

LOCATION: Kathmandu, Nepal

DATE: 9 May 2015

Situation Overview

- Relief efforts, following the 7.8 M earthquake that struck Nepal on 25 April, continue to focus on reaching a greater number of areas, in particular the remote and hard-to-reach areas where many of the poorest and most affected remain. However, access to some remote villages remains a key challenge and some can only be accessed by helicopter.
- Most major roads in the country are open. Road access to heavily affected VDCs is open via the following routes:
 - Nuwakot / Rasuwa: Trisuli / Bidur to Dhunche road is open. However only small vehicles (4 x 4 jeeps) are allowed. Caution is advised due to risk of new landslides. It is not advised to travel the route at night. Relief vehicles should register with the police post in Kalikasthan before proceeding to Dhunche.
 - Dhading: The gravel road from Dhading Besi to Tripureshwor VDC via Katunje VDC is open (25 km). However only small vehicles (4 x 4 jeeps) are allowed.
 - Nuwakot: The gravel road connecting Trishuli Bazar/ Bidur Municipality to Kintang VDC via Deurali VDC is operational (35 km). It is passable for heavy trucks.
 - Gorkha: The road from Gorkha District Headquarters to Arughat (Arupokhari VDC) is operational and encompasses a distance of 43 km. The road from Arughat to Soti Khola (Lapu VDC) is also open now.
 - Dolakha: the main road via Khadichaur, Sindhupalchok, Mude, Charikot and Mainapokhari to Jiri is open.
 - Sindhupalchok: Araniko highway between Bahrabise and Tatopani road is open. However only small vehicles (4 x 4 jeeps) are allowed. Caution is advised due to risk of new landslides. It is not advised to travel the route at night. Roads between Kathmandu and Melamchi are open
- The following closures are reported:
 - Gorkha: from 10 kilo, a place in Mirkot VDC-Chhepetar-Bhaluswanra-Warpak VDC section (36 km) is obstructed due to debris from landslide caused by the earthquake.
 - Dolakha: Charikot to Singati Bajar, Jhyaku VDC is open. However the road is obstructed from Singati Bajar to Lamabagar VDC.
 - Bhaktapur: Roads inside the main city are obstructed due to debris but in the process of being cleared.

Air Transport and cargo handling

- A significant improvement has been seen concerning the cargo handling and customs procedures at Kathmandu airport. Improvements are thanks to the recent deployment of US military presence and the DHL Disaster Response Team (DRT) supporting swift cargo movement and reducing the offloading time. The equipment donated by IOM and DFID have also helped easing de-congestion both at the airport and at the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) in Kathmandu.
- UNHAS's current assets available in country include:
 - One MI8 helicopter can be tasked with cargo (2-2.5MT cargo capacity)
 - One MI8 helicopter is being assembled and will be fully operational next week
 - One AS 350 helicopter is available for assessment missions (max 4 passengers).

- Since the beginning of the operation UNHAS has transported 124 passengers belonging to 7 organizations and 48.5MT of relief items to 14 destinations.
- American Military Air Forces assets are in country to support the humanitarian response. Assets including four Osprey and one Huey helicopters can currently operate only in certain areas and will be tasked through the Logistics Cluster to support the humanitarian response.
- UK Military Forces have one C130 aircraft three Chinook helicopters currently in Delhi awaiting clearance.

Logistics hubs and storage

- The HSA, connected directly to the apron of the Tribhuvan International Airport (KTM) is fully operational and includes eight Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) which are already receiving government and humanitarian organisations' relief supplies. Free shunting services have been made available from the airport apron to the HSA.
- Between 27 April and 8 May the Logistics Cluster has handled over 900 MT of humanitarian cargo for 42 organisations at the HSA.
- In order to de-centralize operations, the Logistics Cluster is establishing additional logistics hubs in the Eastern and Western regions:
 - Deurali logistics base, 20 km south of Gorkha city is operational with four erected MSUs. The hub is used as logistics base to forward relief cargo (via 4x4 trucks and tractors) to the Western region and to support local air operations by helicopters. A cluster coordinator has been deployed and cluster coordination meeting held regularly.
 - A site has been identified in Chautara to establish the logistics base to serve the Eastern region from Sindhupalchok district. A cluster coordinator has been deployed and the first meeting was held on 08 May.
- Another hub will be established near Kathmandu in Dhulikhel. It will be operational in around 3 days. The hub is meant to fulfil the need for longer storage and de-congest HSA.
- The expected increase of relief supplies coming into or transiting to India will be supported with the establishment of a Staging Area in Bharatpur to handle inbound road movements from India. A site has been identified and could include up to 12 MSUs. Authorization from the Government is being sought.
- WFP, as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, has loaned 5 Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) temporarily to other organisations.
- To avail of transport and storage services please note the Service Request Form (SRF) is available at: <http://www.logcluster.org/document/nepal-service-request-srf>.

Land Transport

- Transport of shelter, food, health and WASH relief items has been facilitated from HSA to the districts of Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Rasuwa, Kabhre, Sindhupalchok and Dolakha on the WFP contracted fleet. The overland transport was carried out on behalf of 30 humanitarian organisations on 25 trucks (15 MT capacity each).
- WFP has contracted additional two fleet of smaller 4x4 trucks for the regional logistics hubs (Deurali and Chautara) to increase capacity and meet the transportation needs of the humanitarian community.

Coordination/Information Management/GIS

- To maximise the use of military air assets in relief activities, the Logistics Cluster has a dedicated Civil / Military Coordinator stationed in Kathmandu airport to facilitate cargo operations and provide logistics support.
- A Logistics Cluster Cell has been established in Kathmandu, Deurali (Gorkha district) and Chautara (Sindhupalchok district). Regular coordination meetings are also being held in the aforementioned locations.
- So far over 150 participants from over 80 organizations have attended Logistics Cluster coordination meetings.
- Information Management, GIS, Operation and Cargo Tracking officers have been deployed to Kathmandu.
- Updated logistics information and maps are shared via the Logistics Cluster Nepal Operation website: <http://logcluster.org/ops/nepal> and via a dedicated mailing list.
- The dedicated Nepal page on the Logistics Cluster website has received in the last two week over 8,000 views and over 470 individual are subscribed to the dedicated mailing list.

Other Logistics Gaps or Bottlenecks

- Kathmandu International Airport (KTM) has imposed limitation regarding the landing timeframe on incoming cargo aircraft. The decision is to limit incoming cargo aircraft to land between 6:00am and 10:00am and between 6:00pm and 00:30am. The restriction will apply also to aircraft transporting humanitarian aid.

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