



NEPAL

Humanitarian Situation Report 1



Highlights

Date: 26 April 2015

UNICEF and partners are planning to reach approximately 2,800,000 children (40%) out of an estimated 7 million population in 35 affected districts.

UNICEF Nepal Country Office has provided tents to the Ministry of Health and Population to be used at hospitals to assist a large number of injured including children.

UNICEF Nepal Country Office also provided ORS and Zinc to prevent outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases. WASH Cluster is providing water trucking services to all 16 camps across Kathmandu Valley.

UNICEF Country Office in Kathmandu is operational though one of the two buildings housing its Operations Section was damaged. It has set up tents in the UN compound for a makeshift Operations Unit.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

On 25 April, a powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 7.9 struck Nepal with its epicenter 50 miles (80 km) east of capital Kathmandu. Tremors and strong aftershocks are still being felt. As of 26 April, casualties are estimated at over 5,000 and injured at 50,000. A total of 35 out of 75 districts were affected, with 5 of them severely. A second earthquake of 6.7 magnitude, centered 60km (40 miles) east of Kathmandu further exacerbated the situation. The last earthquake of equivalent magnitude was in 1934 with a magnitude of 8.3 which had killed over 8,500 people. The death toll is expected to increase as more information becomes available. On 26 April, three UNICEF teams went to Bhatkapur, Kathmandu Valley and Lalitpur to assess the situation. Most of the displaced people, particularly in Kathmandu area, are currently in camp settings, some can be found in the center of Kathmandu (Thundikel), while others are scattered in different parts of the city where there is an open space available. Similar situation was found in Bhaktapur where century-old temples have collapsed. Shelter is the most pressing need with people struggling to find tents and plastic covers to protect themselves from the sun and rain showers during day time and cool air at night. Water, sanitation and hygiene is also a serious issue given the absence of clean water source and inaccessibility of latrines.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Government of Nepal has declared a state of emergency in the 35 affected districts and has activated the Humanitarian Emergency Clusters. Most affected districts are Sindupalchowk, Kavre, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, and Dhading in the Central Region. A total of 1,326,573 people are affected in these districts; 693,190 of them are female, 107,158 are children below five years of age and 691,775 below the age of 18 years.

On 26 April, Humanitarian Cluster Meetings were held to assess the latest situation and organize the initial needs assessments in each area. A meeting with the Ministry of Home Affairs followed the cluster updates to begin stock taking and to consolidate an action plan. Cluster response plans have been discussed and are being developed. The National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) is functioning and coordinating the response with support from UN agencies and humanitarian partners.

UNICEF is co-leading the WASH, Education and Nutrition Clusters and is an active member of the Health Cluster. The office is also the sub-cluster co-lead for Child Protection under the Protection Cluster.

Humanitarian Strategy

The Government has activated all Clusters. Humanitarian efforts are being coordinated through the Humanitarian Country Team, with daily HCT and Cluster meetings and daily updates from government officials.

Government priorities

The Government prioritizes the provision of temporary shelter for those displaced in the 16 temporary camps in the valley. Needs are expected to increase as more information becomes available through Clusters and needs assessments in affected districts. Immediate health needs identified include hospital tents and medical supplies, logistical and HR support.

Summary Analysis of Initial UNICEF Programme response

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

UNICEF is working with the Government and partners to ensure that:

- Children and women access sufficient water of appropriate quality and quantity for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene.
- Children and women access toilets and washing facilities that are culturally appropriate, secure, sanitary, user-friendly and gender-appropriate.
- Children and women receive critical WASH-related information to prevent child illness especially diarrhoea.
- Children access safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in their learning environment and in child-friendly spaces.

Nutrition

With partners, UNICEF is focusing on ensuring that:

- There is promotion, protection and support for breast feeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding.
- Supplementary feeding will be distributed to children under 5 years of age in coordination with WFP.
- Therapeutic feeding will be provided for the severely malnourished children.

Health

In collaboration with WHO, UNICEF is ensuring:

- Temporary shelter, especially hospital tents, are provided to public hospitals to ensure uninterrupted services during following aftershocks which impact hospitals infrastructure.
- Zinc and ORS are provided to the 11 worst-affected districts. Also, drugs and consumables are made available through UNICEF emergency health kits.
- Vaccines are stored properly and made available, especially the Measles Rubella vaccine, to prevent potential outbreaks especially in temporary camp settings.

Child Protection

UNICEF and partners are prioritizing the child protection response through the following actions:

- Send directive to Women and Children Offices of all affected districts to activate district clusters including checklist and protection rapid assessment tools.
- Coordination with other clusters to address protection issues particularly WASH, Health, Shelter and Food.
- Organize regular cluster meetings and provide information on protection concerns to the Department of Women and Children.

Education

UNICEF, in close collaboration with other members, is providing:

- Temporary learning spaces for school-age children (4-18 years) in affected areas. Spaces are being established in coordination with WASH, Protection and Health clusters.
- Psychosocial counseling and key life-saving messages will be provided in these spaces, as well as swine flu vaccinations.

Supply and Logistics

- Tents, tarpaulins, MR vaccines with syringes and safety boxes as well as emergency medical kits are being urgently procured offshore through UNICEF Supply Division located in Copenhagen.
- Other supply items are being procured locally, specifically WASH-related items
- Prepositioned supplies can cover the needs of 5,000 families, 40% of which are available in Kathmandu Valley. The remainder of supplies are in warehouses in Biratnagar, Bharatpur and Nepalgunj in the southern plain area bordering India.
- Airport is fully operational. As a member of the Logistics Cluster, UNICEF is closely collaborating with WFP.

HR Support

- Two international communication officers are being deployed to Kathmandu to step up communication/external relations capacity.
- Two IT experts are needed immediately to assist with the recovery and maintenance of IT infrastructure.
- Assistance is being provided by the Regional Advisors for WASH, Nutrition and Health.
- The office is finalising its additional HR requirements to ensure adequate capacity to handle the response on a large scale.

Media and External Communication

Regional Adviser for Communications and two additional surge staff for external communications have been requested for support. To date, media queries are being handled by both the UNICEF Nepal Country Office and Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA). An informal blog was set up by UNICEF Nepal Country Office to upload the experience of the earthquake.

UNICEF Spokespersons

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