

On the status of the Customs operations at the three Border Crossing Points (BCPs) of Birgunj, Kakarvitta/Mechi, and Biratnagar, we conducted a quick check with the Customs officers at the three locations. Following is the report that came back. In short, Department of Customs feels that the reported delays are happening either *before* the Customs declarations are lodged, or *after* the goods are cleared and that if any problem is observed by the UN agencies or other humanitarian organizations, the below numbers can be contacted. Without full verification of what else, if not the Customs, is holding up the cargo entry, it is not possible to have a real picture of what processes are causing delays at the BCPs. Nonetheless, for now, I hope the below contacts would be of some use to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me on any related matters, We are discussing with the DOC on the need to address other issues related to relief consignment clearance and simplification of the procedures.

Mechi/Kakarvitta Customs: Confirmed with Mr. Krishna Neupane (977 9852020112), Customs Officer, and that there is no consignment pending in Customs for clearance. He can be contacted in his cell for any problem or delay.

Biratnagar Customs Version: Spoke to Mr. Pramod Paudel (977 9849621977), Customs Officer. There is also not a single consignment in Customs jurisdiction. He may be contacted in his cell for any delay.

Birgunj Customs Version: Spoke to Mr. Mitra Lal Regmi, Chief Customs Officer. There is also no consignment pending in Customs for clearance. He may be contacted in his cell (977 9851024152) for any delay.

The Customs administration would like to know any case of delay in any locations, for as long as it is indeed confirmed that the delay is due to Customs operation. For this matter, contact points at the Kathmandu DOC are: Surya Sedai (9851140555) and Kulraj Jnawali (9841482288).