



Country: Nepal/Earthquake

Rapid Needs Assessment Report

Districts Dolakha, Sindhupalchok

VDCs Boch, Lakuridanda, Makaibery, Jethal, Pangretar, Baramchae

1. Summary of Findings and Strategic Humanitarian Priorities

- Two weeks after the first earthquake struck Nepal and destroyed more than 80% of houses in the assessed VDCs in districts Sindhupalchok and district Dolakha another 7.3 magnitude earthquake lead to the destruction of those houses which still withstood or damaged them to such an extent that they are inhabitable;
- The road from Chautara to Dhare is blocked due to landslides and caused significant damage to the road from Novise onwards. Clearance is expected to last three days according to local police forces;
- Almost all of the residents are living in makeshift tents out of bamboo/timber and plastic sheeting, sometimes sharing the space with relatives leading to very congested living conditions;
- Initial humanitarian aid reached the area but is not sufficient to cover the needs of the affected population;
- Urgent action is required especially in areas high up the mountains where the temperatures drop during night significantly leaving people who are sleeping on the roads exposed to the cold and dampness;
- Humanitarian aid which had been distributed after the 1st earthquake struck has been reported as partially lost as people stored it on their damaged buildings which were flattened in the 2nd earthquake;
- Urgent action is required considering the upcoming monsoon season which will complicate the access in the sectors of shelter, NFIs, WASH, Food, and a possible CASH Assistance (conditional or unconditional);



Level of destruction in VDC Baramchae. village Jalbire



Road blockage after village Novise in VDC Baramchae



Collapsed buildings in VDC Jalbire



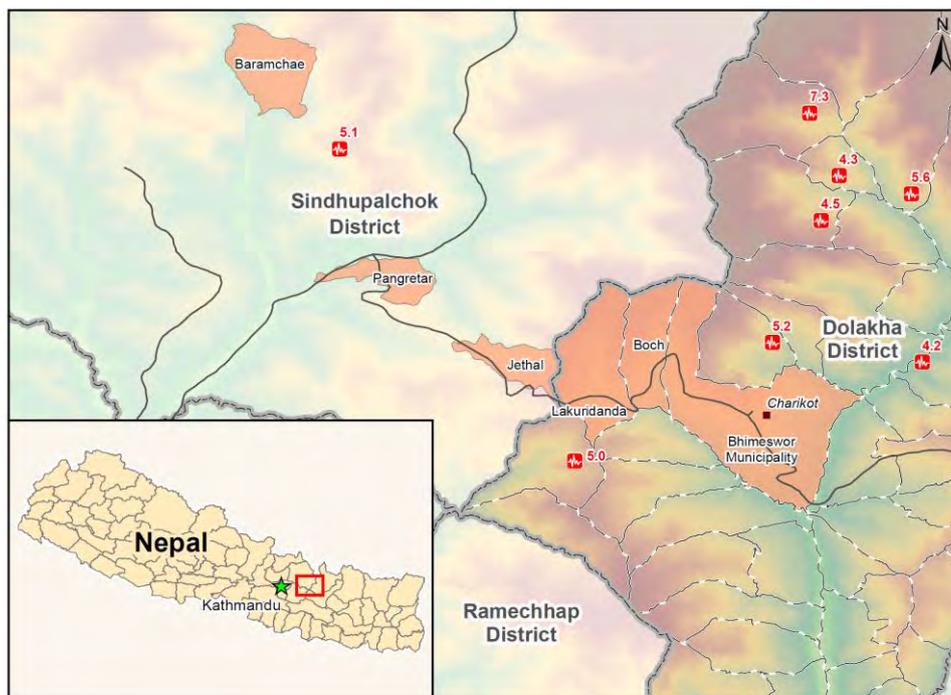
Destroyed houses in VDC Baramchae

2. Situation Overview

On 25 April 2015, Nepal was struck by an earthquake that registered 7.5 on the Richter Scale and killed more than 8,000 people and leaving hundred thousands homeless. Two weeks after this powerful earthquake a new quake measuring 7.3 struck on 12 May. The epicentre was in Dolakha an area, which was already badly affected by the 25 April quake. Continuous aftershocks including major 5.6 and 6.3 magnitude tremors are still causing landslides potentially cutting of currently accessible areas from the road network.

Initial rapid assessments carried out by ACTED teams show that in districts Sindhupalchok and Dolakha those houses which were only partially damaged when the first earthquake struck were flattened after the second earthquake.

Whilst the damage in accessible areas of Sindhupalchok and Dolakha is well documented the road access to remote areas of Sindhupalchok in particular is blocked and large parts of the district cannot be reached at the moment.



Map of assessed VDC's in relation to 2nd earthquake

3. Assessment Methodology

Six Focus Group Discussions (FGD) complemented by transect walks and observations were conducted on 13 May 2015. During these interviews, the following 6 different locations were assessed. Questions were asked about the situation in the whole VDC and not only the particular village:

- Bhimesowr Municipality
- Lakuridanda
- Boch
- Jethal
- Pangretar
- Baramchae

4. Assessment Findings

Populations Affected



Situation

- According to the 2012 census, 287,798 people are residing in Sindhupalchok and 186,557 in Dolakha. Findings from the FGD show that almost 100% of those assessed live in makeshift shelter leading to the assumption that the number of affected population who are in need of some sort of assistance in these two districts is more than 400,000;
- Most of the respondent reported that their food stock will only last for the next few weeks and the markets run quickly out of supply leaving thousands of people potentially food insecure;

Needs, Coverage and Gaps

- The assessed area is in urgent need of most forms of humanitarian assistance, as outlined below.

Shelter



Situation

- According to all six VDCs, residents reported that more than 95% of shelters had either been totally destroyed – or partially damaged to the point of inhabitation. This finding is supported by observation and transect walks as well as other humanitarian actors working in the area;
- 100% of the respondents reported that they will not start to reconstruct their shelters within the next two weeks at least, fearing aftershocks. People are storing their assets on the road and salvage items from their homes for a makeshift shelter;
- Makeshift shelter are mostly made of bamboo sticks with plastic sheeting as roof;
- Especially high up in the mountains the ground underneath becomes wet during night and the temperatures drop below 10 C leaving especially children, women and elderly exposed and vulnerable to the situation.

Needs, Coverage and Gaps

- Plastic sheeting, tents, bamboo sticks and shelter repair kits are urgently needed in Boch, Lakhuri Danda, Baramchae and remote areas of Jethal;

Livelihoods, Food Security and Nutrition



Situation

- Most residents in Boch, Lakuridanda, Jethal, Baramchae and remote areas of Bhimesowr Municipality are farmers, and rely on the production of wheat, rice, maize and potatoes, while parts of Jethal is semi urban and mostly rely on the tourism industry;
- Many residents in Boch, Lakuridanda, Jethal and remote areas of Bhimesowr Municipality had recently harvested wheat and stored their harvest at home. After their houses collapsed, they lost both their seeds and the harvest;



- In Baramchae villagers reported that the crops have not been damaged and food stocks are sufficient to cover food needs for the next month;
- The people in Jethal, Lakuridanda and Boch are forced to adopt negative coping mechanism skipping meals and borrowing money from friends;
- Residents in all but one area assessed expressed the strong concern to run out of food within the next 2 weeks;
- The markets in the area are either closed or where in those locations where they are still open people reported that no supply is reaching the stores anymore.

Needs, Coverage and Gaps

- Possible Cash-for-Work to clear rubble and demolish buildings in areas where market is functional;
- Immediate Food assistance;
- Provision of seeds, or cash assistance to replenish stock.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Situation

- All 6 areas have abundant water resources and there does not appear to be a scarcity of water at the moment. Villagers have found additional water sources or have temporarily fixed their water source;
- There is no latrine operational at the moment in all 6 areas assessed;
- Previously open defecation free villages have now returned to open defecation as almost all latrines have been destroyed. In the discussions, especially women expressed as second priority after shelter assistance the need for latrines;
- The health risks associated with open defecation during the upcoming monsoon season has to be considered.

Needs, Coverage and Gaps

- Sanitary facilities (Pit Latrines, VIP Latrines);
- Hygiene kits;
- Hygiene promotion;
- Water sources and pipelines need to be checked for contamination.

Health



Situation

- The health facilities in 4 VDCs except Lakuridanda are either collapsed or damaged and not functional;
- Health risks are likely to increase due to the upcoming monsoon season and the drop of temperatures during night;
- In Baramchae the medical help is ensured by the army medical camp in Dhare.

Needs, Coverage and Gaps

- Tented Medical Camps;
- Mobile Health Teams;

Protection

Situation

- Lack of latrines and the absence of electricity in the villages exposes especially women and girls to risks related to gender based violence.

Needs, Coverage and Gaps

- Latrines to be provided in all assessed areas.

Education



Situation

- All schools have incurred major cracks or are flattened;
- No school in the areas assessed is operational.



Relief Efforts/Assistance

- No government assistance has been received in the villages according to FGDs. A few humanitarian organisations have distributed tarpaulins, NFIs and fuel;
- However, no major humanitarian assistance has been reported in the area as of now apart from Baramchae where LWF distributed tents, Solidarity International and MdM who are running a medical tent rice, NFI kits as well as ACTED who distributed shelter kits provided by DFID for VDC Gumba and Golche.

4. Humanitarian Access

- The road at Novise towards Jalbire in district Sindhupalchok is blocked. The other assessed VDCs are accessible at the moment but the road up to Chattira is damaged with a risk of being impassable in case of further severe aftershocks or heavy rain;
- No security concerns.