

FUNDING APPEAL

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

Information as of 9 November 2023. Please note that this update does not yet take into account impact of aftershocks.



250,000 people
in two most
affected districts



200,000 targeted
for assistance

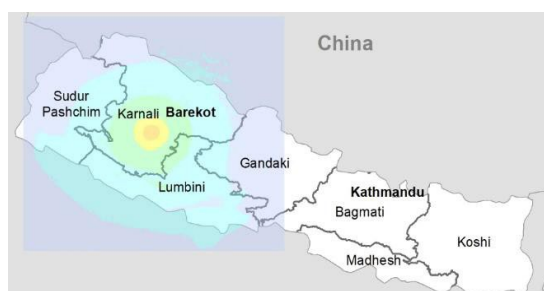


Estimated funding
need US \$15.7M

Urgent support is needed to assist children and families affected by the 6.4 magnitude earthquake that hit Karnali province on 3 November. This is the largest earthquake to impact Nepal since the devastating 2015 earthquake, and the latest in a series of earthquakes to hit western Nepal in the past year. Destruction of homes and several aftershocks – some of high magnitude – are forcing children and families to spend nights in the open in cold weather as winter approaches. Homes, schools, health centres and other essential facilities have been damaged or destroyed. **UNICEF and humanitarian partners are on the ground providing life-saving assistance, but urgent action is needed to restore access to essential services and to protect children from disease, malnutrition and harsh winter weather, as families struggle to recover from the earthquake and its aftershocks.**

Overview of the crisis

- **153 individuals are confirmed to have died and more than 364 injured.** Initial estimates indicate that around half the dead and injured are children and adolescents under 18.
- **Initial estimates in the two most affected districts show that around 250,000 people, including 80,000 children (40,000 families) have been impacted** in the seven most affected municipalities of Jajarkot and Rukum West. This number is likely to rise as assessments continue in additional municipalities.
- **Over 4,000 homes are damaged or destroyed.** With the onset of winter and freezing overnight conditions, displaced families urgently need temporary shelter to keep them safe and protected from the elements.
- **142 school buildings fully damaged, 343 schools building partially destroyed, and 123 WASH facilities linked to schools destroyed or partially damaged.** Assessments in further municipalities now show the **total number of affected learners exceeds 132,000.**
- **Already high levels of malnutrition in children** are likely to worsen without urgent action to assist families and maintain community health and nutrition services.



Area impacted by 3 November earthquake. Source: United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (Nepal)

UNICEF's rapid humanitarian response to date

UNICEF specialist teams were on the ground within 24 hours. They continue working closely with authorities and partners in the two most affected districts to assess needs and coordinate immediate relief. Assistance provided includes:

Water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH): UNICEF has reached 4,320 households (over 21,000 people, including 7,140 children) with critical WASH supplies (hygiene kits, plastic buckets, water purifying solution), and tarpaulins and blankets.

Health: Supplied 100 newborn kits (clothes for newborn and mother), 300 health kits (masks, hand sanitizers, thermometer) and three medical tents set up for use as temporary clinics in municipalities with damaged health facilities.

Nutrition: A UNICEF nutrition specialist deployed to support coordination and assessment under cluster mechanisms and has helped to strengthen nutrition coordination at national level.

Child Protection: UNICEF has initiated the establishment of six child-friendly spaces where children can access group support sessions. UNICEF has also supported the deployment of counsellors to provide psychological first aid to affected communities.

Education: Staff deployed to support the Education cluster coordination and needs assessments and is supporting activation of the Integrated Education Management Information System (IEMIS)/ Education in Emergencies (EiE) software module for reporting of EiE data. UNICEF has also prepositioned education material in its four field office warehouses that includes 418 teacher school kits, 1,069 senior student kits, 2,026 junior student kits, and 121 early childhood education kits that will reach some 20,000 children and ensure learning continuity.

Planned response and recovery activities

UNICEF is currently working closely with the Government of Nepal and partner organisations to assess full needs in this remote area, provide immediate assistance and support early recovery efforts. Based on early assessments, UNICEF expects to provide urgent support in the following areas:



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

Safe water and sanitation are urgent needs to prevent outbreaks of waterborne disease. In most of the earthquake affected areas, existing

water supply systems were already fragile or unreliable. Earthquake shocks have damaged these critical systems and sanitation, increasing the risk of life-threatening disease outbreaks. 250,000 people, including 80,000 children, need water, sanitation, and hygiene services. UNICEF is targeting 150,000 people (51,000 children) to benefit from hygiene kits, buckets, water purification solution, temporary toilets, and community engagement for improved WASH behaviour. UNICEF will also provide urgent support for water trucking/bulk water storage, installing temporary water taps and bathing spaces, improving water supply lines as well as WASH cluster assessment/database management. These works will be extended via government and local partners.



Health. Some children were injured directly by the earthquake. In addition, the days and weeks ahead also bring increased risks to children's health – through exposure to harsh winter weather, respiratory infections, waterborne

diseases and disruption to urgent primary care and local health facilities. UNICEF will support the resumption of essential health services (including maternal care, immunizations and primary care), deploy additional 1,000 newborn kits to prevent hypothermia among small infants as required, and provide oral rehydration salts and zinc to prepare for possible acute watery diarrhoea outbreak in coming days. UNICEF will also deploy partners to provide mental health and psychosocial services for children, adolescents and caregivers impacted by the earthquake and continued aftershocks.



Nutrition. Prior to the earthquake, there were already elevated levels of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies such as anaemia in

Karnali province, with high levels of stunting and wasting. Now, disruption of basic services such as health and WASH due to the earthquake will increase the risk of malnutrition. With an estimated 5,000 pregnant women affected in the six municipalities of Karnali province, urgent action is needed to support the nutrition and development of children and women. UNICEF aims to support children with wasting (severe acute malnutrition) using Ready to Eat Therapeutic Food, and provide micronutrient powder for all children aged 6-59 months in the affected areas. UNICEF will also scale up engagement activities with pregnant women and new

mothers to promote infant and young child feeding through community health workers and volunteers. 'Cash for nutrition' will also help affected families to buy sufficient nutritious food, reaching around 7,200 affected children and 1,135 pregnant women.



Education. Initial assessments report that some 142 school buildings have either collapsed or suffered heavy damage by the earthquake, and 343 are partially damaged, with ongoing

assessments in further municipalities now showing that more than 132,000 learners (49% girls) have been affected. Keeping children learning in safe environments, with the support and normality that school offers, is critical in an emergency. As co-lead of the Education cluster, UNICEF will work closely with partners to get children learning again (under the overall leadership of the government), through the creation of transitional learning centres, distribution of essential supplies for students and teachers, rehabilitation of damaged schools, and use of emergency school cash grants to support rehabilitation and learning continuity. Training for teachers will focus on reducing learning loss, accelerated learning strategies, preventing school dropout through community outreach and back-to-school campaigns, as well as providing psychosocial support for affected children and WASH messaging. In consultation with the government and cluster partners, UNICEF will support between 50-100 schools and reach up to 50,000 children (or more) in the most affected areas.



Child Protection. Over 25,000 people, including over 8,500 children, require psychosocial support, and around 10,000 require Prevention & Response to Gender Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE)

sensitization, including referral and response. UNICEF aims to establish child-friendly spaces and provide other child protection services to children in the affected communities, with the aim of reaching 12,500 children. This approach ensures that children impacted by the crisis can readily access psychosocial first aid, engage in supportive group activities, participate in recreational opportunities in a safe, inclusive, and stimulating environment to restore a sense of normality and continuity. UNICEF will provide psychosocial support to the affected children and their families who are distressed and traumatized. In addition, UNICEF will provide administrative support to families to obtain vital legal documents such as birth certificates. Diverse channels will be used to spread messages on the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful social practices. UNICEF will work with partners to coordinate efforts through the child protection working group, ensuring that child protection initiatives are effectively managed and streamlined.



Humanitarian cash transfers & winter support. UNICEF and partners are developing plans to deliver integrated cash assistance to help families to meet their nutrition, protection

and income needs with dignity and choice. It is proposed that 15,000 households will each receive humanitarian cash transfers of USD 100 through existing social protection systems.



SBC+: Social and Behaviour Change, Risk Communication & Community Engagement, Accountability to the Affected Populations.

UNICEF is coordinating with the government and civil society organizations to mobilize volunteers to rapidly assess affected

populations' needs, concerns and priorities, while also raising awareness of both primary and secondary impacts of the earthquake, such as disease outbreaks – for example, by supporting local level radio stations as vital sources of timely and accurate information for affected communities.

UNICEF and partners' integrated SBC+ approach will provide valuable information to shape all aspects of the emergency response to develop evidence-based, people centered interventions; as well as to swiftly identify and tackle rumours and misinformation (including through regional tools such as I-hear-U, U-Report, IoGT). Robust feedback and complaint mechanisms will ensure accountability and promote continued service improvement. Furthermore, with a

long-term vision, UNICEF will lead a new mechanism to combine data management, community intelligence and forecasting to strengthen early surveillance systems and community resilience in the face of future emergencies.

Working together to help earthquake-affected children in Nepal.

Our UNICEF teams and partners are working tirelessly to help children and families in the two worst affected districts. And we will be there for the long term, as communities start to rebuild and recover. With donors' support, we can make sure that children are not left behind. Needs are still unfolding, but below is an initial estimate for humanitarian response:

Nutrition	2,600,000
Health	2,700,000
Child protection	1,700,000
Social & behavioural change	600,000
WASH	1,800,000
Education	3,540,000
Social protection / humanitarian cash assistance	2,760,000
TOTAL	15,700,000

“Tragically, and yet again, so many lives have been lost in this devastating earthquake. Children are disproportionately affected and are forced to spend the nights out in the cold. These children and their families are in desperate need of medical support, shelter, safe drinking water, food, blankets, and warm clothes as the winter sets in. UNICEF is doing everything possible, but we urgently need more help to respond to the needs of children and women in health, nutrition, education, protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene.”

Alice Akunga, UNICEF Representative to Nepal



A family return to the remains of their home, carrying UNICEF supplies – tarpaulins, water purification & hygiene kit