

# Solokhumbu District, Nepal

## RAPID ASSESSMENT REPORT, May 2015

## Nepal Earthquake Response

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

### LOCATION MAP



### METHODOLOGY

Solokhumbu was selected for assessment since it not been comprehensively assessed by humanitarian agencies prior to the 12 May earthquake, and represented an information gap for humanitarian actors in the wake of the second earthquake. Primary data was collected from purposively sampled key informants (KIs), who were selected based on their role in the community, recent access to remote areas, and relevant knowledge of particular areas in the district. Interviews were conducted based on a rapid assessment tool developed by REACH, and recorded on paper. Findings were then weighted depending on the particular area of knowledge of each KI.

### LIMITATIONS

Due to rough terrain and the inaccessibility of northern areas, data collection was limited to a small geographical area north of Salleri. As a result, the figures included in the report, are indicative only, and are included to provide a brief overview of the situation and to help direct follow-up assessments and immediate humanitarian assistance, where required.

### INTRODUCTION

This rapid assessment report presents a summary of key findings and priority reported needs in Solokhumbu district, Nepal, based on primary data collected from key informants on 14 May, in the direct aftermath of the second earthquake.

### CONTEXT

Amid ongoing recovery efforts following the earthquake of 25 April 2015, Nepal was struck by a second earthquake on 12 May, with a magnitude of 7.4.

The epicentre of the second earthquake was located further east than the first, close to the border between the districts of Sindupalchok and Dolakha, 41km from Solokhumbu's western border. The second round of tremors caused further, both in areas that had already been affected, and causing new devastation in areas which had previously which had experienced only limited damage, such as Solokhumbu, where no comprehensive assessments had previously been carried out.

### AFFECTED AREAS

Solokhumbu District is comprised of 30 Village Development Committees (VDCs) and one municipality, with a total population of 105,119. According to initial reports, all of the worst affected VDCs are located in the North and North-Western remote areas where access is limited.

These VDCs are shown on the map overleaf and include: Bung, Beni, Chaulakharka, Chourikharka, Goli, Juving, Khumjung, Namche, and Taksindhu.

### CASUALTIES AND SHELTER DAMAGE

- While 22 casualties and 91 injuries were reported after the first earthquake, the majority of which occurred on Mount Everest, no casualties related to the 12 May earthquake had been reported to district authorities at the time of the assessment.
- 12 May earthquake caused major damage to previously intact shelters, whilst aggravating existing damages incurred by the first earthquake.
- In the worst affected VDCs, 70-100% houses were reportedly rendered uninhabitable due to structural damage incurred by the 12 May Earthquake. The same interviewees reported that this number was 20-30% after the 25 April earthquake.
- Landslides remain a serious threat to persons and shelters. Residents from remote villages reported injuries, blocked roads, and destroyed homes in their communities due to landslides triggered by aftershocks.

### REPORTED PRIORITY NEEDS

- Shelter materials, in particular tents and tarpaulin, were ranked as the primary need by all key informants. Key informants reported that 95-100% of all inhabitants in their VDCs were currently sleeping outside, either due to destroyed housing or fear of aftershocks.
- NFIs (blankets) were cited by the majority of KIs as the second most important need due to the cold weather and harsh conditions in the mountains.

- Key informants in remote villages did not report an urgent need for food, but all judged available food stocks as inadequate. In Taksindu and Chiwang, food stocks were estimated to last for another 15-30 days.
- No damage was reported to water sources, with water quality and quantity reportedly unaffected in the interviewed areas.

### ASSISTANCE AND REPORTED GAPS

- The government has distributed 7,500 tents, and said to have 3000 metric tons of food in stock - reportedly enough to meet the food needs of the district.
- None of the key informants reported having received support from either the government or humanitarian agencies.
- District authorities reported that an additional 10,000 tents are needed to cover the entire district, whilst 2,000 tents would be needed to only provide shelter to the 23,025 inhabitants of the most affected VDCs.
- Logistical access to remote areas is a key concern due to the mountainous terrain and general lack of road access to most of the district. The problem is aggravated by the insufficient availability of helicopters, and trails/roads blocked by landslides.

**About REACH:** REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. For more information, visit [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org).

# NEPAL — 12 May 2015 Earthquake Impact Assessment

## Solukhumbu District, Most Affected VDCs

Production date : 15 May 2015



-  District Headquarters
-  Stream or River
-  Most Affected VDCs
-  District

Data sources: Administrative boundaries, settlements, hydrology: Nepal Survey Department

Coordinate System: GCS WGS 1984

Note: Data, designations and boundaries contained on this map are not warranted to be error-free and do not imply acceptance by the REACH partners, associated, donors mentioned on this map.