



Nepal earthquakes, April and May 2015

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

European Commission humanitarian funding in the aftermath of the earthquake:

€16.4 million

Total EU Disaster Risk Reduction funding for 2015 and 2016:

€6.4 million

Total EU* humanitarian aid to Nepal since 2001:

Over €97 million, out of which €21.3 million are for Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness

* Not including assistance from EU Member States

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A Nepali man is showing gratitude to a staff member of Médecins du Monde whose project, launched with the support of the EU, helped provide medical care to villagers in the earthquake-affected areas. © EU/ECHO/Pierre Prakash

Key messages

- A devastating earthquake struck in Nepal on 25 April 2015 followed by several strong aftershocks and another massive earthquake on 12 May. Over 9 000 people died and 23 000 were injured.
- The European Commission has provided **€16.4 million in humanitarian assistance to help address the most urgent needs** (shelter, emergency health care, livelihoods logistics) as well as **winterization needs** (blankets, winter clothes and insulation materials) and the promotion of safer construction techniques. Over 620 000 survivors have benefitted from the EU humanitarian aid so far. In addition, the Commission has provided significant development funds to support the recovery process.
- **The EU Civil Protection Mechanism was activated.** Several Participating States offered assistance including technical equipment such as water purification systems and ICT support. The European Commission covered the transport costs of the EU aid to Nepal for a requested amount of €4.2 million.
- Within hours of the earthquake, the Commission deployed **humanitarian aid and civil protection experts** to the disaster area.
- EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides visited the affected areas with United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Valerie Amos shortly after the earthquake.
- Nepal is **particularly vulnerable to natural disasters**. Every year, disasters result in significant loss of lives and property, and destruction of livelihoods. The EU is providing continued support to vulnerable communities to prepare for natural disasters.

Humanitarian situation and needs

Background and situation in the country

A powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal on 25 April, with the epicentre in Lamjung District, north-west of the capital Kathmandu. [Nepal](#)* was the most severely affected, but casualties were also reported in the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, China and India. On 12 May, a new 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, followed by several aftershocks, claiming additional lives and causing further damage. Over 9 000 people died in the two earthquakes and 23 000 were injured.

In the immediate aftermath, an estimated 8 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance in Nepal (out of a total population of 28 million) with 39 of 75 districts affected. Entire villages were flattened close to the epicentre. According to the Nepalese authorities, more than 600 000 houses were destroyed and 290 000 homes damaged across the country.

Nepal is particularly prone to natural disasters which every year cause significant loss of lives and property. According to a United Nations report, the country is the 11th most vulnerable to earthquakes in the world. Poverty, rapid urbanisation and non-adherence to building codes exacerbate the intensity of disasters in Nepal.

Apart from earthquakes, there are also potential hazards from glacial lake outbursts, landslides, avalanches, cold and heat waves. In the aftermath of the earthquake, there was an increase in mud and landslides during the summer monsoon rains.

The promulgation of the new constitution in September 2015 triggered a prolonged protest movement by the political parties based in southern part of the country. The protesters blocked Indian borders, thereby restricting the transport of goods into Nepal. The blockade campaign, which was only called off in early February, had a major impact on the humanitarian response to the earthquake as relief items were blocked at the border. In addition, the event resulted in severe fuel shortages throughout the country, causing major delays in relief operations.

Major needs and related problems

Following the April 2015 earthquake, the government of Nepal immediately called for international assistance. A post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) was launched by the Government of Nepal to identify priority longer-term recovery needs. Reconstruction needs were identified for a total amount of over EUR 6 billion.

EU civil protection experts contributed to the rapid field assessments in Gorkha, Lamjung, Sindhupalchowk and Dhading districts. This was the basis for immediate emergency relief to the affected village development communities (VDCs) The immediate needs included emergency shelter, emergency health care, and logistics (with support to airlift), which are a major challenge for relief operations in the mountainous region.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

To date, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) has provided €16.4 million in humanitarian assistance to help address the most urgent needs: emergency shelter, livelihoods, emergency health care, protection, logistics as well as access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene. Given the harsh winter conditions in Nepal, €2 million were specifically earmarked to cover winterisation needs such as the provision of mattresses, blankets, winter clothes as well as temporary shelter insulation materials. Funding is also being used to promote safer building techniques through the "Build Back Better" approach, focussing on the construction of "model houses" as well as training of both communities and professional masons and carpenters on earthquake resilient construction methods

In addition, the European Commission has provided significant development funds to support the recovery process. The European Commission aid to the earthquake victims has totalled almost €150 million, including funds for early recovery and rehabilitation. This aid comes on top of bilateral assistance from EU Member States.

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism was activated upon request from the Nepali authorities. EU Civil Protection team, including experts in structural engineering, was deployed following the earthquake.

A large number Member States offered search and rescue teams, as well as water purification systems and other technical assistance. The coordinated delivery of assistance was facilitated through the European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), which monitors developments 24/7. The Copernicus Emergency Management Service was activated for the provision of satellite images/maps of the disaster area to support the ongoing operations.



Assistance offered through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism

(as of 19 June 2015)

Austria*	2100 Kitchen sets
Belgium	Medium Urban Search and Rescue team
Czech Republic	Advanced Medical Post
Denmark	1 operational coordination centre (OSOCC) 3 light base modules 4 ICT modules
Estonia*	Medium Urban Search and Rescue team with light SAR equipment
Finland*	Medium Urban Search and Rescue team
France	Water Purification Module 150 tents
Germany	Water Purification Module
Greece*	Medium Urban Search and Rescue team
Italy	6 people forward medical team (2 firefighters, 2 AMP personnel, 2 coordination experts) Advanced Medical Post 4050 blankets, 320 plastic sheets (tarpaulin), 25 multipurpose tents of 25m ² , 5 water disaster response kits (storage and distribution), 1 water purification unit (4m ³ /h), 150 tents, 500 jerry cans, 15 palettes of Emergency health kits (WHO different types)**
Luxembourg**	3 Civil protection experts with rapid satellite kit
Netherlands	Heavy Urban Search and Rescue team
Norway	Medium Urban Search and Rescue team
Poland	Heavy Urban Search and Rescue team 3 740 blankets, 240 tourist beds, 564 sleeping bags, 159 280 water purification tablets, 179 pieces of clothes, medical equipment and medicines, food.
Sweden	UNDAC ICT Support Module ; Support team; Base camp for 60 humanitarian workers by International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) countries (Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Luxembourg).***
Slovakia	10 tents, 14 field beds, 388 blankets, 200 sleeping bags, 10 3kVa generators, 10 lighting sets, dishes, 4 water tanks (800 l) Advanced Medical Post: surgical suture material 5400 pieces of 500 ml infusion solution (5% glucose)
Spain	Water purification modules + Jerry Cans; 4x4 family tents all weather; Tarpaulins; Kitchen Sets; Blankets; Hygienic Kits, latrines Medium Urban Search and Rescue team**
United Kingdom	USAR team 180 body bags Forward Medical team 13140 shelter kits in total and 1724 solar lanterns Airport handling equipment: 1 x K-loader 1 x Dolly Interface Trolley, 1 Telehandler, 3 Forklifts 26 tents

* Assistance offered through the EUCPM, but not deployed e.g. due to difficulty getting landing permits

** Provided bilaterally

*** Sweden has the operational lead.

The table includes in-kind and expertise assistance offered through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Financial assistance by Member States is not included. For further information and instant updates on the situation, please contact the Emergency Response Coordination Centre at: ECHO-ERCC@ec.europa.eu



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