OVERVIEW

This is Nepal’s worst earthquake in more than 80 years.

On April 25, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Nepal around 80 kilometres from the capital Kathmandu. Just two weeks later the country was rocked by a second major 7.3 magnitude earthquake.

According to the government of Nepal, 8,500 people lost their lives, over 20,000 were injured and more than 700,000 houses were damaged or destroyed.

The coming monsoon season is putting additional pressure on the urgent need to provide assistance to the victims of the earthquakes and it is now a race against time to provide shelter, food and sanitation services.

Many affected areas are extremely remote, having no road access even in normal circumstances and many of the previously usable roads are now cut off by landslides.

CARE has launched an appeal of $40 million to provide emergency relief and long-term recovery. It takes $250 to provide a month’s worth of food for a family and $220 to provide a family with emergency shelter.

PEOPLE HELPED: OVER 23,000

HOW CARE IS RESPONDING

Since the two devastating earthquakes that hit Nepal on 25 April and 12 May, CARE has reached over 23,000 people with food, emergency shelter and hygiene items, and plans to reach a total of 100,000 of the most vulnerable people, in some of the remotest areas of Nepal, who remain blocked off from aid.

Women and children have been the most impacted by the earthquake. Many women in the rural areas no longer have access to healthcare with health centres and access roads destroyed.

CARE is distributing reproductive health kits that include safe birthing kits, essential medicines and supplies for birthing attendants.

An estimated 128,000 pregnant women affected by the devastating earthquake in Nepal are in urgent need of health services and an additional 14,000 women are expected to give birth in Nepal in the next month.

Shelter Specialist Tom Newby in Nepal

“The death toll from the earthquake is Nepal’s highest on record with over 8,500 people killed.

Over 700,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed which is the equivalent to the entire city of Las Vegas being made homeless.”

(OCHA figures as of 18 May: http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHANepalEarthquakeSituationReportNo.16%2818May2015%29.pdf)