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Emergency appeal operation update

Nepal: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRNP008

GLIDE n° [EQ-2015-000048-NPL](#)

Operation update n° 3

14 May 2015

This operation update provides an overview of the current situation after a second earthquake struck on 12 May 2015, response progress made, operational challenges and risks. The emergency appeal is currently being revised and is expected to be launched on 15 May 2015.

Period covered by this Operation Update: 8 – 14 May 2015

Appeal target (current): CHF 33.4 million

Appeal coverage: As of 13 May, 99 per cent covered in hard and soft pledges. Details on donor contributions can be seen [here](#), and mobilization table is available [here](#).

Appeal history:

- 26 April 2015: An [emergency appeal](#) was launched on a preliminary basis for CHF 33,481,398 to support 15,000 families (75,000 people) over 18 months. At the same time, from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)'s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), CHF 500,000 was allocated to support the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in delivering assistance to those affected and undertake initial needs assessments in affected districts.
- 2 May 2015: [Operation Update no 1](#) was issued, covering 25 April to 1 May 2015.
- 11 May 2015: [Operation Update no 2](#) was issued, covering 5 to 7 May 2015.



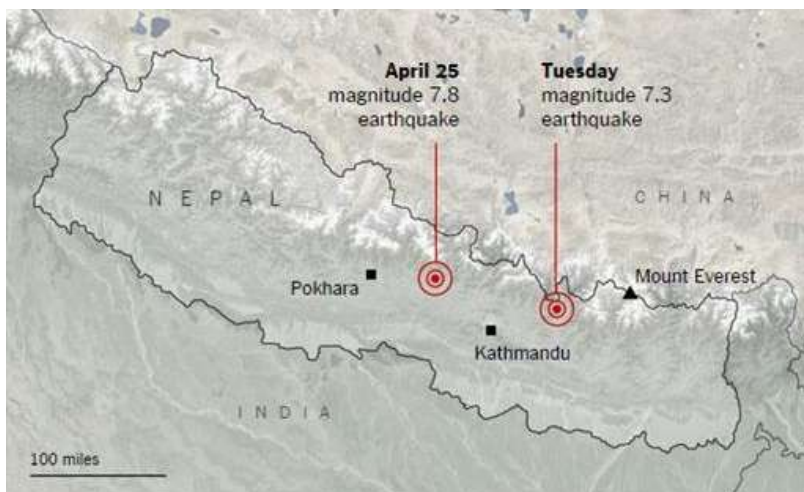
Volunteers distributing the ready-to-eat food items to the affected people in one of the community. (Photo: NRCS)

The situation

25 April 2015: 7.8 magnitude earthquake strikes area between Kathmandu and Pokhara. Epicenter located 80 km northwest of Kathmandu, with hundreds of aftershocks registered.

2 May 2015: Occurrence of aftershocks continues. Another 5.0 magnitude quake occurred near Pokhara at 05:35 UTC compounding fears of further devastation.

12 May 2015: A second earthquake measuring 7.3 magnitudes hit near the town of Namche Bazaar, at the base of Mount Everest, 80 km to the east-northeast of Kathmandu. This was followed by more than six aftershocks (highest magnitude measuring at 6.2). According to Nepal Police, over 91 people reported dead, 2,428 injured and 47 reported missing. NRCS's initial assessment report shows that 34,413 families are displaced; 40,590 houses are fully damaged and 12,510 are partially damaged; as many 130 schools and number of hospitals are damaged including collapse of a hospital at Lalitpur district. Following injuries to school children due to the collapse of school building, the Minister of Education extended the closure of the schools in the earthquake affected districts. Initial report says Charikot in Dolakha district, Solukhumbu and Sindhupalchowk districts are severely affected. With more people returning to the streets and open spaces in which creates an increase demand for tarpaulins (most shops are out of stocks). A helicopter of US military carrying 8-people went missing near Dolakha district¹. Access to Dolakha district is limited and roads are blocked due to landslides. Electricity and communication lines are completely damaged. Almost 80-90 per cent of buildings in rural areas are completely damaged. Many injuries (fracture, broken necks, spinal injuries) sustained were related to falling of masonry debris from buildings.



Source: Satellite image by NASA/U.S.G.S. Landsat via Goole Earth, first published in The New York Times.

Table 1: Summary situation as of 14 May

Situation	Number
Affected VDC	1,084
Affected Municipalities	67
Dead	8,250
Missing	569
Injured	18,455
Affected families	1,088,868
Displaced families	646,454
Fully damaged houses	529,905
Partially damaged houses	307,785
School buildings destroyed	3,760

Due to pre-monsoon rains, landslides in the mountains are blocking access to many earthquake affected areas. This is affecting the emergency relief provision, health care services, and ongoing need assessments. Road accessibility also restricts the reach to the remote areas where people are displaced and emergency needs are still high. Foreseeing the upcoming monsoon season the situation might worsen further.

The overall situation in affected areas is improving and dependent on military and health care support from foreign countries continued to decline. Most of the countries have withdrawn their health team from Nepal. The top priority remains delivery of shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), non-food items (NFIs) and food. Relief distribution by national and international agencies have increased through all affected districts; however some remote areas in Dolakha and Solukhumbu district are still in need of relief items.



NRCS volunteers mobilized to support search and rescue and safe transfer of injured person. (Photo: NRCS)

**More than
7,000
volunteers
and staff
mobilized**

¹ The Himalayan Times, 14 May 2015.

The reconstruction process of private and public properties destroyed by the earthquake is expected within the next two years. In line with this, the government plans to issue identity cards for the earthquake victims and their families. The government has decided to develop a National and Reconstruction Fund, and an International Donor Conference will be organized in support for the fund. The Prime Minister has proposed to form a high level all party parliamentary committee to monitor the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programme in the country. Additionally, the government is considering to set up temporary camps at the district level for the homeless, and provision of free seeds and fertilizer at subsidized rate. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Urban Development has formed a 6-member committee to demolish damaged houses in Kathmandu Valley after inventory list of damaged houses that pose threat to neighboring buildings. The government announced to strictly implement the land-use policy and building codes after reviewing them.

More than 380,000 people reached with health care

More than 220,000 people reached with shelter

Furthermore, the government has decided to provide up to NPR 200,000 (approx. CHF 1,781) for families whose house had been completely destroyed and NPR 25,000 (approx. CHF 223) for those who want to repair their damaged houses. The affected people can also apply for a bank loan² at 2% to rebuild or repair their damaged houses. The government will provide up to NPR 300,000 (approx. CHF 2,671) for earthquake-hit public schools to make temporary arrangements for classes.

The operation focus is gradually shifting towards early recovery, debris management, identifying beneficiaries for shelter repair including material and rehabilitation of water points, seed and tools. **Shelter remains key priority to address in coming weeks.** Many agencies have already started their plan for reconstruction and rehabilitation. While the primary focus for recovery phase, taking into consideration of the approaching monsoon season in early July, is shelter and sanitation. The IFRC is currently working with NRCS and shelter/NFI cluster to determine effective support, beyond the provision of emergency shelter item. Current

Summary of Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS)

- Immediately after the second earthquake on 12 May, NRCS district chapters have responded through mobilising their volunteers in delivering first aid, psychosocial support, ambulance services and assistance to search and rescue team.

Relief response as of 14 May (with more than 7,000 NRCS staff and volunteers mobilized):

Relief distribution	Quantity	Services provided	Quantity
Non-food relief items (full set)	2,584	Treatment services provided through mobile health clinics (12) and field hospitals (6)	17,968
Blankets	11,704	Temporary toilets constructed	139
Tarpaulins	42,630	First aid services	5,846
Family tents	1,858	PSS services	1,583
Oral rehydration solution (ORS)	122,815	RFL services	1,079 cases resolved
Aqua tabs	405,950		
Hygiene kits	4,026		
Hand washing soaps	44,874		
Facial masks*	36,300		
Gloves*	30,800		
Dead body Bag*	595		

* In line with dignified management of the dead

² Homeowners in Kathmandu valley whose houses have been damaged with get up to NPR 2.5 million in loan while those outside the valley will receive up to NPR 1.5 million.

Other updates during this reporting period:

- Response is in close coordination with government ministries and agencies, IFRC, ICRC, Movement Partners and other international and national organizations.
- Detailed assessments have started.
- A NRCS repeater system continues to provide VHF radio connectivity throughout the Kathmandu Valley.
- NRCS has begun the implementation of distribution plan, providing tarps and an NFI/Shelter/Cash package.
- NRCS continues to offer ambulance services and assistance to search and rescue team.
- Shelter toolkits have been received in-country.
- Restoring family links service is ongoing.
- Access and communications to rural remote communities remain challenging, with potential landslides and high-level of debris.
- Cash-for-work meeting was led by the FACT cash delegate with NRCS to discuss market assessment training and tools for collecting market information based on the Movement RAM guidelines.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

- Since the first earthquake, IFRC has mobilised regional (regional disaster response team “RDRT”) and global tools (field assessment and coordination team “FACT”) to support NRCS in conducting damages and needs assessments.
- Coordinating the emergency response units (ERUs) to support NRCS relief operation.
- The first deployment rotations of RDRT, FACT, ERU and other regional and international staff are expected to gradually be replaced by a second rotations (currently being developed) as well as reduced to be phased into long-term recruiting process for the overall operation.
- In supporting this transition, relevant HR documents are being put in place to guide the volunteers and staff (national and international) recruitment and management process.
- Coordinating with Movement Partners on developing a **One Movement Plan**. A concept note and an interactive map are being prepared to facilitate this process.
- Coordinating the Real Time Evaluation (RTE) process which is expected in the coming months.
- Supporting the outcomes of the Movement Support Mission team visit to Nepal (5 and 6 May).
- Preparing the high-level visit by the IFRC Secretary General to Nepal between 15 and 17 May.

The Movement Partners

- Based on the Movement Coordination Agreement, a joint statement for this operation was signed on 30 April between NRCS, IFRC and ICRC, to enhance the movement coordination.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been incorporated into the FACT supporting DMD and RFL.
- ICRC technical expert met with representatives of Department of Forensic Medicine to discuss issues on high-throughput mortuary management and physical assessment of hospital buildings.

Operational challenges and risks

- Tensions were observed and directed against Red Cross field staff due to the perceived slow delivery of shelter and relief item. The situation escalated with the 12 May earthquake. Movement staff are advised to keep a low profile in the coming days.
- Norwegian Red Cross RDH at Chautara in Sindhupalchowk district was flooded with heavy rains on 10 May, resulting in emergency actions to solve the issue. The team is faced with difficulty in finding space for accommodation and food in the operational area.
- The road to Tatopani is cut off due to the landslides resulting from the 12 May earthquake. This restricted the movement of Canadian Red Cross BHC. The phasing out of the military health teams and the BHC being evacuated from Tatopani will create gaps in clinical health support to the affected people. The team is currently working on possible alternative ways to continue Red Cross clinical services in the worst affected VDCs of Tatopani.
- With upcoming monsoon season and risks of communicable diseases, including water-borne diseases and acute respiratory infections, it becomes even more urgent to secure funding as the situation could further worsen.
- Initial discussions on possible approaches to the recovery plan are being initiated across all sectors and at the same time incorporation of lessons learned from previous as well as in this response should be

considered. In the shelter cluster coordination, a discussion on use of CGI as quick fix permanent solution for housing is being considered and included in the recovery plan. As the monsoon is approaching very soon, NRCS has decided to assist few families to use a standardised package including CGI on a pilot basis for emergency shelter in Bhaktapur area. The distribution of tarpaulins will be continued in other areas as emergency support as they can be used during emergency as well as through recovery. For use of CGI the challenge is provision of key technical guidance from the cluster and using quality CGI in the construction.

- Freight clearance at the airport continues to pose challenges, as the airport is small and experiencing congestion. Landing permission continues to be problematic due to multiple factors, including the many restrictions imposed by the authorities or the multiple channels activated by some senders creating confusion within MOFA. Telecom ERU goods continue to be blocked in customs; this as a direct result of a commercial telecoms entity importing equipment under the Red Cross emblem and the subsequent tightening of import rules. The final letter of approval from the Ministry of Telecommunications should be secured in coming days. In addition, there are 3 ERU



*One of the site where emergency shelters provided by NRCS were set up .
(Photo: NRCS)*

vehicles blocked at the airport awaiting clearance. The logistics team continues doing slot management at the airport to clear the cargoes. Any Movement partner planning to send air cargoes are requested to coordinate through the coordination of the KL-ZLU to secure landing permits and landing slots and to avoid last minutes clearance issues. Similarly, for road transports arriving in Nepal should be coordinated through the ZLU and to enter only through the Birgunj border where teams are ready to support entrance.

Communications:

Together with support from the IFRC global communications team, content has been provided daily to external media and communicators in National Societies for their domestic markets including web stories, blogs and audio visual material. The materials are disseminated through relevant channels depending on the target audience and include: the IFRC Newswire (to [subscribe](#)), the [IFRC photo library](#), the [IFRC newsroom](#), the [IFRC website](#) and the [FedNet](#). Additionally, two press releases were issued – one on 11 May covering landmark agreement signed with Nepal Telecoms for Trilogy Emergency Relief Application ([TERA SMS](#)) system and the second one covering [major aftershock](#) that hit on 12 May.

Key messages and talking points for spokespeople, facts and figures on the operations, and guidance for social media are updated every two days and shared with National Society communications focal points via Newswire. Communication tools for fundraising and donor bulletins were also produced to support resource mobilization efforts.

The unfolding situation in Nepal continues to capture news headlines. The IFRC and NRCS have been highlighted as taking a strong lead in the assessment and response. IFRC senior management and spokespersons have provided interviews to most leading international media for television, radio, print and online including CNN, BBC, Aljazeera, Time magazine, etc. From 9 to 11 May, the Red Cross Red Crescent received a total of 262 media hits with regard to the earthquake response operations in Nepal, and on 12 May alone, the Red Cross Red Crescent received 1,962 media hits due to the video that was shared by Canadian Red Cross and was picked up by CNN, BBC, Reuters, the Guardian, Telegraph and others.

A second rotation of the Finnish field communications unit is now in-country and gathering material and IFRC regional communications manager for the South Asia has also joined the team for one week.

Security and protection:

Following the second earthquake, more reports on civil unrest have been reported. All national and international staff are advised to maintain a low profile whilst working in the communities, in order to avoid unexpected security and protocol issues of IFRC. The emergency security delegate is in the country and continued providing daily security briefing to teams travelling to field. Guidelines on staff movement will soon be available. Mission order process is already in place and every member needs to get approval from the including for vehicle as well.

OCHA has estimated that 2.8 million children have been affected and 940,000 are in need of urgent aid. Of the 126,000 pregnant women, 21,000 of whom will need obstetric care in the three months that follow the earthquake. Over 16,500 women are estimated to be breastfeeding and 40,000 are at immediate risk of sexual and gender-based violence.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

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Please send all pledges for funding to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



**Enable healthy
and safe living.**



**Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.**