

# Jajarkot Earthquake

## Situation Analysis Report - 01

November 4, 2023

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This Daily Situation Report provides a detailed account of the aftermath of the 6.4 magnitude earthquake that struck the Jajarkot and Rukum districts in Nepal. The devastating quake led to 157 fatalities and 170 injuries across multiple districts. The most severely affected areas were Jajarkot, with 105 deaths and 81 injuries, and Rukum Paschim, with 52 deaths and 78 injuries. The earthquake and its 159 recorded aftershocks caused significant damage to infrastructure, including residential buildings, educational institutions, health service centers, and administrative structures. In the face of this disaster, security forces and medical teams were promptly deployed for rescue and relief operations, despite challenges like shortages of oxygen and hospital beds, especially at the epicenter.

The government's response has been swift and multifaceted, with Prime Minister personally visiting the affected areas and overseeing the operations. A financial relief package of Rs 100 million was released to support search and rescue efforts, with the Prime Minister and other key officials facilitating the provision of medical and logistical support. Moreover, various provinces and organizations have pledged financial assistance and other forms of aid. DPNep, in collaboration with Mercy Corps Nepal, is committed to providing daily situation reports for the initial week followed by weekly updates.

### 1. Earthquake Event and Death Tolls and Injuries

On November 3, 2023, at 23:48 hours, an earthquake of 6.4ML hit multiple areas within the Jajarkot and Pashchim Rukum districts of the Karnali province, situated in the western region of Nepal. The epicenter was identified near Ramindanda in Jajarkot. The initial seismic event was followed by several significant aftershocks. Strong jolts were felt in Kathmandu and in cities in neighboring India, including New Delhi.

Date	Time	Latitude	Longitude	Magnitude	Epicenter
2023-11-04	09:55	28.94	82.24	4.2	Jajarkot
2023-11-03	22:31	28.92	82.26	4.6	Jajarkot
2023-11-03	18:50	28.88	82.20	4.3	Jajarkot
2023-11-03	18:44	28.96	82.17	4.2	Jajarkot
2023-11-03	18:23	28.95	82.19	4.5	Jajarkot

The death toll from the devastating 6.4 magnitude earthquake that jolted western Nepal just before Friday midnight has climbed 157 as of Saturday evening. According to Nepal Police, 170 people were injured in the earthquake that hit Jajarkot, Rukum Paschim, and other neighboring districts in Karnali

District	Death	Injured
Jajarkot	105	81
Rukum Paschim	52	78
Dailekh		3
Jumla		3
Pyuthan		3
Baitadi		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>170</b>

Province. As of 17:00 hours on Saturday, 105 people died in the earthquake in Jajarkot, the epicenter of the quake, while 52 deaths have been reported in the adjoining district Rukum Paschim.

*Updated at 17:00 by Nepal Police*

### **1.1 Dozens of aftershocks recorded following Jajarkot earthquake**

Around 159 aftershocks have been recorded following the earthquake with an epicenter in Jajarkot last night. The National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Center reported a total of 159 aftershocks following the 6.4 magnitude earthquake that struck Jajarkot at 11:47 PM on Friday night. Seismologist Mr. Mukunda Bhattarai at the Center confirmed that these aftershocks continued until 10:15 on Saturday morning.

### **2. Devastation by Jagarkot Earthquake**

The powerful 6.4 magnitude earthquake and subsequent aftershocks have caused extensive damage to various residential and government buildings in the earthquake-stricken areas of Jajarkot and Rukum Paschim. Traditional residential structures, constructed using stone and mud mortar, bore the brunt of the damage due to the earthquake. In addition to residential buildings, key administrative structures such as the District Administrative Office in Jajarkot suffered severe damage.

The impact extended to educational institutions like Himalaya H School, Musikot Multiple Campus, and Janakalyan H School, as well as health service centers in Ghetma, ChainaBagar, Gotamekot, and Duli, all of which have been reported as damaged up to the time of this report.



### **3. Rescue Operation and Health Facilities**

#### **3.1 Rescue Operation by Security Forces**

Security forces, including personnel from the Nepal Army, Nepal Police, and the Armed Police Force, have been actively engaged in rescue and relief operations in the areas affected by the recent earthquake. The Nepal Army has utilized five helicopters and an aircraft for rescue missions and to distribute relief aid in the affected regions. Brigadier General Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhandari, spokesperson for the Nepal Army, confirmed that 33 injured individuals from Jajarkot and Rukum Paschim districts were transported to Nepalgunj by Nepal Army



helicopters. Additionally, Nepal Police reported that a total of seven injured people from the earthquake were airlifted to Kathmandu using a Nepal Airlines aircraft. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, along with a team of medical professionals and relief materials, arrived early in the earthquake-affected areas. The government has dispatched a team of 41 health workers, including specialized doctors, to Jajarkot and Rukum Paschim.

This team comprises 16 individuals from Nepal Military Hospital, 11 from Nepal Police Hospital, eight from Armed Police Hospital, and six doctors and nurses from Bir Hospital, as confirmed by Dr. Prakash Budhathoki, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Health and Population. Their primary objective is to support the medical staff at district hospitals, providing necessary resources for performing surgeries and medical treatments.



Moreover, over 25 doctors from Lumbini Province have been sent to the affected areas in Jajarkot and Rukum Paschim. The provincial government of Lumbini has organized a rescue team under the guidance of Provincial Home Minister Santosh Kumar Pandey. Arrangements have been put in place to transfer critically injured patients to Lumbini Provincial Hospital if necessary.

To ensure prompt medical assistance, ambulances are on standby at Ranjha Airport and the Nepal Army helipad. The health facilities have reported no shortages in blood supply. In addition, the district administration office in Banke has designated Bheri Hospital as a specialized facility for treating severely injured patients.

Furthermore, in Kathmandu, Bir Hospital and the National Trauma Center are fully prepared to handle emergency cases. Vice-Chancellor of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), Prof Dr. Bhupendra Kumar Basnet, confirmed the readiness of emergency services, operating theaters, and intensive care units at Bir Hospital and the National Trauma Center.

### **3.2 Condition in Epicenter is Terrifying where Oxygen is Running Out, Hospital Beds Are Unavailable**

According to the latest report, The Nalagad Municipality, Jajarkot, has led to patients being accommodated for treatment at the municipal hospital in Dalli. However, due to limited resources and manpower, the hospital faces significant challenges, as stated by the hospital's in-charge, Mr. Rajesh Singh. According to him, 42 patients are currently undergoing treatment at the hospital, with five individuals in critical condition. Plans are in place to refer them to another hospital for further treatment.



"We are providing primary treatment to those brought to the hospital to stabilize their health conditions. Some patients have shown improvement in their health status," stated the hospital's in-charge Singh, "We've managed to secure the required oxygen. However, we are currently facing a shortage of additional oxygen for other patients."

Mr. Singh also mentioned a shortage of beds due to the hospital's limited physical infrastructure. "We currently lack beds to admit more patients or those in need of rest. It may be necessary to utilize a school immediately as an extension of the hospital," added Singh. "We're also facing a shortage of skilled healthcare professionals." Currently, there is only one MBBS doctor in the hospital. Singh confirmed that a team of 26 healthcare workers has been tirelessly providing treatment since last night. Additionally, the bodies of six deceased individuals, who died while being transported to the hospital, have been kept in the same hospital.

#### 4. Government Efforts and Relief Packages

##### 4.1 Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Leads Relief Efforts in Earthquake-Affected Areas

Prime Minister Hon. Pushpa Kamal Dahal, accompanied by a team of health workers and a 16-member medical team from the Nepali Army, boarded on a mission to provide immediate rescue, search, and relief efforts in areas devastated by the recent earthquake.

Upon his arrival in the earthquake-affected regions, Prime Minister Dahal made his first stop at Jajarkot District Hospital on Saturday, where he extended his support and met with victims of the earthquake. Expressing his



concern and compassion for those affected, Prime Minister Dahal offered comfort to the injured before heading to Rukum Paschim. Where, he engaged in an inspection of the affected sites, gathering detailed information on the extent of the damage from the Chief District Officer (CDO).

Accompanied by Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Hon. Shakti Bahadur Basnet and Member of Parliament from Rukum Paschim Hon. Janardan Sharma, Prime Minister Dahal, utilizing a helicopter provided by the Nepali Army, made a dedicated journey to Jajarkot to lead and oversee the relief and rescue operations in the affected areas.

Prime Minister Dahal has vowed to leave no stone unturned in rescue and relief for the earthquake survivors. He made the commitments while taking stock of the health conditions of the injured at hospitals after his onsite visit to the quake-hit areas in Jajarkot and Rukum Paschim. Prime Minister Dahal visited Chaurjahari Hospital, Sanibheri Gaupalika Hospital, district hospital in Salle, and Aathbiskoth City Hospital in Rukum Paschim.



### 4.3 Appeal from Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration

On Kartik 17, 2080 (November 3rd, 2023), at 11:47 PM, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck affecting areas including Jajarkot, Rukum West, and Salyan districts, with significant damage reported, particularly in Ward No. 1, Ramidanda, Jajarkot.

Efforts are ongoing to locate and assist the earthquake victims who have lost their lives and suffered injuries. This includes the search and identification of the casualties and fatalities, relief and rescue operations for the injured, as well as the management of various aspects, including healthcare, to provide both immediate and long-term support.

All relevant local authorities, municipal officials, administrative personnel, and other staff members are directed to promptly report to their respective offices and engage in their duties. They are also instructed to remain present and not take leave during this critical time.

### 4.4 Karnali Province govt engages with rescue operations via air, and land routes

The Karnali Province government has been engaging in the rescue of those injured in the earthquake that struck Jajarkot and Rukum West districts last night. According to Minister for Internal Affairs and Law and Spokesperson of Karnali Province government, Hon. Krishna Bahadur GC, the province government was carrying out rescue operations by air and land routes.

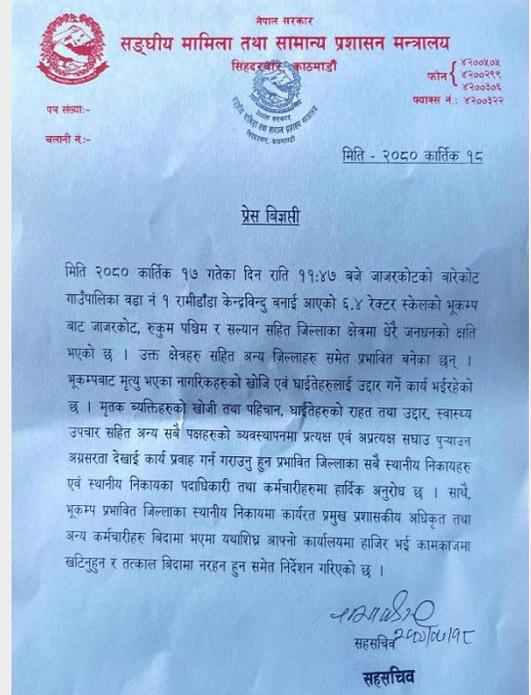
Minister GC further said a medical team is on standby to fly towards the earthquake-hit districts soon after clear visibility, and preparation is being made for the Chief Minister's visit to the affected places via the land route.

Similarly, the transporting of rescue and relief materials from Surkhet, Nepalgunj, and Dang is underway. A meeting of the Province Disaster Management Council concluded, while the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Karnali Province is scheduled to take place after a while, mentioned Minister GC.

The Bagmati Province government has decided to allocate Rs15 million to aid the disaster victims in Jajarkot. This funding will be provided through the Karnali Province government, aiming to assist local authorities in managing relief efforts and rescue operations during this critical period, as highlighted by Bagmati Chief Minister Shalikram Jamkattel. Sudur Pashchim Province committed 10 million rupees, while Lumbini Province extended a substantial 15 million rupees. Additionally, Koshi Province offered 1 million rupees, and Bagmati Province contributed 15 million rupees towards assistance. Alongside these commitments, Gandaki Province dispatched a medical team to provide immediate support in the affected regions.

### 5. Relief Commitment from Various Sectors

Numerous organizations and sub-national governments have pledged significant support for relief efforts following the recent disaster., while Nepali Congress provided 5 million rupees in support. ANFSU and NSU sent medical teams, RSP (Ghanti) dispatched two medical teams led by Dr. Mukul Dhakal and MP



Dr. Tosima Karki. KMC announced free treatment, and Arniko Yatayat promised free bus services to Jajarkot and Rukum Paschim on Kattik 18 (Day 2). NRN Japan committed 1.5 million rupees, and Tillottama Municipality pledged 1 million rupees. The initiative extended to provide guardianship for children who lost their parents from Ani Chhoing Dolma Foundation and Manav Sewa Asram. Furthermore, various personal and organizational contributions, along with international commitments from India and the USA, underscore the collective efforts towards relief, while MoFAGA's press release directed coordinated actions and Buddha Air committed 10 million rupees to aid the cause.

Also during AIN TGDM Meeting today, AIN Members agreed to fill in HEOC format to map member's support & minimize duplication. Some members to respond after the IRA report, coordinate with DDMC, agreed to inform SWC, DPNET., There will be constant flow of actual information and fact from the field for effective mobilization of support from TGDM.

S.N.	INGOs	Support/plan/commitment
1	Save the Children	Dispatched 400 Shelter kits, WASH, Winterization in coordination with local authorities
2	World Vision	Ready to respond, already started work
3	One Heart Worldwide	Health support
4	AWO International	Non- Food items. Immediate shelter
5	HI	Deploying two Physiotherapists, collaborating with District Hospitals, 100 Shelter kits
6	PIN	2 people deployed and doing assessments
7	FELM	Ready to support schools after IRA REORT in the second phase. Mental health
8	Mercy Corps	Support DPNET for a week to develop situation report
9	TEARFUND	Medical support service
10	UMN	Incident Management Team activated, support by tomorrow
11	Plan International	500 NFI Kits, Baby kits
12	Oxfam	Discussing with actors
13	FCA	Coordinating with Humanitarian partners
14	ADRA	Planning to support based on initial assessment
15	CBM	Planning for NFI/Winterization kits, psychological support, health camp
16	Mission East	Planning to support
17	WHH	Planning to respond

18	Action Aid Nepal	Taking action to provide immediate support
19	CARE Nepal	Actively coordinating with HPP, local partners, and Govt for immediate response with shelter kits, dignity kits, kitchen utensils for 250 households, WASH, Food, livelihood, psychosocial counseling

## 6. Lifeline Facilities after Jajarkot Earthquake

### 6.1 Ministry of Communication and Information Technology Initiates Free Communication Services in Quake-Affected Regions

In the recent Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC) meeting, chaired by Hon. Rekha Sharma, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, the government has taken steps to enable free phone calls and SMS for Nepal Telecom users in earthquake-stricken areas within Jajarkot and Rukum Paschim.

Nepal Telecom's spokesperson, Mr. Shobhan Adhikari, released the decision to offer five days of cost-free calls and SMS specifically to the earthquake-impacted zones in Jajarkot and Rukum Paschim districts. The intention is to ensure the continuous flow of information within the affected regions by extending free communication services to all customers. Furthermore, a provision for free SIM cards, along with free call and SMS service for five days, has been arranged, as stated in the press release issued by spokesperson Mr. Adhikari.

### 6.2 Power supply restored in all areas of Jajarkot and Rukum Paschim

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) said that the supply of electricity has been restored in all areas of Jajarkot and Rukum Paschim except in areas where houses have collapsed from the earthquake. The power supply was stopped because of damage to poles and transmission lines. A team deployed by NEA had repaired damaged pipes and poles and restored electricity by 10 AM. According to the Authority's Karnali Provincial Office, Surkhet Chief Mr. Shambhu Kusiya Yadav, electricity lines of hospitals were restored at first. Mr. Yadav said that rescue work is going on in places where houses were damaged, and the power supply has been cut off as there will be more accidents in rescue areas as such areas are incident-prone. The power supply has been cut off in more damaged areas whereas other areas have normal supply.

### 6.3 Govt arranges free bus service from Kathmandu to Earthquake-Affected Districts

The government has arranged free bus services to facilitate the transportation of relatives to the earthquake-affected areas of Jajarkot and Rukum (West) from Kathmandu.

The government has set up a free bus from the new bus park at Gongbu for the family members of those affected by the earthquake to go home immediately from today evening to tomorrow (Sunday).

To utilize this free bus service, individuals returning to their homes due to the earthquake are advised to contact Madan Thapa at 9840266797 to register their names, according to the notice issued by the government.

## 7. Market Functioning After Earthquake

Our team observed that most of the shops and markets are currently closed due to the earthquake's impact and the fact that it is a Saturday. The earthquake has had a significant impact on the core market area, leading to its closure. While food items are still available in people's homes and the local market, there is a shortage of non-food items such as tarpaulin in the market. As a result, there is an immediate need for

external relief and support in the form of non-food items such as tarpaulin sheets. A comprehensive assessment of the requirements for non-food relief items will be conducted on a working day when the market is expected to resume functioning. This will enable us to gather accurate data and better address the specific needs of the affected population.

## 8. DPNet Discussion on the Jajarkot Earthquake

On October 4, DPNet organized a virtual discussion in response to the earthquake in Jajarkot, which occurred on November 3, 2023. The meeting was a significant gathering, with over 150 stakeholders participating and sharing their insights. The primary focus of the discussion was to strategize the immediate actions required in the wake of the disaster and to ensure an effective and coordinated response. The meeting has been decided that DPNet will take the lead in gathering information to compile a daily situation report, which will serve to minimize the duplication of efforts among the involved parties. Additionally, there is an immediate need for the mobilization of field staff to assess the actual on-ground situation from day one. DPNet will also put together a team dedicated to data collection and identifying the specific needs of different clusters affected by the earthquake.



## 9. DPNet Deployed Team from Kathmandu and DPNet Members Organizations Are in Action in Rukum and Jajarkot

The DPNet has deployed a team to conduct a comprehensive earthquake assessment in the affected areas in support of Mercy Corps Nepal. The team, led by Bishnu Timilsina, consists of other members Nishan Aryal, Ram Hari KC, Dinesh Shrestha, Amrit Kumary KC, and Roshni Khanal. This team will work in close collaboration with Hira Singh Thapa, DPNet Karnali Province Chair, and representatives from DPNet-affiliated local organizations including RSDC Rukum, N-PAF, and Yuva Janashakti. Hira Singh Thapa will coordinate the team's efforts, leveraging his expertise as the Provincial Chair to facilitate effective on-ground operations. DPNet has outlined a communication strategy to keep all stakeholders informed, committing to daily situation reports for the first week post-disaster, followed by weekly updates. These reports will be crucial for understanding the impact of the earthquake and guiding the subsequent recovery and aid efforts.



Note: Please inform [dpnet@dpnet.org.np](mailto:dpnet@dpnet.org.np) of your organization's involvement in earthquake relief to coordinate efforts and avoid duplication.

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

