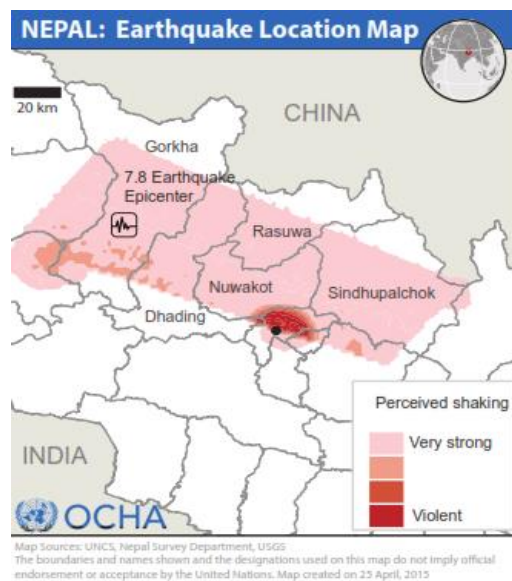


Earthquake in Nepal

UNICEF Responds in a Critical Time of Need

On April 25, 2015, a massive 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal – its deadliest earthquake in more than 80 years. The epicenter was in the Lamjung District, which is located approximately 50 miles northwest of Kathmandu, and just south of the China border. The earthquake was followed by close to 60 aftershocks.

As of April 29th, there were nearly 5,000 confirmed casualties and over 9,700 injured across the country. Thousands of injured and displaced are left at high risk of potentially fatal diseases due to limited access to safe water and sanitation. Many children have been separated from their families during the earthquake and their homes and schools have been destroyed.



The earthquake's impact has been felt in the mountain and hilly areas and by dispersed rural populations, as well as some very densely populated districts. The highest number of casualties was in Kathmandu District. Sindupalchowk, Kavre, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, and Dhading districts in the Central Region were also very hard hit. Most of the displaced population is staying in 16 informal camps in Kathmandu Valley.



On April 26th people walked around the historic Durbar Square destroyed by the earthquake that occurred April 25th in Katmandu, the capital of Nepal.

The earthquake has collapsed buildings, flattened homes and destroyed roads and infrastructure, leaving recovery efforts to sift through large amounts of rubble and debris in search for survivors. Overcrowded hospitals are resulting in depleted emergency supplies and some hospitals have reverted to treating people in the streets. Most of those affected remain outside in the cold for fear their homes could topple at any minute. Powerful aftershocks rocked the affected areas and their sense of security. The size of the geographical area, scattered population and damage to the country's infrastructure – including road blockages, power outages and downed cellphone networks – are expected to pose serious challenges to reach the affected population.



This crisis leaves children particularly vulnerable – limited access to safe water and sanitation will put children at great risk from waterborne diseases, while some children may have become separated from their families. A major challenge in the recovery efforts will include **the immediate, critical needs of the children affected by emergency, as they account 40 percent of the country’s population.** UNICEF fears the disaster will have a **severe impact on the children.** To date, **1.7 million children living in the 21 districts severely affected by the earthquake are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.**

UNICEF in Action

Before, during and after this emergency, UNICEF is committed to putting children first. UNICEF is strategically positioned both globally and locally to make the greatest impact for those most affected by the earthquake. Globally, UNICEF’s Supply Division operates the largest humanitarian warehouse in the world, with the ability to lower procurement costs due to the volume of humanitarian supplies UNICEF purchases. Locally, UNICEF works closely with the government at the central and decentralized levels and directly with local communities and community-based organizations to support national priorities and development goals.

Because of its long-term presence in Nepal and partnership with the government, UNICEF is able to deliver services and programs with access to the hardest-to-reach areas to benefit the most excluded and marginalized groups with essential, life-saving supplies and services. Also, due to its track record in the country, UNICEF is poised to leverage local networks, partnerships and relationships to access communities and resources to maximize its reach and impact for those most affected by this crisis.



UNICEF is mobilizing an urgent response to meet the needs of children affected by this devastating earthquake, leading in the areas of Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), Nutrition, Education, Health, and Child Protection.

On April 30th, UNICEF delivered 29 metric tons of supplies to Nepal, with additional supplies on the way. UNICEF had already deployed 30 metric tons of prepositioned emergency stocks to help stave off waterborne disease -- such as tents, hygiene kits, water trucking support and other supplies, through airlift to Kathmandu.

In the area of WASH, UNICEF has conducted initial assessments and determined needs for temporary water supply, toilets, solid waste management, family hygiene kits, soap, water purification tablets, and tarpaulins. With risks for outbreak of disease due to the presence of the dead, there is an urgent need for water purification chemicals and units, and related hygiene supplies. UNICEF is distributing these WASH supplies and non-food items to camps and establishing toilets in temporary camps, and also conducting water tankering in the temporary camps of Kathmandu Valley. At the same time, communications campaigns are being carried out to promote proper hygiene and sanitation in camp settings.

To ensure proper nutrition, UNICEF has identified the most vulnerable districts and is working with partners to finalize a rapid nutrition assessment plan. UNICEF will utilize its nutrition supplies, as well as information, education and communication materials to ensure continued breastfeeding and young child feeding. UNICEF is also mobilizing teams to conduct counseling and management of severe acute malnutrition, control micronutrient deficiencies through vitamin A supplements and micronutrient powders.

Health is also a paramount concern as more than 80 percent of health facilities in the five severely affected districts have been extensively damaged, and health services are being provided outside buildings. UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Health to target diarrheal disease prevention, case management for the injured, and logistics and medicine supply. The number of internally displaced is

on the rise as people remain in hospitals after their initial treatment, so transit camps are needed to accommodate them. UNICEF is also deploying more large tents for emergency health services, along with health kits, 200 surgical units and Measles Rubella vaccine.

Child protection is essential to keep children safe from potential injury, separation, violence, exploitation and abuse. UNICEF is mobilizing a team of social workers to identify separated children and supporting the family links website that has been established to facilitate family tracing & reunification. UNICEF is also working with radio stations to broadcast messages of psychosocial support and facilitate access to psychosocial services in two of the largest camps in Kathmandu. At the same time, UNICEF is distributing recreational materials and setting up temporary child-friendly spaces.



Education is a critical investment as a means to keep children safe as their families work to recover, and re-establish a sense of routine and normalcy in the wake of disaster. Some 274 out of 323 schools assessed in 16 affected districts are either partially or fully damaged. Damage assessments are continuing, but it is clear that the government will require significant support from UNICEF and partners to set up temporary learning spaces, using tents and emergency education supplies such as School-in-a-Box, Early Childhood Development Kits, and Recreation Kits.

While UNICEF is moving fast, we cannot do this work alone. With your generous partnership, UNICEF will continue working relentlessly – and as quickly as possible – to protect the health, safety and well-being of the most vulnerable children and families devastated by the earthquake.

UNICEF is in need of \$50.4 million USD to carry out its emergency response in the first 90 days. On behalf of the many children and their families affected by this emergency, we invite you to join us in our mission of saving and protecting children's lives.

Contact:

Rachel Steinberg, Assistant Director, Civil Society Partnerships
U.S. Fund for UNICEF
125 Maiden Lane, New York, NY 10038
Email: rsteinberg@unicefusa.org
Phone: 212-922-2481

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in 190 countries and territories to put children first. UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization, by providing health care and immunizations, clean water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more. The U.S. Fund for UNICEF supports UNICEF's work through fundraising, advocacy and education in the United States. Together, we are working toward the day when no children die from preventable causes and every child has a safe and healthy childhood. For more information, visit www.unicefusa.org.

Impact of Your Support

UNICEF has a mandate to protect children from the immediate and long-term effects of emergencies. This includes providing basic needs such as shelter, nutrition, health and access to safe, clean water. Also included are psychosocial support activities to help children retain some sort of normalcy while coping with the devastating shock and emotional/mental trauma from the loss of or separation from family members and sudden deterioration of living conditions. Below are examples of UNICEF's life-saving work that can be supported by your generous gift¹:

\$1,000 can provide **21 cartons of emergency food rations** – a ready to eat, fortified, cereal based, dry food that can provide supplementary food during the initial hours of an emergency.

\$2,500 can provide **emergency health kits that will meet the primary health care needs of 50,000 people** affected by the earthquake. The kit contains drugs, medical supplies and basic medical equipment, including sterilization equipment to serve children and families in need of basic medical assistance.

\$5,000 can provide **family hygiene and dignity kits for 142 families**. The kit is designed for a family of five – two adults and three children – and helps them meet their personal hygiene needs in an emergency for one month. Essential supplies include soap, laundry detergent, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, reusable menstrual pads and multipurpose cloths.

\$10,000 can provide **family water kits for 655 families** and includes essential supplies such as collapsible water containers, buckets, soap and water purification tablets to restore access to safe, clean water.

\$25,000 can provide **school-in-a-box kits to benefit 141 teachers and 5,622 children**. These kits ensure the continuation of children's education in the first 72 hours of the earthquake. The kit contains basic school supplies such as exercise books, pencils, erasers, scissors, a wooden teaching clock, wooden cubes for counting, a wind-up/solar radio, as well as laminated alphabet, multiplication and number posters.

\$50,000 can provide **early childhood development kits for 13,050 children**. The kit offers children access to play, stimulation and early learning opportunities and permits them to regain a sense of normalcy in the midst of the earthquake. Kits include puzzles and games; counting circle and boxes to stack and sort; board books and puppets for storytelling; art supplies; and soap and water containers for promoting hygiene. Items are carefully selected to help develop skills for thinking, speaking, feeling and interacting with others.

\$100,000 can provide **recreation kits for close to 70,000 children**. This kit helps provide effective trauma therapy for children displaced by this natural disaster. The kit supports team sports and games under the guidance of a teacher, with a particular focus on encouraging the participation of girls. It includes balls for several types of games, colored tunics for different teams, a measuring tape for marking play areas, a whistle and a scoring slate.

\$250,000 can provide **86 tents for child-friendly spaces** where UNICEF can provide supportive psychosocial, education, child protection and health programs. In addition, a gift at this level can also provide **school-in-a-box kits for 281 teachers and almost 11,250 children**. These kits ensure the continuation of children's education in the first 72 hours of the earthquake. The kit contains basic school supplies, such as exercise books, pencils, erasers, scissors, a wooden teaching clock, wooden cubes for counting, a wind-up/solar radio, as well as laminated alphabet, multiplication and number posters.

¹ As with any emergency, in the event that donations exceed anticipated needs, the U.S. Fund will redirect any excess funds to children in greatest need.