

Bajhang Earthquake



Situation Analysis Report - 06

October 9, 2023



Inside this report

1. District Disaster Management Committee Meeting to discuss on One Door Policy

In the DDMC meeting on October 9, 2023, chaired by Mr. Narayan Pandeya, the Chief District Officer of Bajhang, various stakeholders reviewed previous decisions. The meeting revealed that 2,434 houses were completely damaged by the earthquake across 9 Local Governments. Data on the total damage in three other Local Governments - Bungla Municipality, Surma Rural Municipality, and Bitthadchir Rural Municipality - is still pending. Meeting decided to change one door policy of relief distribution and agreed to involve NGOs, INGOs, and the Red Cross at local levels. DDMC will monitor distribution, risk assessment, and reconstruction by development partners under its leadership. Donor funds will be solely managed by DDMC.

2. Earthquake-Affected Peoples' Problem

The effects of the Bajhang earthquake remain prominently visible, as a significant number of affected people have yet to receive aid from the government and other stakeholders. Many of their homes are uninhabitable, and they lack tarpaulin for shelter outdoors. With the approach of winter, temperatures are steadily dropping, exacerbating their living conditions. A woman in Bajhang shared her earthquake experience, expressing concerns about the danger. Her family faces significant challenges after losing their home. Earthquake survivors in Bajhang urgently appeal for help as they endure harsh conditions in temporary shelters, frustrated by a lack of government support. Some lack basic necessities and live in cattle sheds. Mrs. Bashanti Devi Singh's family, residing in a goat shed due to earthquake damage, struggles, with health challenges faced by her child. Ms. Baduli BK at her old age is struggling alone with the challenges created by the earthquake. The Bajhang earthquake has extensively damaged the District Health Office building,



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rendering it unsafe for use. Consequently, the health office has set up tents outside to provide services safely to the public

3. Status of Relief Materials and Other Humanitarian Support

Humanitarian agencies have initiated relief distribution in Jayaprithvi Municipality, Thalara Rural Municipality, and surrounding areas. Development agencies like UNICEF is actively addressing school-related issues, repairing damaged classrooms and toilets, and providing stationery to students in collaboration with local governments. Psychosocial counseling teams are deployed in affected areas, and data collection is underway to assist vulnerable groups such as pregnant and lactating women, and persons with disabilities.

4. Initial Assessment Reports from Local Governments

Local governments are gradually providing data to the DDMC to facilitate support allocation based on specific needs. However, comprehensive assessment data is still pending and may take longer to verify than expected. Data from Khaptadchanna Rural Municipality, Chhabis Pathibhera Rural Municipality, and Thalara Rural Municipality has been included today.

5. Update of Earthquake Damage in Bajura

Three local governments in Bajura district have been affected, resulting in a total of 250 houses damaged. Badimalika Municipality reported 83 completely damaged and 137 partially damaged houses. Triveni Municipality reported 107 completely damaged and 400 partially damaged houses. Budhiganga Municipality, covering wards 1 to 10, reported 60 completely damaged and 90 partially damaged houses.

6. Ongoing Prioritization Challenges in Earthquake Response

In addressing the challenges posed by the recent earthquake, several critical points have emerged. Firstly, the continuity of education has not received the level of attention it deserves, despite some signs of improvement. Concerns surrounding specific vulnerable groups were introduced but did not receive substantial discussion, leaving room for further consideration. Additionally, questions have arisen regarding the accuracy of damage data and potential reporting biases. The relief response requires a thorough review to better align with the actual needs of affected communities. There is an urgent need for intensified psychosocial support and awareness campaigns, as well as a heightened focus on the training of masons. Timely reconstruction efforts are crucial to prevent conditions from deteriorating further, especially in anticipation of the upcoming monsoon season. Furthermore, a lack of comprehensive long-term planning for recovery and reconstruction is evident. Lastly, there are concerns about the extensive involvement of the Chief District Officer and international agencies overshadowing the responsibilities of local governments, suggesting the necessity for a comprehensive analysis from a political economy perspective.

7. Over 400 aftershocks

While talking with DPNET Team, Seismologist Mr. Chintan Timsina from National Earthquake Monitoring & Research Center revealed that since the October 3, 2023 earthquake in Bajhang, there have been 15 seismic events, including a 6.3ML main shock, and 405 aftershocks as of October 8.

Situation Analysis and News in Details

1. District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) - Bajhang

DDMC meeting took place on October 9, 2023, chaired by Mr. Narayan Pandeya, the Chief District Officer of Bajhang, and attended by local government officials, political parties, INGOs, and various stakeholders. During the meeting, a review of previous decisions made by the DDMC was conducted. Furthermore, the meeting decided to change the approach to relief distribution. Instead of direct distribution by DDMC, it was agreed to involve UN Agencies, INGOs, and NGOs (including Nepal Red Cross) in relief distribution and assigned with working areas. Approximately 13 international agencies, comprising UN agencies, INGOs, and their local NGO partners, will be involved in providing emergency shelter kits and other relief items in Bajhang. Additionally, UNICEF will assess the need for Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) in schools.

Notably, all shelter kit distributions are being carried out by humanitarian agencies, and it appears that no government resources will be used for temporary shelters. Local governments are in the process of compiling lists of fully and partially damaged houses and government buildings. However, three local governments (Bungal Municipality, Saipal RM, Surama RM, and Bitthadchir RM) have yet to complete and provide updated information on affected households to the DDMC. The meeting also determined that DDMC would take on the role of monitoring relief distribution, risk assessment, and reconstruction efforts carried out by various organizations operating under its leadership. Additionally, the meeting resolved to collect funds from donors, understanding that the funds would be managed and disbursed solely by DDMC.

As shared in the DDMC meeting, summary of damages in different local government is as following:

SN	Name of Local Government	Completely Damaged	Partially Damaged	Minor damage
1	Masta RM	393	924	NA
2	Chhabispathivera RM	150	789	NA
3	Durgathali RM	184	384	685
4	Khaptadchhanna RM	245	780	799
5	Thalara RM	664	408	-
6	Kedarsyun RM	206	848	213
7	Jayaprithivi Mun	482	853	1159
8	Bungal Mun	NA	NA	NA
9	Saipal RM	87	NA	NA
10	Surma RM	NA	NA	NA
11	Talkot RM	23	258	NA
12	Bitthadchir RM	NA	NA	NA

आम मिति २०८०/०६/२० गतेका दिन जिल्ला विपद् व्यवस्थापन समितिको अध्यक्ष एवं प्रमुख जिल्ला अधिकारी श्री नारायण पौडेलको अध्यक्षतामा तथा अन्य देहाय जिल्ला विपद् व्यवस्थापन समितिका सदस्य एवं सदस्यकार्यकर्ताको उपस्थितिमा जिल्ला विपद् व्यवस्थापन समितिको बैठक बसी देहाय बसोबासका निर्णयहरू गरियो ।

संख्या	थर	नाम	कार्यक्रम/कार्य	संख्या ४, NTC
२३६	श्री नारायण पौडेल	जिल्ला प्रशासन कार्यालय बजार		
२३७	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	जिल्ला स्वास्थ्य कार्यालय बजार		
२३८	श्री केदार बज्रा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२३९	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२४०	श्री धरम बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२४१	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२४२	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२४३	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२४४	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२४५	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२४६	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२४७	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२४८	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२४९	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
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२५६	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२५७	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२५८	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२५९	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२६०	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		

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१२५६५६५
१२५६५६५

संख्या	थर	नाम	कार्यक्रम/कार्य	संख्या ४, NTC
२६१	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२६२	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
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२६५	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२६६	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२६७	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
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२७२	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२७३	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२७४	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
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२७६	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
२७७	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		
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२८०	श्री नर बहादुर खोटा	सुदूरपश्चिम प्रदेश सरकार कार्यालय बजार		

निर्णय नं. १

विराटमा जिल्ला विपद् व्यवस्थापन समितिको बैठकले गरेको निर्णयहरूको विवरण एवं संक्षिप्त गरियो ।

निर्णय नं. २

मिति २०८० असोज १६ गते दिउँसाे २:४१ र ३:०६ बजेको समयमा यस जिल्लामा आएको भूकम्पबाट प्रभावितहरूलाई राहत वितरण गर्ने सम्बन्धमा मिति २०८०/०६/२० गतेको जिल्ला विपद् व्यवस्थापन समितिको निर्णयानुसार हालसम्म वितरण भए/गरिएका प्रभावित यात्रेक अन्य प्रभावितहरूलाई देहायका पालिकाहरूमा देहाय संघसंस्थाहरूले आवश्यक राहत सामग्री वितरण गर्ने माथि देहायका पालिकाहरूमा समेत आवश्यक राहत सामग्री वितरण गर्न देहायका संघसंस्थाहरू लगायत अन्य संघसंस्थाहरूलाई अनुरोध निर्णय गरियो ।

देहाय

सं.नं.	पालिकाको नाम	संस्था	कैफियत
१	साम्बुद्धा गाउँपालिका	प्लान इन्टरनेशनल	
२	केदारसुर्ती गाउँपालिका	World Vision	
३	दुर्गावती गाउँपालिका	UNICEF	
४	तलकोट र छुबिसपाथिभेरा गाउँपालिका	नेपाल रेडक्रस सोसाइटी	
५	महा गाउँपालिका र जयपुरी वडा नं.१, २ र ३	UNFPA	
६	बलारा गाउँपालिका	UNICEF/UMN	
७	जयपुरी ४, ५, ९ र १० नं.वडाहरू	सेम ड चिल्ड्रेन	
८	जयपुरी ६, ७ र ८ नं.वडाहरू	World Vision	
९	जयपुरी ११ नं.वडा	नेपाल रेडक्रस सोसाइटी	
१०	बुङल नगरपालिका	निड्स नेपाल	

राहत सामग्री वितरण गर्न प्रस्तावित अन्य संघसंस्था

सं.नं.	पालिकाको नाम	संस्था	कैफियत
१	विप्वडचिर गाउँपालिका	नेपाल रेडक्रस सोसाइटी	
२	सुर्मा गाउँपालिका	UNICEF	
३	साइपाल गाउँपालिका	नेपाल रेडक्रस सोसाइटी	

Handwritten signatures and notes below the table, including names like 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman'.

निर्णय नं. ३

मिति २०८०/०६/२० गते बसेको जिल्ला विपद् व्यवस्थापन समितिको निर्णयानुसार वितरण हुने राहत सामग्रीको सम्बन्धमा माथि उल्लेखित पालिकाहरूमा माथि उल्लेखित संघसंस्थाहरूले राहत सामग्री वितरण गर्ने भएकोले हाललाई साइपाल, सुर्मा, केदारसुर्ती, विप्वडचिर गाउँपालिका र बुङल नगरपालिकामा जिल्ला विपद् व्यवस्थापन समितिबाट राहत सामग्री उपलब्ध गराउने कार्य हाललाई स्थगन गर्ने माथि जिल्लामा वितरण भएको राहत सामग्रीको वितरण वितरण भएको दुई दिन भित्र अनिवार्य रूपमा जिल्ला विपद् व्यवस्थापन समितिमा जानकारी गराउने निर्णय गरियो ।

निर्णय नं. ४

मिति २०८० असोज १६ गते दिउँसाे २:४१ र ३:०६ बजेको समयमा यस जिल्लामा आएको भूकम्पबाट प्रभावितहरूलाई विभिन्न सरकारी तथा नैर सरकारी संघसंस्थाहरूबाट वितरण हुने राहत सामग्री, क्षतिको अवस्था, जोखिमको अवस्था, पुनर्निर्माण तथा पुनर्स्थापना लगायत विपद् व्यवस्थापनको सम्बन्धमा जिल्ला विपद् व्यवस्थापन समितिबाट समय समयमा अनुगमन निरीक्षण गर्ने निर्णय गरियो ।

निर्णय नं. ५

मिति २०८० असोज १६ गते दिउँसाे २:४१ र ३:०६ बजेको समयमा यस जिल्लामा आएको भूकम्पबाट प्रभावितहरूलाई आर्थिक सहायता गर्न इच्छुक संघसंस्था/निकाय/व्यक्तिहरूलाई जिल्ला विपद् व्यवस्थापन समितिबाट हस्तान्तरण हुने गरी सहायता गर्न अनुरोध गर्ने निर्णय गरियो ।

Handwritten signatures and notes below the text, including names like 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman', 'Suman'.

2. Earthquake-Affected Peoples' Problem

Bajhang Woman Recounts Earthquake Experience, Highlights Concerns

The effects of the Bajhang earthquake remain prominently visible, as a significant number of affected people have yet to receive aid from the government and other stakeholders. Many of their homes are uninhabitable, and they lack tarpaulin for shelter outdoors. With the approach of winter, temperatures are steadily dropping, exacerbating their living conditions.

A woman in Bajhang, who was affected by the recent earthquake, shared her harrowing experience and expressed her fear, stating, "It would have been even more dangerous and impactful if the earthquake had occurred at night instead of during the day." She added, "As soon as we felt the tremors, we rushed out of our house, and that's how we managed to stay safe." She went on to explain that her family is facing significant challenges in the aftermath of the earthquake. They have lost their home and essential belongings, and they are struggling to secure the necessary funds to cope with the extensive devastation that has occurred. You can view the video by scanning the QR code or [clicking here](#).



Urgent Appeal for Help

It has been nearly a week since the devastating earthquake struck, displacing many families in Bajhang who are still eagerly awaiting rehabilitation. As the winter cold begins to set in, the earthquake-affected individuals are enduring harsh conditions in their temporary shelters. They express their frustration, claiming that the relevant authorities have apparently disregarded their plight. Earthquake-affected individuals from Jayaprithvi Municipality-01 raised the concern that "We are enduring cold nights in tents, uncertain about how much longer we'll have to stay here. The displaced families are increasingly concerned as the government has yet to address our relief and resettlement needs."



Some among them haven't even received basic necessities such as tarpaulin and proper tents, and are forced to reside in cattle sheds. Mrs. Bashanti Devi Singh, a 29-year-old resident of Jayaprithvi Municipality-1, Kailash. She and her 16-month-old child currently find shelter in a goat shed, as their house has been severely damaged by the earthquake. Tragically, her child's well-being has been compromised due to exposure to goat dung. Meanwhile, her husband works abroad to support the family's daily survival needs.



Elderly Ms. Badhuli Facing Earthquake Challenges Alone

Ms. Badhuli BK, a 70-year-old woman, is the mother of four sons and three daughters, all of whom are married. Her sons and their families reside in Bengaluru, India, while her daughters are also married. Badhuli has been living alone in her house, which has been damaged by the earthquake, for the past 30 years since her husband's passing at the age of 40.



Health Services in Tents Following Earthquake Damage

The Bajhang earthquake has caused significant damage to the Bajhang District Health Office building. Due to the earthquake, the building has suffered damage at various locations. The building is currently at risk for habitation, and the health office is now providing services to service recipients from outside in tents to ensure their safety.



3. Status of Relief Materials and Other Humanitarian Support

Humanitarian agencies have begun distributing relief in Jayaprithvi Municipality, Thalara Rural Municipality, and other designated areas. UNICEF has taken steps to address school-related issues, including setting up Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs), constructing toilets, and providing stationery to students. In Thalara RM, there are 80 damaged classrooms and 10 damaged toilets, with Local Government and UNICEF collaborating to prepare 30 to 35 TLCs and supply stationery to 700 students. Similar support will also be extended to Jayaprithvi Municipality, where 29 school buildings are completely damaged, and 28 are partially damaged.

Additionally, the District Health Office has deployed three psychosocial counseling teams in the affected municipalities, with support from I/NGOs. The DPHO is actively collecting data on pregnant women, lactating mothers, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and other vulnerable groups in earthquake-affected areas to provide targeted assistance.

4. Initial Assessment Reports from Local Governments

Data is now slowly being received from local governments, which are sharing this information with DDMC to initiate the flow of support and allocate resources based on specific needs. However, it is important to note that comprehensive assessment data, subject to proper verification, is still pending and may require more time than initially anticipated.

Khaptadchanna Rural Municipality:

Ward #	Private House			Government Building		Other Damage	Total Population	Remarks
	Completely Damaged	Partially Damaged	Normal	Completely Damaged	Partially Damaged			
1	25	64	71	0	0	0	1161	
2	19	68	48	0	0	0	593	
3	17	48	39	0	0	0	718	
4	17	122	244	0	1	0	2262	
5	41	175	254	0	3	0	3042	
6	41	66	143	4	1	0	1755	
7	85	237	0	9	0	0	1953	
Total	245	780	799	13	5	0	11484	

Chhabis Pathibhera Rural Municipality

Ward no	Animal		Private Building		Government Building		Other	HHs	Remarks
	Injured	Missing	Completely Damaged	Partially Damage	Complete Damaged	Partial Damage			
1			62	376		6			
2			6	71	4	1			
3			8	109	1	2			
4			43	80	1	1			
5			1	106		2			
6	3		20	47		1			
7			10	14		1			
Total	3		150	803	6	14	0		

Thalara Rural Municipality

Ward no	Private Hospital		Government Buildings		Human		
	Complete Damaged	Partial Damage	Complete Damaged	Partial Damage	Death	Injured	Missing
1	2	39					
2	6	17					
3	33	47					
4	10	59		3			
5	4	9	1				
6	18	26					
7	135		3			1	
8	6	125	3	3			
9	447	86	10	8			
Total	661	408	17	14	0	1	0

It is to be noted that, In Thalara RM, a total of 81 classrooms have been reported as damaged. This has affected 740 students in grades 1-5 and 860 students in grades 6-7. Furthermore, there are 8 school toilets that have been damaged, and in three schools, the drinking water systems have also been affected.

5. Update of Earthquake Damage in Bajura

Three local governments are affected in Bajura district. Summary information from the district is as following:

SN	Local Government	Houses Damaged	
		Completely Damaged	Partially damaged
1	Badimalika Municipality 8 and 9	83	137
2	Triveni Municipality 3,4,6,7,8 and 9	107	400
3	Budhiganga Municipality ward to 10	60	90
	Total	250	527

Various organizations have also extended assistance to Bajura. As per our latest information, UNICEF has dispatched 400 sets of temporary shelter kits to the area. Additionally, the NNSWA from Kanchanpur has contributed 250 sets of shelter materials and kits to the three municipalities in Bajura.

6. Updates on Challenges in Earthquake Response

- a. **Education Continuity:** The resumption of school activities and ensuring uninterrupted learning remains a lower priority. Although some improvements have been noted in addressing educational issues in the affected area, it has yet to become a primary concern for local government and agencies. Gradually, we anticipate that the situation will improve, leading to the construction of TLCs. Positive progress is visible through UNICEF's efforts in Thalara.
- b. **Vulnerable Groups:** While the issues concerning specific vulnerable groups were introduced in the DDMC meeting, they were not extensively discussed due to the meeting's focus on agency allocation and damage report calculations. Understanding the concerns of specific vulnerable groups, particularly by the Chief District Officer, remains a challenge. However, Local Governments have informally agreed to share information about vulnerable groups and provide support.
- c. **Data Accuracy:** There are concerns about the accuracy of damage data, with reports of partial damage being recorded as fully damaged. Independent field verification is deemed essential before starting recovery and reconstruction efforts to address discrepancies and enhance trust in the government reporting system and Local Governments. Some communities also perceive reporting biases with political influences.
- d. **Relief Response Review:** Immediate needs such as tarpaulins and shelter kits seem to be met based on commitments, with provision expected in a week or more. While agencies primarily offer shelter kits, they also supply additional items like biscuits in their response. Given that the earthquake did not affect food supplies, it is suggested that agencies review

their response packages to better align with the specific needs of affected communities and comply sphere humanitarian standard.

- e. **Psychosocial Support and Awareness:** Psychosocial counseling has commenced but should be intensified and coupled with awareness campaigns on earthquake preparedness, weak infrastructure, and associated risks, as there is a lack of general awareness.
- f. **Mason Training:** Although the importance of trained masons is recognized by local government leaders, it is not a top priority on their agenda or that of supporting agencies. Some households express the desire to reconstruct and repair their houses, but there are concerns about the quality of construction.
- g. **Timely Reconstruction:** As the earthquake did not result in a significant humanitarian crisis, it is advisable to initiate technical assessments and reconstruction processes promptly to avoid worsening conditions, especially with the approaching monsoon season. Many houses are at risk due to damaged roofs and walls.
- h. **Long-Term Planning:** Both local governments and the DDMC lack a comprehensive plan beyond relief efforts. It is essential to develop a strategy for technical assessments, recovery, and reconstruction in collaboration with NDRRMA.
- i. **Scale of Disaster and Agency Engagement:** While this is not a mega disaster, local governments should have been encouraged to take a more active role in managing it. The extensive involvement of the Chief District Officer and international agencies in relief provision has raised concerns about the proper allocation of authority and adherence to Nepal's constitution on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. Local Governments have not assumed their primary responsibility, and a federal approach to responding to the earthquake in Bajhang is lacking. This situation warrants further analysis from a political economy perspective for humanitarian and DRR agencies.

7. Over 400 aftershocks

In a conversation with the DPNet Team, Mr. Chintan Timsina, Seismologist at the National Earthquake Monitoring & Research Center revealed that since the earthquake on October 3, 2023, at 14:40 NST, there have been a total of 15 seismic events in Bajhang, with magnitudes exceeding 4ML. These events include one foreshock, one significant main shock measuring 6.3ML, and 13 subsequent aftershocks. Additionally, he provided information that the total count of aftershocks has reached 405 as of October 8, 2023, at 10:05 NST.



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