assessed for safety concerns ([Local media 05/05/2015](#)). Learning materials and establishment of temporary classrooms are needed.

Pre-Earthquake

At the district level, 50% can read and write. Data from 2013 shows that the district has 419 Early Childhood Development facilities, 573 primary schools, 194 lower secondary schools, 113 secondary and 56 higher secondary schools. Average school attendance rate (Grade 1 – 5) in 2012 was 75%, and the net enrolment rate (Grad 1 -5) was 97.1% in 2013 ([Nepal Nutrition and Food Security Portal 2015](#)).



Protection

Earthquake Impact

In many villages, the majority of working-age men are migrant workers abroad; leaving women, children, and elderly in charge of the recovery efforts. A majority of households in Gorkha are headed either by women, or men older than the age of 50. These households may be at a disadvantage in terms of clearing rubble, salvaging materials and repairing their homes (CARE 29/04/2015).

Child marriage is practiced in Gorkha. Concerns that the numbers might increase post-crisis, as child marriage can be a means to ease economic burden for families affected by the earthquake (CARE 29/04/2015).

People in the most remote villages are so cut off from the central government that they in many cases lack Nepali citizenship, which may lead to them being overlooked in the relief effort.

A number of different castes, religions, and ethnicities are present in Gorkha. Dalits make up 18% of the population, and is a particular vulnerable group due to their social standing and general marginalisation. There have been reports that Dalits in some instances have been excluded from the relief effort ([Save the Children 04/05/2015](#)). More assessment is needed to determine the extent of discrimination and verify the reports.

Infrastructure

Electricity is available in some parts of these VDC's, but some shortages have been reported. Some houses use solar panels and generator therefore fuel is an issue for these families (UNDAC 07/04/2015).

Waste management in relation to the debris from destroyed houses needs to be cleared. (UNDAC 07/04/2015).

III. Humanitarian and operational constraints

- Some villages can only be reached by walking for five to six days. Landslides blocking roads have further hampered access. At time of writing, a landslide at Aruarbang had cut off road access between Arughat and Sotikhola. The road from Gorkha city to Baluwa ward in Ghyachok VDC is clear, affected communities are partially accessible but only by 4WD. But some wards are accessible only by walking track which takes long time and makes accessing them difficult. The road between Simjun VDC and Sairpani VDC is difficult and dangerous and can be accessible only if the weather conditions are good. ([UNDAC 07/04/2015](#)).
- Helicopters are having difficulty landing due to both inability to identify landing zones and poor weather conditions.
- The forecast predicts medium to high probability for light to moderate rainfall until 10th May (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, 30 April), which will increase the risk of landslides and further constrain the relief efforts. This will be compounded when the 2015 monsoon season starts in June, lasting into September (ECHO). The zone of intense landsliding corresponds to areas with high rates of seasonal rainfall triggered landslides. Although people in Nepal are familiar with the risk of landslides it can be expected that the risk due to continued landsliding in this area will escalate significantly as the rains begin. This continued risk will threaten already-affected areas, and will wash landslide sediment downstream onto valley floors and floodplains ([British Geological Survey 05/04/2015](#)).
- In the remote VDCs Bihi, Chekampar, Chumphuk, Lho, Prok, Sanagaon, and Sirdibas, the distances between wards are creating challenges for the relief effort. Airdropped items are out of reach for many of the people living in wards located far from the drop site ([Early Recovery Cluster 06/05/2015](#)).
- There are reports that trucks carrying relief materials were commandeered by members of the UML (Communist Party of Nepal) ([HCT 03/05/2015](#)).
- Fuel shortages are affecting operational capacity ([Oxfam 30/04/2015](#)).
- Congestion at Kathmandu airport continues to delay distribution of relief items ([MSF 05/05/2015](#)).

IV. Information gaps

There is still not a clear picture of needs across all VDCs and all sectors in the district. In particular, there is limited or no post-disaster information on livelihoods, agriculture, protection and nutrition. The UNDAC team noted the difficulty of consolidating the large quantity of inconsistent and incomplete data provided by NGOs (UNDAC 07/04/2015).

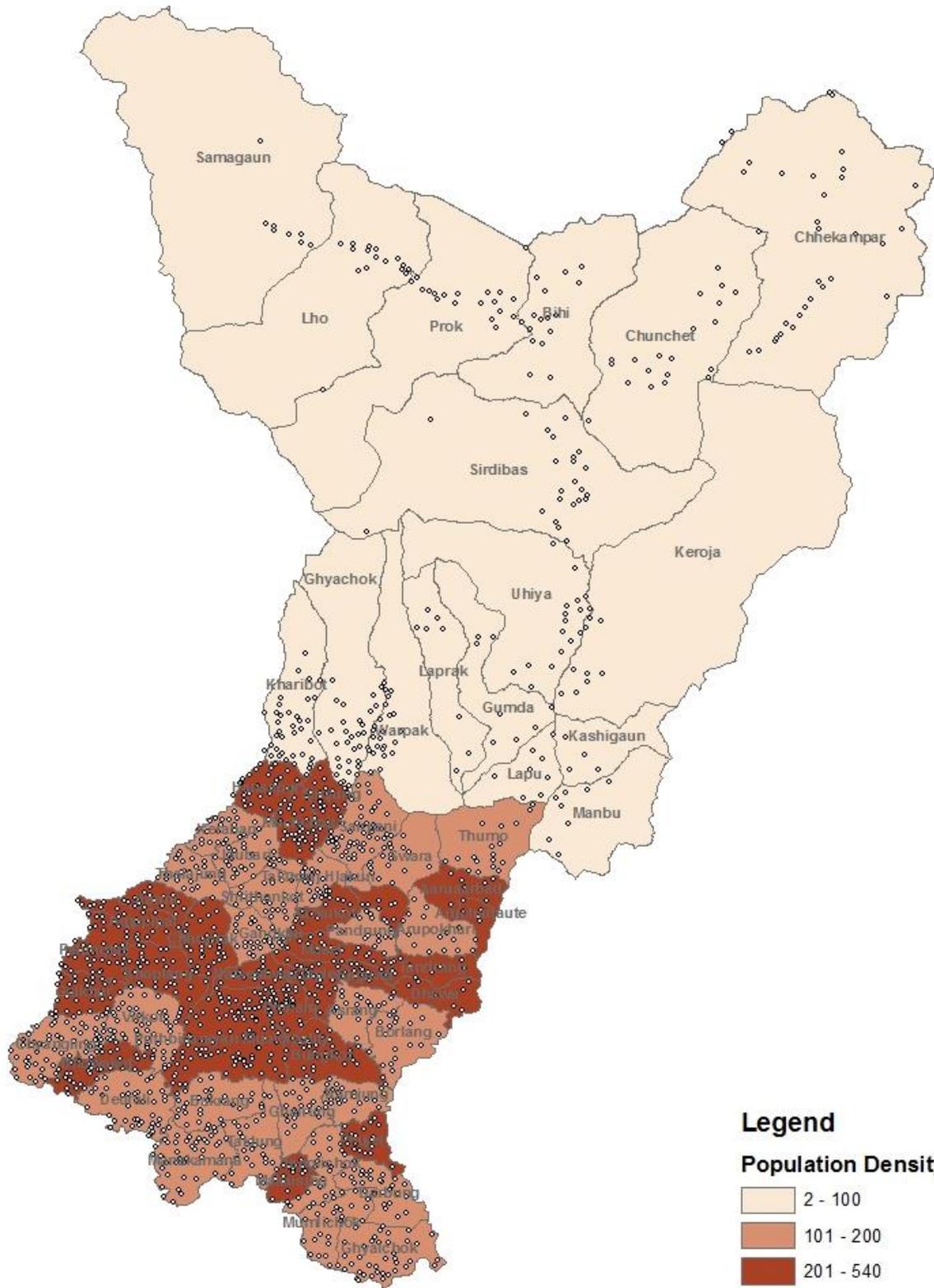
It is recommended to operate on an “assist and assess” basis: deliver assistance at the same time as conducting assessments, because the population is showing signs of frustration when they are interviewed, if no relief is being delivered at the same time.

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 mountainous areas of Gorkha where communication has yet to be re-established.

IV. Pre-crisis Indicators

Indicator	Gorkha	National
Population number (2011)	271,061	26,494,504
Gender disaggregation	55.3% female	51.5% female
Age disaggregation	0 to 4 yrs: 8.6% 5 to 19 yrs: 35.9% 20 to 59 yrs: 42.8% 60+ yrs: 12.7%	0 to 4 yrs: 9.7% 5 to 19 yrs: 36.3% 20 to 59 yrs: 45.9% 60+ yrs: 5.3%
Population density	75.09 ppl/sq. km	180.01 ppl/sq. km
Average household size	4.08	4.88
People with disabilities	Male: 2.8% Female: 2%	Male: 2.2% Female: 1.7%
Life expectancy at birth (years)	71.7	69
Measles vaccination coverage for infants	67%	88%
Malnutrition prevalence	MAM: 6.9 SAM: 1	MAM: 8.7 SAM: 2.7
HDI	0.481	0.490
Literacy rate:	Male: 75% Female: 59.4%	Male: 75% Female: 57%
Main source of energy for cooking	Wood: 84.7% Liqu. petrol. gas: 10.9%	Urban: Liqui. petrol gas: 68.2%; wood: 25.9% Rural: wood: 73.1%; Cow dung: 12.5%
Main source of energy for lighting	Electricity: 76.7% Kerosene: 16.8%	Electricity: 67.7% Kerosene: 18.4%
Access to improved drinking water source	65.4%	85.9%
% of households with toilets	72.7%	Urban: 90.1% Rural: 54.3%
Main religions	Hindu: 75.2% Buddhism: 19.1% Christianity: 3.3%	Hindu: 81.5% Buddhism: 9.1% Islam: 4.4%



Annex: Information gaps by VDC	no information
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AaruChanuate	Dhawa	Hansapur	Ranishwara
Aarupokhari	Shuwkot	Kerabari	Swara
Bakrang	Finam	Kharibot	Taklung
Bhirkot	Fujel	Makaising	Takukot
Bhumlichok	Gaikhur	Manakamana	Takumajhalakuribot
Borlang	Ghairung	Namjung	Tanglichok
Chyangli	Ghyalchok	Palumtar	Taranagar
Darbhung Deurali	Gorakhkali	Prithbinarayan	Thalajung

VDC	Town/village	Information	VDC	Town/village	Information
Ampipal	Palumtar Municipality 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> main water source is unprotected well water source 500-800m away more than 50% of population has no access to sanitation facilities no soap available for washing hands or clothes schools completely destroyed No physical access to market loss of trading premises reports of diarrhea along with cough and cold significant changes in IYCF since quake 	Asrang		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tarps being used for shelter No physical access to market loss of seeds people borrowing food and money to cope no health facilities open
Barpack		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> more than 90% destruction subhealth post collapsed 2 to 4 hour walk from nearest road 	Baguwa		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> village can be reached by road, though damaged some buildings damaged some shelter already provided, food is most urgent need electricity is functional school destroyed
Bihi		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> almost 100% damage large landslides cutting off access, needs unknown 2 days walk from road 	Bunkot		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tarps being used for shelter people staying in open spaces near houses Difficulty accessing clean water water source 500-800m away schools completely destroyed loss of seeds people borrowing food and money to cope reports of diarrhea along with cough and cold significant changes in IYCF since quake
Chekka mpar		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No information but identified by District Authorities as priority 	Chhoprak		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> people staying in open spaces near houses main water source is unprotected well schools completely destroyed No physical access to market lost access to farmland
Chumchet		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No information but identified by District Authorities as priority 	Gakhu		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty accessing clean water need private safe, private latrines for women and girls no soap available for washing hands or clothes schools completely destroyed markets highly impacted No physical access to market loss of seeds reports of diarrhea along with cough and cold significant changes in IYCF since quake
Gumda		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most or all of 1300 HH destroyed completely reliant on food aid as of May 3 local contact: Suresh Gurung 	Harbhi	Nawalpul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tarps being used for shelter Difficulty accessing clean water child protection authority has no capacity to address concerns

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9841969103 road blocked by landslides 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> schools completely destroyed loss of seeds people borrowing food and money to cope
Kashigaun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No information but identified by District Authorities as priority 	Jaubari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> people staying in open spaces near houses main water source is unprotected well and spring water source 500-800m away schools damaged but still useable lost access to farmland reports of diarrhea along with cough and cold
Kerauja	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road access possible with 4x4 all terrain vehicle, but narrow, steep, and difficult in good weather 	Khoplang Ward no. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> water source 500-800m away more than 50% of population has no access to sanitation facilities no soap available for washing hands or clothes children at risk of physical labor Dalits excluded from basic assistance schools damaged but still useable
Laparak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No information but identified by District Authorities as priority 	Masel Guem pasal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health posts and schools being used as shelter Tarps being used for shelter water source 500-800m away more than 50% of population has no access to sanitation facilities markets highly impacted people borrowing food and money to cope reports of diarrhea along with cough and cold
Lapu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> most houses damaged health post collapsed 4 days walk from road 	Muchhok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tarps being used for shelter people staying in open spaces near houses schools completely destroyed markets highly impacted loss of seeds people borrowing food and money to cope significant changes in IYCF since quake
Lho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> most houses damaged health post mostly intact, still staffed 2 days walk from road 	Nareshwor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tarps being used for shelter Difficulty accessing clean water Difficulty accessing clean water need private safe, private latrines for women and girls child protection authority has no capacity to address concerns loss of seeds people borrowing food and money to cope significant changes in IYCF since quake
Manbu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> part of village damaged, parts intact Subhealth post has minor damage, but staff still present 3 days walk from road very poor before earthquake 	Panchkhu wadeurali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty accessing clean water no soap available for washing hands or clothes child protection authority has no capacity to address concerns schools completely destroyed markets highly impacted No physical access to market people borrowing food and money to cope pre-existing child malnutrition
Prok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No information but identified by District Authorities as priority 	Pandrung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tarps being used for shelter Difficulty accessing clean water water sources >800m away more than 50% of population has no

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> access to sanitation facilities no soap available for washing hands or clothes child protection authority has no capacity to address concerns schools completely destroyed markets highly impacted livestock lost labourers injured people borrowing food and money to cope significant changes in IYCF since quake
Samagan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tarps being used for shelter people staying in open spaces near houses 26-50% of population have no access to safe sanitation no soap available for washing hands or clothes schools completely destroyed No physical access to market lost access to farmland 	Shreenathkot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> more than 90% destruction subhealth post collapsed 2 to 4 hour walk from nearest road
Saurpani	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subhealth post collapsed almost 100% damaged, unsafe due to landslides 6-8 hours walk from road 	Tandrang	<p>Kaula, Kuwapani</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Most or all of 1300 HH destroyed -completely reliant on food aid as of May 3 -local contact: Suresh Gurung 9841969103 -road blocked by landslides
Simijunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tarps being used for shelter child protection authority has no capacity to address concerns schools completely destroyed loss of seeds significant changes in IYCF since quake 	Taple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No information but identified by District Authorities as priority
Sirdibas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tarps being used for shelter Difficulty accessing clean water 26-50% of population have no access to safe sanitation schools completely destroyed markets highly impacted No physical access to market loss of seeds people borrowing food and money to cope significant changes in IYCF since quake 	Thumi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -most houses damaged -health post collapsed -4 days walk from road
Uhiya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health posts and schools being used as shelter Difficulty accessing clean water water sources >800m away more than 50% of population has no access to sanitation facilities child protection authority has no capacity to address concerns loss of seeds people borrowing food and money to cope reports of diarrhea along with cough and cold significant changes in IYCF since quake 		<ul style="list-style-type: none">