



HIGHLIGHTS

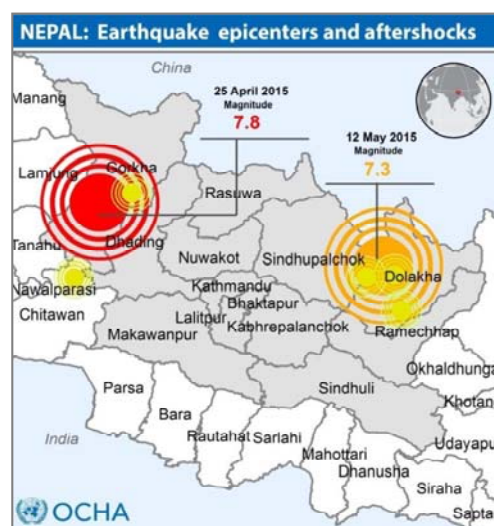
- **Two major earthquakes struck Nepal within weeks:** a 7.8 magnitude on 25 April (epicentre Lamjung District, Western Region), followed by a 7.3 magnitude on 12 May (epicentre Dolakha district, Central Region).
- **A FAO/WFP food security assessment is ongoing.** FAO is assessing agricultural damage in 6 severely affected districts: Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Rasuwa, Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk. The latter two were severely hit by both quakes.
- **The impacts on food security and agricultural livelihoods are expected to be very high.**
 - Most marketing activities are severely disrupted, hampering access to food.
 - Stored food, seed stocks, storage facilities, livestock, fisheries, irrigation and other livelihood assets are damaged/lost.
 - Farmers were harvesting wheat, planting maize and approaching the rice planting season when the earthquakes hit.
 - Wheat and maize crops in the mountain and hill areas are likely to be most affected due to landslides and disruption of harvesting operations. Prospects for the forthcoming 2015 summer crops (rice and millet) are also in jeopardy.
- **The FAO/WFP-led Food Security Cluster seeks USD 128 million** to deliver critical food security assistance within the Nepal Earthquake Flash Appeal (launched 29 April). Needs arising from the 12 May earthquake are not yet reflected.
- **FAO urgently seeks USD 12.5 million to address immediate needs, including to:**
 - prevent post-harvest losses by providing immediate grain storage capacity
 - ensure 2015 rice, millet and vegetable planting through the provision of crop production packages
 - keep animals healthy and productive through the emergency provision of animal feed and veterinary supplies
- **FAO has mobilized a total of USD 1.6 million**, thanks to contributions from Belgium, Italy and FAO's own resources.

BACKGROUND

Two major earthquakes struck Western and Central Regions of Nepal on 25 April and 12 May (7.8 and 7.3 magnitude, respectively). Millions of people are affected in a total of 39 districts, out of 75 districts countrywide.

The affected areas range from Nepal's largest cities (Kathmandu and Pokhara) to highly vulnerable rural areas. The massive quakes and aftershocks have severely injured and killed thousands of people, flattened homes, downed power and destroyed infrastructure, including roads to access affected populations.

FAO is working closely with the Government and partners of the Food Security Cluster to meet the most urgent needs of affected populations. A FAO/WFP Food Security Assessment is ongoing in 14 affected districts. FAO is assessing agricultural damage in Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Rasuwa, Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk – the latter two were severely hit by both quakes.



AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS AND PRIORITIES

❖ **High impact on food security and agricultural livelihoods.**

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for two-thirds of Nepal's population, including many subsistence farmers. Although agricultural assessments are still ongoing, affected families have likely lost livestock, standing crops, food stocks and agricultural inputs, while facing market disruptions and constrained movement of emergency assistance. Damage to irrigation and drainage canals are also likely to be high.

Food Security Cluster

Working in partnership for an effective, coordinated and evidence-based response.

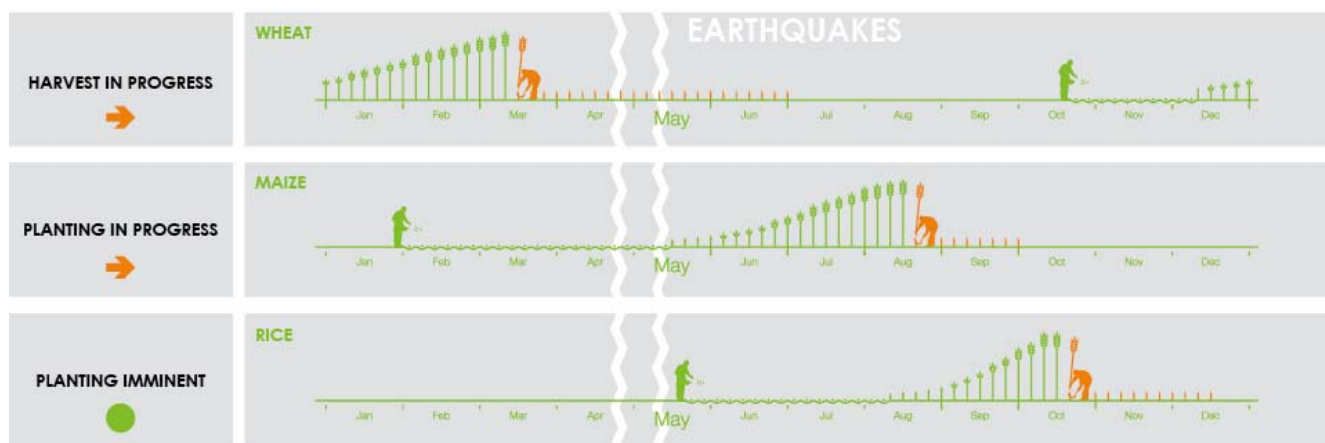
Co-led by FAO and WFP



Food and Agriculture
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- ❖ **The earthquakes struck during the wheat harvest, with maize planting ongoing and rice sowing expected to start from late May onwards.** These three staple food crops are planted only once per year.



- ❖ **Farmers urgently need support to protect their 2015 wheat crop (still being harvested) and sow rice during the planting season beginning in late May.**

Farmers need immediate grain storage capacity to prevent further losses to their 2015 wheat crop. They also urgently need seeds to sow rice, which contributes around half of Nepal's cereal production. Families that miss the 2015 planting season will be unable to harvest rice until late 2016. Provision of vegetable seeds is also critical to increase access to nutrient-rich fresh foods.

- ❖ **There is also a critical window to preserve livestock.**

Livestock are a continuous source of food, income and draught power for rural households, which are costly to replace. Further livestock losses can be prevented with the timely provision of veterinary supplies, animal feed and shelter – especially as the monsoon approaches (June–August).

FAO time-critical priorities



Grain storage

Crop production packages (rice/millet).

Vegetable seeds



Livestock feed

Veterinary supplies

Animal shelter



12.5 million

FAO RESPONSE

FAO is supporting Government efforts to rapidly restore rural livelihoods and food production.

Immediately following the earthquake, FAO:

- activated a number of its Level 3 response protocols
- mobilized funds from its own resources to kick-start response
- deployed an emergency response team.

FAO is currently:

- assessing agricultural damages in six districts
- preparing to distribute emergency crop and livestock support to some 20 000 households with current funding.

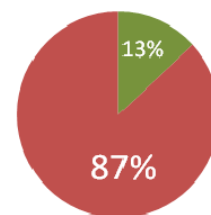
Further funding is urgently needed for time-critical agricultural interventions that will increase the resilience of farming families and greatly reduce the time and costs of recovery.

Farming families are counting on us now to regain their self-reliance sooner.

Funding received:
USD 1.6 million

Funding gap:
USD 10.9 million

Donors: Belgium, Italy and FAO



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