

## Facts and figures

### Context

Earthquake magnitude: 7.8 on the Richter scale with multiple aftershocks of up to 7.3

More than  
8,200 dead  
17,800 injured  
285,000 homes destroyed  
240,000 homes damaged

More than 8 million affected

Source: OCHA [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org)

### SDC commitment

#### Deployment of experts

22 members of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) are on the scene

Additionally, five Swiss and 25 local staff are assisting in the cooperation office

#### Aid deliveries

205 self-help kits (shovels, pickaxes, ladders, helmets, gloves, face masks, etc. purchased locally) and

3,100 shelter kits (tarpaulins), 1,000 kitchen sets and 1,800 hygiene sets distributed.

38 tonnes of Swiss aid delivered

#### SDC budget

Rapid response  
CHF 5.5 million

Reconstruction  
CHF 10 million of the total annual DC/RC budget



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With the help of the self-help kits distributed by the SDC, people are trying to salvage as many of their possessions as possible from the ruins of their homes.

### Latest news on Switzerland's activities

The 38 tonnes of aid delivered from Switzerland have been or are in the process of being distributed together with materials purchased locally. As the monsoon season is due to begin in just four to five weeks, it is a race against time trying to ensure that people have at least temporary accommodation by then.

Thanks to the extra medical support provided by the rapid response team at the hospital in Gorkha City, focusing on care for mothers and children, local capacity has been increased. This has enabled the delivery of both an appropriate quantity and quality of care to the dramatically increased number of patients.

In addition to the rapid response and emergency measures, which still have several weeks to run, Swiss Humanitarian Aid is examining the possibilities for its medium-term activities in the country, in fields such as construction (earthquake-safe reconstruction) and natural disaster risk reduction (DRR).

#### Context:

On 25 April 2015, an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale struck Nepal, followed by multiple aftershocks of up to magnitude 7.3. The epicentre was around 80 km north west of Kathmandu.

The situation remains critical in rural areas close to the epicentre and hundreds of thousands of people in various parts of the country are still dependent on aid.

Impassable roads and an increasing number of landslides are preventing aid from being distributed. This means that, outside the Kathmandu Valley, aid can only be distributed by air or by means of porters. In addition, the country is being struck by fresh aftershocks on an almost daily basis.

## Commitment of Humanitarian Aid and SHA

The first Swiss team has since been fully replaced. The Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) has presently 22 experts assisting locally in coordination, construction, logistics and medicine in Nepal.

### Medical support

Since the early hours of 30 April, a 10-member medical team from the SHA has been working closely with the local staff at the hospital in Gorkha City as part of the "Mother and Child" module developed specially for disaster situations. Thanks to this Swiss support, the Gorkha district hospital has been able to resume its work and a total of 1,669 patients have received care, 491 of them from the Swiss team.

### Temporary accommodation

Together with local partner organisations, around 205 self-help kits (consisting of shovels, pickaxes, ladders, helmets, gloves, face masks, etc. purchased locally) for some 2,700 families and 3,100 shelter kits are currently being distributed to those worst affected in the districts of Gorkha, Kabhrepalanchok and Lalitpur. With the help of this equipment, people affected by the disaster can themselves salvage still-usable items from the rubble and make buildings that are still standing habitable again or use parts of those buildings for temporary accommodation. In addition, 1,000 kitchen sets and 1,800 hygiene sets urgently required to run a household are also being handed out. This is proving to be a race against time, as the rainy season is due to begin in a few weeks.

### Water and health

To prevent the spread of disease, it is essential to ensure access to clean water. The delivery of aid from Switzerland included 50 modules that enable chlorine to be produced from water, salt and electricity and 200,000 litres of water to be prepared an hour, enough for about 15,000 people. These modules are only distributed to local partners, who at the same time receive thorough training in how to use and maintain them from our experts locally.

### Preventing natural disasters – Swiss expertise

Knowledge of the risks associated with natural disasters and protective measures (such as expertise in earthquake-safe construction) may make the people in this area at risk of earthquakes safer in future.

Swiss Humanitarian Aid has a wealth of potential experience in this area and for years has been instructing people in different parts of the world in how to make their traditional buildings more earthquake-safe (more information on this can be found under the "Build back better approach").

### Coordination

Switzerland is participating in national and international coordination efforts, and the Swiss aid organisations active locally meet on the premises of the Swiss embassy on a regular basis.

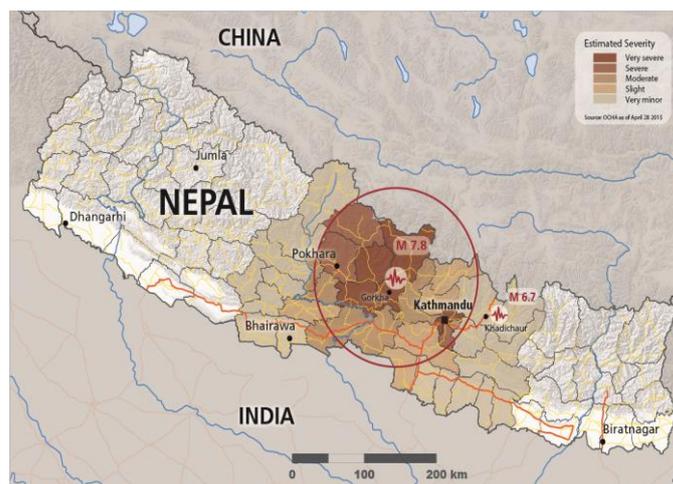
## Priority country for development cooperation (DC/RC)

The SDC's Regional Cooperation (RC) also initiated emergency relief in the form of aid and psychosocial care for traumatised victims. This relief is centred on four districts east of Kathmandu that are the focus of SDC's activities and in some cases have been since the 1960s. Three of these rural areas that are difficult to access (Dolakha, Ramechhap and Okhaldhunga) are among the 13 districts worst affected by the earthquake. The coordination and distribution of aid in cooperation with local partners has got off to a very good start. However, it is still particularly difficult to access people affected in the country's remote highlands. Outside the Kathmandu Valley, aid can only be distributed by air or by means of porters. In many places, the earthquake or subsequent landslides have made roads impassable.

The long-term development cooperation (DC/RC) programmes under way are currently being reviewed and, where necessary, redirected in order to provide assistance to victims of the earthquake as rapidly as possible with a minimum of bureaucracy and to contribute to the area's socially compatible reconstruction. In doing so, it is important to give particular attention to disadvantaged sections of the population, such as women, young people and children and groups that suffer discrimination. Switzerland's expertise in road and bridge building, agriculture and forestry, water infrastructure and vocational training is put to full use in this context.

### Budget:

	Rapid response	Reconstruction
HA/SHA	CHF 3.5 million	
DC/RC	CHF 2 million	CHF 10 million



### Further information

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