Earthquake, Natural Disaster

2023-24, Nepal

Funds allocated: US$ 350,000

- A major earthquake of magnitude 6.4 on Richter scale followed by several aftershocks struck Jajarkot, Rukum West and eleven other districts in Karnali Province of Nepal on 3 November 2023 around midnight.

- 154 people died and over 900 were injured. Injured were provided emergency care services at hospitals located at Surkhet and Nepalganj. There was massive loss of property with over 26,770 houses being completely damaged and 35,474 houses were partially damaged.

- Of the 278 health facilities in three most affected districts, 77 health facilities were affected and 13 became non-functional. The affected districts experienced more than 300 additional aftershocks which further exacerbated challenges faced by the affected population.

- Responding to request for support from Govt of Nepal, WHO provided immediate assistance from SEARHEF for coordinating humanitarian and health response.

- SEARHEF support was utilized to establish working stations for surge support including fleet management enabling swift mobilization of personnel to affected districts.

- WHO in collaboration with partners, prepositioned medical kits and emergency logistic stockpiles at Provincial Humanitarian Staging Area.

- SEARHEF was also used to procure and supplies 500 sets of hygiene kits, 50 major trauma backpacks, cholera kits, water purifier tablets and establishment of a temporary health centre.

- The grant was also utilized to support collaborative surveillance, strengthen laboratory capacity and undertake risk communication activities.