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| **Alert note** |
| *Nepal Earthquake – November 2023* |

**Completed by:**   **Dr. Bijaya Bajracharya – Nepal Forum Convener**

**Date completed: 08 Nov 2023**

**Forum: Nepal**

**Type of** **emergency: Earthquake**

**Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 3/11/2023**

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| 1. **The nature of the emergency** |
| Nepal is prone to earthquakes and historically positioning significant threats to the people’s safety and stability. A magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck Karnali Province in western Nepal at around 11.47 p.m. local time (UTC 6.02 p.m.) on 3rd November 2023, with over 400 aftershocks occurring thereafter. The quake epicentre was in Ramidanda in Jajarkot District, some 65 kilometres northeast of Surkhet, the capital city of Karnali Province. Tremors have been felt in the adjacent Sudurpashchim and Lumbini provinces as well as other parts of Nepal. The recent earthquake is the worst human and infrastructure losses since the devastating jolt of April 2015 which killed about 9,000 people injuring more than 20,000 and damaging more than 800,000 houses. |
| 1. **The impact and scale of the emergency** *(please include your source of information)* |
| According to the Ministry of Home Affair’s updated information as of 7th November 153 have been killed, 256 injured and significant number of people are displaced in two districts, namely, Jajarkot and Rukum West. The quake has also damaged over 10,000 houses (6,000 completely damaged and 4,000 partially damaged) both public and private including at least 400 schools. According to local authorities, many livestock have been died also directly impacting the rural agriculture-based livelihood of the affected communities. The houses and the public infrastructures were heavily damaged due to the poor construction practice and materials used in the affected areas. Due to continuous aftershocks around the epicentre, the people are living in constant fears and visibility traumatized. The above-mentioned figures may increase as the detailed assessment from the government other national and international organizations are under way.  The affected population are currently forced to spend nights without proper shelters as their homes have been destroyed or deemed unsafe to occupy. They are currently residing in temporary tents provided by the governments, private sectors, and humanitarian agencies, and the daily lives of the displaced people will go harder as the very cold winter season has already started in the country. |
| 1. **Local and national capacity** |
| The government has provided tents, blankets, and sleeping bags to the affected areas, and various ministries and officials are actively involved in distributing these supplies. Humanitarian actors including NGOs, INGOs, and UN agencies have mobilized to provide immediate relief assistance such as emergency shelter kits, health support, and WASH initiatives, with coordination to avoid duplicating and fill all gaps. Organizations have also focussed on post emergency recovery, including educational and mental health support.  Government has appealed for financial support to the Prime Minister’s Relief Fund and has highlighted the extensive damage in Jajarkot and Rukum West including to historic sites and public buildings. Survivors are sheltering in tents, facing cold weather challenges. The international community, including China, the United States, Russia, and India, has offered condolences and humanitarian aid support, with China and India already sending supplies to the affected areas. All three major security agencies, namely the Nepalese Army, the Armed Police Force (APF), and the Nepal Police, are actively engaged in rescue operations.  In Jajarkot, the Ministry of Home Affairs, private sectors and humanitarian agencies including UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, UNDP, Save the Children, Plan International, ADRA, Red Cross, SDC, Helvetas, World Vision, DCA and other agencies have provided different kinds of immediate assistance including blankets, tarpaulins, sleeping bags, floor mats, mattresses, kitchen utensils and hygiene kits. The Armed Police Force has dispatched tarpaulins and large tents to the affected areas of both districts.  The government has decided to provide assistance to the affected population through one-door policy with the lead of District Disaster Management Committees in coordination with local authorities. |
| 1. **Key needs and gaps** |
| As per initial assessments transitional shelter, winterization kits, WASH facilities, and psycho-social support to the most vulnerable, including children, women, elderly, and persons with specific needs, etc are the major needs on the ground. The humanitarian organizations are also stressing to focus on early recovery initiatives agriculture-based livelihood including cash for work as well as medium- and long-term rehabilitation programs including construction of earthquake resistance house and public infrastructure.  Due to harsh winter condition has already started in the country including the affected areas, rehabilitation and reconstruction of shelters, the restoration of livelihood options and community based psychosocial support should be top priority while designing the projects. Further details of the needs will be highlighted once the findings of the joint need assessment are available. |
| Please indicate whether you are considering:   |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | Indicate your intention with an **X** below | | Rapid Response Fund *(intended for small and medium scale emergencies)* |  | | Appeal *(intended for large scale emergencies)* | X |   If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert. |
| Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | ACT Member | Geographical focus | Sectors of expertise | Support required | Estimated Budget range | | FCA | Rukum West | Education, Livelihood recovery, Skilled training for construction, Cash assistance |  | 350,000 USD | | LWF | Jajarkot and Rukum West | Shelter, WASH, Livelihood, Cash assistance & PSS |  | 500,000 USD | | FELM | Jajarkot and Rukum West | PSS |  | 100,000 USD | | Cordaid/ KiA | Jajarkot | Livelihood & Cash assistance |  | 250,000 USD | | Total | | | | 1.2 million USD | |
| 1. **Potential responses** |
| The government has decided to carry out reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure by formulating an integrated action plan and immediate response by one-door policy to avoid duplication as well as fill all the gaps of need of the affected population.  The requesting members and their local implementing partners are currently working in the affected provinces in the areas of livelihood, education, health, DRR, shelter, WASH and PSS. The requesting members will implement the proposed sector activities in coordination and collaboration with the clusters and respective local authorities. |