

Western Nepal Earthquake 2023

UNDP Update No.5

30 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

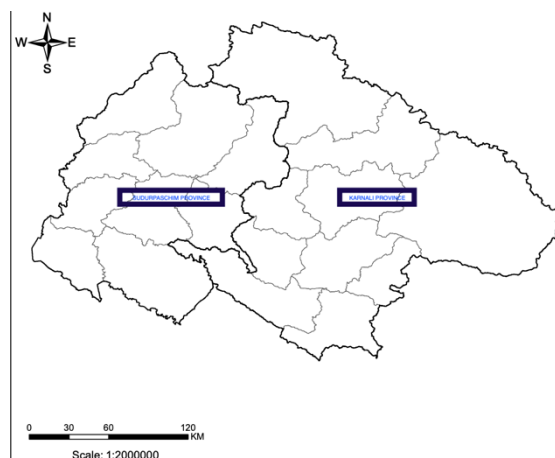
Funding Partners ****

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 2023¹. 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 follows²:

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](#).

¹ UN RC Nepal & UNCT Nepal, 16 Nov 2023

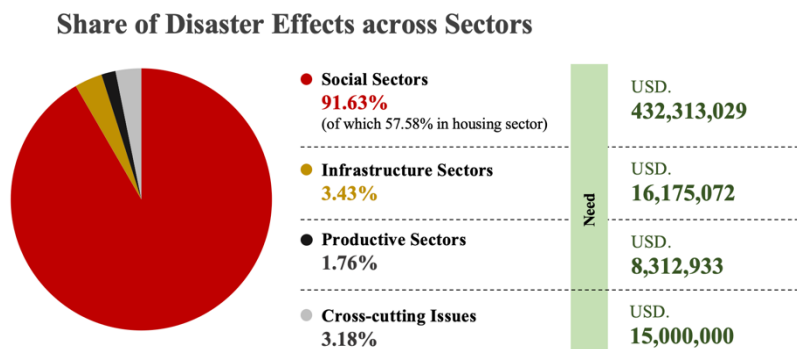
² From the Preliminary Damage and Needs Assessment (PrelmDNA) presentation on 22 December 2023. *Housing sub-sector consists of damage data from all 3 earthquakes. Other sub-sectors comprises of data only from Jajarkot and Bajhang Earthquake.*

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.³ 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. The clusters are preparing a joint recovery plan entitled 'Western Nepal Earthquake Joint Recovery Plan' with the aim to support continuity of basic services, livelihoods and create an enabling environment for long-term resilient recovery.

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 22nd 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 costs⁴:



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 and provincial levels, with the government as the cluster lead, UNDP has been providing the following support:

³ UN RC Nepal & UNCT Nepal, 16 Nov 2023

⁴ 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. Thirty-six persons with disabilities have been identified in Barekot Rural Municipality for the distribution of the assistive devices and distribution is ongoing. The facility for providing physiotherapy service has been established in Nalgad Municipality.
- Agriculture inputs is being provided in Barekot Rural Municipality and Nalgad Municipality, which will contribute to job creation and improve agriculture productivity in the context of climate change. 200 people have been trained on vegetable farming, including smallholders and commercial farmers; and the construction of two poly house is completed in Barekot Rural Municipality.
- 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.



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 (IMOs) have been deployed at the provincial, district and municipal level, including in Aathbiskot Municipality, and Sani Bheri Rural Municipality in Rukum West District; Bheri Municipality in Jajarkot District, and Surkhet District. They are providing data and information management support related to earthquake early recovery efforts including data on temporary shelter, particularly by providing regular updates from the local level to the provincial and national level.
- The IMOs also coordinate with the local governments to identify the most vulnerable groups for relief distribution, in earthquake affected areas; and participate in interaction and review meetings of the relief and temporary shelter and reconstruction materials distributed with elected representatives, beneficiaries, and stakeholders at the local level. They are providing technical assistance to local government and district on strengthening of the Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs).
- 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 400 HH in Barekot, Nalgad and Bheri Municipalities of Jajarkot district and Aathbiskot Municipality of Rukum West District through cash for work to the beneficiaries, verified through a QR Code ID system generated to identify the beneficiaries; vulnerable groups such as Dalits, women headed HH have been prioritized.
- 10 engineers are on board, among whom 2 are 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 completed assessment of all public buildings, except health and school buildings, in Barekot Rural Municipality and Nalgad Municipality in Jajarkot District: this included 34 buildings from Barekot and 25 buildings from Nalgad. The survey has found that most buildings built with stone with mud mortar have undergone damage while buildings with stone with cement/mud mortar may need to be retrofitted.
- As an interim support, providing six prefabricated buildings to ensure continuity of public service delivery in three earthquake affected municipalities. 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 the 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 provided two laptops and one printer to the CDO Office in Jajarkot District.
- To mark the Earthquake Safety Day 2024, UNDP supported the local governments by handing over life sized snakes and ladders game to the local governments, replete with information on disaster preparedness measures. The event was held in five earthquake affected municipalities including Nalgad, Barekot, Sani Bheri, Bheri and Aathbiskot of Karnali Province and Jay Prithvi, Dhangadhi and Amargadhi of Sudurpaschim Province.



Earthquake Safety Day celebrations being observed in Barekot RM on 16 January 2024. The children are playing an informative game of snakes and ladders, learning about disaster preparedness. Picture: UNDP Nepal



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.

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

