Nepal: Earthquake

Nepal’s Humanitarian Staging Area
Established in partnership with the Government of Nepal, the United Kingdom and WFP, the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) was set up in March 2015 as part of Nepal’s emergency preparedness efforts. Because of the HSA, humanitarian cargo was being handled and dispatched within hours of the earthquake. The HSA saved the humanitarian community one month in response time, avoiding airport bottlenecks and ensuring that cargo was organised as quickly as possible. 5,741 metric tons of cargo have passed through the HSA. An effective logistics operation is the backbone of Nepal’s humanitarian response, given that the country is home to 8 out of the world’s 14 highest peaks.

Highlights and Key Messages

- **UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to Continue Under Cost-Recovery Model:** After producing a revised budget proposal, including a fleet reduction, UNHAS air support will continue operations thanks to positive indications from some donor partners and UNHAS users. Moving towards a cost recovery funding model, UNHAS users will now pay 20 percent of the cost to transport their personnel and deliver their humanitarian supplies. With this solution, UNHAS can continue flying for the humanitarian community, reaching isolated, earthquake-affected areas and ensuring that coordination and service remains constant. The financial burden is now being shared among donors and the humanitarian community. With this new funding model and reduced fleet, UNHAS is expecting to fly until the end of October.

- **WFP Purchasing Locally:** As WFP’s emergency operation moves into its final phase, the emphasis remains on supporting the local economy wherever possible. For its food support, US$2.3 million worth of WFP food has been purchased within Nepal since June, representing over 50 percent of WFP’s total food purchases to date. This proportion of local purchase represents a substantial support to the local economy.

- **Supply Delays at Indo-Nepal Border:** Due to insecurity in Southern Nepal, WFP food and logistics cluster supplies arriving by land have been delayed at nearby Indo-Nepal border crossings. Security has since been tightened along the border areas and some WFP cargo is now safely making its way to WFP hubs. WFP logistics is continuing to monitor the situation and the delay has not adversely affected operations on the ground.

- **Food Security Situation Improving:** A Government-led Nepal Food Security Monitoring System study, conducted together with WFP, found that food security in earthquake-affected districts has improved in the months since the humanitarian response began. This improvement is attributed in large part to the food assistance provided after the quake. The study found that now 529,000 people are in need of immediate food assistance, a significant drop from the 1.4 million people in need after the earthquake. WFP will take these needs fully into account when carrying out phase three interventions. WFP would like to thank its donors for their vital support, which together contribute to improved food security in Nepal.

In numbers

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

Over **1 million** people (99% of WFP’s planned beneficiaries) have received assistance in the second, structured relief, phase.

Funding Requirements

Nepal Earthquake 2015 Flash Appeal:
- US$422 million (**54% funded**)
- Emergency Operation: US$80.3 million (**44% funded**)
- Special Operation Logistics Augmentation and Emergency Telecommunications: US$32.9 million (**46% funded**)
- Special Operation UNHAS: Budget currently under review
The Government-led Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP), in cooperation with WFP and supported by the European Union, has released the results of its latest food security study in the earthquake-affected districts of Nepal. The major finding was that 529,000 people are now in need of immediate food assistance. This is a significant drop from the 1.4 million people calculated in the last study, where NeKSAP had found that the earthquake had a profound impact on the food security of these districts, with some areas showing significant deteriorations in food security post-quake.

The July study has found that food security has improved by as much as two food security phases in some earthquake-affected districts. These improvements have been attributed to the large amounts of humanitarian and food assistance provided by the Government of Nepal and humanitarian organisations in the weeks and months after the earthquake. Regular supplies of food coming into still-functioning markets, and continued road access were also cited for improved food security.

However, the outlook for the current four-month period (mid-July to mid-November 2015) still remains precarious, with the impact of the earthquake on livelihoods and food security possibly intensified by monsoon-induced landslides and road blockades and limited recovery activities after the earthquake.

**Improvements in Food Security (May to mid-July)**

Below is a map which shows how many districts improved their food security by one or two phases between the months of May and mid-July. This study is the outcome of 74 NeKSAP district food security network meetings over the last months.
WFP Response

- **Structured Relief Phase:** Phase two of the emergency response, which will soon come to a close, is focusing on more structured relief in the form of food support and cash for assets. WFP has already reached 1,088,300 people, 99 percent of the people it planned to serve with food and cash assistance.
- 978,180 people have been assisted with 8,295 mt of food 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. In phase three of the operation, cash will be provided in exchange for 10 days per month of asset creation work, including community trail rehabilitation and citrus planting.
- The second phase, now completed for cash, reached 110,180 people. Each participating household received US$80 in Makwanpur district and neighbouring Sindhuli district. WFP distributed over US$1.74 million to programme participants.
- **Nutrition:** The WFP nutrition response is carried out through a phased approach beginning with a blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) in phase two, targeting children under two years, pregnant women and nursing women.
- Through the BSFP, which aims to prevent acute malnutrition, WFP has assisted 34,550 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, 106 mt of Plumpy’doz and 5 mt of Super Cereal have been distributed.
- **SCOPE Training:** SCOPE training has been carried out by 25 WFP staff members in preparation for the final phase of the emergency operation. SCOPE is WFP’s beneficiary and transfer management platform, the core features of which are registering beneficiaries with biometrics and creating distribution lists for WFP partners. The training covered the end-to-end SCOPE process, from beneficiary registration to enrolment, verification and approval of enrolment lists, as well as distribution planning.
- The training also involved raising staff awareness of the importance personal data protection and privacy for the people WFP serves.
- SCOPE will be used for the cash distributions in the final phase of the emergency operation. WFP’s next step will be to train its partners on the use of SCOPE for beneficiary registration.
- **World Health Organization (WHO) Clinics:** WFP’s RAO has provided employment to 14,570 people to carry humanitarian cargo to some of the hardest to reach earthquake-affected areas rehabilitate trekking and community trails.

Country. 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.
- So far, 44 locations have been proposed by WHO. Work is pending for five sites, while 32 clinics have been completed. WHO is following up with the District Health Officers to clear the land for the rest of the sites.

WFP Logistics

- To date, 8,500 mt of food have been dispatched from WFP hubs to the different extended delivery points in preparation for distribution, representing 100 percent of total food requirements for phase two.
- Priorities for logistics in phase three are to pre-position food commodities to mitigate transport disruption during the worsening monsoon season.

Clusters

**Food Security Cluster (FSC)**

- **Funding:** Funding for FSC stands at 30 percent within the Flash Appeal, while some US$9 million was allocated outside of the appeal. The Flash Appeal will come to a close on 30 September.
- **Achievements:** FSC partners continue to deliver assistance with a special focus on hard to reach areas. Food assistance has been provided to 1.5 million people (both food and cash support). Since the beginning of the monsoon season, 268,000 livelihood kits (including seeds, grain, animal feed and tools) have been distributed to affected households. Partners are fully engaged in recovery programming, particularly agriculture, market revitalisation, and...
other livelihoods activities. Emergency operations continue to reach the most vulnerable in hard to access areas. It is essential that their needs are met before the onset of winter.

- **Needs Assessments**: FSC has confirmed a generous contribution from REACH to proceed with a Food Security and Livelihood Assessment. This interagency endeavour includes participation from WFP, FAO, FSC, OCHA and UNDP and will assess needs in eleven earthquake-affected districts.

- **Other Cluster Work**: The FSC and partners are working with the Ministry of Agricultural Development to prepare a medium-term strategy 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’.

- **UNHAS**: As communicated to the humanitarian community, UNHAS flights underwent temporary suspension at the end of August due to exhaustion of current donor funding. UNHAS is now moving into a cost-recovery funding model, where partner organisations will pay the partial cost of transporting their humanitarian personnel and cargo.

- **Current needs stand at US$3.25 million and a new budget revision is currently underway to reflect the introduction of the cost recovery model.**

- **UNHAS still expects to receive donor contributions to its operations, though the funding burden will now be shared with UNHAS users.**

- **Since the beginning of the earthquake response, UNHAS has carried out 3,259 sorties to 144 different locations, 2,869 passengers and 1,701 mt of cargo and transported on behalf of 148 organisations. Prioritisation for airlifts is taking place under the list of priorities established by the humanitarian country team and the Humanitarian Coordinator in accordance with the mandate of the common services.**

- **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.**

- **Other Cluster Work**: The FSC and partners are working with the Ministry of Agricultural Development to prepare a medium-term strategy 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’.

- **Remote Access Operations (RAO)**: As part of WFP’s logistics special operation, the Remote Access Operation has reached 45,940 people with 389 mt of humanitarian cargo.

- **RAO has provided employment to 14,570 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.**

- **Cargo**: To date, 19,520 mt of cargo has been facilitated through the Logistics Cluster for 142 UN agencies and I/NGOs.

- **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)**: Partners from CMC Finland, emergency.lu, Ericsson Response, IFRC, MSB, NetHope, Plan International, RedR, UNDSS and WFP have been supporting the provision of ETC services in 14 sites across three main common operational hubs: Gorkha, Chautara and Charikot. ETC services include internet connectivity, radio communication and ICT helpdesk.

- **ETC has started engaging with partners to discuss the transition of ETC services planned until the end of September.**

- **The ETC coordinator has assessed requirements and current service usage in the Gorkha sites (Deurali and Gorkha city) and will visit the remaining hubs to finalise assessments. Based on final inputs, a transition plan will be presented to Government counterparts and ETC partners.**
Resourcing Update

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

- With an operational requirement of US$80.3 million, the Emergency Operation is now 44 percent funded. Funding is required throughout the monsoon season to carry out recovery efforts through cash and food for assets activities, and continue essential nutrition interventions from August onwards.

- After a period of critical funding shortfalls, UNHAS has moved to a cost recovery model, where UNHAS users must provide 20 percent of the cost in order to transport their humanitarian cargo. Despite some indications of donor funding, UNHAS will still be in need of further donor contributions in the next month. Current needs stand at US$3.25 million—a new budget revision will reflect the introduction of the cost recovery model.

- The US$32.9 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.

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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
- Minister visits WFP-managed emergency relief base in Nepal

WFP thanks the following donors for their support (in alphabetical order):

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The Private Sector
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