

# JAJARKOT EARTHQUAKE

## Quad-Day Situation Analysis Report (25-28 December, 2023)

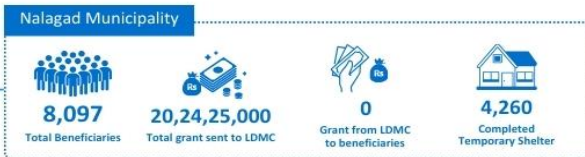
Editor: Dr. Raju Thapa, DPNet

**Rs**  
**188 crore**

### Jajarkot

Total Fund released from NDRRMA  
for Jajarkot and Rukum West

### Rukum West



#### Total beneficiaries and shelters constructed

#### Grant distributed



## SUMMARY

*This report highlights the ongoing efforts and challenges in providing temporary shelter and support to earthquake affected people in Jajarkot and Rukum West districts. A commendable progress is with 13,667 temporary houses already built, accommodating 58,748 beneficiaries. Plans are going on to construct additional 15,000 shelters and accommodate an estimated 80,000 beneficiaries, with significant financial support of Rs 1.43 billion already disbursed. However, the process has been hindered by delays in fund disbursement due to various reason, leaving many affected people still in makeshift tents. The report highlights on the complexities of fund distribution, emphasizing the gap between disbursed amount and the actual receipt of funds. This discrepancy is notably visible in Bheri and Junichande Rural Municipalities, where a significant number of beneficiaries are yet to receive their initial grant. The situation is exacerbated by the municipalities' impotence to disburse funds effectively, leading to the stagnation of allocated resources.*

*In addition to these challenges, the report also touches upon insurance payouts in Rukum West. Two months post-earthquake, the national insurance company has begun distributing financial assistance to the families of the deceased. This initiative is part of a broader natural disaster accident insurance program conducted by Karnali Province that aims to provide relief to affected families. Banking hurdles have also emerged as a significant obstacle, particularly in the context of using existing social security accounts for grant distribution. The requirement to open new bank accounts has introduced delays and frustrations among the earthquake-affected populations. The DDMC has been organizing shelter cluster meetings to streamline information sharing and unify construction practices. However, discrepancies in grant amounts provided by different organizations and the lack of precise data on shelter construction have added to the confusion and complexity of the situation.*

*The government's proactive stance in safeguarding public health through a vaccination campaign against diseases like rubella, measles, and typhoid is a significant step in preventing potential outbreaks in the earthquake-affected regions. Finally, the report brings to light the plight of the most vulnerable, like Indra Kumari Shahi and her son, who face mental health challenges and are unable to actively participate in shelter construction. Their situation highlights the need for more inclusive and empathetic approaches in disaster management and support systems.*



## PROGRESS AND PREPARATIONS OF TEMPORARY SHELTER AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

Efforts have been ongoing to provide temporary shelter for earthquake affected across Jajarkot and Rukum West districts following the devastating earthquake. In a positive development,



13,667 temporary houses have already been built for those affected. Moreover, 58,748 beneficiaries have been registered in the Jajarkot and Rukum West districts of Karnali province.

Currently, construction of 15,000 temporary shelters is underway, as communicated by the Jajarkot and Rukum West DDMCs. Beneficiaries in these districts have been receiving grant

amounts specifically allocated for temporary shelters.

Significant financial support has been channeled to local levels from the districts, with Rs 1.43 billion disbursed to support these initiatives. Additionally, Rs 726 million has been transferred to the verified beneficiaries' bank accounts across 13 local levels in the two districts. Presently, 58748 beneficiaries have been registered. NDRRMA estimate the beneficiary count to rise to 80,000, and preparations are underway to accommodate this surge. Plans are in progress to sign grant contracts with approximately 25,000 more beneficiaries. The NDRRMA is gearing up to manage an estimated Rs 4.75 billion required for constructing temporary shelters for the anticipated 80,000 beneficiaries.

## DELAY POSES CHALLENGES IN DISBURSING FUNDS FOR EARTHQUAKE AFFECTED

Challenges persist in relocating affected people from makeshift tarpaulin tents to temporary shelters, almost two months following the earthquake. Despite contracts made by local authorities with over 18,963 beneficiaries in the district, merely 9,325 families have received the initial installment, leaving the rest awaiting assistance.

Chandra Bahadur Rawal's family from Nalgad Municipality-4, Jajarkot, still resides in a tarpaulin tent.

Expressing frustration, he highlighted the prolonged wait for the government to construct temporary shelters even after funds were allocated. "It has been two



weeks since the contract, yet no funds have arrived. The grant seems distant as the cold in tarpaulin tent worsens," he expressed.

Others, like Pradeep Rawal from the same ward, face similar challenges. Despite signing contracts for temporary shelter grants, the delay in fund disbursement hinders progress. He shared that the delay in funds affects our ability to sustain ourselves and build a house. Acknowledging their concerns, Mayor Dumbar Bahadur Rawat of Nalgad Municipality highlighted the difficulty of 8,097 beneficiaries awaiting their initial grant. The municipality, having signed contracts, faces obstacles due to delayed fund transfers, impeding the construction of temporary shelters owing to staff and elected representative dispute and absence of signatories in the office.

Similar circumstances are observed in Bheri Municipality. Despite contracting with 3,992 eligible beneficiaries, only Rs. 9.98 million out of Rs. 136.92 Million has been disbursed to all the beneficiaries. This sluggish pace has considerably hindered shelter construction progress. Furthermore, due to inadequate monitoring of construction efforts, data collection has been affected, leading to a stagnant total of 150 constructed shelters over the past two weeks. While reconstruction activities have been noticeably underway in wards that have received grants, numerous affected beneficiaries awaiting funds still reside in tents adjacent to their damaged houses.

Similarly, Junichande Rural Municipality's 2,563 beneficiaries and Nalgad municipality's 8,097 beneficiaries are also facing fund-related challenges. While the number of affected beneficiaries in Jajarkot has reached 35,140, the delay persists due to municipalities' inability to disburse funds despite established contracts. This has left allocated funds stagnant in municipal accounts, prolonging the struggle for those awaiting assistance.

### **INSURANCE PAYOUTS DELIVERED TO EARTHQUAKE AFFECTED FAMILIES IN RUKUM WEST**

About 2 months after the earthquake, insurance payouts began to support the families affected in Rukum West. In this connection, the national insurance company, in collaboration with the Karnali province government, carried out this under the natural disaster accident insurance program initiated 2 years back and the program aims to provide insured amount of 2 hundred thousand per person to the families of citizens who lost their lives within the province due to natural disasters.

In response to this program, the national insurance company reached the earthquake-affected areas and handed over financial assistance to the families of the deceased and beneficiaries.



Maniraj Shah, the acting Chief Administrative Officer of Aathbiskot municipality, said that the national insurance company, along with the insurance authority and the Karnali province's internal affairs and law ministry, distributed Rs. 6.8 million to the beneficiaries of 34 deceased families in the municipality. Each person received 2 hundred thousand as relief.

Similarly, in Sani Bheri Rural Municipality, Chairman Birkh Bahadur Bista reported that the National Insurance Company extended relief to the families of 12 deceased individuals, amounting to a total of 24 hundred thousand at the rate of 2 hundred thousand per family.

### **BANKING HURDLES IN USING EXISTING SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNTS AFFECT GRANT DISTRIBUTION**

The earthquake affected people faced hurdles when attempting to withdraw funds allocated for temporary shelter. Initially, they attempted to use their existing social security accounts for this purpose, but banks rejected these transactions saying that the social security account couldn't be utilized for different purposes. Consequently, earthquake affected were compelled to open



new bank accounts, causing delays in the distribution of grants. Locals expressed frustration, citing the time and inconvenience involved in this additional step.

Addressing these challenges, Chief District Officer Suresh Sunar expressed willingness to explore legal and practical solutions. He

suggested the potential facilitation of using the beneficiaries' existing social security accounts.

### **DDMC SHELTER CLUSTER MEETING REPORT**

The DDMA Jajarkot organized a shelter cluster meeting on December 25th, 2023, at the District Administration Office premises. Chief District Officer Mr. Suresh Sunar presided over the meeting, gathering representatives from various humanitarian organizations involved in shelter



construction. The primary focus of the meeting aimed to reinforce the mechanism for sharing information regarding shelter construction. Additionally, the agenda aimed at ensuring uniformity in construction practices to prevent duplication and streamline efforts. Notably, the meeting highlighted the absence of comprehensive shelter construction reports from development organizations, contrasting with the increasing dissemination of construction data by municipalities.



One significant issue raised during the discussion was the discrepancy in grant amounts provided by different development organizations. While the government's grant stands at 50,000, various organizations are extending support ranging from Rs. 50,000 to 140,000 while some organizations are offering only materials such as CGI sheets or toilet/ WASH facilities etc. At the same time, others are distributing multi-purpose cash grants to their project beneficiaries. This divergence in financial assistance has caused confusion among beneficiaries, primarily due to varying standards set by different organizations. Moreover, the lack of precise data on the number of shelters completed or being constructed by development organizations, even from municipalities, exacerbated the situation.

The meeting decided that development partners and municipalities are requested to ensure the submission of their shelter construction reports to the DDMC on a weekly basis, every Friday. The focus is on establishing a cohesive framework for shelter construction costs to avoid discord and confusion among beneficiaries. It's emphasized that development partners maintain ongoing coordination between the DDMC and LDMC. Additionally, ongoing projects are encouraged to aim for the completion of construction activities in their designated areas by January 10th, 2024.



### **SAFEGUARDING HEALTH THROUGH VACCINATION CAMPAIGN POST- EARTHQUAKE**

The government is taking steps to prevent potential outbreaks of diseases like rubella, measles, and typhoid in areas affected by the earthquake. The Ministry of Health and Population announced the launch of a vaccination campaign against measles-rubella and typhoid in these affected regions, starting 28<sup>th</sup> December.

Children aged 6 months to 15 years will receive the measles-rubella vaccine, while everyone between 16 to 45 years will get the typhoid vaccine. This effort, initiated by the Child Health and Immunization Branch of the Family Welfare Division, aims to vaccinate 150,000 young ones and 650,000 individuals in the respective age groups. This preventive measure is crucial, especially after Jajarkot experienced measles cases two years ago. The authorities are concerned about possible epidemics, particularly measles-rubella and typhoid, following the earthquake. The vaccination campaign is set to continue until January 14th, emphasizing the government's commitment to safeguarding public health in the aftermath of the earthquake.

### **WHO WOULD LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF VOICELESS?**

Indra Kumari Shahi, aged around 65, lives in a partially damaged home due to the earthquake, alongside her 35-year-old son. Both struggle with mental health challenges, making communication difficult. They've barred themselves from strangers, reacting nervously to unfamiliar faces. The community helps them with essential food and monetary support. They struggle to prepare proper meals for their sustenance. Indra tries to respond to inquiries, but her answers are



unclear while her son remains quiet. Police verification for the shelter construction grant is completed, but they are unable to proceed to the ward office for further processing. Lok Shahi from Bheri-4, Mulpani stated, "Even if the funds are granted, their current situation doesn't allow them to participate in shelter construction. They will need substantial support to build their shelter." He added, "They require assistance where they don't have to physically engage in construction activities. It would be preferable if any development organization supports shelter construction without their direct involvement." Neighbors worry about their vulnerability, living in an unstable house, and express concern about how long they can continue with such circumstances until their shelter is constructed.

### **PROGRESS TOWARD UNIFIED RELIEF SUPPORT DATA GATHERING**

On December 28th, DPNet arranged a meeting with SWC's Member Secretary, Manoj Bhatta, with attendees such as DPNet Chair Surya Bahadur Thapa, Vice Chair Dr. Raju Thapa, Kedar Neuapne, DPNet Advisor and Former Secretary of the Government of Nepal, and Dipendra Prasad DC, Secretary of the NGO Federation. The primary agenda was the development of a standardized 5W format for gathering data on relief support. DPNet presented a 5W form currently in use by DPNet, UN Agencies, AIN Members, and partner organizations to collect such

data. After the presentation, Mr. Bhatta said that SWC's separate data collection format for internal compliance purpose but he expressed interest in assessing the 5W form presented by DpNet for potential integration of additional fields, aiming for a unified format. He suggested consulting NDRRMA for further insights.



Subsequently, the DpNet team arranged meeting with NDRRMA officials, including a Spokesperson, who agreed to schedule a meeting on January 2<sup>nd</sup> at the NDRRMA hall. The proposed meeting aims to include representatives from MoHA, MoFAGA, UNRCO, UNDP, AIN, AINTGDM, DpNet, IFRC, NRCS, Start Fund Network, HRRP, and other pertinent stakeholders to finalize the relief support data collection form. NDRRMA aims to incorporate the relief support form as an annex to the revised version of the relief standard, providing it with legal validation.

### **AGENCIES OFFERING HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT**

Please refer to the following link to see the list of agencies offering humanitarian support

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NhE0S6tJTd\\_HtLu3drZjW0M12Z50T3ApEtFagP4plbk](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NhE0S6tJTd_HtLu3drZjW0M12Z50T3ApEtFagP4plbk)

As one and a half months have passed since the Jajarkot Earthquake, the focus has shifted from immediate relief to reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. In order to document and acknowledge the contributions of all agencies involved in the earthquake relief, we are compiling a comprehensive report. Several agencies have already submitted their information through the 5W form.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AyCbU7uNtnotmKWQmQkQcWtr9ucRhAa3/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107457124998650092558&rtpof=true&sd=true>

We kindly request all remaining agencies to complete the form, which is available for download via the provided link. After downloading the excel file and updating data please highlight the rows you have worked on so as to distinguish the updates. Please submit the completed form to [jajarkotrelief@gmail.com](mailto:jajarkotrelief@gmail.com) by 5<sup>th</sup> January. The collected data will be shared with relevant government bodies, UNRCO, AIN, and other stakeholders. Thank you for your timely cooperation in this important documentation effort. Thank you for your timely cooperation in this important documentation effort.