How to help victims of the Nepal earthquake

by Christopher Dawson, Jennifer Grubb, and Ashley Vaughan

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake rocked Nepal with devastating force Saturday, killing thousands. Many more are unaccounted for as the search for survivors continues. Google has launched a People Finder tool to help victims touch base with friends and loved ones. It allows users to look for victims or post information about people, and it also works by text messaging.

Rescue and recovery efforts are underway. Many charities and NGOs are on the ground providing essential aid and medical assistance. Here are some of the organizations that you can assist.

The Nepal Red Cross Society is the epicenter of the relief efforts and is a direct way to help the people of Nepal. The organization is providing first aid, search and rescue, blood to medical facilities and support to first responders. Here is its online donation link; please note that their website connectivity is on and off, so you might not be able to get through.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is prepping resources from its hubs in New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. The federation is releasing funds from its Disaster Response Emergency Fund to support vital services including food, shelter, water and sanitation. You can aid their efforts by donating here.

ActionAid USA is on the ground working with government ministries and emergency response teams to cooAction Against Hunger is focusing on covering basic needs by providing food, water and other essential items. The charity will also provide psychological support through its Nepal Earthquake Emergency Appeal.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA) is distributing plastic sheeting for temporary shelters. They are planning additional assistance for food, water and healthcare. You can help by donating to their emergency fund here.

All Hands Volunteers Disaster Assessment Response Team (DART) is on the ground in Nepal assessing the damage. Your online donation will help the organization get more boots on the ground and mobilize volunteers to aid a community in dire need. You can support this effort here.
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is collecting funds for emerging relief efforts, which will have a critical focus on medical relief and supply delivery to survivors. To support their efforts, donate online here.

The American Jewish World Service (AJWS) has set up the Earthquake Emergency Relief Fund to raise and distribute emergency relief and provide long-term recovery for the people of Nepal.

AmeriCares has sent its response team to the impact zone and relief workers are preparing shipments of medical aid and relief supplies for survivors. You can help by donating online to their disaster relief fund.

CARE is on the ground and providing temporary shelter, ready-to-eat meals, water purification and latrine construction. You can learn more about their relief plans here or go directly to their donation page to help.

Catholic Relief Services is accepting donations to help affected families with emergency shelter, blankets, water treatment kits, and hygiene kits.

ChildFund International has launched an emergency appeal to provide urgent care and protection for children who've lost homes and loved ones in the earthquake. The organization is responding in the Sindhupalchok district, one of the worst-affected areas.

Concern Worldwide is working to provide those in need in Nepal with emergency supplies for shelter, cooking and hygiene. You can specify which of these supplies you want to help provide, when you make your online donation.

Convoy of Hope has a team with equipment and supplies en route to Nepal. The charity is working with a network of 100 churches and organizations who are ready to respond to those in need. Support their efforts here.

Direct Relief is preparing and delivering medical resources to local health facilities that are seeing an influx of injured. They are also working with medical companies to secure additional supplies as needed. You can help these efforts with an online donation.

Power has long been unreliable in Nepal, but now Empower Generation is bringing light to people after the quake. The small non-profit was already present in Nepal and is raising more funds to purchase and import additional lights and solar power systems. You can help the organization provide solar lamps and mobile chargers to relief workers, hospitals and people in shelters in Kathmandu and Dhading by donating here.

Global Giving has created a Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund to immediately help both local Nepalese nonprofits and international aid organizations. Supporters can donate online or text GIVE NEPAL to 80088 to donate $10.
With your financial support, Habitat for Humanity's disaster response teams are working with local government groups and relief agencies to assemble emergency shelter kits to house displaced earthquake victims. You can donate here.

Handicap International is providing wheelchairs and assistance to local hospitals which are overwhelmed. The organization is focused on making sure survivors receive the care they need to avoid developing permanent disabilities. You can go online to directly support their Nepal Earthquake Response.

International Medical Corps is on the ground coordinating their response and sending additional staff and resources to support relief efforts. You can support the Nepal Earthquake Response online, or by texting MED to 80888 to give $10.

International Relief Teams is airlifting emergency medical supplies to Nepal, and planning additional medical support for those in need. To help with this effort, donate here.

Islamic Relief USA's Disaster Response team is on the ground. They are focusing on providing tents and have launched the Nepal Humanitarian Aid fund which you can support online.

The Jewish Federations of North America is requesting donations for their Nepal Relief Fund as they work to assess the immediate needs and coordinate emergency supplies to earthquake victims.

Lutheran World Relief has staff on the ground assessing the damage and the immediate needs of those affected. You can donate to their Nepal Earthquake Fund which will help them provide water filtration units, quilts, personal care kits and more.

MAP International is responding to earthquake victims on the ground by providing critical medical treatment and supplies like antibiotics and wound care items. To help this organization meet the growing need, donate here.

MercyCorps has launched the Nepal Earthquake Response fund to help provide food, water and temporary shelter in the aftermath of this disaster.

Operation Blessing International is making plans to provide emergency relief with their partner on the ground, Nepali Rescue Project. Once needs are determined, Operation Blessing will source materials, locally if possible. Donate online to help them give water, food, medical and other emergency supplies.

Operation USA is undertaking recovery efforts in Nepal, providing essential supplies for those affected and hospitals in need. You can help their efforts by donating online or by texting AID to 50555 to donate $10.
Oxfam International is working to help provide clean water, sanitation and emergency food for those affected by this disaster. Their priority is to prevent disease outbreaks caused by unsanitary conditions.

Donate via Oxfam America here. You can also donate through Oxfam Great Britain here.

Plan International is responding to the needs of children and families in the impacted areas of Nepal. They have launched an international Nepal earthquake appeal that you can support.

Real Medicine Foundation is preparing to send medical teams and supplies to help hospitals with their overwhelming number of patients. You can support them online or text REALMED to 50555 to make a $10 donation.

Save the Children is working to protect vulnerable children and provide relief to families including baby packs with clothes, blankets and soap. You can donate online to directly support the Nepal Children's Emergency Relief Fund.

The Salvation Army is focused on providing the immediate needs of shelter, food, water, and other relief items. They have launched a Nepal earthquake fund to support both this and their long term needs of those affected.
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Samaritan's Purse is sending emergency shelter, water, hygiene kits and other emergency supplies. They are also sending a medical team to offer assistance. You can support this by donating to their Nepal EartSeva Foundation is requesting funds to help meet the growing need of medical treatment for earthquake victims. All contributions will go directly to the organization's partner hospitals. To help support their efforts you can donate to the Nepal Earthquake Fund.

Shelterbox is distributing aid, including tents, that they have prepositioned in the country. You can help them offer shelter to more families in need with a donation.

UNICEF is working with the government and other partners to meet children's immediate needs in water and sanitation, protection, health and nutrition. You can help by donating online.

The World Food Programme is also responding, providing food to those in need. You can help efforts by donating online here.

World Vision is coordinating its response with the national government, and says their immediate focus is potable water, food, household supplies, temporary shelter and protection for children. To help them provide this, you can donate online to their Nepal earthquake relief fund. You can also text NEPAL on your mobile phone to 44888.