

LOCATION: Rome, Italy**DATE:** 28 April 2015**Situation Overview**

- A powerful 7.8 M earthquake struck Nepal on 25 April, approximately 81km from the capital Kathmandu in an area between the capital and the city of Pokhara.
- Affected areas include the epicentre of the earthquake: Lamjung District, north-west of Kathmandu and the areas south and east of the city including Kathmandu Valley districts. In the central region, the most affected districts are Sindupalchowk, Kavre, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Dolakha. In the western region Kaski, Gorkha and Lamjung. Affected areas include densely populated cities and rural, mountainous regions.
- Latest estimates report eight million people in 39 districts have been affected, more than 3,350 deaths and thousands of casualties, which is expected to rise further in the coming days (UNORC Report 27 April). Urgent priority needs include shelter, water, sanitation, medical supplies and food.
- The Logistics Cluster was activated on 27 April and will be responsible for supporting the Government of Nepal and the humanitarian community with coordination, information management, and, where necessary, logistics services to fill identified gaps and ensure an effective and efficient logistics response.
- Although operational, congestion at Kathmandu International Airport is being reported.

Land Transport

- The regions affected include mountainous areas with disperse rural populations as well as some very densely populated districts and cities. Access is extremely limited by infrastructure damage and collapsed bridges.
- Although roads in the Kathmandu Valley areas are reported to be accessible, the status of roads in many of the regions affected is unclear and air assets may be required to support access to rural areas.
- Currently, diesel fuel is available and supplies can be sourced locally.

Air Transport

- Reports are being received that Kathmandu International Airport is experiencing delays and cancellations due to weight restrictions and aircraft limitations. Restrictions include no wide body aircraft and maximum weight limits.
- Considering the likelihood that congestion will continue to impact on the capacity of Kathmandu International Airport, additional air assets will be made available to support the transport needs of the humanitarian community and plans include flights from Lucknow, India to alternative airports within the affected areas.
- UNHRD is facilitating strategic airlifts from Dubai and from other locations as required into the region affected in order to ensure the efficient delivery of humanitarian relief cargo on behalf of humanitarian organisations.

Customs

- Updated customs contact information is available on the Logistics Cluster website: www.logcluster.org/ops/nepal.

- The Logistics Cluster advises, as per the Nepalese Customs Facilitation Agreement in Emergency Humanitarian Assistance, the following documents are required for customs clearance of humanitarian shipment:
 1. Cover letter requesting customs clearance (with list of attached documents)
 2. UN Certificate duly completed by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's (RC) Office
 3. Completed Customs Entry Form
 4. Bill of Lading/Airway bill (contract of transport), original copy
 5. Commercial Invoice or Deed of Donation
 6. Packing list
 7. Declaration of Origin
- All humanitarian personnel should ensure their entry into Nepal is facilitated by relevant customs and immigration procedures.
- The Logistics Cluster has been advised by OCHA that a humanitarian cargo customs clearance certificate for organisations without in-country consignee can be provided through the UN RC Office (registry.np@undp.org).

Storage

- The Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) located at Kathmandu International Airport; set up part of a 2013 preparedness project is operational and serving as the main logistics hub. It will facilitate storage and movement of humanitarian relief items on behalf of the humanitarian community.
- Additional Logistics Cluster hubs including Pokhara and Birganj are planned to be established based on identified logistics gaps. Logistics hubs will include consolidation, cargo handling and tracking.
- 32 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) in Nepal can be made available by WFP as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster to organisations with additional storage needs.

Coordination/Information Management/GIS

- A Logistics Coordination Meeting has taken place on 28 April at the HSA in Kathmandu International Airport, held on behalf of the Nepal National Emergency Operating Centre (NEOC) and Ministry of Home Affairs.
- A Logistics Cluster Coordinator is in Kathmandu and an Information Management Officer will be arriving in the coming hours to ensure effective coordination, identification of logistics gaps and constraints and information sharing.
- The dedicated Nepal Earthquake response webpage is available on the Logistics Cluster website and includes updated information, contact details and meeting events: <http://logcluster.org/ops/nepal>
- The Nepal Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) is available on the following link: <http://dlca.logcluster.org/display/DLCA/Nepal>
- The Logistics Cluster is deploying Civil / Military Liaison Officers to the country to ensure effective coordination with military defence forces involved in the response.

Other Logistics Gaps or Bottlenecks

- Congestion at the relatively small International Airport in Kathmandu could increase and further delay to passenger flights and the processing of cargo entering the country.

- The situation outside of the populated areas remains unclear and with accessibility to many areas already challenging due to the mountainous geography, access is urgently required.
- Large aftershocks continue to hit the region which could cause further damage to infrastructure already weakened by the initial earthquake.
- The Logistics Cluster is urgently trying to gather more information on the impact of the earthquake and logistics constraints and kindly request organisations to share any further information on identified gaps and constraints.

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