Nepal: Earthquake

Highlights and Key Messages

- The second structured relief phase of WFP’s earthquake response has so far reached just under 771,000 people with food, cash and nutrition support. Of the total assisted people, over 46,400 have been reached through WFP’s cash for assets programme. Through this programme, WFP has strengthened and reinvigorated the markets by injecting US$696,000 into the local economy so far.

- Soon to move into the third early recovery phase of the earthquake response, which will continue to December 2015, WFP aims to reach a further 940,000 people through cash and food for assets programmes, as well as nutritional support. WFP will ensure that affected households continue to receive vital assistance until the next harvest, have the means to rehabilitate critical assets, are supported in the restoration of basic livelihoods, and improve the purchasing power of households through conditional cash transfers.

- The onset of the monsoon rains, widespread destruction of road infrastructure, recurrent landslides and difficult mountainous terrain have exacerbated the already challenging access constraints to remote, mountainous areas. Many trails connecting remote communities to markets and larger settlements have been destroyed, making these areas accessible only by WFP-led UNHAS aviation services or through the network of porters and mules provided by Remote Access Operations.

- The May 2015 food security study found that over 90,000 people live in remote mountainous areas, sometimes inaccessible even by helicopter. Increased humanitarian needs in many of these remote areas has resulted in an upsurge of needs for humanitarian logistics to deliver vital food, shelter and medical supplies to those remote areas during the monsoon season.

In numbers

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

Just under 771,000 people have received assistance in the structured relief second phase, of which over 46,400 people have received cash as part of the cash for assets programme.

Funding

Flash Appeal: US$422 million (47% funded)
Emergency Operation: US$80.3 million (36% funded)
Special Operation Logistics Augmentation and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster: US$32.9 million (35% funded)
Special Operation UNHAS: US$13 million (68% funded)
The Earthquake Response So Far

WFP is coming to the end of its second structured relief phase of its emergency operation, where it has so far assisted just under 771,000 earthquake-affected people. The third and final early recovery phase of the operation will begin soon. This phase will continue up to December 2015 and will provide earthquake-affected populations with cash and food for assets, as well as nutritional support.

WFP EMOP Structured Relief Phase

As of 20 July, WFP has distributed food and cash support to just under 771,000 people from 270 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in twelve districts:

- Gorkha
- Dhading
- Nuwakot
- Rasuwa
- Sindhupalchok
- Kavre
- Dolakha
- Sindhuli
- Makwanpur
- Ramechhap
- Okhaldhunga
- Solukhumbu

WFP’s cash distributions in the districts of Makwanpur and Sindhuli have so far reached over 9,400 households with over US$696,500 in both districts.
Sustainable Living for the Humanitarian Community

International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) Camps

After the twin earthquakes, it was difficult to find safe accommodation for humanitarian workers in the field. In areas like Charikot (Dolakha district) and Chautara (Sindhupalchok district) many buildings were either damaged or completely destroyed.

Upon request of the Humanitarian Coordinator in Nepal, the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP), a voluntary multinational network of seven governmental emergency management agencies in Europe, requested that WFP provide the necessary living conditions so that humanitarian staff could successfully do their jobs in some of the most heavily affected areas of Nepal.

WFP, as service provider to the humanitarian community, has mobilised its administrative and engineering expertise to construct two residential camps for humanitarian workers in two of Nepal’s most affected districts, Dolakha and Sindhupalchok.

The camps can currently accommodate 63 guests—21 in Charikot and 42 in Chautara. Each camp contains a medical room, office, laundry, kitchen, dining room and reception area. The camps are managed by local staff, and employ local cleaners, general service staff and kitchen staff. An IHP team is supporting the handover of the facilities to WFP for full management.

Working locally—Living sustainably

Wherever possible, supplies and services for the camp, such as water and diesel fuel, have been locally purchased. Organic waste is composted, ending up as feed for the local pigs. Metal and glass products are removed to Kathmandu for safe disposal. The fresh fruit and vegetables used to prepare daily meals are bought from the local market. Internet connectivity is provided by the WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster.

In Charikot, WFP rented a football field from a local school, the Bhim Dolakha Secondary School. In order to give back better, WFP is repairing the road leading up to the school. Four tents have been donated to the school to serve as classrooms for the children. In order to offset the use of the school’s water supply, from which the camp is borrowing, WFP is providing 1,000 litres of purified drinking water to the schoolchildren.

When the time comes to dismantle the camps, WFP has planned for restoration activities of the area (like debris clearance and trail and road rehabilitation). The gravel foundations will be contributed as building supplies to the local people if needed.

The residential camps will be open until September and have so far hosted humanitarian workers from WFP, UNDSS, UNDP, UNICEF, OCHA, IOM, Plan International, Save the Children, USAID, DFID and local NGOs.
WFP Response

- **Structured relief phase:** The second phase of the emergency response, which began in June, is focusing on more structured relief in the form of food support, and cash for assets.
- In this second phase of the operation, WFP has reached just under 771,000 people with food and cash assistance, of which over 724,000 have been assisted with 6,000 mt of in-kind food rations consisting of rice, pulses and oil.
- **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. Participants complete a total of 20 hours of light work, including clearance of debris and rehabilitation of trails, in preparation for the building of assets.
- In the second phase, 46,480 people have received cash in the cash for assets programme. Each participating household has received US$80 in Makwanpur district and distributions are ongoing in neighbouring Sindhuli district. To date, WFP has distributed over US$696,000.
- **Nutrition:** WFP is working with the Government of Nepal and partners to implement the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) which is a key component of the five pillar nutrition interventions.
- Through the BSFP, which aims to prevent acute malnutrition, WFP has assisted 25,600 children under two years, 950 pregnant women and 725 nursing mothers. Children were given Plumpy’doz, a specialised nutrition supplement, while pregnant and nursing women received Super Cereal, a corn soya blend. To date, 79 mt of Plumpy’doz and 5 mt of Super Cereal have been distributed.
- WFP has also been promoting appropriate maternal and child nutrition best practices at all levels through effective behaviour change communication. WFP has worked with ward-level female community health volunteers to ensure that these messages are passed along to all BSFP recipients.
- **WHO Clinics:** WFP is working with the World Health Organization (WHO) to establish medical clinics in some of the worst-affected areas in the country. After over 900 health facilities were either destroyed or damaged, WFP has mobilised its logistical, operational and engineering expertise to transport and construct these temporary clinics.
- So far, about 44 proposed locations have been identified. Technical assessments of 34 sites have already been completed. Work is currently ongoing on four sites, while 17 camps have been completed. WHO is following up with the district health officers (DHOs) to clear the land for the rest of the sites.

**Logistics**

- **To date,** 6,895 mt of food have been dispatched from WFP hubs to the different extended delivery points (EDPs) in preparation for distribution, representing 81 percent of the total food requirements for Phase II. Food distribution in many districts is nearing completion.
- In some remote and mountainous areas, landslides caused by monsoon rains have impeded or delayed food distributions.

**Clusters**

**Food Security Cluster (FSC)**

- **Funding:** Funding against the food security component of the revised flash appeal has reached US$27.7 million (28.1 percent of requirements) leaving a gap of US$70.1 million (FTS 04 July 2015).
- **Achievements:** Food and livelihood support continue to reach vulnerable individuals, households and communities including those in some of the most remote and hardest to reach VDCs. Overall, 982,700 people have been reached since the beginning of Phase II, while 216,500 livelihood kits have been distributed since June.
- **Needs Assessment:** FSC partners are initiating a joint household survey in the 14 earthquake-affected districts. This will be the second round of joint assessments carried out by FSC partners since the onset of the emergency.

**Logistics Cluster**

- **Cargo:** To date, a total of 41,564 m³ (15,941 mt) of humanitarian cargo has been handled through the Logistics Cluster on behalf of 127 different organisations.
UNHAS: In order to reduce operational costs and rotation times for helicopter flights, the Logistics Cluster has set up a road-accessible extended delivery point in Salyantar (Dhading district). From there, UNHAS Mi8 aircrafts operate several daily rotations to deliver corrugated galvanised iron to remote locations in Gorkha district, where shelter is the priority.

Adverse weather conditions continue to cause delays and flight cancellations. Despite this, UNHAS has carried out 2,370 sorties to 132 different locations. To date, 2,289 passengers and 1,185 mt of cargo have been transported on behalf of 121 organisations since the beginning of the operation.

Prioritisation of airlifts follows the list of priorities established by the Humanitarian Country Team and the Humanitarian Coordinator in accordance with the common services mandate.

Remote Access Operations: 5,900 porters have so far been employed to carry humanitarian cargo to some of the hardest to reach earthquake-affected areas. Strategic points have been cleared in order to open up 120 km of trails, and work continues on a further 114 km of trails.

Post-earthquake assessments missions were conducted with the local mountaineering and trekking associations on the main trails, to identify those in need of rehabilitation to ensure safe passage and to reopen market access.

Remote Access Operations teams continue trail rehabilitation activities in Gorkha and Dolakha districts. In Dhading, Rasuwa and Sindhupalchok districts, trail assessment reports have been finalised by the teams and trail rehabilitation work is to commence soon. So far, approximately 129 mt of food and 104 mt of non-food items have been dispatched.

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)

The ETC, including partners from emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, NetHope, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), IFRC and WFP, is providing shared internet services for the response community at 13 sites across three common operating areas: Gorkha, Chautara and Charikot.

The ETC continues to provide security telecommunications across the three common operating areas to ensure the safety and security of humanitarians operating in those areas.

More than 1,319 humanitarians from 140 organisations are using internet services provided by the ETC in Nepal.

In line with the transition strategy, the ETC has demobilised its services at Bidur and Arughat as local services have been restored.
Resourcing Update

- WFP has received generous contributions from a number of donors, including Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Germany, Japan, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, United States, UN CERF and the private sector.

- With an operational requirement of US$80.3 million, the Emergency Operation is now 36 percent funded. Urgent funding is required to continue delivering food and nutrition assistance through the monsoon and initiate recovery efforts through conditional cash transfers from July onwards.

- UNHAS will maintain its fleet to meet the needs of the humanitarian community. The operation has requirements of US$13 million, which is currently 68 percent funded.

- Following a budget revision, the US$32.9 Logistics and Telecommunications Augmentation and Coordination Special Operation is now 35 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 relief efforts.

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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
- Spoiled Rice Destroyed in Ghorka

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