LOCATION: Rome, Italy
DATE: 26 April 2015

Situation Overview

- An earthquake struck Nepal at 11-56 a.m. local time, 6:11am (UTC) approximately 81km from Kathmandu. The 7.8 magnitude quake struck at a shallow depth of 10 km in an area between the capital, Kathmandu, and the city of Pokhara.

- The Government of Nepal is reporting 30 out of 75 districts affected in the western and central regions, including Kathmandu Valley districts including densely populated cities and rural, mountainous regions. Most affected districts are Sindulpalchowk, Kavre, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Dolakha in the central region and Kaski, Gorkha, Lamjung in the western region. Avalanches have also reported to have occurred on Mount Everest causing a number of deaths and casualties (SitRep 1, Office of the Resident Coordinator).

- Initial estimates of more than 1000 deaths and thousands of casualties is expected to rise and urgent priority needs include Search and Rescue capacity, medical supplies, shelter, heavy equipment for rubble removal (SitRep 1, Office of the Resident Coordinator).

- An United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) alert was issued following the earthquake and the Logistics Cluster is sending a member of staff as part of the UNDAC team to assess the situation and offer assistance.

- Following the Government of Nepal request for international assistance and request from the Resident Coordinator for Nepal, the Logistics Cluster has been officially activated on 26 April 2015. In accordance with official IASC cluster procedures, the Logistics Cluster will be responsible for coordination, information management, and, where necessary, logistics service provision to fill logistics gaps and ensure an effective and efficient logistics response.

Land Transport

- The regions affected include mountainous areas with, disperse rural populations as well as some very densely populated districts and cities. Due to the mountainous geography, infrastructure damage, collapsed bridges and damaged roads, access is reported to be extremely limited and status of the roads in many of the regions affected is unclear.

Air Transport

- The International Airport in Kathmadu is reported to be open and commercial flights are operating as normal. Some airlines including Air India are flying additional flights into and out of the airport to meet higher demands. Pokhara Airport is also reported to be operating.

- UNHRD are planning to have a charter flight ex-Dubai to Katmandu on Tuesday 28th April, with the total payload of 80 tons gross. Organisations who wish to access available space should share requirements with unhrd.customerservice@wfp.org by COB Sunday 26 April. The space will be booked on ‘First come, first served’ basis, and it will be on cost recovery basis.

- As part of a 2013 preparedness project in case of a large-scale emergency, a Humanitarian Staging Area located at Kathmandu International Airport is set up and serving as the main logistics hub.

- Furthermore, three additional logistics hub will be set up at strategic locations including Pokhara.

Customs

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The Logistics Cluster advises that Nepal has signed the customs agreement for the facilitation of emergency relief consignments. As per the Nepalese Customs Facilitation Agreement in Emergency Humanitarian Assistance, the following are required documents for humanitarian shipment Customs Clearance:

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

If cargo is being escorted by humanitarian personnel, their entry into Nepal should be facilitated by relevant procedures.

Coordination/Information Management/GIS

- The Nepal Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC) has held meetings with the government and humanitarian community and have set up a National Emergency Operating Centre.
- The dedicated Nepal Earthquake response webpage is available on the Logistics Cluster website: [http://logcluster.org/ops/nepal](http://logcluster.org/ops/nepal)
- The Nepal Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) is available on the following link: [http://dlca.logcluster.org/display/DLCA/Nepal](http://dlca.logcluster.org/display/DLCA/Nepal)
- A dedicated Logistics Cluster Coordinator has arrived in Kathmandu and an Information Management Officer will be arriving in the coming hours to ensure effective coordination, identification of logistics constraints and information sharing.

Other Logistics Gaps or Bottlenecks

- 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 increase in humanitarian relief items entering the relatively small International Airport in Kathmandu could cause possible congestion and delays to the processing of cargo entering the country.
- 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.

Contacts:

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