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Information bulletin

Nepal: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Host National Society: Nepal Red Cross Society	Date of disaster: 25 April 2015

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), are working together to determine the most urgent needs in preparation of an international emergency response to be launched. A Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for CHF 500,000 has been approved on 25 April 2015 as a loan to the Emergency Appeal to be launched.

[< click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information >](#)

The situation

An earthquake measuring 7.9 magnitude struck an area between Kathmandu and Pokhara in the morning of 25 April 2015. According to US Geological Survey (USGS), the quake hit at 11:56am local time (06:11 GMT). The epicentre was 80 km northwest of Kathmandu in Nepal. More than 68 aftershocks have been noted, with intensity between 2 to 5 on the Richter scale. Aftershocks are still continuing, causing further damage. More than 2,000 people have been reported dead, with at least 634 deaths in the Kathmandu Valley. The death toll is rising quickly throughout the day and the number of casualties expected to increase significantly with the ongoing search and rescue operation in collapsed structures.



Emergency responders from the Red Cross trained in first aid and search and rescue have been mobilized following the 7.9 magnitude earthquake. Photo: Nepal Red Cross Society

The districts severely-affected by the earthquake are Gorkha, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Sindhupalchowk, Sindhuli, Ramechhap, Dolakha, Nuwakot, Dhading, Rasuwa Solukhumbu, and Kavre districts. An additional 14 districts have reported medium level damages.

The disaster caused many buildings in Kathmandu Valley to collapse, including historical landmarks such as UNESCO World Heritage temples at Basantapur Durbar Square and the historic nine-storey Dharahara tower in Kathmandu. Emergency workers, security forces (army, Armed Police Force and Nepal police) personnel, with the help of residents and bystanders, continued to work tirelessly from early Saturday afternoon to clear the rubble from these sites and to rescue survivors from under the debris. Many people are reported to be trapped in collapsed structures and search and rescue operation remains very challenging.

Mount Everest base camp 1 and 2 are severely damaged as a result of avalanches in the Himalayas. It was reported that 18 climbers were found dead on Mount Everest after the tremor triggered an avalanche and many more are trapped.

There are several cracks in a major road that connects Kathmandu to Bhaktapur and road transportation remains a challenge to supply relief items in some parts of Bhaktapur districts. The condition of highways is yet to be confirmed.

The Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu is still closed due to security reasons. Telephone and internet are partially working and mobile networks is experiencing heavy congestion. Electricity supply has been disrupted in the Kathmandu valley

The city's main hospitals continue to function but are overwhelmed by casualties. Residents are facing a night on the streets with nowhere to go. Around 70-80 per cent of the people in Kathmandu Valley took shelter in open spaces and will remain outdoors in several open spaces, in fear that subsequent aftershocks may cause further damage. The Nepal government has established 16 camps in Kathmandu Valley for displaced people and IOM is coordinating camp management.

One NRCS staff and two volunteers have lost their lives and a number of volunteers are still out of contact.

The earthquake has affected neighbouring countries with 42 deaths reported in India, 17 in Tibet China, and four in Bangladesh. In India, massive tremors were felt in parts of northern India and major damages have been reported in Bihar, Sikkim and Silliguri, while Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are also affected. In Bangladesh, ten buildings in Dhaka and seven in other districts have reported various degrees of damage due to the impact of the quake.

In the wake of the devastating earthquake, the Government of Nepal has declared a state of emergency and is requesting international assistance. A control room has been set up in Ministry of External Affairs to provide all help and information round the clock.

The Indian government has deployed a team of 40 members of National Disaster Response Force with three tonnes of medical equipment to Kathmandu to assist.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Nepal Red Cross Society

Following the earthquake on 25 April 2015, NRCS called the Emergency Response Committee (ERC) meeting and activated its Emergency Operation Centre (EOC).

The NRCS national headquarters (NHQ) and District chapter offices are still in operating condition. The whole NRCS governance, staffs, volunteers at NHQs and district level are heavily engaged in coordinating and rendering response services in all affected areas, as well as collecting information from all affected districts. NRCS has provided around 1,200 tarpaulins and ropes to the open spaces where large numbers of displaced families are taking shelter in Kathmandu Valley. Following the activation of EOC at headquarters, it was also activated in three districts of Kathmandu Valley and all response operation is being coordinated by the EOCs. NHQ has called a meeting with national disaster response team (NDRT) for their deployment in the relief operation.

NRCS headquarters has aired public messages about the situation and appealed to volunteers to contact the nearest Red Cross branch or sub-branch offices and get mobilized for the relief operation with the motto of safety first. One NRCS staff and two volunteers who were organizing mobile blood collection in Kathmandu district at the time the earthquake hit, died when the building they were in collapsed.

NRCS is making all efforts to conduct assessment, and render shelter, drinking water, and food in the affected areas. NHQ has dispatched non-food relief items (NFRI) to be distributed in the affected districts as well as mobilized 300 volunteers to support the government efforts in and around Kathmandu. In addition, the Red Cross blood bank in Kathmandu is providing blood supplies to the main medical facilities in the capital. Currently NRCS has around 17,000 sets of NFRI in its warehouses in Kathmandu Valley and limited stock of WASH kits and food items in Kathmandu Valley which may not be sufficient to fulfill the need of temporarily displaced population (around 1.6 million people) for Kathmandu Valley.

Considering the current context, the NRCS is in need for the deployment of FACT, ERU (WASH, Health, Hospital) and RDRT (Assessment, Shelter, WASH) as per Red Cross Red Crescent global deployment system.

IFRC and Movement partners

IFRC is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with NRCS any possible operation and sharing information with partner National Societies including National Societies in Asia Pacific, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the international community. A Partners' teleconference was held today (26 April) to update on the latest situation and coordinate appropriate response.

An IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for CHF 500,000 has been approved on 25 April 2015 to meet immediate needs of the earthquake-affected population. The DREF will be treated as a loan to the emergency appeal to be launched shortly on a preliminary basis.

Global IFRC response tools have been mobilized with the deployment of a Head of Emergency Operations (HEOPs), a field assessment and coordination team (FACT) and emergency response units (ERU). ERU needs have been identified for relief, basic health care (with surgical capacity), rapid deployment hospital, logistics and telecom. IFRC and NRCS are leading the Shelter/NFI Cluster.

An alert has been issued to mobilize 12 regional disaster response teams (RDRT) from the Asia Pacific region. The Asia Pacific zone director of operations is on the way to Kathmandu to provide coordination and relief assistance to the Nepal Red Cross Society, leading a team including the Asia Pacific communications manager, Finnish Red Cross regional representative (Movement Coordinator), Shelter Cluster coordinator, and the SEA regional delegation representative.

IFRC has activated its logistics systems in Kuala Lumpur and Dubai in readiness to mobilize additional relief materials in the coming days. Total stock levels in the whole of Asia Pacific are sufficient to cover 50,000 families. Preparations are now underway for an initial flight of relief items to Kathmandu.

All efforts are focused on identifying needs and gaps to meet humanitarian needs under a coordinated international emergency response.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

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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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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.

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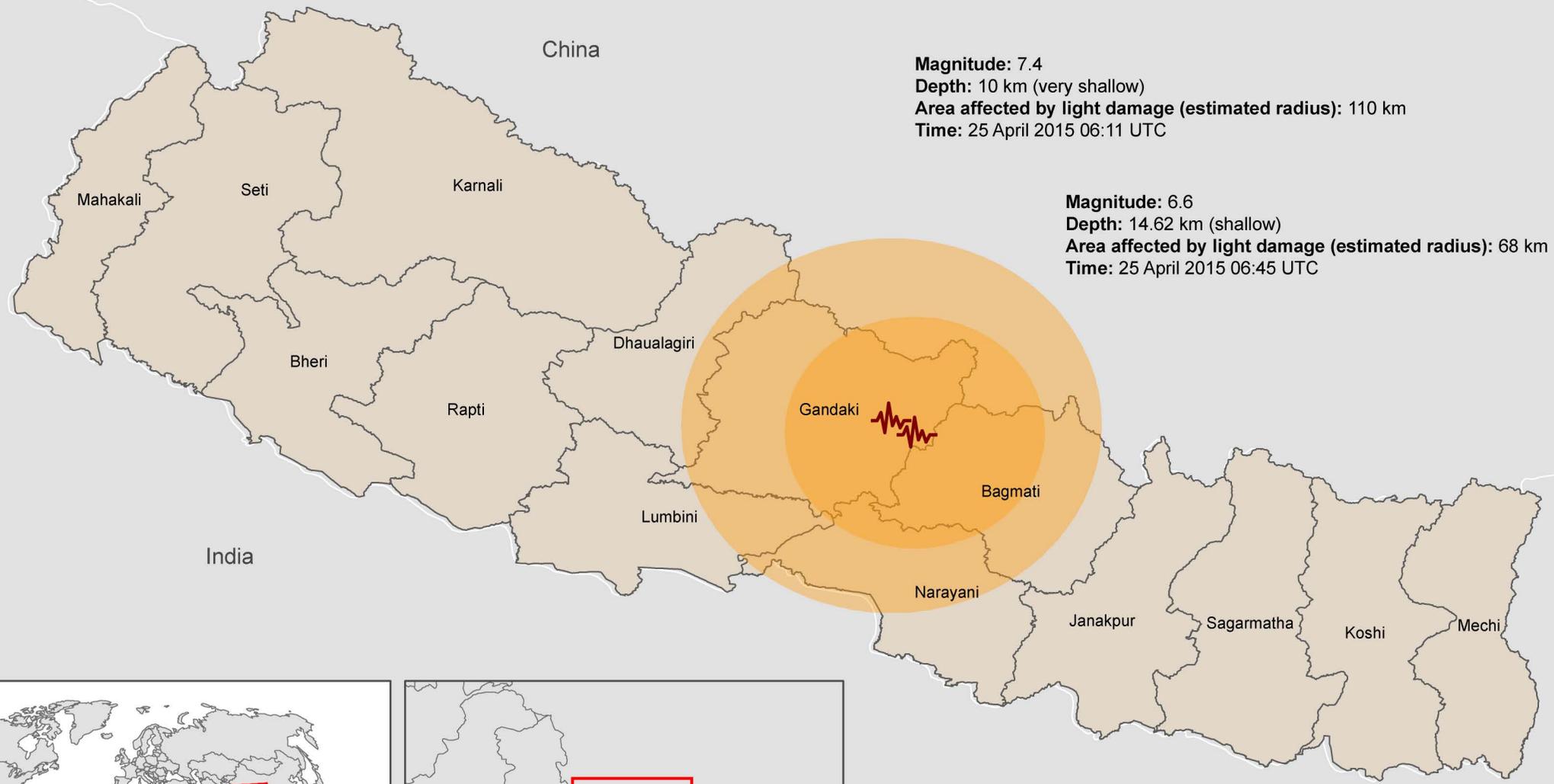
The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.



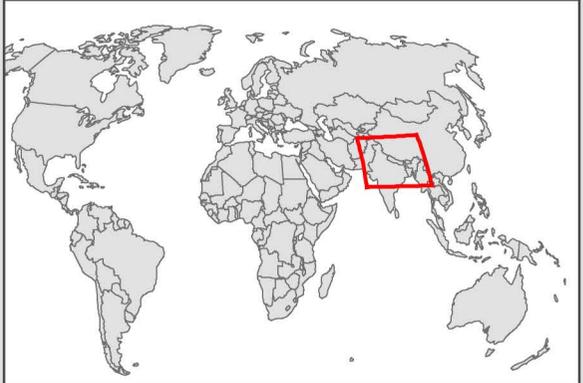
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25 April 2015



Magnitude: 7.4
Depth: 10 km (very shallow)
Area affected by light damage (estimated radius): 110 km
Time: 25 April 2015 06:11 UTC

Magnitude: 6.6
Depth: 14.62 km (shallow)
Area affected by light damage (estimated radius): 68 km
Time: 25 April 2015 06:45 UTC



100 Kilometers 

Data from GDACS, NaturalEarth, GADM

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.