

Jajarkot Earthquake

Situation Analysis Report - 06

November 9, 2023

Editor: Dr. Raju Thapa, DPNet



This report highlights the impact of the earthquake on affected area where 26557 houses have been completely destroyed, leaving a critical need for shelter materials such as tarpaulins, blankets, and mats. Despite adequate food supplies and stable medical provisions, the shelter crisis persists, with Assistant Chief District Officer Pravesh Badhuwal, Jajakort shared the need for humanitarian stakeholders to provide the necessary resources. In Salyan, the focus on aid has been less, with many residents forced to live in the open due to continuous aftershocks and damaged homes, particularly in the Darma Rural Municipality.

The necessity for urgent action in the WASH Cluster, which has called for immediate repairs to damaged water supply systems and the provision of sanitation and hygiene supplies to a vast number of households. Mobile service providers are also urged to offer unrestricted phone access to aid in rescue and recovery, as exemplified by the life-saving communication during the crisis.

Lastly, the report highlights the efforts for recovery, such as the establishment of a health insurance plan in Jajarkot to provide free medical services, the push to prioritize education through temporary school buildings, and the need for psychosocial counseling services to address the mental health crisis. The Nepal Police and Nepal Scout have been active in recovery operations, focusing on debris clearance and aid distribution, reaching a significant portion of the affected populace. These combined efforts are critical in addressing the immediate needs and facilitating the long-term rehabilitation of the earthquake-stricken communities.

1. Shelter Aid Required in Earthquake Affected Rukum District

The earthquake has brought destruction, leaving 16,570 homes completely destroyed, with another 8,000 added to the wreckage by aftershocks in Rukum District. Among this ruin, food supplies have remained steady for the time being. Assistant Chief District Officer Pravesh Badhuwal has acknowledged the ongoing relief operations, noting that while the current food supply is adequate and 4,800 tents have been handed out, there is a significant shortfall in shelter supplies. The district's records indicate a demand for at least



10,000 tarpaulins, blankets, and mats to meet the urgent shelter needs of those affected. Musikot Seregaun, is stocked with food supplies, yet there is an acute need for more tarpaulins, blankets, and mats. Fortunately, the medical supplies situation is stable with no critical shortage of medicine or health services reported. Nevertheless, Badhuwal is calling upon humanitarian stakeholders to step forward with the required materials to close the gap in resources. The collective action is key

to ensuring that the communities hit by the earthquake are well-supported for prompt and efficient recovery.

2. The Unseen Earthquake Affected People of Salyan

Salyan District also faces challenges post-earthquake, with insufficient aid from development partners. While no casualties have been reported in Salyan, significant damage has occurred in two municipalities, Darma Rural Municipality and Banghad Kupinde Municipality. Continuous aftershocks have left the residents of Darma Rural Municipality without homes, forcing them to live under the open sky. In total, 841 households in Salyan have been affected, with 149 completely destroyed, 147 of which are in Darma Municipality. The homes in wards 5, 2, 1, and 6 are in particularly dire states, considered unsafe for living. Additionally, two homes in Bagchaur Municipality are totally damaged. With aid primarily focused on Jajarkot and Rukum, essentials like tarpaulins remain scarce for the affected people in Salyan.

3. WASH Cluster Calls for Immediate Action in Earthquake-Hit Area

WASH Cluster meeting at Khalang on 9th November identified urgent necessities required for Karnali Province following the recent earthquake. The assessment found that around 100 water supply systems are in need of immediate repairs to restore functionality. Furthermore, there's a demand for sanitation and hygiene supplies for 50,865 households across 14 municipalities, with an overwhelming 70% of these homes struggling with damaged toilets. This statistic underscores the urgent need for repair and installation services to ensure basic sanitary conditions. The WASH Cluster has called for the mobilization of at least 100 skilled technicians to reinforce water, sanitation, and hygiene practices among the earthquake-affected communities. This intervention is crucial not only for the wellbeing of residents but also for preventing potential health crises.



4. A Call for Unrestricted Phone Access During Disasters

The harrowing experience of Dipa Shah, a resident of Aathbiskot Municipality, during the earthquake highlights a vital need for mobile service providers to step up in times of disaster. When Dipa was trapped beneath the rubble of her collapsed home without credit balance, it was a phone call from her daughter Sabita that set her rescue in motion. Despite the trauma and

initial despair, technology played a crucial role in connecting Dipa to the help she desperately needed.

This incident serves as a compelling argument for mobile service providers to offer unlimited phone access in areas struck by disaster as part of their corporate social responsibility. In the chaos following a calamity, communication is often the lifeline for those affected. Allowing unrestricted access to mobile services ensures that during these critical moments, when every second counts, individuals can reach out for help, coordinate rescue efforts, and assure loved ones of their safety without the barrier of limited phone credit. By implementing such measures, mobile service providers can contribute significantly to disaster response efforts, potentially saving lives and facilitating quicker recovery. It's not just about staying connected; it's about leveraging technology as a powerful tool to safeguard the community when it's most vulnerable.

5. Jajarkot's Health Strategy Post-Quake Free Medical Services Initiative

With temperatures falling, Jajarkot District Hospital is seeing a daily influx of 30 to 40 patients with cold-related illnesses since the earthquake, and six individuals are currently being treated for injuries sustained during the disaster. Pratiksha Bharti, the acting service manager at the hospital, is collaborating with the Karnali Province Government and Minister Raj Kumar Sharma to develop a proactive health insurance policy. This policy, considered in a discussion on November



9th, aims to conduct a comprehensive health assessment study to pinpoint deficiencies in the healthcare services after the earthquake. The hospital is proactively working on an advanced health insurance scheme to extend vital support to the community. The anticipated policy promises free medical services up to NPR 100,000 for the affected populace, providing a layer of financial security and comfort during these difficult times. The careful planning and implementation of this health insurance plan help to meet immediate medical needs while also making welfare solutions for residents impacted by the earthquake.

6. Need of Psychosocial Counseling

After devastating earthquake and its continuous aftershocks, the mental well-being of the affected people has become a matter of concern. With the unpredictability of when the tremors will stop, the residents live in a constant state of fear, anxious of an even more disastrous event. The destruction of homes has left many without a safe haven, exacerbating the uncertainty of their future. The grief is deep among those who have lost family members, and the trauma deeply affects those with injured loved ones. The psychological impact is immense, as the disaster has not only taken lives but disrupted livelihood opportunity. The mental suffering extends to worries over providing for the vulnerable segments of their families – the elderly, PWD, and the children – whose dependency adds an additional layer of stress.

Dr. Purna Rawat, a psychiatrist from Karnali Province Hospital, voices the urgency for psychosocial counseling services. He calls for a holistic mental health strategy, one that is interwoven with the ongoing relief operations. Dr. Rawat's appeal to the government at all levels is to recognize the psychological crisis as a critical component of the earthquake's aftermath and to deploy resources to address the psychosocial disturbances for a truly effective rehabilitation of the affected communities.

7. Concerns and Plans for Secondary Education in Jajarkot District Post-Earthquake

The Assistant Chief District Officer (CDO) of Jajarkot district have shown concern regarding the education of secondary level students, emphasizing the need for schools to reopen for these students after Chahath. Acknowledging the upcoming exams for Grade 8 (BLE) and grade 10 (SEE) in the month of Chaitra, the CDO highlights the urgency of resuming education for these students. In a proactive move, the Assistant CDO of Jajarkot district is planning to address this concern by working on temporary school buildings in earthquake-affected areas. UNICEF has already started its Child Friendly Space, planning to extend in each affected municipality across Jajarkot and Rukum West. This initiative reflects a commitment to prioritize education.



8. Debris Clearance in Earthquake-hit Jajarkot

In response to the recent earthquake, Nepal Police and Nepal Scout have launched significant recovery operations in the affected areas. The Nepal Police have implemented a comprehensive plan, deploying a formidable force consisting of over 800 police officers, nearly 300 armed police, and 200 army personnel. These teams are tasked with debris removal and the retrieval of citizens' belongings, with some officers sustaining injuries during these challenging operations. DIG Bhim Prasad Dhakal of the Provincial Police Office has detailed the organization of five specialized teams by the police, which are working in shifts around the clock. Their efforts encompass relief collection, distribution, supervision, and information provision, ensuring that aid reaches approximately 80% of the earthquake victims. Parallel to the police's dedication, the Nepal Scout has activated its emergency rescue team in Jajarkot to spearhead relief efforts. Under the guidance of Pawan Koirala from Nepal Scout Disaster Management, a group of 20 expert rescuers from across all seven provinces is on the ground, undertaking the management of temporary shelters and assisting with debris clearance. Together, these two organizations are making intensive efforts to alleviate the hardship caused by the earthquake and aid in the community's recovery. A plan has been devised for debris removal and the recovery of citizens' belongings in affected areas. Over 800 police personnel, nearly 300 armed police, and 200 army have been actively involved, with some police officers sustaining injuries during the earthquake.

This Situation Analysis Report is prepared by DPNet in support of

Mercy Corps Nepal

