

Jajarkot Earthquake

Situation Analysis Report - 03

November 6, 2023

Editor: Dr. Raju Thapa, DPNep



This Situation Analysis Report focuses on the aftermath of the Jajarkot earthquake on November 6, 2023, which resulted in 153 deaths and 256 injuries. Authorities revised the death toll down from 157, correcting repeated names. The government and various organizations, including NGOs, INGOs, and UN agencies, have provided tents, blankets, sleeping bags etc. to the affected regions.



A significant aftershock of magnitude 5.8 today caused further damage, leading to injuries and exacerbating the distress among residents, particularly children. Despite this, the market in Khalanga, Jajarkot, remains functional without price inflation. CBDRM Platform and Early Recovery Clusters was held to coordinate disaster response and recovery strategies. Calls for an improved relief distribution system have been made, with suggestions to expedite the relief process. Veterinary teams have been dispatched to care for affected livestock, and medical support is ongoing for injured individuals, despite resource constraints in some hospitals. The earthquake has severely damaged infrastructure, including 213 school buildings, and disrupted some roads. Local and international agencies have pledged various forms of assistance, including financial support and material donations, to aid in the recovery efforts. Gender disparities have been witnessed, with women and children facing challenges in accessing facilities and maintaining personal hygiene. The need for secure shelters and sanitary resources is emphasized.

Situation Updates in Detail

1. One door policy

The District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) has adopted a one-door policy approach for the distribution of relief items. Under this strategy, relief materials are collected by various partners at the DDMC and then distributed to local entities based on their specific requirements, with the assistance of the Nepal Police and representatives from the relevant humanitarian agencies. DDMC has expedited the delivery of relief materials to the field after registration, ensuring swift distribution to the affected people. A wide range of essential goods and supplies, including tents, tarpaulins, blankets, food items, and sleeping bags, have been dispatched to the earthquake-affected areas.



Relief materials including blankets and tarpaulins has been dispatched to ward-level distribution points. District Chief Officer Suresh Sunar reported "starting Monday afternoon, all ward levels, in coordination with local representatives, are actively involved in the distribution of relief materials. We will be reaching every affected individual. Relief materials are in stock, and the increased tensions among the affected will be addressed."

Humanitarians have shown their support by providing essential relief goods, including medicines, food, and blankets. In many cases, these donated items are being collected in designated areas. Additionally, some humanitarians are directly delivering these essential items to the specific locations where they are needed, ensuring a more targeted and efficient approach to aid distribution. DDMC administration has set in plans and guidelines to extend these sorts of assistance within the One Door Policy framework, ensuring that essential items, (food, shelter and clothing), will be distributed comprehensively within a 3-day timeframe, Assistant CDO mentioned. This shift aims to address the immediate and critical needs of the affected population, offering a more efficient and inclusive approach to disaster relief.

2. Magnitude-5.3 earthquake hits Jajarkot again

On November 6, 2023, a significant aftershock with a local magnitude (ML) of 5.8 was registered around Ramidanda in the Jajarkot district at 16:31 on November 6, 2023. Houses that were previously cracked, have been affected. The situation is alarming, the children experiencing significant mental distress and fear for their safety. In a desperate attempt to protect themselves, few children have been found jumping from window to escape from the buildings.

The earthquake's impact is evident in the district headquarters of Jajarkot, Khalanga, where few more cracked houses have been completely destroyed. This situation highlights the urgent need for support and assistance to the affected families and communities as they struggle with the aftermath of this devastating earthquake.

In the discussion with the DPNet Team, the Seismological Center representative in Surkhet, a part of the National Earthquake Monitoring & Research Center, reported a total of 397 aftershocks recorded by 16:00 after the main shock. Among these aftershocks, 8 were of a magnitude greater than 4.

According to Santosh Rokka, an official from the Jajarkot police, at least three people sustained minor injuries on Monday's aftershock. He mentioned, 'There are reports of landslides blocking roads, but fortunately, there have been no reported deaths so far.'

Mr. Ek Raj Upadhyay, a Jajarkot district official, noted that buildings previously damaged by Friday's earthquake might have suffered further structural damages, although no specific details were provided.

Thousands of individuals, having suffered a cold night outdoors due to damage to their houses from the earthquake on Friday, continue to face cold nights. Access to relief materials remains limited, and the ongoing aftershocks are heightening fears among the affected population.

3. Joint meeting of CBDRM and Early Recovery clusters

A joint meeting of the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Platform and the Early Recovery Clusters took place today, on November 6, at the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) meeting hall, Singhadurbar, in relation to the recent earthquake in Jajarkot and Western Nepal. This collaborative gathering aimed to facilitate a coordinated response to the disaster, bringing together stakeholders from various sectors to devise effective strategies for early recovery and community-based disaster risk management in the affected regions. The meeting underlined the actions of the provincial and local government and partner organizations to work in unison to address the immediate and long-term needs of the earthquake-affected communities.

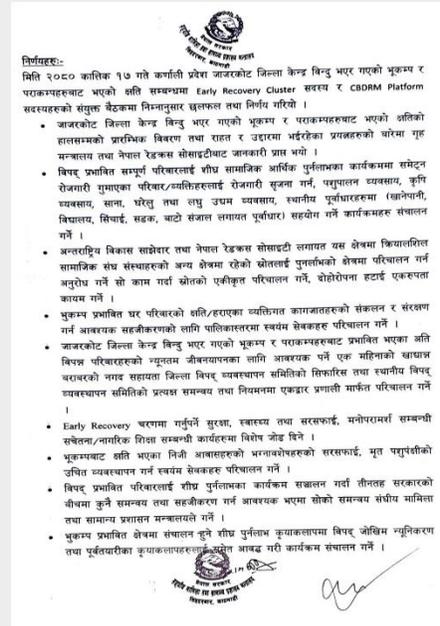
The damage caused by the earthquake and its aftershocks that passed through the Jajarkot District Center of Karnali Province was discussed and decided upon in the joint meeting of the Early Recovery Cluster members. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Nepal Red Cross Society provided information regarding the initial details of the damage and rescue operations related to the earthquakes and aftershocks that struck the Jajarkot district center. To incorporate all impacted families into the social economic recovery program; to generate employment opportunities for those who have lost their jobs; and to offer support for small, home, and microenterprises as well as animal husbandry and agricultural businesses.

4. Reflection from Stakeholders

Assistant Chief District Officer (CDO), Harish Chandra Sharma, in Jajarkot, has requested for a more efficient relief distribution approach. He suggested sending out relief packages rather than individual materials, emphasizing that this method would enable the DDMC to expedite the distribution process and reach the affected individuals in a shorter timeframe. This call for a streamlined and organized relief delivery system reflects the urgency of providing assistance to those affected by recent events in the region. Different organizations have donated rice, blankets, tarpaulin, dry and junk foods like noodles, biscuits.

Chandra Prasad Gharti, Mayor of Bheri Municipality, has been actively mobilizing the youth to assist in the dismantling of affected homes and the distribution of relief items. Organizations such as Care Nepal, DCMC HRTC has been providing support and collaboration with the municipality to ensure efficient relief distribution with the assistance of various wards.

Dr. Mangal Rawat, Vice Chairperson of Karnali Academy of Health Science, has shared the serious need for clothes, blankets, tents, WASH and hygiene items, and supplies for the affected people. The scarcity of tarpaulin, tents and further exacerbates the situation, leaving the residents vulnerable to the harsh weather conditions. Without adequate protection and warmth, the affected individuals are at risk of developing health complications. This will help alleviate the suffering and ensure the well-being of the affected population, especially women and children.



Dr. Toshima Karki, a member of parliament from the Rastriya Swantra Party, visited Jajarkot and expressed her disappointment with the government's working policy in dealing with the earthquake affected people. She stated that considering the geographical conditions of the area, the government should work at a faster pace and utilize effective resources such as helicopters to distribute relief materials soon to affected people.

5. Joint Emergency Response

United Nations agencies in Nepal have initiated a "Joint Emergency Response" targeting the earthquake-affected people of Kathmandu. The UN's "Joint Emergency Response" has been established to assist the injured and affected. The UN Resident Coordinator for Nepal, Hanaa Singer-Hamdy, has praised the government's prompt and effective search and rescue operations despite geographical and operational challenges.

She highlighted that UN agencies and humanitarian partners are supporting nearly 3,000 families with food, shelter, hygiene, protection, and health efforts, complementing the government's initiatives. The World Food Programme has provided food assistance to approximately 7,500 people in three days, while UNICEF has supplied essential sanitation materials to the affected areas. UNFPA has contributed health supplies, and UNDP is engaged in information gathering. UN Women has provided community kitchens and relief materials.

Additionally, there has been support focused on children and pregnant women. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is assisting the Provincial Joint Emergency Center with the necessary information management for coordination.

6. Market Functionality at Khalanga Jajarkot

In the aftermath of the recent earthquake in Jajarkot, Khalanga's market remains relatively stable and operational. The majority of shops are open and continue to offer regular items for purchase. Fortunately, there is no evidence of price hiking or black marketing, indicating a fair and ethical market environment.

Jajarkot earthquake has led to increased consumption of essential items. As a result, there is a growing concern that the availability of these necessary goods may be in threat as supplies reduce due to heightened demand.

Substantial quantity of food items and equipment is currently unavailable in significant quantities. These necessary supplies will need to be acquired and transported through Nepalgunj and Surkhet to fulfill the requirements. In terms of accommodation, hotels in Khalanga are still available for visitors. The earthquake did not adversely affect the hotel made from cement bricks and iron rod. Nevertheless, the number of visitors, humanitarians, concerned officials from NGO, INGO is on the rise, potentially impacting the supply of hotel rooms. There are about 6 major hotels in the town with an average of 15 rooms with RR Hotel being the largest with more than 50 rooms.

The settlement after the shock is unmanaged, unplanned and in a panic situation. Due to the unhygienic adjustment in the open field, there is a chance of erupting communicable diseases like diarrhea, dysentery. The earthquake has affected the water resources underground. It is reported that many taps are getting dry as the similar phenomena that was seen after the earthquake of 2015 AD. The people at Khalanga are in need of pure water, water purifier, Dettol, soaps and other. There is high demand of

personal safety kits like sanitary pads, hand sanitizer, hand sanitizer and hand wash. The children and old aged population are getting cold, hence the need of warm clothes, blankets, beddings, woolen caps, gloves, socks, trousers, jackets and so on.

Analyzing the cracked and destroyed toilets, there is no proper management of toilets in the area. The need of temporary toilets tents. Specially, the old aged people and children are vulnerable to the communicable diseases. So there is a need of ORS like Jeevan jal, electrobion, Nava Jeevan and other basic medicines as the Jajarkot district hospital situated at Khalanga is recently inaugurated and lack equipments , manpower and medicines. As a result, the victims had to be shifted via helicopters to the hospitals of Surkhet, Nepalgunj and other cities for the treatment.

7. Gender Disparities and Challenges Faced by Women and Children in Post-Earthquake Scenarios

Several issues related to gender disparities have been identified in the aftermath of the earthquake. Women and children are facing several challenges in accessing basic facilities and safety concerns, including inadequate toilet facilities, lack of proper transportation infrastructure, insufficient shelter options, and limited access to sanitary facilities.

Women's struggle with maintaining personal hygiene, especially during their menstrual cycle, and the lack of privacy in engaging in routine activities are significant challenges. Moreover, women often have to share cramped living conditions with men due to the shortage of tents, posing safety concerns and protection issues.

The immediate needs of the community include tents, nutritious food supplies, sanitary napkins, skin care products, toilet cleaners, diapers, and woolen clothes for babies. Providing secure and suitable toilet facilities, safe shelters, and adequate sanitary resources is crucial to promote equal access to basic amenities for all members of the community and address the gender disparities.

8. Veterinary Teams Deployed in Jajarkot

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development has dispatched two specialist veterinary teams to the affected areas. The teams, comprising four veterinarians, have been tasked with providing urgent medical care to the livestock impacted by the quake. The ministry's initiative, led by Dr. Laxminarayan Das and accompanied by experts Deviram Kandel and Dr. Rakesh Prajapati, aims to assess and address the health situation of the animals in the earthquake-stricken zones. Coordination with local and provincial governments has been established to streamline the response efforts. The Karnali Province's Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture, and Cooperatives reported to the federal ministry that the earthquake resulted in the loss of 27 livestock, including cows, buffaloes, and goats. Additional reports are being compiled to gauge the full extent of the damage, highlighting the government's commitment to a comprehensive recovery operation.

9. Status of injured people and medical support

In response to the earthquake, injured individuals are receiving medical care at various locations throughout the country, including Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu, Bheri Hospital, Karnali Provincial Hospital, and Dalli Municipal Hospital in Jajarkot. However, there are resource limitations affecting the treatment of the injured at Dalli Nagar Hospital in Nalgad Municipality of Jajarkot. The local community is confronted with mental health challenges, making it difficult to engage effectively with local authorities to address their basic needs, especially in the wake of significant family losses and the emotional strain resulting from the disaster. Furthermore, the absence of a local hospital compounds the residents' difficulties in accessing critical healthcare services.



10. Devastation by Jajarkot earthquake

As reported by Tilak Prasad Bhattarai, who serves as the Information Officer for the District Education Coordination Team, a total of 213 school buildings were impacted by the earthquake. Out of these, 91 schools were completely destroyed, while 122 experienced partial damage. The Jajarkot Earthquake resulted in a road rupture within the Chinchu-Jajarkot Road at Khalanga, Jajarkot



This Situation Analysis Report is prepared by DpNet in support of Mercy Corps Nepal



Jajarkot & Rukum Earthquake, 6 Nov 2023

Agencies	Support/plan/commitment
Shapla Neer	Shapla Neer along with the partners is ready to distribute tarpaulin, water filter and mattress
ADRA	Ready to respond, already started work
CBM	CBM and partners are in IRNA process
Blinknow Foundation	Distributed food, blankets, water, sanitation, health and hygiene items in Nalgadh 1 Jajarkot, Handed Medical accessories and medicines to the Basic Health Centre in coordination with the Municipality
Handicap International	HI and its partner will start the inclusive RNA on Wednesday
Bharatpur Metropolitan City	Supported NRS. 1 Crore
CAAN	Supported NRS. 1 Crore
Tilottama Municipality	Supported NRs 10 lakhs
Kathmandu Metropolitan City	2,000 pieces blankets, foods & other basic needs materials
NRCS	NRCS provided aid dispatched 900 pieces of aid consisting of 1,000 tarpaulins, 1,000 blankets, 100 buckets, 400 rolls of rope, mattresses, and 150 dead body bags. Additionally, they supported Salyan district with 600 pieces of aid that included 700 blankets, 600 tarpaulins, 100 dead body bags, as well as mattresses and buckets.
Nepal Government	10,000 pieces of Tarpaulin (tent) sent from the government's store (5/5 thousand pieces in Jajarkot and Rukum- West)
China	100 million NPRs worth of disaster relief material from CSACESRC, including 2,300 tents, 2,000 blankets, 700 tarpaulins, 500 sprayers entered Nepal through the Jilong-Rasuwa Port today.
Different people have donated necessary items like Blankets, Tents and food items at individual levels.	