

# BHERI MUNICIPALITY, JAJARKOT: AFTERMATH AND PROGRESS FOLLOWING 2023 JAJARKOT EARTHQUAKE

Situation report: 1

As of February 8, 2024

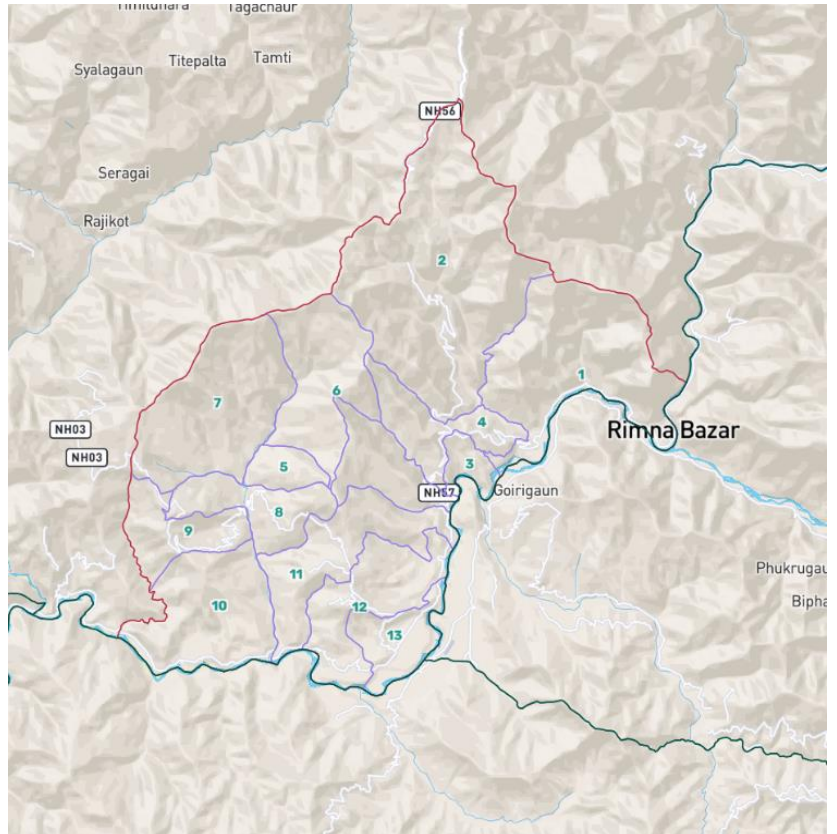
## HIGHLIGHTS

- Out of the 6,631 beneficiaries eligible to receive the financial assistance of NRs 50,000 from the municipality for constructing a temporary shelter, 4,652 beneficiaries have received the first installment of NRs 25,000.
- 1,700 beneficiaries have completed their temporary shelter construction.
- 2,288 individuals have received Psychiatric First Aid (PFA) and 204 individuals have received psychosocial support.
- Construction of 20 TLCs (41 classrooms) has been completed in Ward no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 13.

|                                      |                       |                         |           |            |                                |                                 |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>8,874</b>                         | <b>8,373</b>          | <b>38,737</b>           | <b>46</b> | <b>458</b> | <b>114</b>                     | <b>5</b>                        | <b>795</b>        |
| Total<br>Households<br>(Census 2021) | Affected<br>Household | Affected<br>Individuals | Deaths    | Injured    | Damaged<br>School<br>Buildings | Damaged<br>Health<br>Facilities | Livestock<br>Lost |

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

The earthquake of 6.4 Richter Scale, with epicenter located in Ramidanda, Berekot Municipality, Jajarkot, Karnali Province, on November 3, 2023, left a trail of devastation in the western regions of Nepal, particularly impacting Rukum-West and Jajarkot districts. Bheri Municipality, being one of the affected areas, experienced severe losses in both human lives and infrastructure, with Wards 1 and 3 witnessing the most damage. On the night of the earthquake, 46 individuals lost their lives (one during treatment), with 36 being permanent residents of the municipality, primarily comprising women, children, and senior citizens. Despite ongoing community efforts to restore normalcy and the humanitarian support received during this emergency, the situation remains critical, particularly for vulnerable groups such as senior citizens, pregnant and lactating women, single women, children, and other marginalized communities. Immediate attention and support are crucial to addressing the pressing needs of these affected populations in their journey towards recovery.



*Bheri Municipality, Jajarkot, Karnali Province, Nepal*

## **HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**

### **RECONSTRUCTION CLUSTER**

#### **Needs**

- 6,631 households eligible to receive financial assistance for temporary shelter construction will be needing permanent housing. Since most of these families do not have an economically strong background, further financial assistance is necessary for permanent shelter construction.
- Some areas inside the municipality pose great risk of landslides, especially in case of another earthquake and during monsoon season. Urgent intervention is needed to secure these vulnerable areas.

#### **Response**

- The reconstruction phase has not yet begun in the municipality. However, the first tranche of NRs. 25,000 have been released to 4,652 beneficiaries for temporary shelter construction. 1,700 beneficiaries have completed the construction.
- 8 development organizations are constructing temporary shelters in Ward no. 1 and Ward no. 3 for a total of 1,223 beneficiaries.

#### **Gaps and Constraint**

- The municipality is waiting for the Federal Government's budget allocation for reconstruction. Currently, it lacks enough funding.
- The budget for reconstruction provided by the Federal Government might not cover the reconstruction cost for areas vulnerable to landslides or other unforeseen disasters.

#### **Funding**

- The funding, if needed, can only be calculated once the Federal Government finalizes their budget allocation for reconstruction.

## **HEALTH CLUSTER**

#### **Needs**

- The municipality has 1 completely damaged and 4 partially damaged health facilities in need of immediate intervention for an earthquake resilient infrastructural construction.
- 7 basic health centers housed in traditionally built structures, although did not endure much damage, pose a great risk for employees as well as patients in case of another earthquake, making it imperative to construct earthquake resilient infrastructures to facilitate the municipality with preparedness.
- Each facility needs a tent in stock in case of emergencies.
- Each facility also requires a buffer stock, 5 stretchers, 5 wheelchairs, oxygen concentrate, suction machine, crutches, emergency drug kit, and delivery bed/set.
- Many affected individuals show signs of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other psychological issues. Establishment of psychological centers is one of the priorities to ensure their well-being.

#### **Response**

- Several organizations/government agencies have assisted the municipality with medical supplies and relief materials post the earthquake.
- The Central Government provided a team of 22 doctors.

- The Provincial Government deployed a team of health officials as well as provided the municipality with medical supplies.
- 16 head teachers and 32 focal teachers received training in Psychiatrist First Aid (PFA) training.
- 2,288 individuals have received Psychiatric First Aid (PFA), 204 individuals have received psychosocial support, and 156 individuals are to receive psychosocial support for the second time through the works of development partners.

### **Gaps and Constraints**

- The municipality lacks enough funding to initiate the infrastructural construction in the available 12 health facilities.
- There aren't many psychological experts in the municipality capable of providing psychological and psychosocial care for the affected individuals.

### **Funding**

- The municipality needs NRs. 10,000,000 investments in each existing health facility—damaged as well as the ones housed in traditionally built structures—to re-establish these medical centers.

## **EDUCATION CLUSTER**

### **Needs**

- 55 schools (114 school buildings) were completely and partially damaged, rendering them inhabitable. Out of this, only 15 schools have been provided with TLCs. Many schools are still conducting classes on open fields, therefore increasing the need for TLCs in the remaining 40 schools.
- Although tents and construction of TLCs have provided some relief, it still does not solve the issue of damaged ICT and science labs, as well as toilet facilities. Furthermore, it's not suitable for monsoon season, thus presenting the need to focus on constructing permanent and earthquake resilient infrastructures in all 55 schools.

### **Response**

- 8 organizations have been working on building 33 TLCs (66 classrooms) in 15 schools from Ward no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 13, out of which 20 TLCs (41 classrooms) have been completed.

### **Gaps and Constraints**

- The municipality does not have enough funding to proceed with the reconstruction.

### **Funding**

- NRs. 5,000,000 – 7,000,000 for 55 schools each is needed to construct permanent and earthquake resilient structures.

## **AGRICULTURAL CLUSTER**

### **Needs**

- The municipality has tremendous scope in beekeeping and honey production, offering an opportunity for economic revitalization for families grappling with financial challenges post this earthquake. To facilitate this, the establishment of easily accessible collection centers across all wards is imperative.
- To ensure sustained financial stability, establishing agricultural service centers in all 13 wards is crucial to foster market growth, enabling locals to sell their agricultural produce effectively.

- Considering the limited awareness among locals regarding the agricultural potential, there is a pressing need for educational programs aimed at training residents on leveraging agriculture as their primary source of income.

### **Response**

- No relief/response has been provided in the agricultural sector, except for food items distributed, post the earthquake.

### **Gaps and Constraints**

- The municipality lacks enough resources and funding.

### **Funding**

- The municipality requires NRs. 5,000,000 each to establish collection/service centers as per the requirement.

### **COORDINATION**

The municipality has been coordinating with District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC), 13 ward offices, development partners, and departments within the municipality office for relief, response, recover, and reconstruction post this earthquake.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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