

EARTHQUAKE UPDATE FROM SOLUKHUMBU (Mount Everest Region)

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Live Feed: Today

12 May 2015: 7.4 magnitude Earthquake

While preparing this presentation a 7.2 magnitude earthquake with epicenter in the direction of the Everest region has shocked Nepal - 12 May 2015 at 12.52 p.m. Contact was made within 5 minutes of earthquake through satellite phone with people in Khumbu:

- Damages to property has been vast in the Solukhumbu region
- too early to report on human and livestock casualties
- Efforts to contact others in Khumbu have failed due to difficulties in communication lines
- Reports are streaming in of the effects in other parts on Nepal
- Damages and human casualties in Kathmandu are being reported
- Emergency cabinet meeting is being held in Singha Durbar, Kathmandu
- Prime Minister will address the nation any moment now

Live Feed: Today

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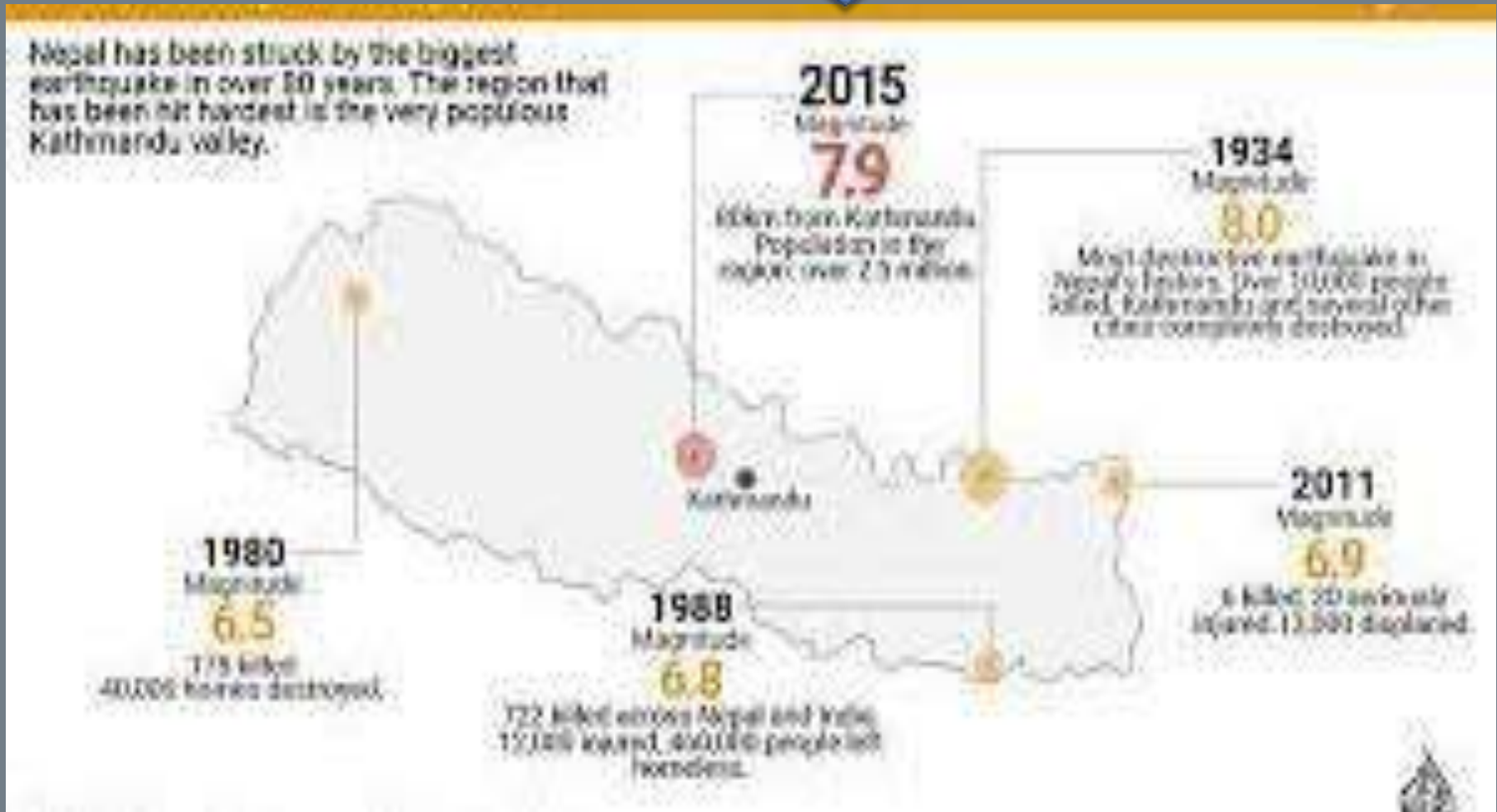
I have been receiving continuous phone calls since the earthquake at 12.52 p.m. today from various mountaineering associations, alpine clubs, media and other organizations associated with mountaineering and trekking.

Currently I am prioritizing emergency calls with information and reports from various mountainous parts of Nepal. Therefore I apologize if I have not been able to answer your calls or reply to your mail. I would like to request you to contact me only if absolutely necessary and when doing so to please keep it brief as I would like to keep lines free to receive urgent calls.

Similar to this report from the Everest Region, we are preparing initial reports of other mountainous regions. Please send us your contact details if you are interested in receiving these further reports.

THE 25TH APRIL EARTHQUAKE

On April 25, 2015: 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal



Heart-wrenching images after the 7.9 magnitude earthquake



Earthquake in Solukhumbu

The 25 April 2015 earthquake caused devastation in many districts across Nepal, including Mount Everest Region of Solukhumbu District.



Glimpses of the effect of the earthquake in Solukhumbu region



Glimpses of the effect of the earthquake in Solukhumbu region



Glimpses of the effect of the earthquake in Solukhumbu region



The massive devastation that the 7.9 magnitude earthquake has caused is widespread and has affected everyone.



We will have to rebuild and revive. This is our second birth.

Earthquake in Everest Base Camp (EBC)

The Mount Everest south base camp in Nepal was struck by a major avalanche triggered by the earthquake. 18 climbers died and 71 were injured.

All of the 71 injured were heli-rescued from Base Camp to Kathmandu on 26 April. Five B3E helicopters, one MI17 helicopter and two Sky Truck fixed wings were involved in the rescue operations..



Earthquake in Everest Base Camp (EBC)

The 5 small helis shuttled between BC (5350m) and Pheriche (4350m), the MI17 shuttled between Pheriche and Lukla and the fixed wing aircrafts shuttled between Lukla and Kathmandu. Total rescue operation of the injured from EBC to Kathmandu Hospital took 4 hours.



Evacuation from Everest High Camps

180 Climbers were evacuated from Camp 1 and Camp 2

Due to the collapse of the Khumbu Icefall route by earthquake avalanches 120 climbers from Camp 2 (6450m) and 60 climbers from Camp 1 (6100m) were helicopter evacuated to Base Camp on 27th April, 2015.



Mount Everest Expedition cancelled

All Mt. Everest expeditions were cancelled due to the collapsed Icefall route and unsafe conditions with continued aftershocks.



The Nepal Earthquake Death Toll

The death toll from Saturday's deadly 7.9 magnitude earthquake and a series of over 100 aftershocks that struck various parts of Nepal has surpassed 8000 and leaving over 17,000 injured



Scarce relief efforts reaching Solukhumbu



Property Destructions in Solukhumbu (Everest Region)

Preliminary record of property destructions in three VDCs (Namche, Chaurikharka and Khumjung):

VDC	Government building		School		Private homes	
	Fully damaged	Partial damaged	Fully damaged	Partial damage	Fully damaged	Partial damaged
Khumjung	1	N/A	2	1	187	260
Namche	3	1	1	1	259	141
Chaurikharka	1	1	3	1	264	285

Source: #DDC May 2015/ Khumbu Earthquake Information

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Human Casualties in Solukhumbu (Everest Region)

Record of human casualties in the three VDCs (Namche, Chaurikharka and Khumjung) as per the record of Solukhumbu District Headquarter

Human Casualties				
VDC	Death		Injured	
	Nepali	Foreigner	Nepali	Foreigner
Khumjung	3	5	3	14
Namche	3	-	2	-
Chaurikharka	1	-	-	-

Source: #DDC May 2015/ Khumbu Earthquake Information

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TOTAL POPULATION FOR THREE VDCS

Total population and households of three VDCs (Namche, Chaurikharka and Khumjung) as per the record of Solukhumbu District Headquarter

VDC	Population			No. of Households
	Male	Female	Total	
Khumjung	913	999	1912	551
Namche	807	733	1540	480
Chaurikharka	1872	1837	3709	968

Source: #DDC May 2015/ Khumbu Earthquake Information

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Government Relief Support in three VDCs

The government has allocated Rs. 7,000 per house as immediate relief fund for completely damaged households and Rs. 1,40,000/- to the family of the deceased)

VDC	Government relief fund per house	Government relief fund per VDC	Budget per VDC for (death) family
Khumjung	7000	1197000	420000
Namche	7000	1967000	280000
Chaurikharka	7000	1848000	140000

Source: #DDC May 2015/ Khumbu Earthquake Information

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People displaced by Earthquake in three VDCs

Total number of people displaced by earthquake in the three VDCs (Namche, Chaurikharka and Khumjung).

VDC	Resettle
Khumjung	887
Namche	1055
Chaurikharka	1050

Source: #DDC May 2015/ Khumbu Earthquake Information

Earthquake Relief Group Formed in three VDCs

Local based committee and group formed to work on this earthquake relief

VDC	Khumjung	Namche	Chaurikharka
	Khumjung & Khunde Earthquake Relief Group (KKERG)	Sagarmatha Sarokar Samiti (Thami, Buffer Zone)	Pharak Sherpa Kyidug

Source: #DDC May 2015/ Khumbu Earthquake Information

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THE 25TH APRIL EARTHQUAKE IMPACTS

1. People of Solukhumbu are still sleeping under the open sky at 13,000 to 18,000 feet without proper temporary shelters
2. Monsoon season is approaching and this will further damage the existing fragile buildings, landscape, etc.
3. 70% of local residents depend on tourism for their annual income (through catering, guiding or portering) and several lodges and teashops have been damaged
4. Acute skill labour shortages to rebuild private houses, teashops and lodges
5. Poor communication systems due to geographic remote areas
6. Government approach is limited especially in remote regions like upper Khumbu

The Way Forward.

- Immediate relief (such as food, shelter, medication, etc.) are required especially in the mountainous areas due to their remoteness.
- Assessment of damages to property and rebuilding plans will be required to provide long term shelter solutions.
- Funds shall be needed for locals to rebuild their homes and lives. With most mountainous areas dependent on tourism it will be vital that tourists return to boost the economy of these areas in the long term.
- Education is key to development of the nation. Schools therefore need to be rebuilt, restarted and allow children a safe environment to study.
- Destabilization of the landscape can cause landslides, avalanches, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), etc. Scientific and environmental research will be required to assess the risks and put in place short-term and long-term preventive measures.

The Way Forward.

To revive and rebuild from this multisector impact will take time, efforts and resources. This is not an easy task but a task of moving mountains. To overcome this Herculean task we will need your support in every way possible: morally, financially, physically and with your expertise and resources.

I hope and pray for a speedy recovery to all.

Thank you.

Ang Tshering Sherpa

Chairman of Climate Alliance of Himalayan Communities

President of Nepal Mountaineering Association

Honorary Member of UIAA (International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation)

