



WFP's Nimdoma Sherpa raises the flag for Zero Hunger in Kerauja, Nepal's Gorkha district. Zero Hunger is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that world leaders endorsed at the UN in New York last week.



World Food Programme

## Nepal: Earthquake

### Highlights and Key Messages

- **Final Phase of the Emergency Response:** The third and final phase of the earthquake emergency response has begun. Food distributions are rolling out in the districts of Gorkha and Kavre, while registration is in progress for the roll out of cash distributions in Nuwakot and Sindhupalchok. This early recovery phase will last until December, serving 409,000 people with food and cash support in exchange for work on the rehabilitation of community assets.
- **'Namaste WFP':** WFP has set up a toll-free information line, 'Namaste WFP' ('Hello WFP') as part of its complaints and feedback mechanism. The phone line, operated from WFP offices in Kathmandu, provides food and cash recipients with a point of contact for any questions they may have regarding WFP activities in their villages. The nature of the calls have so far included requests for clarification on issues, such as entitlements and the conditional cash and food for assets programmes.
- **Nepal Case Study:** WFP, the International Humanitarian City in Dubai, the UPS Foundation and the Hult Prize Foundation announced during the United Nations General Assembly in New York the kick-off of the 'Rapid Mobilization and Effective Response to Sudden-Onset Disasters: Nepal Case Study'. The study, to be released in late 2016 at the World Humanitarian Forum, will highlight lessons learned from the humanitarian and private sector disaster response to the earthquake.
- **Results of Emergency Telecommunications Survey:** WFP co-leads the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) with the Ministry of Information and Communication in Nepal, providing connectivity and communications solutions to the entire humanitarian community responding to the earthquake. A user feedback survey found a 93.5 percent level of satisfaction. Internet connectivity was by far the main service used by respondents. The survey reflected an overall increase in satisfaction level, as well as an improvement in the speed of internet services. The survey results will be used to inform a lessons learned exercise, to be carried out after the end of the response.
- **Funding for WFP Earthquake Response:** WFP has received contributions from its private sector donors, multilateral donors, Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States and UN CERF.

### In numbers



**2 million** people reached in the first, immediate relief, phase of the emergency operation.

**1.1 million** people have received assistance in the second, structured relief, phase.

**409,000** will be reached in the third and final phase.

### Funding Requirements

Emergency Operation: USD80 million  
(**44% funded**)

Special Operation Logistics Augmentation and Emergency Telecommunications: USD33 million (**46% funded**)

Special Operation UNHAS: USD17.5 million (**75% funded**) (Budget revision awaiting confirmation)

## An Engineer with a Mission



WFP engineer, Yudhir Khadka (far right), with locals in Golche, Sindhupalchok district. Many people in the area were still sleeping outdoors, in tents or in animal sheds, in case another earthquake might strike.

WFP/RAO

"Seeing the smiles on the villagers' faces when we cleared the trail road, opening it up for porters, mules and access to market – this really motivates me to do my work with WFP".

### Challenging work

Yudhir Khadka is a WFP engineer overseeing the rehabilitation of community and tourist trails in Sindhupalchok. He is working under WFP's Remote Access Operation, which delivers food and shelter material to people in isolated areas. In order to safely get these supplies to those who need it, he must ensure that the trails are robust enough to support the safe passage of people and load-bearing animals. He also needs to make sure that threats like landslides are avoided at all costs, even if it means the stoppage of work.

Yudhir's latest field mission lasted two and a half weeks, in the village of Golche, Sindhupalchok district. This was one of the worst-affected districts due to the earthquakes and ensuing monsoon-triggered landslides. Yudhir recruited labourers to clear stretches of trail so that porters could safely pass

soon after. "We made a very good trail road for connecting eight wards within Golche village, hiring 300 people to work on it."

Once the trail was open, the porter operation could deliver food and supplies to the villagers.

### A passion for the outdoors

Growing up in the district of Surkhet, in midwestern Nepal, Yudhir was always interested in nature and adventure. As an adult he still maintains these passions, which is certainly necessary for those long stays in the great outdoors. This is not a job for just anyone. Besides the monsoon rains and threat of landslide, there are other discomforts. Once the rainfall starts, small streams swell, hindering the rehabilitation work. Leeches come with the floodwaters, attaching themselves to legs and hands. A comfortable night's sleep is a luxury. "Eating was one of the biggest challenges. In one of the places I stayed I ate porcupine meat. Another time, we ate a buffalo which was the victim of the previous night's landslide."

### Support from colleagues

Yudhir counts on his WFP network of colleagues for support: "I can really depend on the Remote Access Operations team and management, who have helped me in so many ways. Our management is always concerned about our safety". Yudhir does not lose sight of his overall purpose: to open trails so that earthquake-affected people can receive food and travel freely and safely to the nearest markets. So far, Yudhir and his team have cleared a 28 kilometre trail route across five villages in Sindhupalchok. Right now there are two engineers doing similar work in Nepal's earthquake-affected areas.

Yudhir is currently in Laprak, Gorkha district, working on landslide mitigation and drainage repair.



WFP/Yudhir Khadka

A rehabilitated trail in Golche, Sindhupalchok district. Opening up these trails means that villagers receive much-needed humanitarian supplies delivered by porters and mules, as well as opening access to markets.

## WFP Response

- **Emergency Early Recovery Phase:** Phase three of the emergency response is now being rolled out. WFP plans to reach 409,000 people through food and cash for assets interventions.
- **Food for Assets:** The food for assets programme has begun, with distributions taking place in Gorkha and Kavre. Distributions will continue in the districts of Dhading, Dolakha and Sindhupalchok in the coming weeks.
- **Cash for Assets:** WFP's cash programme complements its food assistance activities by providing participants with the means to purchase available food at their local marketplace.
- In phase three of the emergency operation, the districts of Nuwakot and Sindhupalchok will receive cash assistance in exchange for a total 40 days of asset creation work. This work includes rehabilitation of community trails, cultivation of kitchen gardens and slope stabilisation.
- Registrations for the third phase of cash distributions have begun in both districts.
- **Nutrition:** WFP has been working closely with the Nutrition Cluster and Government of Nepal to support the development of an operations plan to address moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) across earthquake-affected districts. The Government has now approved and WFP can now move forward in implementing programmes for treatment of MAM.
- **World Health Organization (WHO) Clinics:** WFP is working with WHO to establish medical clinics in eleven of the worst-affected districts of Nepal. After more than 900 health facilities were either destroyed or damaged, WFP has mobilised its logistical, operational and engineering expertise to transport and construct these temporary clinics.
- The clinics projects has now been completed, with a total of 40 clinics erected by WFP engineering. WFP and WHO are now in talks on another Nepal-based collaboration in the near future.
- **Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO):** A PRRO is currently in the planning stages. It will provide continued support to earthquake-affected populations into 2016 and beyond.



### WFP Logistics

- To date, 2390 mt of food has been dispatched from WFP warehouses and suppliers to district-level delivery points in preparation for the third

phase of emergency response. This accounts for 28 percent of total food requirements.

- The final delivery points in the village development committees have received 149 mt of food by air. This was provided by the WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Air Service. (UNHAS)
- Some 380 mt of WFP food commodities have been delayed at the Indo-Nepal border due to political strikes in the Tarai region of Nepal. Efforts are being made to release this cargo as soon as possible. There is not an immediate demand for this food.
- In preparation for WFP's phase three activities, WFP Logistics was active in pre-positioning food commodities to in its warehouses around Nepal. This has helped to mitigate these transport disruptions.



### Security

- **Delays at the Indo-Nepal Border:** Demonstrations and sporadic outbreaks of violence continue at the Indo-Nepal border in response to the recently promulgated constitution. It cannot always be predicted as to when cargo will be cleared at the border.
- **Commodity Shortages:** Due to this border insecurity, Nepal, including in the capital, Kathmandu, is facing shortages of commodities such as fuel, cooking gas and food items. WFP is working on contingency measures for its operations, assessments, road transportation and air operations.

## Clusters



### Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- **Achievements:** Nepal Food Security and Monitoring System (NeKSAP) found that 530,000 people across eleven earthquake-affected districts are in need of immediate food assistance. This improvement (down from 1.4 million in May) in the food security situation is due to timely and adequate humanitarian and food assistance, as well as adequate winter harvest of wheat and potatoes, improved road access and still-functioning markets.
- **Needs Assessments:** The joint food security, livelihood and early recovery assessment is in the process of data collection. The preliminary results are expected to be received by mid-October and final results by the end of October. The assessment will compare any changes in food security and livelihood of affected populations to the same assessment done in May, immediately after the earthquake.
- **Other Cluster Work:** The FSC and partners are working with the Ministry of

Agricultural Development to work on a transitional plan for the food security sector in line with results of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment and revised situational review. This strategy will align with government priorities and work towards the goal of 'building back better'.



### Logistics Cluster

- **Cargo:** Since the beginning of the operation, the Logistics Cluster has handled a total of 27,414 mt/63,483 m<sup>3</sup> of cargo, serving 145 organisations.
- **UNHAS:** UNHAS has resumed operations thanks to new funding and a move to a partial cost recovery funding model, which requires users of UNHAS services to pay 20 percent of the cost of transporting their humanitarian personnel and cargo.
- A new budget revision and standard operating procedures are being revised to reflect this move to partial cost recovery.
- The UNHAS fleet has been reduced to three Mi8 helicopters for cargo transport and one AS350 for assessments, medevacs and passenger transport.
- Since the beginning of the earthquake response, UNHAS has carried out 3,606 sorties to 146 different locations, transporting 3,042 passengers and 1,894 mt of cargo on behalf of 157 organisations.
- **Access Infrastructure Working Group:** The Access Infrastructure Working Group, endorsed by the Government of Nepal and chaired by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), was established to ensure a coordinated approach to the implementation of infrastructure and access-related works. Group members include Government bodies, UN agencies, NGOs and the donor community.
- Already damaged in the earthquake, Nepal's road infrastructure is suffering further deterioration from the monsoon season. Massive landslides have left many areas with limited or no road access, and this is disrupting deliveries of food and other emergency supplies.
- Together with local authorities, WFP is working to identify critical infrastructure which can improve access for humanitarian cargo. WFP has surveyed 82 kilometres of feeder road on foot, in Sindhupalchok district. The District Development Committee and other humanitarian agencies produced a prioritisation of works and WFP drafted a project proposal with the scope of work required for construction services to open up the Balefi-Kartike access road. The tender will be launched this week.
- **Remote Access Operations (RAO):** As part of WFP's logistics special operation, the Remote

Access Operation has reached 73,311 people with 665 mt of humanitarian cargo, 353 mt of food and 312 mt of other humanitarian cargo.

- RAO has provided employment to 16,695 people to carry humanitarian cargo to some of the hardest to reach earthquake-affected areas and rehabilitate trekking and community trails for the safe passage of supplies and to connect communities to the markets. Wages for portering and labour total just over USD1 million, which go to sustain the local economy.
- Strategic points have been cleared along 758 kilometres of trails and work is ongoing along a further 322 kilometres of trails. This work has ensured that 105,174 people are no longer cut off and now have access to markets.
- **Mapping:** Current Logistics Cluster maps include a regularly updated Road Access Map, maps of helicopter landing zones, local district maps of the trails to be used by porter operations and topographical area maps. These are all available for download on the Logistics Cluster website at <http://logcluster.org/ops/nepal>.



### Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

- ETC has begun phasing out its services, as originally planned. An ETC team has completed the final transition plan, which includes:
  - Closure of ETC internet services and ICT helpdesk in Gorkha and the Humanitarian Staging Area in Kathmandu (30 September), and in Chautara and Charikot (15 October). Partners and users staying in these areas beyond September are advised to set up their own internet connectivity, with ETC assistance.
  - Extension of VHF radio communications network in the three main field common operational locations, handed over to UNDSS to ensure continuation of services.
  - Handover of cluster coordination to pre-earthquake telecommunications cluster, co-led by the Ministry of Information and Communication (MoIC) and WFP ICT. Government ICT capacity building activities will continue through this forum.
- The second ETC satisfaction survey report has been published. The results show an average satisfaction rating of 94 percent, an increase from 91 percent in June.
- ETC thanks all its partners from CMC Finland, emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, IFRC, MSB, NetHope, Plan International, RedR, UNDSS and WFP who have supported the provision of ETC services.

## Resourcing Update

- With an operational requirement of USD80.3 million, the Emergency Operation is now 44 percent funded. Funding is required throughout the winter season to carry out recovery efforts through cash and food for assets activities, as well as essential nutrition interventions.
- UNHAS is operating on a cost recovery model. UNHAS users must provide 20 percent of the transport cost of their humanitarian cargo. UNHAS will still be in need of further donor contributions in the next months. Overall, operational requirements stand at USD17.5 million, pending a budget revision, which is 75 percent funded.
- The USD32.9 Logistics and Telecommunications Augmentation and Coordination Special Operation is now 46 percent funded. It is in the interest of all the stakeholders to have both Special Operations fully-funded as they specifically support organisations in their humanitarian efforts.
- A protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) is currently in the planning stages. It will provide continued support to earthquake-affected populations into 2016 and beyond.

## Key Links

### Operations

[Nepal Emergency Operation](#)

[Nepal SO— Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Augmentation](#)

[Nepal SO — United Nations Air Service \(UNHAS\)](#)

### Clusters

[Emergency Telecommunications \(ETC\)](#)

[Logistics Cluster](#)

[Food Security Cluster](#)

### Latest Media

[Trekking the High Trails into the Himalayas for a World of Zero Hunger](#)

[Zero Hunger: A Sherpa at the Top \(Huffington Post Italy with photos\)](#)



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**Nepal: Earthquake**

[www.wfp.org/countries/Nepal](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Nepal)

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