

# NEPAL EMERGENCY

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INTERNATIONAL**

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***Monday, April 27th - the situation has worsened considerably after the earthquake that hit Nepal. On the ground, more than 3,600 people have been killed, and thousands more have been injured. Hospitals have started to receive injured people arriving from the most severely affected areas. Five districts of the country are very affected.***

Another 6.7 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal on Sunday April 26. It was strongly felt in the capital. The people who had returned home yesterday have had to leave again for security reasons and are now outside or in evacuation centres. Travel is made very difficult as roads and highways are blocked by debris.

The situation is particularly problematic for people living in villages outside Kathmandu: the roads are blocked, communication is cut, it is hard to have information about the impact of the earthquake in these areas and hard to help the affected populations.

Yesterday markets were closed so it was difficult to find food. The airport was open and cargo planes delivered food to both affected populations living in remote areas and people staying in evacuation centers.

Handicap International has been one of the first NGOs to act on the ground. We intervened immediately to help the most vulnerable in two main hospitals in the capital. The organization is planning to provide post-surgery rehabilitation care in these two hospitals, offering aid to injured people (e.g. head injuries, open wounds) in collaboration with orthopedic surgeons. Handicap International is also providing medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, crutches, walkers and splints.

Handicap International is going to set up Disability and Vulnerability Focal Points (DVFP) where our teams will work within the hospitals, provide psychological support to patients, and make sure they are well-nourished for instance.

An HI rehabilitation expert already present in Nepal has gone to Gorkha, the most affected of all the districts, with International Medical Corps. They will jointly assess the needs to consider a potential intervention. Another expatriate went to Pokhara to also evaluate the needs.

Handicap International is preparing to intervene in the informal camps and shelters where many people need equipment for the night such as blankets and tents.

A first team, consisting of three experts in emergency response and logistics left from Lyon, France, this Sunday 26th April to reinforce the Handicap International team already on the ground.

At the same time, Handicap International is sending out the necessary equipment to enable the work of its teams. Tents, tarpaulins, satellite phones are being sent to Nepal to enable our teams to work in complete autonomy in highly affected areas.

This morning, Handicap International sent a logistical kit from Lyon which contains everything needed to set up the emergency base. Handicap International is also sending a DVFP kit with basic logistical and medical equipment, enabling Handicap International teams to provide care to earthquake victims.

A second emergency team will leave from Lyon today, April 27th, with an emergency coordinator and a logistician, who are both experts in natural disaster contexts. Two further departures are already planned for Wednesday to increase Handicap International's capacity on the ground.

The team present in Nepal, usually working on long-term development activities, is fully mobilized to respond to the emergency and provide aid from the start. Handicap International will then adapt its activities based on the needs identified. The non-emergency activities of Handicap International in Nepal are by nature linked to this crisis, as the organization had two kinds of projects in Nepal: physical rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction.

Our first priority is to look after injured people to prevent injuries becoming long-term disabilities. When an earthquake strikes, multiple fractures and spinal cord injuries are very common due to buildings collapsing. Appropriate care must therefore be given quickly to prevent long-term consequences.