



## Fast Facts: Nepal and the Earthquake



**Population:** 25,371,000    **Capital:** Kathmandu; 741,000

**Area:** 56,827 square miles (two thirds of the UK)    **Language:** Nepali, English

**Religion:** Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim    **Currency:** Nepalese rupee    **Literacy Percent:** 45

Nepal lies between China and India in South Asia. Monarchy until June 2008 the Nepal's first president was chosen by parliament the following month.

Maoist insurgency caused deaths and misery from 1996 until 2005.

Most Nepalese live in the central, hilly region, which embraces the Kathmandu Valley, and in the southern plain known as the Terai.

The cutting of trees for fuel—increased by demands of a booming tourist industry—causes erosion. Rivers that spring from the Himalaya generate electricity for local use and potentially for export.

Nepal possesses the greatest altitude variation on the Earth, from the lowlands near sea level to Mount Everest at 8,850 meters (29,035 feet).

Everest, named after British surveyor Sir George Everest, is known as Chomolungma by the local Sherpas, meaning "Goddess Mother of the World"—related to this is the Chinese name Qomolangma. The Nepali word for Everest, Sagarmatha, is often translated as "Forehead of the Sky." Sherpas benefit from the mountaineering boom and tourism in the Everest region, owning much of the lodging and transportation.

### The earthquake

- 25 April 2015 a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck central Nepal.
- The epicentre was located 81 km northwest of Kathmandu, and 68 km east from Pokhara.
- Aftershocks continued to affect the daily lives of people as they continued to sleep outdoors, in damp and cold conditions.
- The earthquake has affected 39 of the 75 districts in Nepal, 11 of which have been severely affected.
- More than 8,000 people have died and another 16,000 are injured.
- A total of 8 million people live in the affected districts.

### Key first needs: most have now been met

water, sanitation and hygiene; emergency shelter including tarpaulins and ropes; blankets and mosquito nets; food distribution

### Long-term (from now on):

- rebuild schools and hospitals
- maternal, newborn and child health
- child protection

### Our support

Dronfield support will go to the village of Talmari, and the Prithvi Rupa school which serves the village. For details see [www.dronfieldrotary.com](http://www.dronfieldrotary.com).