

UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal

Remarks at the National Inception Workshop the Joint Programme in support of the Joint Recovery Action Plan (JRAP) for Western Nepal Earthquake

Thursday, May 16, 2024,

10:00 – 13:00 hrs, Kathmandu

Distinguished Guests, Namaste, and good morning!

On behalf of the UN in Nepal, I am honored to welcome you to the official launch and national inception workshops for the Joint Programme supporting the Joint Recovery Action Plan (JRAP) for the Western Nepal Earthquake.

Let's begin with a minute's silence in remembrance of the lives lost in the quake

****[One minute silence]****

First, I acknowledge the leadership of the Government of Nepal, particularly Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Chief Executive of NDRRMA, for their immediate response after the earthquake. Our collaboration on the JRAP has been crucial for a speedy and resilient recovery.

The impact of the earthquake in Karnali was devastating, with lives lost, many injured, and tens of thousands displaced. Despite these challenges, the resilience and hope of the local people have been inspiring.

This Joint Programme supports the JRAP's strategic objectives: aiding livelihoods and basic services, creating an enabling environment for long-term recovery, and strengthening resilience against future disasters. Today, we focus on the first two objectives.

Central to this Joint Recovery Plan is the targeted funding of USD 96 million, assisting 250,000 individuals across various sectors including

camp coordination, early recovery, education, food security, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, WASH, and multipurpose cash and voucher assistance. This funding represents hope and a lifeline for those affected, paving the way for a more resilient future.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) British Embassy in Kathmandu under Pippa's fantastic leadership, for trailblazing the implementation of this joint program with the generous support of 12.5 million pounds

This program emphasizes early recovery, linking entrepreneurship and reconstruction, and upholding accountability to the affected populations. It integrates Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) principles from the start.

However, there is still a funding gap, particularly in education and health sectors. The earthquake damaged 898 school buildings, disrupting the learning of around 134,000 children, nearly half of whom are girls. Similarly, 77 health facilities have been affected, with 13 structurally non-functional. Medical services are now running in temporary setups.

I appeal for further funding to cover these critical needs.

In support of the overall UN Development System reform process, the Nepal Sustainable Development Framework Multi-Partner Trust Fund has been established. This program marks the first UN Joint Programme of IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WFP under the RC's office within this Trust Fund to address humanitarian needs in response to emergencies.

Today, on the International Day of Light, it is fitting we highlight this joint program, bringing hope and recovery to the quake-affected districts of Western Nepal. Together, we can build a brighter and more resilient future for all!

Dherai dhanyabaad.