An analysis of humanitarian funding to Nepal in the wake of the second earthquake

Figures are correct at time of writing but are subject to frequent change. Updates of funding can be found on the OCHA Financial Tracking Service as they become reported to its system.

1. Key points

- The Nepali government declared a state of emergency in areas affected by the first earthquake, which struck on 25 April 2015. The most recent UN Resident Coordinator’s Situation Report states that 8.1 million people (a quarter of the population) are in need of humanitarian assistance and just under 18,000 people have been injured. An estimated 280,000 houses have been destroyed and over 250,000 houses have been damaged. According to the Government of Nepal, the death toll is now above 8,000, although it is likely to rise in the aftermath of the second earthquake, which struck on 12 May 2015. As reported by the government, the death toll from the second earthquake stands at 65 as of 13 May 2015.

- According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)’s Financial Tracking Service (FTS), donors have committed/contributed US$156 million of humanitarian assistance to the crisis since 25 April 2015. Prior to the crisis, Nepal has been a small recipient of humanitarian relief (total humanitarian assistance to Nepal in 2014 was US$9.4 million).

- A UN flash appeal for Nepal was launched on the 29 April, requesting US$415 million (which has been updated to US$423 million as of 13 May 2015) from donors to respond to the crisis. According to the FTS, it is currently 14% funded at US$58 million.

- A further US$98.3 million of contributions have been made outside of the appeal and US$316 million remain in uncommitted pledges (as of 13 May 2015 pm).

- The United Kingdom (UK) is the top donor to the crisis, contributing 20% of total current funding (US$31.4 million). However, taking into account uncommitted pledges, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is the top donor, having recently pledged US$200 million.

2. Recent humanitarian funding to Nepal

As of 13 May 2015, donors have committed or contributed US$156 million of humanitarian funding to Nepal since the start of the crisis on 25 April 2015. US$316 million remains in uncommitted pledges.

![Figure 1: Top 10 humanitarian donors to the Nepal Earthquake crisis](image-url)

Note: US: United States. UK: United Kingdom. CERF: Central Emergency Response Fund; ECHO: European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department. CERF is included for illustrative purposes; it is officially a delivery channel.

The UK is the largest government donor to the crisis, followed by the Norway and the United States (US). Between them, these three donors have given 38% of total funding so far. The top five donors (including the CERF) have given 53% of total funding. The importance of donors from the region in the response, particularly those outside of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC), is particularly notable. China and Thailand are within the top 10 donors. China, Thailand and India have collectively provided 14% of funding thus far.
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently pledged an additional US$200 million to the crisis response, which equates to just under half of the total requirements for the UN flash appeal (updated on 7 May 2015 to value of US$423 million). If all donors were to convert their remaining pledges and commitments into contributions, this would place the ADB as the largest donor to the crisis, providing a contribution that is just under three times as large as the second largest donor, the UK Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) (the combined value of outstanding pledges and commitments for DEC totals over US$66 million).

3. Appeals and response plans

The UN has launched an initial flash appeal for Nepal requesting US$415 million from donors to respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs within a 3-month period, targeting over 8 million affected people (this value has since been updated to US$423, see above). The appeal is currently largely underfunded, with only 14% of requirements currently funded at

US$58 million. US$98.3 million has been committed or contributed outside of the appeal, and a further US$316 million remains in uncommitted pledges to the crisis outside of the appeal.

This appeal is the first UN-coordinated appeal for Nepal since 2010, when US$123 million was requested for the Nepal Humanitarian Transition Appeal. Prior to 2010 and following the Consolidated Appeal for Nepal 2005–2006, there were appeals every year for transitional support.

4. Funding to sectors

The largest proportion of funding to Nepal since the crisis has been allocated to the ‘sector not yet specified’ (52%), followed by ‘Shelter and non-food items’ (19%), ‘health’ (6%) and ‘food’ (4%).
As of 8 May 2015 the UN Nepal flash appeal identifies ‘food security’ as the top priority sector for funding (funding requirements total US$128 million; 30% of total requirements), yet, as per reporting to the UN OCHA’s FTS, the ‘food’ sector has only received 4% of funding for the crisis. ‘Health’ was identified in the appeal document as the second highest priority for funding (requirements totally US$78 million; 19% of total requirements), yet has also only received 6% of funding.

### 5. Pooled funding as part of the response

#### i. Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

In 2014, Nepal was the 43rd largest CERF recipient, receiving only 0.4% of total CERF allocations (US$1.9 million). As a result of CERF funding to Nepal since the crisis, Nepal is currently the third largest recipient of CERF funding in 2015, having received US$15 million to date (9.3% of total CERF allocations for 2015). All CERF funding to Nepal to date has been made under the ‘rapid response’ window.

The largest proportion of CERF funding to Nepal since the crisis has been allocated to projects within the ‘Water and sanitation’ sector (23%) being implemented by UNICEF, followed by the ‘Shelter and non-food items’ sector (23%) being delivered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), followed by ‘food’ sector (20%) being delivered by the World Food Programme (WFP), and the ‘health’ sector (17%) being delivered by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF. As outlined in section 5 above, the flash appeal for Nepal identifies the food and health sectors as the top two priority sectors for funding.

### 6. Channels of delivery

With most funding reported to the FTS currently coded as ‘other’ with regards to the ‘appealing agency,’ it is difficult to analyse the proportional breakdown of different channels used in the response to the crisis. However, on the basis of the information available and as reported to the FTS, it appears that the largest proportion of funding has been channelled through UN agencies (32%), followed by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (20%), the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement (6%), and government (2%).
Given that the government has taken on the role of coordinating the response through the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) and establishment of the Prime Minister’s Disaster Relief Fund, the proportion of funding allocated to the government may increase in the future.

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UNOCHA FTS data downloaded 13 May 2015, am