

JAJARKOT EARTHQUAKE

Quad-Day Situation Analysis Report

(13-16 December, 2023)

Editor: Dr. Raju Thapa, DpNet



This report details significant issues in post-earthquake situation. Funding delays have severely impacted the construction of temporary shelters, leaving thousands exposed to harsh cold in inadequate tarpaulin shelters. This has led to increased health risks, particularly among vulnerable populations. Despite the allocation of funds, only a small fraction has reached the identified beneficiaries in Jajarkot. The report also discusses challenges in beneficiary identification, further complicating fund distribution. Efforts to improve data management and a vaccination campaign against post-disaster health risks are highlighted as key initiatives. Additionally, the report covers the situation in various municipalities, detailing the progress and challenges in shelter construction and fund allocation.

FUNDING DELAYS EXACERBATE TEMPORARY SHELTER CRISIS

The Jajarkot earthquake has left thousands exposed to the harsh cold, relying on makeshift tarpaulin shelters that offered little protection. The delay in distributing funds for shelter construction intensified the challenges, prolonging the suffering of affected families. This situation has worsened health risks, particularly for the vulnerable, leading to illnesses among the elderly, children, pregnant women, and newborns, emphasizing the demanding need for immediate assistance and proper shelter to ease the cold-related health threats.



In Jajarkot, although the money has been disbursed to the municipalities, it has yet to reach the beneficiaries. Asst. Chief District Officer Harishchandra Sharma mentioned that 33,871 beneficiaries have been identified in Jajarkot. While stating that an amount totaling 499.3 million has been sent to the local disaster management fund, he highlighted that information from the local levels indicates that only 1.3 million rupees have reached the beneficiaries thus far.

Assistant Chief District Officer of Rukum West Pravesh Baduwal mentioned that altogether 19,935 beneficiaries have been identified in the district. An amount totaling 498.3 million has been disbursed from the district disaster management fund to the local disaster management fund however only Rs 307.5 million has reached the beneficiaries. In Rukum West, 7,080 temporary shelters have been constructed, with 4,892 under construction and 2,188 built through labor donations.

The progress of temporary shelter construction in Jajarkot district has been notably slow. Among the seven municipalities in the district, Nalgadh and Junichade are facing delays in receiving funds from the DAO due to limited funds provided by the NDRRMA. These municipalities are also experiencing challenges in identifying eligible beneficiaries, further delaying fund distribution. As a result, shelter construction has been significantly impacted. Other five municipalities are also struggling to identify beneficiaries. According to reports, less than one percent of total disbursed budget has actually been disbursed to the beneficiaries in Jajarkot district.

The beneficiary's identification process continues, increasing the number of beneficiaries. Asst. CDO Sharma of Jajarkot and Asst. CDO Baduwal of Rukum West both demanded increased funds due to rising beneficiary numbers.

COMPLICATIONS DELAYING TEMPORARY SHELTER SETUP IN JAJARKOT POST-EARTHQUAKE

In the aftermath of the Jajarkot earthquake, several critical issues have emerged, complicating the recovery process. A significant concern is the difficulty in determining the number of eligible beneficiaries for temporary shelter. Many residents claim to have separated from joint families, living in different stories of the same house, and are thus demanding individual temporary shelters for each separated family unit. This has led to inconclusive beneficiary counts. The verification process is further stalled for individuals who are currently abroad for employment.

Geological concerns have been raised in certain areas, where cracks and faults in the ground have been identified, leading to debates over potentially relocating entire communities to safer locations, instead of making temporary shelter in such inhabitable land. The preference of some beneficiaries to build their shelters in different locations has also contributed to the inconclusive distribution of funds.



Moreover, the delay in fund disbursement led to a hesitation among people to initiate house construction until the grant was secured. Similarly, issues with beneficiaries' signatures have resulted in funds being reversed from banks back to the municipality, resulting delay in making temporary shelter.

HARSH COLD IMPACTING HEALTH IN TEMPORARY EARTHQUAKE SHELTERS

Jajarkot earthquake affected people living under tarpaulin are confronting serious health issues due to the cold. Infants and adults alike are becoming ill from the conditions. Amar Pariyar, who resides in a makeshift tarpaulin shelter in Thaple, Khalanga, faced a terrible situation when his baby was hospitalized for three days with pneumonia, a direct result of the cold. "Living in a tent since our house became uninhabitable has been hard. The baby's health declined after we moved here," he shared. "The colder it gets, the more concerned we are about the baby's deteriorating health."



Maya, residing with her husband and three children in a tent in Thaple, is struggling severe back, body, and limb pain, exacerbated by recent surgery to deliver a child. "The cold has made life extremely difficult. The dew penetrating our tent makes it hard to safeguard our family," she said with sorrow.

Sita, already suffering from heart problems and a cough, finds her condition worsening in the cold. "My health is deteriorating progressively in the tarpaulin makeshift conditions," she stated.

Bishnu Giri, the head of the health section at Chhedagad Municipal Hospital, pointed out a significant increase in patients due to the cold weather. Daily, over 30 individuals, including children, the elderly, and those with chronic conditions, seek treatment for cold-related illnesses such as pneumonia, respiratory tract infections, and even diarrhea among earthquake survivors. Prachanda Karki, a health official from Nalgad Municipality, also heavily affected by the quake, reported an influx of around 100 patients each day. "The growing number of patients might necessitate continuous treatment. We're facing a critical shortage of medicines and essential equipment like X-ray machines, power backup systems, and beds, which hampers our ability to provide adequate care," he explained.

DATABASE SYSTEMS ESTABLISHED ON TEMPORARY SHELTER CONSTRUCTION.

The aftereffects of the earthquake drew widespread attention both within Nepal and globally, prompting immediate response efforts. As these initial response activities gradually conclude, the focus has shifted toward addressing the urgent need for temporary shelter construction and initiating early recovery initiatives. However, despite these crucial efforts, a notable challenge persists such as the lack of a comprehensive and well-organized information system.

This deficiency of reliable and centralized data poses a significant issue, affecting not only the government's understanding but also creating uncertainty among humanitarian agencies. The absence of accurate information on who is actively engaged in construction activities and where these efforts are taking place has led to confusion and a lack of trust in reported progress. Even government entities struggle to maintain a comprehensive database, worsening the situation.

To address this issue, the District Disaster Management Committee in Jajarkot has taken a proactive step. They've established a dedicated Information Management team, comprising individuals from key organizations such as NDRRMA, UNDP, DPNepal, Caritas, and other relevant groups. This collaborative team is committed to gathering, organizing, and validating data from various stakeholders, including government bodies at local levels and humanitarian organizations involved in temporary shelter construction along with the temporary learning centers.

Their collective responsibility involves the careful tasks of data entry, compilation, and widespread dissemination of this accurate and up-to-date information. By doing so, they aim to provide a comprehensive and trustworthy database for all stakeholders in need of critical construction-related information. DDMC anticipates that this strategic initiative will effectively bridge the information gap.



नेपाल सरकार
गृह मन्त्रालय
जिल्ला प्रशासनिक कार्यालय
जाजरकोट
(विपद् शाखा)

फोन नं. : ०६१-४३०१३३
०६१-४३०१३०
Email : jajarkot@ddmc.gov.np
www.ddmc.gov.np

प.सं. २०६०/०८१
प.नं. १३१०

मिति: २०६०/०८/२७

विषय:- विवरण पठाउने सम्बन्धमा ।

श्री भेरी/ नवलगाड/ छेडगाड नगरपालिका, नाम: कार्यपालिकाको कार्यालय, जाजरकोट ।
श्री सिमान्तक/सुनिवारि/बाँकेकोट/कुसे गाउँपालिका, गाउँ कार्यपालिकाको कार्यालय, जाजरकोट ।

प्रस्तुत विषयमा मिति २०६०।०७।१७ गतेको भूकम्पबाट क्षति भएका घर परिवारलाई अस्थायी आवास निर्माण प्रयोजनार्थ जिल्ला विपद् जोडिम न्युनिकरण तथा व्यवस्थापन समितिबाट तहरी स्थानिय तहको स्थानिय विपद् जोडिम न्युनिकरण तथा व्यवस्थापन समितिको खातामा पठाईएको रकमबाट भूकम्पबाट प्रभावित घरपरिवारलाई अस्थायी आवास निर्माण अर्थात् निर्माण २०६० चर्माभित्र हाल सम्म के कति रकम सामग्रीलाई विनियम गरिएको छ सो को विवरणका साथै तहरी स्थानिय तह अन्तर्गत हाल सम्म के कति निजि अस्थायी आवास को-कमबाट निर्माण भएका छन् सो को विवरण समेत तपशिलको दायीमा मिति २०६०।०८।२६ गते कित्ता १० चर्मा भित्र अनिवार्य पठाउनुहुन र त्यस भन्नि हरेक हप्ताको विहिवार साध ५ चर्मा भित्र नियमितरुक्ते विवरण पठाउने कार्य गर्नुहुन अनुरोध छ । साथै उक्त कार्यका लागि सम्पर्क व्यक्ति (फोकस पर्सन) सोकि पठाउनुहुन समेत अनुरोध छ ।

तपशिल

सि.नं.	निकास भएको कुल रकम	वितरण भएको रकम	रकम प्राप्त गर्नेको नाम	हाल सम्म निर्माण भएको आवास संख्या	केन्द्रिय

सोभार्थ:-
श्री गुरु मन्त्रालय,
विपद् तथा डन्ड व्यवस्थापन महाशाखा, सिङ्गा रवार काठमाण्डौ ।
श्री राष्ट्रिय विपद् जोडिम न्युनिकरण तथा व्यवस्थापन प्राधिकरण, सिंहदरवार काठमाण्डौ ।
श्री राष्ट्रिय आपतकालिन कार्य संस्थान केन्द्र, काठमाण्डौ ।

प्रमुख जिल्ला अधिकारी
सुरेश सुनार
प्रमुख जिल्ला अधिकारी

In response to this situation, the District Administration Office in Jajarkot has issued a letter to all municipalities, requesting weekly submissions detailing the progress and status of shelter construction efforts. They have specifically asked for this information to be provided in a prescribed template. Commencing operations on December 13, 2023, the Information Management team establish an efficient and reliable system that will update construction-related data and serve as a valuable resource for all involved entities.

VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN JAJARKOT AND RUKUM WEST FOR COMBATTING POST-DISASTER HEALTH RISKS.

The health service office, Jajarkot organized a district-level, two-day orientation, and planning seminar in Khalanga, Jajarkot, from December 15th to 16th, 2023. This seminar, facilitated by the Ministry of Social Development and the Province Health Directorate, aimed to prepare for a forthcoming four-day vaccination campaign in earthquake-affected areas, specifically Jajarkot and Rukum West.

Mr. Janak KC, the Public Health Officer in Jajarkot shared that the seminar's objective was to prevent potential post-disaster outbreaks of measles, rubella, and typhoid in these affected districts. The seminar saw participation from Health Unit heads and Municipal Health Office heads, encouraging comprehensive discussions and planning for the coming up vaccination campaign.



The same program will be organized in the Rukum as well. The campaign itself is scheduled to run from December 21st to 30th, 2023. To ensure its success, a one-day orientation and training session will be conducted for volunteers across all municipalities. This coordinated effort aims to prepare and equip volunteers and health officials for a comprehensive and effective vaccination campaign.

DDMC MEETING ON DATA MANAGEMENT AND TEMPORARY SHELTER CONSTRUCTION IN JAJARKOT

A meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Jajarkot district CDO Mr. Suresh Sunar, involving DRR focal person, journalists, humanitarian agencies, and local NGO representatives, aimed to review the response activities post-earthquake on 14th December 2023. Key discussions centered on concerns regarding the temporary shelter construction procedure, slow disbursement of funds to beneficiaries, and inadequate data management regarding ongoing construction efforts. Participants raised queries regarding the delay in fund disbursement for temporary shelter construction and the lack of comprehensive data on ongoing initiatives. There was a consensus on the urgent need to enhance data management and update information flow from municipalities to the District Disaster Management Committee.

The meeting resulted in significant outcomes such as participants sharing their perspectives on response activities, emphasizing the media's role in positively disseminating government-related information. Clarifications were provided regarding the provisions of the temporary shelter construction procedure.

To address the data management gaps, the DDMC shared that a dedicated data and information team within the district administration office premises had been set up. Furthermore, a virtual meeting with all municipality mayors and deputy mayors was scheduled for the following day to update communication and collaboration on earthquake-related construction efforts.



The meeting concluded with a focused approach toward improving information dissemination, clarifying procedures through different channels, and enhancing coordination among stakeholders involved in the earthquake response/recovery activities.

MUNICIPALITY WISE UPDATE ON SHELTER CONSTRUCTION IN RUKUM WEST

Mr. Pravesh Baduwal, Assistant Chief District Officer shared of Rukum West Pravesh Baduwal mentioned that altogether 17,434 beneficiaries have been identified in the district. An amount totaling 498.3 million has been disbursed from the district disaster management fund to the local disaster management fund however only Rs 307.5 million has reached the beneficiaries. In Rukum West, 7,080 temporary shelters have been constructed, with 4,892 under construction and 2188 built through labor donations. The delay in fund disbursement led to a hesitation among people to initiate house construction until the grant was secured. To address this issue, the DDMC initiated daily meetings, enhancing information sharing among mayors, chairpersons, and the Chief Administrative Officer to ascertain the amount released.



Aathbishkot Municipality

Aathbishkot Municipality is facing a multitude of challenges within his community. The insufficient funds assigned for constructing toilets have led to delays, while structural faults and cracks in certain areas raise concerns about relocating the entire community to a safer environment. Despite the absence of NGO/INGO-built houses, volunteers' compassionate efforts have assisted residents in setting up makeshift shelters. Additionally, the community faces a scarcity of raw materials and

“Some areas exhibit cracks and faults, potentially necessitating the relocation of the entire community to a safer location. The lack of raw materials and essential equipment locally forces residents to purchase these items from distant places, escalating transportation expenses. Drinking water projects face obstacles, with cracks in water tanks and broken pipes impeding their functionality.”

Rabi KC, Mayor, Aathbishkot Municipality



essential equipment, prompting them to source these items from distant places, thereby increasing transportation costs. This scarcity extends to drinking water projects, with damaged tanks and broken pipes worsening the water crisis. Despite these complex issues, Mayor Rabi KC is constantly working to address Aathbishkot persistent needs with resilience and resourcefulness.



Sanibheri Rural Municipality

About 3,200 to 3,300 households are expected to benefit from the grant. However, complete information is still pending from certain wards.



A total of 655 shelters have been constructed. Additionally, the Nepal Red Cross Society has committed to building 150 shelters, estimated to cost around Rs. 86,500 each.

“The majority of individuals lack bank accounts, leading to additional delays in addressing this matter. Requests have been made to banks to expedite the disbursement of grants via check. Certain wards are currently occupied with police verification tasks (muchulka), anticipated to conclude by the following week.”

Dipak Budhathoki
 CAO, Sanibheri Rural Municipality



Chaurjahari Rural Municipality

The municipality received 15.7 million rupees and disbursed 8.73 million rupees to the beneficiaries. A total of 6,279 beneficiaries have been recorded, out of which 3,492 have received the allocated amount. Currently, 1,227 temporary shelters are in progress, with 68 shelters already completed. Nabil Bank has committed to constructing 50 shelters, of which 15 have been handed over to the local authority.

"Some beneficiaries prefer relocating their shelters to more accessible areas within the municipality. Others have left for foreign employment, causing delays in the verification process. Some provided power of attorney solely for verification, not for financial transactions. The size of the temporary shelter poses challenges for larger families."

Sher Prasad Dhakal
 Mayor, Chaurjahari Rural Municipality



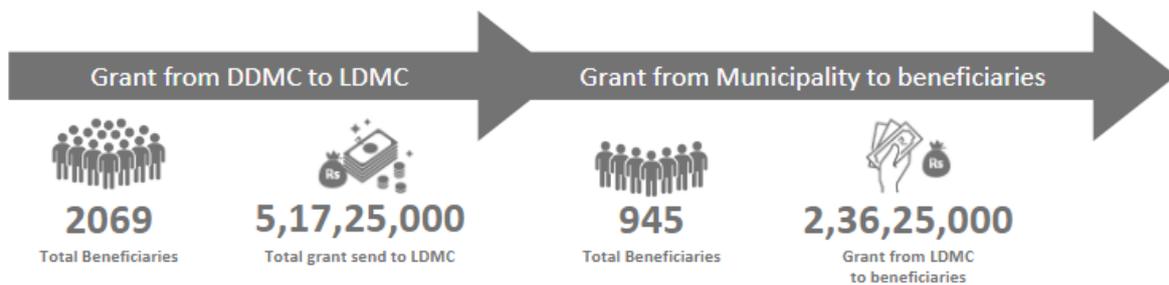
Triveni Rural Municipality, Rukum West

Triveni Rural Municipality received 5.17 million from DDMC for 2069 beneficiaries out of which they have disbursed 2.36 million to complete the grant procedures for 945 individuals, with some remaining steps pending to transfer the funds to the beneficiaries' accounts. Out of 4644 households, 945 beneficiaries have received funds and construction work in underway. Notably, in wards number 9 and 10, NRCS is in the process of constructing 100 temporary shelters in the municipality.

"Delay in data collection from various wards has hindered our ability to provide assistance to those in need. Additionally, many individuals are working abroad, making it challenging to obtain the necessary power of attorney for family members to proceed with financial transactions. Opening bank accounts took longer due to people not having accounts initially. Moreover, some individuals who forgot their credentials and lack a cheque book added to the delay."

Ganesh Kumar KC

Chairman, Triveni Rural Municipality



MUSIKOT MUNICIPALITY

According to Mr. Sudarshan Shah, planning section head reported that Musikot Municipality has received 1.42 million for 566 HH from DDMC out of which they have disbursed funds to 98 identified beneficiaries. Until now, 25 temporary shelters are under construction. However, due to the ongoing process of verifying and enrolling eligible temporary shelter beneficiaries, complete data from all the wards have not arrived yet.



Banphikot Rural Municipality

In Banphikot Rural Municipality 117 shelters are being constructed in the municipality, apart from 70 of them receiving support from volunteers. The amount of 4.38 million has been disbursed for temporary shelter construction from DDMC. However, due to the recent transfer of the Chief Administrative Officer, there's currently no one with the financial authority to process the funds, delaying its distribution to the beneficiaries' accounts.

"We require a unified portal at DDMC for effective communication, data circulation, and report collection. Approximately 95% of the houses in the area have sustained cracks, and around 130 houses have fully damaged. Despite these structural issues, many individuals opt to remain inside their homes rather than seek shelter under tarpaulins, especially considering the harsh cold. This decision raises concerns about the potential risks of aftershocks, which could result in further casualties."

Gyan Bahadur Khadka
Information Officer
Banphikot Rural Municipality



Approximately 95% of all houses in the area have cracks, and around 130 houses have collapsed. Despite these structural issues, many residents opt to remain inside their homes instead of seeking shelter under tarpaulins, especially given the harsh cold weather. This raises concerns about potential aftershocks that could cause further casualties.

He mentioned that no NGO or INGO has provided shelter support, but certain political parties, volunteers have jointly contributed efforts. Additionally, despite the availability of Rs. 50,000, people are hesitant to demolish their entire houses for makeshift shelter. The ward offices were messaged to send data promptly, but collection efforts did not meet the anticipated timeline.



Note: Due to the minimal advancements in both fund allocation and the building of temporary shelters in the Jajarkot district, we have not included the municipalities of this district in the current report. We plan to address these issues in detail in our forthcoming report.

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_HtLu3drZjW0M12Z50T3ApEtFagP4pIbk

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&oid=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 by this Friday. 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.

This Quad-Day Situation Analysis Report is prepared by DpNet in support of Plan International

