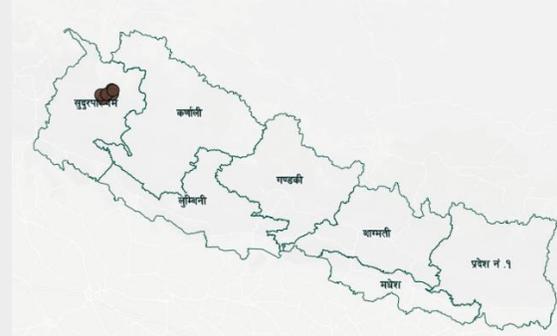


# Bajhang Earthquake



## Situation Analysis Report - 08

October 11, 2023



### Inside this report

#### 1. Status of Relief Distribution

*After scraping the one-door policy and allowing development partners to distribute in-kind support, multiple agencies assisted listed families through local government representatives. Relief materials include shelter items, such as tarpaulins, P-foam, mattresses, blankets, and sanitation items, with some agencies providing food items like rice, lentils, cooking oil, and salt. Involved organizations include NRCS, UNFPA, DCA, Plan International Nepal, UNICEF, UMN, World Vision International, Save The Children Nepal, and NEEDS Nepal, focusing their efforts on Jayaprithvi Municipality, Masta Rural Municipality, Thalara Rural Municipality, and Khaptadchhanna Rural Municipality due to higher damage levels. Furthermore, the World Food Program distributed 12-day packages of energy biscuits to 24 households in Jayaprithivi Municipality and Durgathali Rural Municipality for pregnant and lactating women, while Save the Children and MPDS distributed various relief items to 68 households affected by the earthquake.*

#### 2. Efforts and Challenges of Provincial Level and Local Level Government

*Mr. Laxmi Prasad Joshi, the Information Officer at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law in Sudurpaschim Province informed DPNet that the provincial government is diligently engaged in distributing relief to earthquake-affected areas, with the Chief Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs and Law conducting an immediate visit to assess the situation. The Ministry has allocated funds and transferred Rs 2.1 million to the District Disaster Fund of Bajhang, along with provisions for Bajura. Despite challenges in data collection due to the lack of trained personnel and difficult terrain, successful coordination between various government bodies ensured progress. Notably, a proposal for providing Rs 5,000 in relief to each affected family has been submitted, underscoring the close collaboration between the provincial and federal governments and local authorities. Simultaneously, Mr. Suman Bogati, Information Officer at Jayprithvi Municipality in Bajhang, expressed concerns regarding relief distribution with donor agencies'*

assistance, highlighting improved effectiveness following changes in the District Disaster Management Committee's policy. Yet, ongoing seismic activity continues to exacerbate the extent of damage. Mr. Bogati also emphasized the allocation of 6.75 million rupees for DRR within the municipality, with a 4 million Rupees DRR fund designated to assist those not qualifying for donor agency support. He requested swift implementation of the Prime Minister's declaration to ensure timely relief for affected families and advocated for prioritizing earthquake-affected communities in government programs while addressing the lingering need for flood-incident grants.

### **3. Post-Earthquake Weather: What Sudurpaschim Can Expect in the Coming Months**

The DHM's weather forecast for October to December 2023 indicates increased chances of rainfall nationwide. The hilly regions of Lumbini, Koshi, Bagmati, and Gandaki Provinces expect rainfall probabilities of 45%-55%, while other areas anticipate 35%-45%. Though the monsoon has receded west of Gandaki, occasional light to moderate rain is predicted. Heavy downpours are unlikely. Sudurpaschim is set to receive consistent rainfall, offering relief to earthquake victims who've faced over 500 significant aftershocks.

### **4. Health Infrastructure Impacted by Earthquake**

A total of 45 health service buildings, encompassing health posts, birthing centers, and health centers, have been impacted. Out of these, seven structures are completely damaged, while the remaining 38 have sustained partial damages. The most affected local government area is Chhabispathivera Rural Municipality, with 11 buildings impacted, followed closely by Jayaprithivi Municipality with 12 buildings affected. It's notable that in Jayaprithivi Municipality, a tragic incident occurred where a health worker lost their life due to a landslide induced by the earthquake. Meanwhile, areas like Surma and Bitthadchir Rural Municipalities reported no damages to their health buildings. Despite the collection of this preliminary data, a comprehensive technical assessment of the damages is yet to be conducted. The timeline for initiating and completing this assessment remains undetermined.

### **5. DPNet's Coverage of the Bajhang Earthquake**

DPNet has thoroughly tracked and reported on the Bajhang earthquake, noting a series of tremors, structural damages, landslides, and key meetings, including the Prime Minister's visit and policy adjustments by the DDMC. As of today, while DPNet will discontinue its daily situation analysis reports on the earthquake, the organization will remain vigilant through its Sudurpaschim Province Committee, comprising 21 NGOs. Although daily reports are stopping, DPNet is preparing a comprehensive report on the event and expresses gratitude for the continuous support we received from our readers and supporters.

## Situation Analysis and News in Details

### 1. Status of Relief Distribution

Relief distribution is the primary response effort in the district, with all agencies providing assistance to listed families through local government representatives. Relief materials consist of basic shelter items (tarpaulin, P-foam, mattress, blanket, and sanitation items), and some agencies also include food items like rice, lentils, cooking oil, and salt. NRCS, UNFPA, DCA, Plan International Nepal, UNICEF, UMN, World Vision International, Save The Children Nepal, World Vision International, and NEEDS Nepal are involved in relief distribution. The relief distribution is focused on Jayaprithvi Municipality, Masta Rural Municipality, Thalara Rural Municipality, Khaptadchhanna Rural Municipality where the damage is more. The World Food Program distributed energy biscuits to 24 households in Jayaprithvi Municipality and Durgathali Rural Municipality as a 12-day package for pregnant and lactating women. Save the Children and MPDS, distributed various relief items, including tarpaulins, mats, clothes, blankets, utensils, buckets, jugs, soap, and various hygiene materials to 68 earthquake-affected households.



### 2. Efforts and Challenges of Provincial Level and Local Level Government

The DPNet Team held a discussion with Mr. Laxmi Prasad Joshi, the Information Officer at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law (MoAIL) in Sudurpaschim Province. He explained that the Chief Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs and Law conducted an immediate visit to earthquake-affected areas, and the provincial government is now primarily focused on distributing relief. The MoAIL has transferred Rs 2.1 Million to the District Disaster Fund of Bajhang and allocated funds to Bajura. Data collection was challenging due to a lack of trained personnel and

difficult geographical conditions but succeed with cooperation between the provincial government, Provincial Emergency Operation Center and District Disaster Management Committee, District Administration Office, District Emergency Operation Center. The MoAIL has submitted a proposal for providing relief of five thousand rupees to each affected family to the provincial cabinet. Mr. Joshi emphasized that the provincial government is working closely with the federal government and collaborating with local governments through District Disaster Management Committees in each district.

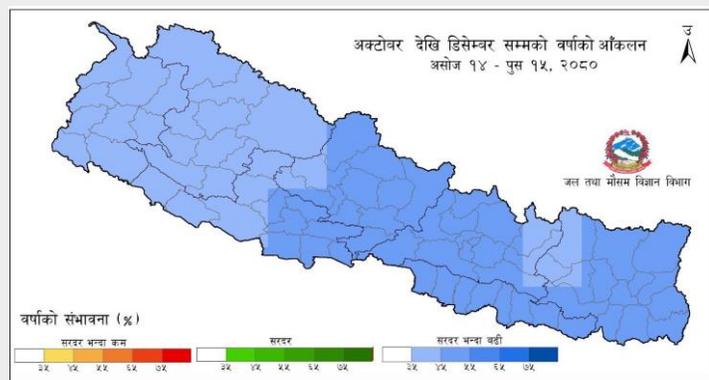
Mr. Suman Bogati, the Information Officer at Jayprithvi Municipality in Bajhang, has raised concerns regarding relief distribution with the support of donor agencies. Following the relaxation of the one-door policy by the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC), relief distribution has become more effective over the past two days. Mr. Bogati mentioned that they conducted a damage assessment with the assistance of ward chairs and technical personnel just before the Prime Minister's visit. They submitted the assessment to the Prime Minister. However, due to recurring earthquakes, the extent of damage is increasing daily. He explained that there's a total of 6.75 million rupees allocated for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) within the municipality, including 4 million in the DRR fund.

This fund will be used later to provide relief to those who do not qualify for assistance from donor agencies. Mr. Bogati requested that the Prime Minister's declaration be implemented promptly to ensure that affected families receive relief without delay. He mentioned that the community affected by the 2021 flood incident is still in search of grants. While the municipal level has assisted in beneficiary identification and budget allocation, the process remains incomplete due to insufficient support from the other two tiers of government. He advocates that a similar incident should not occur in earthquake-affected communities, and the government should prioritize these affected communities in their programs.

### **3. Post-Earthquake Weather: What Sudurpaschim Can Expect in the Coming Months**

The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) has recently released a weather forecast for the upcoming three months, spanning October to December 2023. This forecast indicates a heightened likelihood of rainfall across the nation. Specifically, the hilly regions of Lumbini Province, Koshi Province, Bagmati Province, and Gandaki Province are expected to see rainfall probabilities surpassing the usual, with chances ranging between 45% to 55%. In contrast, other

regions might experience a likelihood between 35% to 45%. While the monsoon system has receded up to the west of the Gandaki province, localized weather patterns could still usher in light to moderate rain intermittently. However, heavy downpours are not anticipated. This implies that



Sudurpaschim is projected to receive regular rainfall, which shouldn't exacerbate the conditions for the earthquake victims. This is a small consolation, especially considering the area has been grappling with over 500 significant aftershocks.

#### 4. Health Infrastructure Impacted by Earthquake

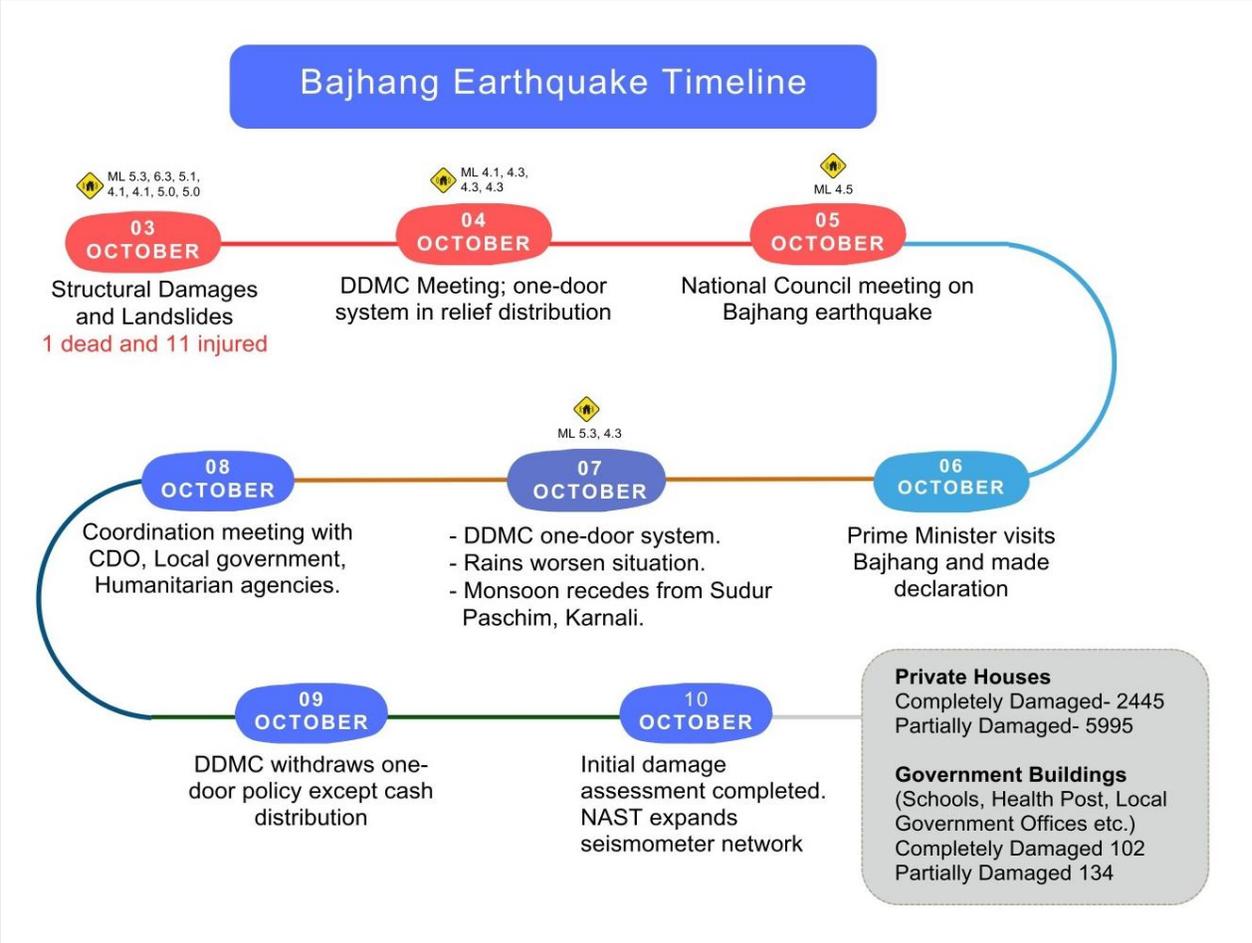
A total of 45 health service buildings, encompassing health posts, birthing centers, and health centers, have been impacted. Out of these, seven structures are completely damaged, while the remaining 38 have sustained partial damages.

SN	Local Government	Health Service Building Impacted by Earthquake			Remarks
		Completely Damaged	Partially Damaged	Total	
1	Masta Rural Municipality	3	5	8	
2	Chhabispathivera RM	1	10	11	
3	Durgathali Rural Municipality	0	4	4	
4	Khaptadchhanna RM	0	1	1	
5	Thalara Rural Municipality	1	0	1	
6	Kedarsyun Rural Municipality	0	1	1	
7	Jayaprithivi Municipality	2	10	12	*
8	Bungal Municipality	0	1	1	
9	Saipal Rural Municipality	0	3	3	
10	Surma Rural Municipality	0	0	0	
11	Talkot Rural Municipality	0	2	2	
12	Bitthadchir Rural Municipality	0	0	0	
	(District) Health Office Bajhang	0	1	1	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>45</b>	

The most affected local government area is Chhabispathivera Rural Municipality, with 11 buildings impacted, followed closely by Jayaprithivi Municipality with 12 buildings affected. It's notable that in Jayaprithivi Municipality, a tragic incident occurred where a health worker lost their life due to a landslide induced by the earthquake. Meanwhile, areas like Surma and Bitthadchir Rural Municipalities reported no damages to their health buildings. Despite the collection of this preliminary data, a comprehensive technical assessment of the damages is yet to be conducted. The timeline for initiating and completing this assessment remains undetermined.

**5. DPNet's Coverage of the Bajhang Earthquake**

DPNet has been actively monitoring and reporting on the Bajhang earthquake situation. Over the past week, a series of earthquakes with varying magnitudes have been recorded. The earthquakes on October 3rd not only resulted in structural damages but also triggered landslides. By the next



day, the DDMC convened a meeting to implement a one-door system for relief distribution. On October 5th, the National Council held a significant meeting specifically addressing the Bajhang earthquake. This was closely followed by a visit from the Prime Minister on October 6th, during

which crucial declarations were made. Subsequent days saw a continuation of seismic activities, along with important coordination meetings with various stakeholders like the CDO, local government, and humanitarian agencies. By October 10th, initial damage assessments were concluded, revealing the extensive damage to private homes and government buildings alike. Within these developments, there were policy adjustments, with the DDMC revising its one-door policy and the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) expanding its seismometer network.

Starting today, DPNet will no longer produce daily situation analysis reports on the Bajhang earthquake. Our team, which was stationed in Bajhang, has returned today. Nonetheless, DPNet remains committed to closely observing the situation through our Sudurpaschim Province Committee, an alliance of 21 different NGOs actively working in the province. While the daily reports will stop, we stand ready to provide updated situation analyses should the need arise. Moreover, we are in the process of compiling a comprehensive report on the Bajhang earthquake, which will be shared with you shortly. We sincerely thank you for your continuous support and guidance, enabling us to contribute effectively to this humanitarian cause.



*This report has been prepared by DPNet in support of DCA Nepal.*