SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The earthquake that occurred on 25 April (7.8 magnitude) was followed by a series of aftershocks mostly to the east of the original epicentre causing further localised damage. The most intense aftershock to date occurred on the 12 May with a magnitude of 7.3 and an epicentre in Dolakha district east of Kathmandu; after shocks continue. This event is commonly referred to as the 12 May earthquake.

- As of 15 May, 8,316 people had been killed and more than 17,866 injured. Reports indicate that 15,001 governmental buildings and 288,797 public (residential) buildings have been completely destroyed following the initial quake. 39 of Nepal’s 75 districts have been affected.

- As of 10am 15 May, 117 deaths and 1961 injured have been reported in addition as a result of the 12 May earthquake (MoHA).

- Numbers of people affected continue to change and there is diversity within districts and VDCs about the nature and severity of the impact.

- The government has designated 14 most affected districts, namely Gorkha, Kavrepalanchok, Dhading, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Okhaldunga, Makwanpur, Sindhuli, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur.

- On 10 May, an additional nine affected districts were added by the government; Tanahu, Kaski, Nawalparasi, Chitwan, Syangja, Parsa, Lamjung, Palpa and Parbat. Limited information on damages from these districts is available.

- Available information on the impact of the first earthquake (25 April) indicates that Sindhupalchok, Gorkha and Dhading are the priority districts for assistance. Although Rasuwa has a relatively small population, it is difficult to access and current information indicates over 80% of the population are affected. UNDAC has established humanitarian hubs in Gorkha and Sindhupalchok.

- Preliminary information from the 12 May earthquake, including the location of the epicentre suggests that Dolakha and potentially Sindhuli should now be considered priority districts for assistance. Limited information from these areas is presently available.

- Relief efforts are beginning to reach remote and difficult to access mountainous regions through efforts via the use of helicopters. However, challenges still remain in accessing many areas or communicating with them and therefore information is lacking. There are reports that many communities close to distribution hubs and ones which relief supplies pass through are not receiving relief due to a focus on reaching more outlying areas (Local sources 12/05/2015).

- Landslides triggered by the earthquake and aftershocks have hindered access in many districts. The landslide situation is fluid and aggravated by pre-monsoon rains. Concerns were initially reported about the Tho-Rolpa lake in Rolwaling Valley that could overflow into the valley because of a landslide (Local Sources 13/05/2015). These concerns have since been adressed by the government stating that the lake has not received any damage (NEOC 13/05/2015). There are also new concerns about the stability of the Sun Koshi dam in Sindhupalchok district that formed as a consequence of a landslide last August, and lies close to the 25th April epicenter.
• The monsoon (usually expected from the start of June) will see the situation in regard to landslides and access in general deteriorate, emphasizing the need for the rapid mobilization and distribution of relief and the need to provide appropriate shelter solutions.

Most affected districts (as of 14 May)

Priorities for humanitarian intervention (based on consolidated secondary data):

• Shelter: Tarpaulins, corrugated iron (CGI) sheets blankets, repair tools and other NFIs that support households in shelter recovery
• Food: Food assistance (including cash and in-kind)
• WASH: Water purification, sanitation and hygiene kits
• Health: Facilities repair, medicine
• Logistics: Access to remote areas (consideration of changing conditions including landslides and the need to deliver relief to areas that will be more challenging to reach once the monsoon starts)
• Ensuring appropriate distribution of relief items
• Rubble removal, road clearance

Considerations for operational planning:

• Engagement with local communities for aid delivery: Engagement with local resources and distribution capabilities for delivering supplies (Porters, Mules).
• Concentration of efforts: to serve the most affected areas within the districts to cater for the wide variety of damage and needs.
• Impact of the monsoon: The monsoon rains (usually from June-September) will have an impact on operations as roads and paths are regularly affected by landslides, and areas may become inaccessible. Local flooding may also occur. Helicopter flights can become risky during rainstorms.
• **Shelter**: The creation of shelter options for people whose houses have been destroyed or damaged remains the highest priority. This should have a focus on the provision of items useful in recovery.

**CRISIS IMPACT**

Analysis of figures released by the Government prior to the 12 May earthquake suggests that within the 14 most affected districts, there were approximately 1,150,000 people affected due to their loss of shelter. This number is continuously rising as more information becomes available.

Following the 12 May earthquake, the number of affected people has risen to approximately 1,814,000 people. These numbers are calculated from provided government estimates of damaged buildings and 2011 census information; the population numbers do not account for growth since 2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Okhaldhunga</td>
<td>2074</td>
<td>4.55</td>
<td>9437</td>
<td>147984</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramechhap</td>
<td>26743</td>
<td>4.62</td>
<td>123553</td>
<td>202646</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolakha</td>
<td>48880</td>
<td>4.08</td>
<td>199430</td>
<td>186557</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sindupalchok</td>
<td>49933</td>
<td>4.32</td>
<td>215711</td>
<td>287798</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabhrepalanchok</td>
<td>30000</td>
<td>4.73</td>
<td>141900</td>
<td>381937</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lalitpur</td>
<td>16344</td>
<td>4.26</td>
<td>69625</td>
<td>468132</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhaktapur</td>
<td>18900</td>
<td>4.44</td>
<td>83916</td>
<td>304651</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathmandu</td>
<td>36973</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>147892</td>
<td>1744240</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuwakot</td>
<td>57943</td>
<td>4.69</td>
<td>271753</td>
<td>277471</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rasuwa</td>
<td>7040</td>
<td>4.43</td>
<td>31187</td>
<td>43300</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhading</td>
<td>43741</td>
<td>4.55</td>
<td>199022</td>
<td>336067</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makawanpur</td>
<td>15012</td>
<td>4.88</td>
<td>73259</td>
<td>420477</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorkha</td>
<td>44607</td>
<td>4.08</td>
<td>181997</td>
<td>271061</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sindhuli</td>
<td>12704</td>
<td>5.14</td>
<td>65299</td>
<td>293173</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>410894</td>
<td>1813979</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: GoN, UNDAC, MapAction)

**Access to Essential Services**

**Shelter**

- Shelter is a key priority sector for responding to this disaster. Reports indicate large scale destruction (up to 90%) of houses primarily in rural villages where most houses are constructed from local materials such as mud, stones and wood. Damage appears to be less severe within valleys as compared to settlements in mountainous areas (UNDAC communication 30/04/2015). A shelter cluster needs and recovery assessment is underway which will assist in verifying these reports.

- Communities have begun to request tools and materials to begin rebuilding their houses, rather than living under temporary shelter. In some areas it has been reported the quantities of these resources are not available locally (Save the Children 04/05/2015) while other reports have indicated items are available (Local sources). A more detailed understanding of what is available where in markets is required.

- The coming monsoon season increases the urgency to provide shelter assistance. Whilst tarpaulins have been distributed to communities, some locals are concerned about their suitability once the monsoon begins (IFRC 11/05/2015). Pre-monsoon rains are already resulting in the deterioration of living conditions for the displaced population in the affected districts. Heavy rainfall and flooding in Chautara, Sindupalchok in the last week has had a negative impact (IOM 12/05/2015). Reports also indicate that shelters lack privacy and provide inadequate protection from the elements.

**CCCM**
According to initial Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) findings, 41,887 people were living in 140 displacement sites in Bhaktapur, Lalitpur and Kathmandu districts (IOM 12/05/2015). As of May 11, 87 of the 140 displacement sites have been closed, as the displaced population has voluntarily returned home. In the remaining 53 sites, there are reports of overcrowding. WASH issues in camps are emerging as there is reportedly a lack of adequate health and sanitation facilities, as well as a lack of access to clean water (IOM 12/05/2015). These figures may change as a result of the 12 May earthquake because informal reports indicate there are now more people living outside their original houses.

The existing camp in the Chautara humanitarian hub, remains open and is accommodating additional people following the 12 May earthquake (OCHA 13/05/2015). Chautara, a city of 20,000 people that was further severely damaged in the 12 May earthquake hosts one of the humanitarian hubs established to support response to the 25 April earthquake. Around 460 people have come into the camp after the earthquake seeking shelter and support. The hub is reported to have limited space services and commodities (including food) for this number (UNDAC 12/05/2015 and local sources 13/05/2015).

WASH

Water contamination due to lack of latrines has been reported in some remote districts (OCHA 02/05/2015). The majority of reports indicate that water supply is not a critical issue in affected districts; in many households where pre-disaster water sources have been disrupted; alternative sources are available although accessibility is more difficult and the quality of the new water sources are unknown.

Some areas that previously had sanitation coverage, have access to latrines that were not damaged by the earthquake, others report various states of damage. Temporary latrines have been built in areas where groups of people have gathered to stay. However, open defecation has been observed in many assessments (Mercy Corps 08/05/2015 and Plan 02/05/2015), usually attributed to insufficient toilets, inaccessibility or inconvenience. This needs to be understood in the context of pre-crisis defecation practices (working toward Open Defecation Free communities was an objective of the government) and post-earthquake living arrangements which may make open defecation even more of a concern in terms of hygiene and protection.

Some informal reports indicate that where latrine buildings were not destroyed they remain the only structures that are intact and thus are being used for a range of purposes other than sanitation including storage (WASH cluster 13/05/2015),

The situation in relation to sanitation and hygiene has caused concern about the risk of increases in communicable diseases, including water-borne and vector-borne diseases and acute respiratory infections. These risks will be exacerbated during the monsoon. (Health Cluster 12/05/2015).

Health

The overall impact on health care facilities is significant however reports from specific locations find that people in some areas continue to have access to health facilities within the affected districts (Mercy Corps 08/05/2015).

By 10 May, 923 health facilities had been assessed as completely or partially damaged. This included 26 hospitals (3 completely damaged and 23 partially), and more than 900 smaller facilities, the majority of which are village health posts (Health Cluster 12/05/2015).

Within the Kathmandu valley hospital capacity has been reduced by 700 beds due to damage; 300 beds of Maternity hospital and 400 beds of Bir Hospital are non-functional. In Patan hospital, medical wards, the gynaecological department, surgical wards and some clinical blocks are non-functional, as well as the residential block and store of Sukraraj Tropical hospital and the older block of Bhaktapur hospital (Health Cluster 12/05/2015). The majority of gaps, both in Kathmandu and in the districts, have reportedly been filled with national and foreign medical teams (FMTs).
Prior to the 12 May earthquake, the number of severe trauma cases had steadily decreased with most recent cases being routine health concerns (WHO 11/05/2015).

Following the May 12 earthquake, the Red Cross in Chautara received approximately 80 patients reporting with injuries (FMT meeting, 14/05/2015).

There is a need for hospital tents in all affected areas (WHO 03/05/2015). Surgical equipment and supplies are needed; there are long waiting list for surgeries in Kathmandu (WHO 03/05/2015). Rural health posts are reported to be in need of consumable supplies and many are yet to receive restocks from the district headquarters (MTI 07/05/2015).

Diarrhoea is being reported across all districts. It is important to note that diarrhoea has been an issue prior to the earthquake affecting up to 24.1% of children under five (DHS 2011). There are some specific reports of increased cases (WHO 09/05/15) attributed to water quality and sanitation conditions (open defecation). This is a concern with the upcoming monsoon where water is increasingly likely to become contaminated.

Cholera is endemic in Nepal, samples have been sent for testing. The current WASH situation could aggravate the situation.

Psychosocial support is needed following the earthquake and subsequent aftershocks. Many health care workers had no experience with emergency counselling support before the earthquake (IOM 12/05/2015).

Concern has been raised over the lack of rehabilitation services available for people who need longer term care (Handicap International 12/05/2015).

Food Security and Livelihoods

The destruction of food stocks due to the earthquake’s impact is likely. There has been widespread loss of food stocks due to destroyed buildings in Rasuwa and in the northern parts of Gorkha, Dhading, Sindhupalchok, and Dolakha (WFP 08/05/2015).

As of May 8, markets had recovered in most parts of the affected districts, with only 4% of markets being reported as non-functional. The non-functioning markets are for the most parts located in Gorkha, Dhading, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchok, and Nuwakot (WFP 08/05/2015). There is a possibility that more markets might have been affected by the 12 May earthquake and subsequent aftershocks.

In the remote areas of the affected districts, the population had limited access to markets before the earthquake. In these areas people are mainly engaged in subsistence farming. Agricultural losses therefore have a significant impact on the rural population in the affected districts (WFP 08/05/2015).

Concerns over agricultural livelihoods and crops (both harvest and planting) have emerged. These concerns now extend over a larger area as a result over the 12 May earthquake as more landslides have taken place. The planting season takes place before the monsoon and this has now been interrupted. In addition there are reports that crops harvested prior to the earthquake have been lost if they were stored in damaged buildings and that some crops remain un-harvested in the fields. (FAO 11/05/2015 and Local Sources).

The tourism industry, specifically trekking, is an important employment sector in some parts of the affected districts, and the earthquakes and landslides are expected to have consequences for the livelihoods of those connected to the tourism industry.

Protection

Concerns have been raised regarding the distribution of aid and the potential exclusion of vulnerable groups including the Dalit population as well as other peoples in the country. Local sources confirm that these groups have been disadvantaged during supply distribution.

Concerns had already been reported about the protection risks associated with people living together in makeshift shelters with people they do not usually live with. Conditions are likely to deteriorate as more people have been affected by the new earthquake and will require shelter.
In Sindhuli since the May 12 earthquake, safety concerns and fear of new earthquakes and aftershocks have made people move. People also report being scared of sleeping outside because of snakes and scorpions (Local sources 13/05/2015).

People living further away from main roads or helipads are disadvantaged in terms of access to relief items. On the other hand, it has also been reported that aid distributions are passing through affected communities located on the main roads without stopping.

There have been reports that conflict within communities is emerging over access to relief materials when insufficient materials are distributed to cover the entire population of a location.

Women and girls are disadvantaged by traditional social practices, such as son-preference, stigmatisation of widows, seclusion of women, and segregation of women and girls during menstruation (CARE 05/05/2015). Based on pre-crisis vulnerabilities, the earthquake could exacerbate gender differences and see the deterioration of conditions for women and girls. Concerns have been raised in relation to the lack of access to safe WASH facilities and supplies.

Almost half of the population in Nepal gets married between the age of 14 and 19. Dowry is a major driver of child marriage (CARE 05/05/2015). Based on the pre-crisis situation and experience from disasters in other contexts there is concern that the numbers of child marriages could increase post-earthquake as a means to ease financial burden.

Trafficking is a protection concern that was present in Nepal prior to the earthquake. An estimated 15,000 women and children become victims to trafficking each year. With increased economic vulnerability following the earthquake along with the disruption to society that has taken place, there are concerns that trafficking could increase (ActionAid 07/05/2015).

Tensions have been reported between various groups within displacement sites, there are concerns that these will mostly impact vulnerable groups (IOM 12/05/2015).

There are reports about rising anger among people who have not received aid or not received sufficient aid (Local sources 13/05/2015).

Having official documents, such as citizenship papers and land ownership documents is a concern, and may impact access to compensation.

**Education**

According to Ministry of Education data, 3,552 schools were damaged in the 14 severely affected districts, and 6,889 schools have suffered minor damages (UNICEF 11/05/2015). Temporary classrooms and learning materials are needed for children in the affected areas.

Concern has been raised over the number of children who will be out of school for an extended period of time (Save the Children 10/05/2015) because of risks associated with not having safe spaces as well as because of potential suspension of academic activities.

Following the earthquake, the Department of Education closed all schools in the affected districts pending safety evaluations of the school buildings. On 12 May, after the second earthquake, the closures were extended for two additional weeks (The Hindu 12/05/2015).

Some schools were open for orientation events and special programs on the day of the second earthquake on 12 May. 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, Ramechap and Sindhuli (Local Sources 13/05/2015).

**OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS**

Communication with communities in remote areas is still limited and damages and needs are not yet fully captured. There are concerns that a significant number of communities have not been contacted at all since the initial earthquake (CWC Group, 13/05/2015).
Analysis with information available so far has revealed that the severity of damage and needs varies largely within VDCs. Concentration of efforts is necessary to serve the most affected areas within the districts to cater for the wide variety of damage and needs.

Humanitarian Access

- Many remote areas in the northern districts lacked road connection even before the earthquake making relief planning challenging.
- Remote areas are yet to be reached, more than two weeks after the initial earthquake (UNICEF 11/05/2015). Access has reportedly been further constrained as a consequence of the 12 May earthquake. Areas in Dolaka are a concern (BBC 13/05/2015) and roads out of Chautara in Sindhupalchok that were reportedly being used to deliver relief after the 25th April quake were inaccessible following the 12 May earthquake (Local sources 13/05/2015). Heavy rain in Sindhupalchok and other affected areas has hampered relief efforts (ETC 12/05/2015). The rain will likely impact the humanitarian community’s ability to stockpile essential relief items in remote areas (IOM 12/05/2015). The heavy rainfall might indicate an early start for this year’s monsoon season (UNICEF 11/05/2015).

The 12 May earthquake and subsequent landslides are expected to further limit access to remote areas. Several major landslides following the 12 May earthquake have been reported in Sindhupalchok, Solukhumbu and Dolakha (CNN 12/05/2015; BBC 12/05/2015; KLL 12/05/2015). Many areas around the epicentre are considered particularly susceptible to landslides, which may further block roads and make transport difficult (Logistics Cluster 12/05/2015). The monsoon rains will further aggravate the landslide situation and accessibility is likely to continue to vary on a daily basis. Local flooding and flash floods may also occur.

- Helicopter flights are dependent on the weather, which will deteriorate with the monsoon approaching reducing the window for aid distribution. An additional concern for the use of helicopters is unmarked high tension power lines that have been reported and bisect many of the valleys in the search area (Local sources 14/05/2015).

- Runway congestion at the Kathmandu international airport continues to delay the relief effort (ETC 12/05/2015). The airport was closed for a short time following the 12 May earthquake, however opened again the same day and is now fully functional (Logistics Cluster 12/05/2015).

There is limited operational understanding of the capacity and capabilities that local communities can provide for rebuilding shelter and rubble removal including road clearances. Therefore appropriate engagement with communities is necessary.

INFORMATION GAPS AND NEEDS

- There is an uneven amount of information currently available on the VDCs of the affected districts.
- Information of the impacts of the 12 May earthquake are mainly based on local sources including information communication, radio and social media.
- Presently there is limited information that has drawn on community group/focus group discussions with affected people. There is concern that use of Key Informants as the main source of information may not give a full picture of needs in relation to vulnerable groups.

80 single assessment reports are available in the Assessment registry as of 14 May. Most visited districts are Dhading, Gorkha and Sindhupalchok.

Assessment reports mostly cover needs related to shelter and NFI, food security, WASH, health and education conditions in the affected districts.

The OSOCC Assessment Cell is composed of members of UNDAC, OCHA, ACAPs and volunteers from UNDP, WHO, ODA, Ministry of Health, WFP, World Bank) Feedback: nepalassessments@humanitarianresponse.info
NEEDS ASSESSMENT COVERAGE AT VDC LEVEL
NEPAL EARTHQUAKE 2015 (as of 15.05.2015)

This map shows the total number of needs assessments conducted per district, as well as highlighting the VDCs that were assessed. This map is generated based on completed and ongoing assessments reported to the Assessment Cell as of 15 May.

Share Information report at nepalassessments@humanitarianresponse.info