



Nepal Humanitarian Situation and ACF response update n° 3, May 28, 2015

Context and humanitarian situation



ACF visiting affected neighborhood of Balaju in Kathmandu. 2015 © Daniel Burgui Iguzkiza / ACF

One month since the 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal, relief operations continue to scale up ahead of the monsoon season. On May 12, another earthquake of 7.3 Magnitude has struck the country, with the epicenter in Dolakha district. After this aftershock the death toll raised to 8,669, while 384 people are still missing and 20,000 people injured according the last report issued by the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC).

This second event has further deteriorated the humanitarian situation. The figures about the impact of the disaster on the infrastructures are also increasing and giving a better picture of the situation. Humanitarian partners estimate some 2.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Over 860,000 people are in immediate need due to loss of shelter, limited road access and poverty.



The Government confirmed that 500,717 houses were destroyed and 269,190 partially damaged by the two earthquakes and aftershocks, according to the last OCHA report.

Providing shelter before the monsoon and the cold weather remains a priority. The worst affected districts are highly vulnerable to floods and landslides. On 24 May, landslide in Kali Gandaki (Myagdi District) in the Himalayas blocked the river temporarily forming a lake, which caused families in downstream villages to evacuate.

UNREACHEABLE VILLAGES

According to OCHA figures, more than 315,000 people in the 14 most affected districts remain inaccessible by road. More than 75,000 people in damaged areas cannot be reached even by air and helicopters. To reach these remote mountain villages, standard aid delivery is being complemented with traditional Nepalese methods. It's estimated that more than 5,000 sherpa porters are working under the OCHA coordination to reach these people, carrying goods, cleaning paths and being used as messengers.

CLEAN WATER AND HYGIENE RISKS

Although water is accessible in the assessed villages, most of them still having an access to a spring or a small Gravity Flow Network, many of these networks have suffered at various levels from the earthquake and springs may have change in location, water quality and yield.

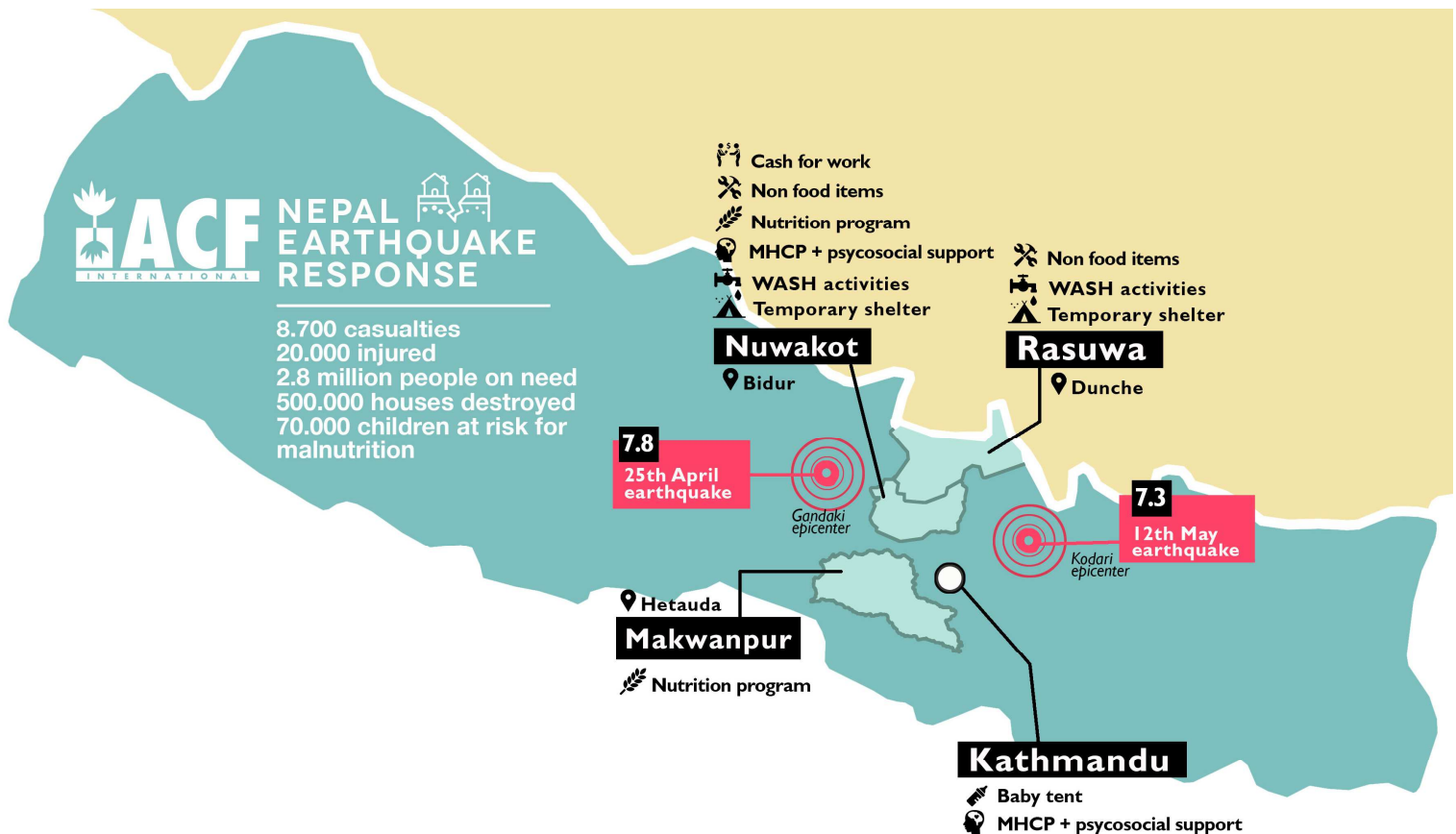
Earthquake hit districts, including Kathmandu Valley, are at the increasing risk of epidemic outbreak during the upcoming monsoon, as claims a study carried out by several agencies under Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal (MoHP) and Nepal Army Corps.

According to this information published on 26th May 2015 by MoHP, the official research about water samples selected on affected areas between April 30 and May 24, shows that nearly the 74% of these water sources are unfit to drink. This research supports ACF early assessments made by WASH teams which ensures that water quality tests done during the assessment reveals that around 80% of the water samples were showing signs of fecal contamination (e.coli).

As monsoon approaches near, the Minister of Health and Population is on a high alert against possible outbreak of diseases like cholera and dengue.

A study carried out at Kathmandu valley from May 21 to 22 in which 162 households and 574 water containers in eight different localities were tested, found presence of dengue, chikungunya, malaria and Japanese encephalitis vectors. As many people are living in tents and are closer in proximity, there are chances of dengue, which become life threatening when the disease develops into a hemorrhagic fever.

Moreover, after monsoon season, winter will soon arrive and temperatures will significantly drop, especially in the mountainous areas.



ACF response update

ACF overall strategy

***NUTRITION:** To prevent morbidity and mortality of infants and children under five in the earthquake affected districts.*

- Rolling out an integrated Community Management of Acute Malnutrition and baby friendly spaces approach in Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Makwanpur.
- Train, supervise and monitor MoHP health staff.

***MENTAL HEALTH & CARE PRACTICES:** To improve the psychological wellbeing of people in distress to cope better with their situation and to put in place adaptive behaviors in Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Makwanpur and Kathmandu valley.*

- Psychological and psychosocial support to children in schools (and families), to patients in hospitals (and families) and people in the communities;
- Psychological, psychosocial and IYCF in Emergency support to PLW and children under 2 years old to support treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition.

***WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE:** To improve the access of the affected population to safe water and adequate sanitation services in Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Makwanpur and Ramechhap districts.*

- Rehabilitation and treatment of water supply networks and water quality surveillance;
- Support to construction of emergency latrines;
- Targeted hygiene promotions and IEC material distributions;
- WASH activities integrated in Nutrition and MHCP programs;
- Cholera contingency stock and trainings.

***FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD:** To meet the basic needs of the affected population by providing them an extra source of income and emergency shelter solutions in Nuwakot and Rasuwa districts.*

- Plastic sheeting and kitchen set provision to help people prepare monsoon;
- Cash for work activities;
- Unconditional cash grants;
- Market monitoring.

Up to 25th of May, ACF is present and started the implementation of emergency response activities in four earthquake-affected areas: Kathmandu valley (3 districts), Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Makwanpur.

In **Kathmandu**, the psychosocial counselling of patients and health staff of Bir hospital as well as of the city maternity hospital ensured by ACF MHCP teams is continuing. In the maternity hospital, one baby friendly space has been set-up in order to support Pregnant and lactating women (PLW) through psychosocial and care practices counselling. 10 children and 10 mothers benefit every day from these services.



BABY TENT at the maternity hospital of Kathmandu.
2015 © Daniel Burgui Iguzkiza / ACF International

Mental Health Care

The MHCP team has also organized several trainings: one Psychological First Aid (PFA) training for 5 new members of ACF team as well as one training on stress management for 42 health staff of Bir hospital.

After the field needs assessment and the first relief distributions, ACF has now set-up the main sub-national base in Bidur, capital of **Nuwakot** district.

Nutrition

After discussions with the District Health Officer (DHO) and Nutrition Focal Point at the District Health Office (DHO) ACF started its first Outpatient Therapeutic Care center (OTC) at Ratmate Health Post (HP).

Ratmate is a village development committee (VDC) in Nuwakot District in the Bagmati Zone of central Nepal. At the time of the last census it had a population of 3,000 people living in 567 individual households. This health post is at the junction of a number of VDCs (Taruka, Khadahbhanjyang, Budhasing, Duipipal, Jiling), where screening of babies will start this week and to storage the equipment.

ACF Team is now working and discussing with local authorities to have the 2nd OTC site at Bidur District Hospital. Medical Director of the Hospital is already supportive of this. The child population under five years old is the largest in Bidur and there are also IDP camps that are located close to the district center.

The first week of intervention, in Makwanpur district, a flying team - based on Kathmandu - of 6 people has screened more than 650 children in Taha

municipality and they have started to treat 8 severely acutely malnourished children, whilst counselling the caretakers of 34 moderately acutely malnourished under 5.

Ultimately, over 5 months in 3 districts, ACF target to reach 10,000 SAM, MAM, infants under 6 months, babies 6-59 months; counselling of 5,000 pregnant and lactating women, and training of 2,000 health workers, including community volunteers.



Breastfeeding after the earthquake. 2015 © Daniel Burgui Iguzkiza / ACF International

FOOD SECURITY and LIVELIHOOD

For the most vulnerable affected populations, the burden will increase with the beginning of the monsoon season. With the impact of the heavy rains, all the weaker infrastructures, buildings, and roads are expected to be further destroyed, thereby limiting the capacity to implement the relief operations, as well as for the affected population to move and to develop productive activities.

The FSL (Food Security and Livelihood) and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) teams have also started the implementation of the activities in **Nuwakot and Rasuwa** districts: agreements with authorities (CDO, Chief District Officers) at Bidur and Dunche level, capital heads of the two districts of Nuwakot and Rasuwa respectively; set up of ad-hoc committees with VDC (Village Development Committees) for the community involvement, following which selection of beneficiaries has started in village of Kabilas.

2,400 people are planned to benefit of tool kit distribution on this area in the coming days, and will therefore participate in a community service program, led by ACF, for rubble removal around and in public buildings, receiving around 8,000 NPR per month during one month.

WASH ACTIVITIES

Meanwhile the WASH team has carried out the in-depth evaluation of the network system, mapped the water sources and identified the ones that need repair and chlorination.

ACF is not focusing on emergency water treatment using raw water from the river because people in mountain regions are not used to drinking such water. Utilizing improved sources such as springs is a positive habit and ACF does not want to change it. Furthermore, any treatment of raw water from unimproved sources will only be undertaken as an emergency solution if current sources are exacerbated and the condition worsens from additional disaster (monsoon, landslide).

A group of nearly 12 professional firefighters from the French city of Nancy have been working on cleaning debris from affected villages in Nuwakot and Rasuwa and helping on ACF activities as a task force in cleaning the rubble, rehabilitate or reconstruct public and private infrastructures like schools, health posts, the houses and cattle sheds.



WASH assessment team at the village of Grang, in Rasuwa district.
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ACF in Humanitarian Coordination

ACF participates actively to:

- the Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN),
- Cluster WASH, Food Security, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter,
- Cash Working Group, CMAM working group, Assessment Working Group, Psychosocial Working Group, Gender Task Force.

Our partners in this operation:

