



Earthquake in Nepal United Nations Humanitarian Air Service

As well as killing more than 9,000 people and destroying hundreds of thousands of homes and livelihoods across the country, Nepal's 25 April earthquake also damaged much of the country's precarious transport infrastructure.

Many of the most severely affected communities are in Nepal's most remote and mountainous regions. The earthquake and landslides, exacerbated by the monsoon, also damaged mountain trails and access roads.

In many cases, helicopters are the only way to bring in emergency items.

With the monsoon season in full swing, increased landslides are cutting off roads, exacerbating the need for alternative means of transport.

Approach

The humanitarian response in Nepal has been huge, with UN Agencies, NGOs and the government working to get emergency supplies to those in need.

To facilitate this, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), operates cargo and passenger helicopters to provide the entire humanitarian community working on quake relief in Nepal with an airlift service that is free-of-charge.

UNHAS delivers supplies to remote communities on behalf of the government, as well as more than 135 NGOs, UN agencies, donors, the diplomatic community and other humanitarian partners.

UNHAS cargo and passenger helicopters are managed by the World Food Programme and coordinated by the Logistics Cluster in Nepal, which consists of representatives from several UN agencies, NGOs and the Government of Nepal.

UNHAS in Nepal has a fleet of four Mi-8 and two AS350 helicopters.



Nepal earthquake

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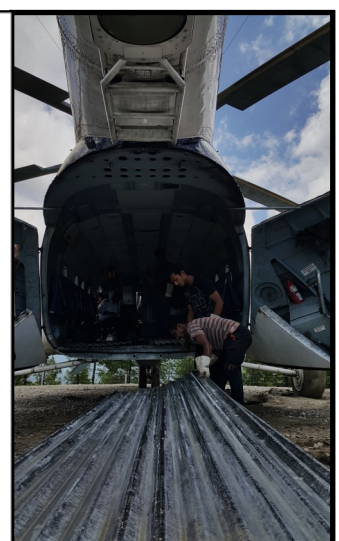
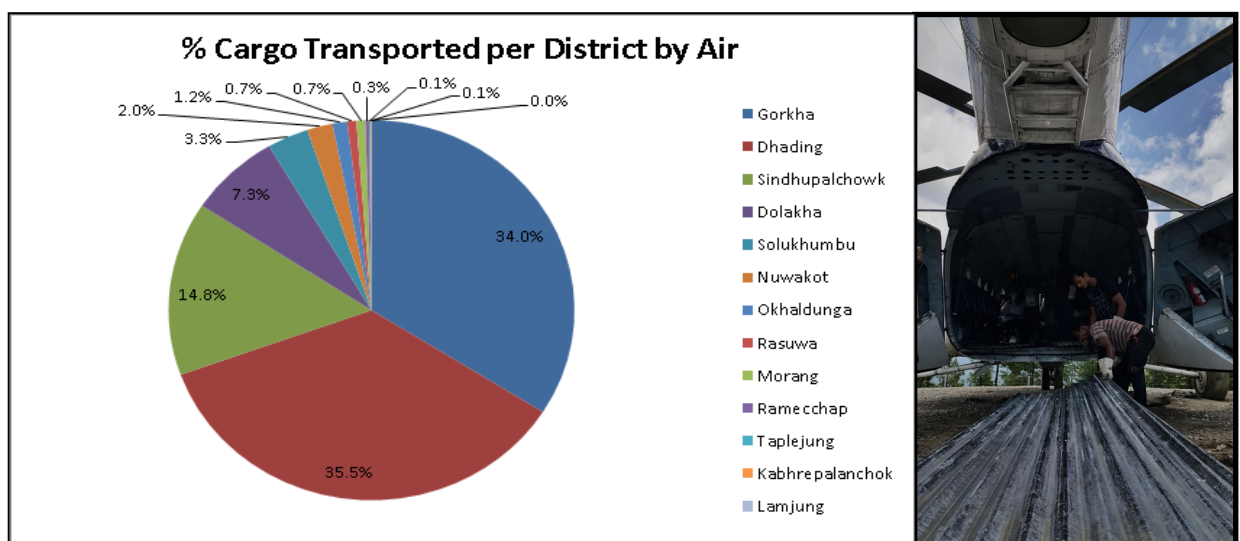
Budget shortfall

- UNHAS is experiencing serious budget shortfalls. It **needs US\$ 18 million** to continue to support the government's relief operation until the end of October 2015. UNHAS has so far received US\$ 8.8 million from donors, leaving a **US\$ 9.2 million shortfall**.
- If money isn't found soon, deliveries will be wound up at the end of August. **This will leave** at least **146,000 people** in quake affected communities **without access** to emergency shelter, food, and other humanitarian items.
- Urgent contributions from donors will be vital in order to guarantee uninterrupted humanitarian access for earthquake-affected people.

Results

- To date, **146,000 people** in **139 remote communities** that are currently inaccessible by road have been served by UNHAS helicopters.
- Despite the adverse weather conditions brought by the monsoon, since the first flight on 29 April, nearly **3,000 sorties** have been carried out, moving more than **2,600 humanitarian workers** and **1,457 metric tons** of humanitarian supplies across the country.

Photos: WFP/Damian Kean



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