

# Western Nepal Earthquake 2023

## UNDP Update No.4

12 January 2024



### IMPACT OF THE WESTERN NEPAL EARTHQUAKE\*

6.4

MAGNITUDE  
EARTHQUAKE  
ON 3  
NOVEMBER  
2023  
Earthquake



154

Number of  
Deaths



366

Number of  
People Injured



107,559

Total  
Damaged  
Structures\*\*



USD 518 MILLION

Recovery and  
Reconstruction  
Cost\*



### UNDP INTERVENTIONS

2 DISTRICTS  
5 MUNICIPALITIES  
8 WARDS

Working Area



4,837

No. of  
Households



356,100

People Covered  
(Direct + Indirect)



USD 1.025  
MILLION

Total Budget \*\*\*



UNDP  
GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN  
EU HUMANITARIAN AID

Funding Partners \*\*\*\*

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

A 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck Western Nepal, affecting the districts of Jajarkot, Rukum West and Salyan of Karnali Province on 3 November 2023<sup>1</sup>. At present, the Government and humanitarian partners are focusing on transitional shelters, early recovery interventions and planning and resource mobilization for long-term recovery and reconstruction.

The details of the damage from the earthquakes in Western Nepal - including the Doti 2022, the Bajhang 2023, the Jajarkot 2023 earthquakes - are as follows<sup>2</sup>:

Number of Houses Partially Damaged	61,440 houses
Number of Houses Completely Damaged	34,347 houses
Number of Government and Public Buildings Affected	75 buildings
Number of Health Institutions Fully Damaged	27 institutions
Number of Health Institutions Partially Damaged	106 institutions
Number of Educational Institutions Affected	11,557 institutions



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

\*From the Preliminary Damage and Needs Assessment (PrelmDNA) presentation on 22 December 2023.

\*\* The numbers include HH, govt and public buildings, Health, Education and Cultural buildings

\*\*\*UNDP has been working through the EU Humanitarian Aid funded [SUPER](#) project, and the Government of Japan funded Enhancing Human Security through Local Climate Actions [project](#).

<sup>1</sup> UN RC Nepal & UNCT Nepal, 16 Nov 2023

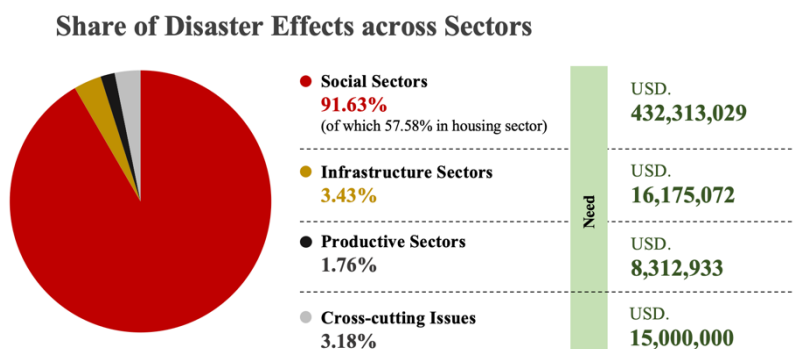
<sup>2</sup> From the Preliminary Damage and Needs Assessment (PrelmDNA) presentation on 22 December 2023. *Housing sub-sector consists of damage data from all 3 earthquakes. Other sub-sectors comprises of data only from Jajarkot and Bajhang Earthquake.*

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The key measures taken by the Government of Nepal include the transfer of NPR. 50,000 (US\$376) to each household with completely damaged structures, to be distributed in two instalments incorporating the minimum standards necessary for shelter construction. The first installment has been released. Additionally, the Government will also provide free medical treatment to those injured in the earthquake across all hospitals and provided NPR. 200,000 (\$1,500) to the families of those killed in the earthquake.<sup>3</sup> UN agencies have strengthened their cluster co-leadership functions at the national and provincial levels, moving from search and rescue response to recovery and rehabilitation.

### Rapid Post Disaster Needs Assessment

The Government of Nepal together with development partners conducted rapid post disaster need assessment to estimate damage and needs for reconstruction and recovery of the need related to last three major earthquakes in Nepal (the Doti 2022, the Bajhang 2023, the Jajarkot 2023 earthquakes). A working committee under National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority's (NDRRMA's) chair prepared the draft preliminary damage and need assessment report. To share the preliminary findings of the Assessment and to explore reconstruction and rehabilitation modality and required resources, the Ministry of Finance organized the second consultation meeting with development partners and concerned authorities of Government of Nepal on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023. The share of the disaster effects across the Social, Infrastructure, and Productive sectors among other cross-cutting issues were shared in the meeting, demonstrating a need for USD 471 million to the support activities, as well as an additional USD 47.1 million for operational costs<sup>4</sup>:



***Housing sub-sector consists of damage data from all 3 earthquakes: Jajarkot, Bajhang, and Doti as per the PDNA presentation on 22 December 2023.***

## UNDP INTERVENTIONS

UNDP has been playing a key role in response and recovery support in view of the recent earthquake, with Gender and Social Inclusion at the heart of its response initiatives. As the co-lead of the Early Recovery Cluster at the national level, with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration as the cluster lead, UNDP has been providing the following support:

<sup>3</sup> UN RC Nepal & UNCT Nepal, 16 Nov 2023

<sup>4</sup> From the Preliminary Damage and Needs Assessment (PrelmDNA) presentation on 22 December 2023.

### Emergency Relief and Early Recovery Support

- UNDP, through Handicap International, had provided 23 types of assistive devices for persons with disabilities in earthquake affected area. Thus far, 36 PWDs have been identified in Barekot RM for the distribution of the assistive devices. Furthermore, HI has also deployed a physiotherapist to assess the suitability of these devices for the identified target group.
- UNDP has been providing relief items in earthquake affected areas and details are below. A beneficiary list was prepared before relief distribution to ensure that the most vulnerable, including single women, elders, were prioritized and to leave no one behind in coordination with the LG.



### UNDP Nepal Handed over 40 Temporary Shelters to Bajhang Earthquake-Affected Households in Jayprithvi Municipality

UNDP Nepal handed over 40 temporary shelters in Ward No. 9 & 10 of Jayprithvi Municipality, Bajhang District on December 21, 2023.

Bajhang was affected by a 6.3 magnitude earthquake on 3rd October 2023.

UNDP officially handed over these shelters to community members through the Mayor of Jayprithvi municipality Mr. Chetraj Bajhal. The community members were chosen in collaboration with local officials, focusing on vulnerable groups like single women, women-led families, and the elderly.

### Coordination and Information Management

- At the national level, the Early Recovery cluster led by Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration and co-led by UNDP held the first meeting on 3 November 2023.
- At the provincial level, the Early Recovery cluster led by the Ministry of Industry Tourism Forest and Environment and co-led by UNDP held the first meeting on 8 November 2023 and 23 November 2023. The third meeting took place on 4 January 2024. The meeting decided to share the ER related progress to MoIAL Karnali through DRR Focal Point and to update and generate the outputs and publish them periodically.
- 8 Information Management Officers have been deployed at the provincial, district and municipal level, including in Aathbiskot Municipality, and Sani Bheri Municipality in Rukum West District; Bheri Municipality in Jajarkot District, and Surkhet District. They are providing data and information management support related to earthquake response efforts.
- 1 Early Recovery Cluster Coordinator deployed at the provincial level; and 1 Early Recovery Cluster Coordinator and Information Management Officer assigned at the national level to facilitate smooth coordination.
- In the recruitment of all these positions, gender and social inclusion has been considered to ensure representation.
- An initial drone assessment has been carried out by a drone pilot to collect preliminary damage information in Barekot Rural Municipality and Nalgad Municipality.
- UNDP is a member of the preliminary damage and need assessment (PDNA) working committee and provided inputs in its first and second meeting held on 5 and 8 December respectively.
- UNDP, as co-lead of early recovery cluster, has led the preparation of the draft of the joint early recovery cluster response plan, which is part of the *Joint Recovery Plan – Western Nepal Earthquake (Draft)*.

### Debris Management and Rubble Removal

- Led by engineers, completed debris removal of 100 HH in Barekot Rural Municipality and Aathbiskot Municipality through cash for work to the beneficiaries, with the payment made through QR Code ID system; vulnerable groups such as Dalits, women headed HH have been prioritized.
- 10 engineers are on board, among whom 2 female, to supervise this process to ensure safety.
- Personal Protective Equipment - including 200 Gum Boots, 200 Safety Helmets, 200 Safety Gloves, 200 Shovels and Cement mixing bowls - have been provided.

- In Chaurjahari Municipality, in Rukum West, a rapid assessment of 1500 HH conducted and mapped along with the documentation of the photos of damaged houses and the owner.

*Governance Support for Service Delivery*

- UNDP and NSET are assessing all public buildings, except health and school buildings, in Barekot Rural Municipality and Nalgad Municipality in Jajarkot District to conduct rapid structural safety assessment and recommend temporary solutions for damaged facilities.
- 6 priority public buildings are being prefabricated to provide basic services. These buildings include:
  - Aathbiskot Municipality, Rukum West: Ward Office and Police Station
  - Nalgad Municipality, Jajarkot: Police Station and Veterinary Service Centre
  - Barekot Rural Municipality, Jajarkot: Agriculture Centre and Veterinary Service Centre
- As part of prefab installation, the Social and Environmental Screening of all 6 priority public building sites has been conducted by a consulting firm, engaged by UNDP.
- UNDP is providing two laptops and one printer to the CDO Office in Jajarkot District.



Photo Credit: UNDP Nepal

*“After the 3 November earthquake, as an expecting mother, I was in a very difficult situation. My house was entirely damaged, and my husband, who is working in Malaysia, was not here with me.*

*The locals supported me to put up a tarpaulin tent for temporary shelter; but later on UNDP engineers, after inspecting my house, included my house in a debris clearance programme and offered remuneration for those engaged in the work. I turned to my neighbours requesting their help in clearing debris and promising a compensation. While villagers were supporting in the clearance work, my husband arrived. The collective effort from the community, supported by UNDP initiative, allowed for completion of the debris clearance work. My husband is currently busy in constructing the temporary shelter.*

*We have also welcomed our son, Niyem, amid this situation. I am deeply grateful for UNDP in providing technical supervision and financial assistance in the debris clearance work during such difficult times.”*

Durga Damai, Aathbiskot Municipality, Rukum West

**For More Information**

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Enhancing Human Security Through  
Local Climate Actions Project



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Strengthening Urban Preparedness,  
Earthquake Preparedness and Response  
in Western Regions of Nepal

