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Nepal earthquake death toll passes 5,000 as aid reaches area near epicentre

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But it will still take time for food and other supplies to reach survivors in remote communities who have been cut off by landslides, warned said Geoff Pinnock, a World Food Program emergencies officer.

"It doesn't happen overnight," said Pinnock from the village of Majuwa, 20 kilometres (16 miles) downhill from Gorkha town, a staging area for relief efforts to areas worst hit

by Saturday's magnitude-7.8 earthquake.

Nearby, five cargo trucks, filled with rice, cooking oil and sugar, stood on a grassy field fringed with banana and acacia trees beneath the soaring Himalayas, waiting for a helicopter to carry the supplies to remote, quake-hit villages.

Soon, the UN food agency was expected to deliver

shipments of high-energy food biscuits to be sent out to areas without enough water for

cooking, Pinnock said. The first-aid shipments had reached Dhading district, just east of Gorkha, he said.