KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The monsoon season has led to the expected increase in landslides, particularly across the northern areas of Dolakha, Dhading, Gorkha, Rasuwa, and Sindhupalchok, causing casualties, displacement, and disrupted road access and aid delivery. Government-led and spontaneous evacuations continued throughout July, although many communities reportedly refused to leave due to concerns with the safety of temporary relocation sites and fears of losing their livelihoods. Based on historical data, the high frequency of landslides is expected to continue for at least one more month.

- Monsoon rains have contributed to waterborne disease outbreaks, with confirmed cases of cholera in the Kathmandu Valley, and salmonella and typhoid in Sindhupalchok in July and early August.

- The need for winterisation planning is a growing concern. About 150,000 people reside in areas where the average January temperature is 5 degrees C or below. Shelter support, particularly for CGI and debris clearance, remains a high priority for affected populations. In addition, more durable shelter solutions are required, particularly since the post-monsoon season offers a limited window for reconstruction and preparedness before winter.

- There is a discrepancy in the number of houses damaged (which is used as the basis for planning and provision of assistance), reported by district and central Government authorities. In some districts, the Government has been able to cover the gap when planned assistance efforts were inadequate; while in others, no additional resources have been forthcoming leaving gaps in aid.

- On 13 August, the Government appointed Govinda Raj Pokharel from the National Planning Commission to lead the Reconstruction Authority. While humanitarian needs persist and the response is ongoing, the clusters are beginning to consider the transition to recovery, reconstruction, and (back) to their respective development-oriented structures. Within this transitional period, it is critical that the system continues to address residual humanitarian needs.

- Sexual and Gender Based Violence is of particular concern in spontaneous settlement sites, with incidents reported in Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Dolakha.
RISKS

Delayed transition from the relief phase to recovery

The transition from the relief phase towards recovery and development is frequently challenging due to the difference in actors, coordination structures, modalities, and availability of funding. While the emergency response, as outlined by the revised Flash Appeal, is expected to continue through September, there is an urgent need to begin planning for transition and longer-term recovery, particularly in the shelter and Non Food Item (NFI) sector, in preparation for winter. In addition, it will be critical that longer-term recovery efforts are underway to address residual humanitarian needs as humanitarian actors and resources decrease.

Increase in internal and external migration, raising protection issues

While external migration through formal channels initially decreased by 40% in the months following the earthquake (DoFE, 2014/15), it is likely to increase again, particularly following the major festival of Dashain in October and potentially to above normal levels as people seek additional resources, particularly for reconstruction of more durable shelters. The recent introduction of the zero-cost migration policy is intended to reduce exploitation of external migrants. However, the additional obstacles for foreign employers to hire staff through regular channels could lead to an increase in irregular migration. Vulnerable groups, increasingly desperate, are likely to be targeted by traffickers. Increased community-based and security measures should be taken to ensure awareness of trafficking among communities and to equip law enforcement authorities to identify and process potential cases.

OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

Physical constraints: Physical constraints are the main impediment to the current humanitarian response, and to affected populations’ access to assistance. Several mountainous areas were already hard-to-reach before the earthquake. The increase in landslides during the monsoon have made access even more difficult and 118 earthquake-affected VDCs are only accessible by helicopter or porters. Road and trail access changes frequently and adverse weather due to the monsoon has led to an increase in air transport delays and cancellations (Logistics Cluster 04/08/15). According to UNHAS, the cancellation of reservations due to inclement weather went from 8% in May prior to the onset of monsoon to 75% in July. This has led to a 27% decrease in the amount of cargo transported by helicopters.

There is a significant backlog of aid requiring air transport due to high demand and weather-related flight cancellations due to weather. The Logistics Cluster has temporarily halted requests until the backlog is cleared. It is estimated that clearing the backlog would take up to eight weeks (Logistics Cluster 11/08/2015).
A lack of additional funding for UNHAS as of early August may result in the cancellation of its humanitarian air support at the end of August. With ongoing monsoon rains and landslides affecting road access, WFP, which operates UNHAS, estimates that 146,000 people in 139 communities would be affected if airlifts stop as a result of a stop (WFP 09/07/2015). About 85 VDCs out of 628 assessed for access are not accessible by road but can be reached by helicopters (Logistics Cluster 11/08/2015).

Access of the affected population to aid: A part of the population in need faces difficulties accessing aid and services. Many people have lost essential documentation that cannot be easily replaced due to requirements for additional documentation - particularly migration certificates for those who have moved from other areas of the country.

Two recent assessments showed communities reporting concerns that various political parties negatively influenced the impartial provision of assistance (CFP 06/08/2015, TAF/DRCN 20/07/2015). In addition, one assessment highlighted concerns with the Government’s classification of housing damage which influences the amount of assistance provided (TAF/DRCN 20/07/2015). Communication barriers also continue to impact the affected population’s ability to receive information on available services and to provide feedback; two-thirds of those assessed in 11 districts reported they do not receive the information they need to access relief and support (CFP 06/08/2015)

INFORMATION GAPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key information requirements</th>
<th>CCCM</th>
<th>Early Rec</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Food Sec</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>NFI</th>
<th>Nutrition</th>
<th>Shelter</th>
<th>Protection</th>
<th>WASH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No of people in immediate need</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Priority VDCs for intervention</td>
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<td>Priority interventions required</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Available information focusses on availability of services

No or limited information available

Sectoral: A review of the gap between information requirements and the information available shows several significant gaps, particularly for NFI, Early Recovery, Protection and Nutrition. The widespread damage to infrastructure has necessitated a focus on the reconstruction of buildings such as health posts and temporarily learning centers. There is limited information on the impact of the earthquake on the availability of staff, supplies, and possible barriers to accessing to services.

In addition, there is limited information available on the extent to which the situation has stabilised, including the current status of livelihoods affected by the earthquake and levels of return of those displaced.

Geographic: There are 33 VDCs where there have been no records of multi-sectoral assessments, although initial data indicates that the population has been severely affected by the earthquakes. It is possible that significant unreported humanitarian needs may exist among communities in these areas.

Upcoming assessments

- A revised Government food security phase classification is expected to be finalised in early August.
- The Government-led Joint Environment Rapid Assessment, supported by WWF and CARE is expected to be finalised in August.
- The Common Feedback Project is undertaking an inter-agency rapid information and communications needs assessment in nine of the priority districts is expected to be finalised at the end of August.
- A health infrastructure damage assessment led by the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) is ongoing.
• A child protection assessment led by the Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) is ongoing.
• A Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS) WASH assessment is being finalised.
• ACTED is finalising a multi-sectoral assessment of Dhading, Dolakha, Sindhupalchok, and Solukhumbu districts.
• Planning is ongoing for a potential joint Food Security and Early Recovery Clusters.

SECTORAL ANALYSIS

SHELTER & NFI

Housing damage: National level NEOC data indicates that within the 14 priority districts around 545,000 houses are destroyed and 167,500 damaged representing 44% and 13% of total houses respectively. According to the PDNA, some 600,000 houses across the country need to reconstruction. However, district and VDC level data, collected by CDOs, differs from the national level findings. In Okhaldunga for instance, CDO data indicates that 80% of houses are damaged or destroyed, compared to 40% according to the NEOC data. The classification of damaged houses is an additional concern, with reports of communities disagreeing with or misunderstanding the categorisation (PDNA 08/2015, NEOC 08/2015, ADRF 2015, PI 07/2015).

The need for winterisation planning is a growing concern. An estimated 150,000 people reside in areas where the average January temperature is five degrees Celsius or below (see page one map). Much of the shelter support provided so far is emergency by nature, using items not expected to last through the monsoon season. Shelters made from these materials will need to be repaired or replaced. Around 37% of the total funded CGI remains in the pipeline, in part due to an increase in costs (transport operational and customs duties) (Shelter Cluster 07/2015).

Displacement sites: One hundred and four sites hosting more than 20 HHs were identified during round III of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster’s (CCCM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). This equates to almost 60,000 people, or 2% of those estimated to no longer reside in their usual home. For 61% of the sites, the most common type of shelter was makeshift/tarpaulin shelters, while tents were most common in 24% of the sites. In two sites in Rasuwa, several families were found to be living out in the open at the time of the assessment. (CCCM DTM 21/07/2015)

![Most common type of shelter in sites >20 HH](image)

Temporary Shelter

Inside building

Source: CCCM DTM 21/07/2015

Access to cooking facilities, NFIs, and electricity is limited in the assessed sites. More than 75% of the households have access to safe cooking facilities in 15% of the sites. No electricity is available in one-third of the assessed sites. The need for CGI has become more pronounced across those sites hosting more than 50 HHs. Half of sites indicated CGI as a main priority in round III, while during the previous round the main priorities were CGI sheets, plastic sheets and other NFIs. This could be an indication of the impact of the monsoon season on sub-standard shelters or possibly decreased need for other NFIs due to on-going NFI distributions. (CCCM DTM 21/07/2015)

LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

Livelihoods: Various assessment reports have highlighted the need for cash assistance, both to meet the expressed needs of the affected population and to strengthen the recovery of local markets.

• Among the 74% of respondents who indicated that their need were not fully met, one of the two main problems cited was financial support (CFP 06/08/2015).
• A food security and livelihoods assessment in Dolakha, Gorkha, and Sindhupalchok districts indicates that the main impacts of the earthquake include reductions in household income; increased shelter expenditure; and a corresponding increase in debt. The majority of market traders in the assessed areas have recovered, but the restoration of market stability is challenged by the lack of purchasing power and the on-going in-kind relief distributions. Cash assistance was recommended as a key part of the medium-term recovery process (SC 07/2015).
• Increased indebtedness was also reported among 25% of those surveyed in areas heavily impacted by the earthquakes in a June assessment by TAF/DRCN. Respondents in these areas also highlighted cash as their top need for the next three months (TAF/DRCN 20/07/2015).
• Child consultations showed a number of children recommended that the Government provide financial support, particularly for housing reconstruction (CCWB et al 27/07/2015).

Food security: Food prices increased 3.4% between the first and second quarter of 2015 as a result of the earthquakes and the resulting decrease in agricultural output and stocks. Staple commodity prices rose by 7% in the Mid-Western Region of Nepal, which includes Gorkha, as well as other earthquake-affected districts. Year-on-year inflation in Nepal increased by 5.7% (WFP 07/2015). The harvesting period for maize and rice begin in August and September, respectively, and will be indicative for future food security. Widespread damage to storage facilities, however, may negatively impact farmers’ ability to sell or maintain their produce (Food Security Cluster 06/06/2015).

Agriculture: Rainfall continues at below the long-term average at the national level, although temporal and geographic disparities exist. In Kathmandu, rainfall over the last six weeks is reported at 85% compared to the long-term average. However, rainfall distribution has been uneven with some weeks receiving only one-third of normal rainfall while other weeks have received 135% of normal, which could affect crop development. In Okhaldhunga, the rainfall deficit is more severe with only 56% of normal since the beginning of monsoon season (FSC Cluster 03/08/2015). Despite the lower than average rainfall, vegetation in July at the national level largely appears normal according to FAO’s early warning system. There are, however, anomalies appearing in Dolakha, Ramechhap and Okhaldhunga with poor vegetation conditions compared to long term average (FSC Cluster 03/08/2015).

Markets: Government-led monitoring of key food commodities in 12 markets shows that the retail prices of most food commodities increased due to the start of the lean season and following increases in the global market. Inflation of food products was higher than overall year-on-year inflation of 7.1% experienced in May. Inflation rates in legumes at 24.5% were highest, followed by dairy products at 13.4%. Most of the markets monitored were outside the 14 priority districts, with the exception of Kathmandu (NeKSAP 11/08/2015). However, given the increased disruptions to roads due to landslides, it can be assumed that inflation is also high in the 14 priority districts.

HEALTH

On 13 August, health officials reported that 29 cases of cholera were confirmed by lab tests in Kathmandu, according to media sources (Himalayan Times 13/08/2015). Preliminary investigations suggest that a contaminated water source may be the cause. There was an increase in the number of acute gastro-enteritis cases reported from one of the health sites monitored by MoHP located in Kathmandu during the week of 26 July with 35 total cases reported compared to 23 the previous week (ECDC 07/08/2015, MoHP 11/08/2015). In June, there were eight suspect cholera cases confirmed negative, five of which originated in Kabhrepalanchok (EDCD 26/06/2015). In 2014, there were 12 confirmed cases of cholera following an outbreak in the Kathmandu Valley (MoHP 11/08/2015).

An outbreak of salmonella and typhoid occurred in early July in ward one of Batase VDC in Sindhpalchok. The outbreak led to three deaths of two children under-five and one woman. Health experts treated 165 cases in total and the outbreak was deemed under control as of 22 July. Lab tests confirmed one case of salmonella and four cases of typhoid (Health Cluster 06/08/2015).

Similarly, an outbreak of viral hepatitis with jaundice was reported from Barpark VDC in Gorkha in early August. A response team from the district health office examined and treated 147 cases of which 51 experienced jaundice. Further lab confirmation are pending and WASH interventions are ongoing. No other disease outbreaks have been detected since 25 April.

According to the Health Cluster, 99% of health facilities damaged by the earthquakes had resumed services in early August, although some services were not available due to monsoon-related inaccessibility. Before the earthquake, some health facilities had vacant posts, which persists in the post-earthquake context. MoHP and health partners are
mapping the health human resources and the services required (Health Cluster 06/08/2015). Several localised rapid assessments conducted in Sindhupalchok highlighted a shortage of health supplies in some posts, a lack of staff, or a need for skilled health staff (Oxfam 17/07/2015, Oxfam 11/07/2015, WFP 15/07/08).

Two-thirds of displacement sites hosting more than 20 HHs have access to a functioning health facility within 30 minutes or less, although only 42% had access to immunisation services according to the IOM/CCM DTM. Diarrhea was the most common health problem reported in nearly half of all camps (49%), followed by skin infections (8%), which is likely due to overcrowding and poor sanitation facilities in the sites (IOM/CCCM 21/07/2015).

NUTRITION

No new nutrition data has become available. The lack of data on the earthquakes’ impact on the nutrition situation is a major information gap. Based on revised estimations, up to 2,500 children under five are projected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in the coming months and around 14,500 children under five could suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). These figures are based on 2011 data from a demographic and health survey which indicate that the Global Acute Malnutrition prevalence of 10.9%. An estimated 185,000 pregnant and lactating women are also considered at risk of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in the 14 priority districts. These vulnerable groups will require sustained nutrition support. (Nutrition Cluster 07/2015). The nutrition response was delayed in some VDCs due to a lack of funding, which was further compounded by access challenges.

WASH

The WASH cluster, in cooperation with WASH actors and respective district authorities, is prioritising VDCs for response within districts on a rolling basis. The prioritisation process is based on district and VDC level WASH assessments and expert judgment. It is intended to prioritise within districts, rather than between districts, as the assessment data available in each district varies. According to the classification, 267 of the 746 VDCs were identified as a first priority. VDCs are re-classified as new assessment data becomes available. The scale of assessed need for sustained water and sanitation support in communities is higher in comparison to the figures in the revised Flash Appeal, and much of this work will need to be undertaken post-monsoon.

Recent disease outbreaks were attributed to contaminated water sources in Sindhupalchok district and Kathmandu in July and August, respectively. On 13 August, health officials reported that 29 cases of cholera were confirmed by lab tests in Kathmandu, according to media sources (Himalayan Times 13/08/2015). Preliminary findings indicated that a contaminated water source may be the cause (Health Cluster 06/08/2015). In early July, lab tests confirmed the presence of typhoid and salmonella in Bhatase VDC in Sindhupalchok after a water source reportedly dried up following the earthquake and a spring was used for drinking water. Three people reportedly died and 165 people were treated by health staff (Health Cluster 06/08/2015).

Residents in 36% of settlement sites have access to the SPHERE minimum standard for water, which is at least 15 litres of water per person per day. In addition, where functioning latrines were available on site, on average there was one toilet per 96 people; well below the SPHERE standard of one toilet per 25 persons. In 23% of sites, it was reported that residents used toilets in nearby houses. In 74% of sites, no evidence of handwashing was observed, potentially increasing the risk of disease outbreaks (IOM/CCCM 20/07/2015).
PROTECTION

Marginalised groups: The Common Feedback Project (CFP) micro-survey found that 61% of respondents felt that assistance was not provided in a fair manner, with the main reasons for unfair assistance attributed to political parties and a first come, first serve approach to distribution (CFP 06/08/2015). The Government-led consultations with children found similar results; two-thirds of children reporting that they were dissatisfied with the assistance provided, and of those, half reported that aid was distributed unfairly and that those with political connections had better access to assistance. Children also reported that those in remote and hard-to-reach areas faced increased challenges in accessing assistance, and in some cases received no assistance (CCWB et al 27/07/2015).

Dalits and ethnic minorities report they continue to face discrimination in accessing assistance (Nepal Monitor 13/08/2015). In Dhading, Chepang communities reported that Government authorities classified their houses as ‘partially damaged,’ despite being completely destroyed, leaving them with no access to the NPR 15,000 in cash assistance (Himalayan Times 13/08/2015). The reported incidents occurred in the Kathmandu Valley and Dhading district, however, discrimination is still widespread, although records of this are poor due to a lack of official reporting.

Trafficking: Since 25 April, 682 women and children have been intercepted while being trafficked through strategic locations (UNICEF 06/08/2015). As interceptions increase, there is a concern that traffickers may take more remote and risky transit routes to avoid detection.

Women: According to the CFP micro-survey, 73% of women surveyed reported that their particularly problems were being minimally or not at all addressed. Longer-term shelter and financial assistance were the top two unaddressed needs among both women and men. The overall dissatisfaction rate for men and women in having their primary problems addressed was 74% among both men and women. Among both groups, shelter and financial support were cited as their main problems (CFP 06/08/2015). A report by the Inter-Party Women's Alliance (IPWA) found that women's access to relief was limited compared to men, particularly for unmarried, widowed, and divorced women. IPWA attributed the unequal access to women's low representation on disaster committees (Kantipur 2015/07/31).

Sexual and gender-based violence: IPWA reports an increase in sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, in the aftermath of the earthquakes, although the report did not provide baseline data for comparison. SGBV is a particular concern in spontaneous settlement sites (OCHA 03/08/2015). For example, protection actors have reported cases of sexual abuse of children were reported in three spontaneous settlements in Nuwakot (OCHA 12/08/2015), with alarming incidents also reported to the GBV Sub-Cluster from Rasuwa and Dolakha. Spontaneous settlements were noted as particularly risky due to the lack of separated toilet and sanitation facilities (Kantipur 2015/07/31). Local media reported that there was an increase in rape cases in Bhaktapur with 19 cases reported this past fiscal year compared to 15 the previous fiscal year (Kantipur 04/08/2015). One SGBV assessment in Thali site found that 74% of women surveyed did not think it was possible for men to rape their wives.

Child protection: In the Government-led consultations with children across the 14 priority districts, children in five of the districts, and particularly girls, reported concerns with potential exploitation, abuse, and trafficking (CCWB et al 27/07/2015).

EDUCATION

Infrastructure damage: The Department of Education (DoE), with support of the Education Cluster, undertook a school structural assessment in the 14 priority districts. The assessment covered over 6,300 schools in 656 out of 746 VDCs. At least 34,500, or 63%, of the 54,600 classrooms assessed are in blocks classified as unsafe. Over 20,000 classrooms are in buildings that need to be demolished and rebuilt. The most affected districts are Sindhupalchok (89% of classrooms assessed located in unsafe buildings), Nuwakot (87%) and Dolakha (83%) (DoE/Education Cluster 07/2015).

These findings are in line with initial Government damage assessment findings. In mid-May it was estimated that almost 35,000 public and private classrooms had been destroyed in the earthquakes. The main difference between the findings of the initial assessments and the school structural assessments were recorded in Kabhrepanchok,
LaLitpur, Okhaldunga, and Ramechhap districts, where current damage findings are far above the initial findings. The discrepancies can be partly explained by the fact that the school structural assessments captured public and private classrooms and the additional damage caused by the 12 May earthquake (Nepal Education Cluster 05/2015).

**WASH in schools**

There are no functional toilets in at least 1,600 or 28% of the schools assessed during the school structural assessment. In 43% of the schools assessed (around 2,700), no drinking water is available. Schools in Sindhupalchok, Rasuwa, and Dolakha have the lowest number of schools with available drinking water.

**Schools where drinking water is available**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Drinking Water Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sindhupalchok</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rasuwa</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramechhap</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorkha</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuwakot</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhaading</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okhaldhunga</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makawanpur</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siddhipur</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathmandanepalchok</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balikot</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lalitpur</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Displacement sites:** In over 80% of displacement sites identified during the latest CCCM DTM, children had access to education – either on-site or in a formal school setting. Over, 1,100 children between six and 17 years of age are residing in sites where there is no access to formal or informal schooling. (CCCM DTM 21/07/2015)

The Assessment Unit welcomes all information that could complement this report. For more information, comments or questions please email nepalassessments@humanitarianresponse.info.