

LOCATION: Kathmandu, Nepal

DATE: 13 May 2015

Situation Overview

- Following the 7.8 M earthquake that struck Nepal on 25 April, relief efforts continue to focus on reaching an increasing number of areas. The geographic area affected by the earthquake is extensive and includes mountainous regions with disperse rural populations as well as some very densely populated districts and cities.
- An earthquake registering 7.3 magnitude struck Nepal on 12 May, causing additional damage and hampering aid efforts already hindered by numerous aftershocks, poor weather and damaged infrastructure.
- Areas affected by the earthquake are prone to landslides, causing frequent road blockages and making transport difficult. Access to some remote villages remains a key challenge and many locations can only be accessed by helicopter at the present time.
- Kathmandu airport was briefly closed following the May 12 earthquake, but it was quickly reopened following a rapid assessment. Regional airports are also all reported to be operational.

Road Access Update

- Most major roads in the country are open. Village Development Committees (VDCs) can currently be accessed by road via the following routes¹:
 - The Nuwakot / Rasuwa: Trisuli / Bidur to Dhunche road is open, however only small vehicles (4 x 4 jeeps) are allowed. Caution is advised due to risk of new landslides. It is not advised to travel the route at night. Relief vehicles should register with the police post in Kalikasthan before proceeding to Dhunche.
 - Dhading: The gravel road from Dhading Besi to Tripureshwor VDC via Katunje VDC is open. However only small vehicles (4 x 4 jeeps) are allowed.
 - Nuwakot: The gravel road connecting Trishuli Bazar/ Bidur Municipality to Kintang VDC, Dhading district via Deurali VDC is operational.
 - Gorkha: The road from Gorkha District Headquarters to Arughat (Arupokhari VDC) is operational and encompasses a distance of 43 km. The road from Arughat to Soti Khola (Lapu VDC) is also open.
- The following closures are reported:
 - BP Highway connecting Bardibas, Mahottari to Banepa, Kavre district – Kathmandu. Road fractured in the Sindhuli-Nepalthok section of the route (54 km). Also landslide debris has been reported in different places of this road section.
 - Gorkha: from 10 km, a place in Mirkot VDC-Chhepetar-Bhaluswanra-Warpak VDC section (36 km) is obstructed due to debris from a landslide caused by the earthquake.

- Dolakha: Charikot to Singati Bajar, Jhyaku VDC is open. However, the road is obstructed from Singati Bajar to Lamabagar VDC.
- Dolakha: Route connecting the Tamakoshi-Milti Khola road in Dolakha district has been reported closed due to landslide debris at Bhirkot VDC, Dolakha district.
- Dolakha: the main road via Khadichaur, Sindhupalchowk district, Mude VDC, Municipality, Dolakha district is closed because of landslide debris at Kharidhunga, Lakuridada, Dolakha district.
- Lamjung: Besishahar-Chame Highway (61.1 km) connecting Besishahar Municipality, Lamjung district to Chame, headquarters of Manang district has been obstructed at Taghrin VDC, Lamjung district.
- Information regarding road access constraints is being compiled and maps will be shared through the Logistics Cluster website and dedicated mailing list.

Air Transport and cargo handling

- Two hours after the new quake, WFP, as the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, carried out a rapid aerial assessment mission, overflying the newly affected areas to establish the extent of the damage.
- The team flew to the base of Mt. Everest's Khumbu Glacier and over Namche Bazaar. The assessment team also surveyed Chautara in Sindhupalchok District and Charikot in Dolakha District. A great deal of damage was visible from the helicopter, but it is not yet clear if this is a result of the first earthquake on April 25 or that of May 12. Since the beginning of the operation, UNHAS has transported 217 passengers from 14 organizations to 26 locations, and 68 MT of relief items to 14 destinations.
- On May 13, UNHAS performed four evacuation missions to rescue four teams (Samaritan's Purse, Plan International, Sustainable Communities Worldwide) which got stranded near the epicenter after yesterday's new earthquake.

Logistics hubs and storage

- As of 13 May, the Logistics Cluster has handled 1,700 MT (7,000 m²) of relief cargo at the Kathmandu Humanitarian Staging Area (8 MSU capacity) for 45 organisations.
- Another hub has been established near Kathmandu in Dhulikhel, and two MSUs have now been erected. The hub will be managed by Handicap International through a partnership with the Logistics Cluster. This capacity will be made available for longer-term storage, enabling de-congestion of the HSA.
- In order to de-centralize operations, the Logistics Cluster has established additional logistics hubs in the Eastern and Western regions:
- The Chautara forward operating hub is operational. Three Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) have been erected and four off-road trucks positioned for local operations.
- The four common storage MSUs at Deurali hub are currently utilized at 70% capacity. Cargo is being stored for ten organisations. Six (4x4) trucks are available for forward deliveries.
- The Staging Area recently established in Bharatpur will handle inbound road cargo movements from India. One MSU has been erected and works are on-going for setting up an additional one.

- Current total storage capacity offered in country to the humanitarian community amounts to over 5,500 m² in Kathmandu, Dhulikhel, Bharatpur, Deurali (Ghoroka district) and Chautara (Sindhulpachok district).
- WFP, as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, has loaned 5 Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) temporarily to other organisations.
- To avail of transport and storage services please note the Service Request Form (SRF) is available at: <http://www.logcluster.org/document/nepal-service-request-srf>.

Land Transport

- Transport of shelter, food, health and WASH relief items has been facilitated from the HSA to the districts of Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Rasuwa, Kabhre, Sindhupalchok and Dolakha on the WFP contracted fleet. This overland transport was carried out on behalf of over 40 humanitarian organisations on 25 trucks (15 MT capacity each).
- WFP has contracted an additional two fleets of smaller 4x4 trucks for the regional logistics hubs (Deurali and Chautara) to increase capacity and meet the transportation needs of the humanitarian community.

Coordination/Information Management/GIS

- Logistics Cluster Cells have been established in Kathmandu, Deurali (Gorkha district) and Chautara (Sindhupalchok district). Regular coordination meetings are also being held in the aforementioned locations.
- So far, over 180 participants from over 95 organizations have attended Logistics Cluster coordination meetings.
- Information Management, GIS, Operation and Cargo Tracking Officers have been deployed to Kathmandu
- To maximise the use of military air assets in relief activities, the Logistics Cluster has a dedicated Civil / Military Coordinator stationed in Kathmandu airport to facilitate cargo operations and provide logistics support.
- Updated logistics information and maps are shared via the Logistics Cluster Nepal Operation website: <http://logcluster.org/ops/nepal> and via a dedicated mailing list.
- The dedicated Nepal page on the Logistics Cluster website has received more than 8,500 views in the last two weeks, and over 550 individual are subscribed to the dedicated mailing list.

Other Logistics Gaps or Bottlenecks

- Urgent funds are needed to swiftly scale up the common logistics services ahead of the monsoon season. Expansion of services such as the augmentation of off-road truck and air asset capacity as well as possible alternative delivery mechanisms are crucial in order to ensure the fast transportation of urgent supplies into mountainous and cut-off areas.

- The lack of information regarding the upstream pipeline of humanitarian cargo made available to the Logistics Cluster hinders the planning of logistics assets required. This limits the ability of the Logistics Cluster to match assets with demand and advocate for funding of the logistics operation.

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ⁱ Source: DFID-GIZ Risk Management Office | Ekantakuna, Lalitpur | email: rmo@rmo.org.np