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Loss of lives this monsoon

Baglung	29
Banke	26
Gulmi	19
Rautahat	12
Bajura	11
Darchula	9
Bardia	9
Ramechhap	9
Sindhuli	8
Baitadi	8
Dang	8
Pyuthan	7
Salyan	7
Mahottari	7
Siraha	6
Kailali	6
Kaski	6
Udayapur	5
Jajarkot	5
Kalikot	5
Arghakhachi	5
Saptari	5
Jumla	4
Surkhet	4
Makwanpur	4
Jhapa	4
Chitwan	4
Morang	4
Sunsari	4
Rukum	3
Dhanusha	3
Khotang	2
Bhojpur	2
Panchthar	2
Nawalparasi	2
Sarlahi	2
Parsa	2
Palpa	2
Bara	2
Dhading	2
Rupendehi	2
Bajhang	1
Tanahun	1

Disaster reflection**Food shortage hits eastern hill districts**

Eastern hilly districts, Okhaldhunga and Khotang have been facing food shortage after the landslides damaged and obstructed the road due to the continual rainfall for the last two months.

A local Laxmi Rai said the transportation in the Katari-Okhaldhunga roadway has not been operated as dozen of places in the roadway are blocked and damaged which has caused the lack of daily essential goods. The daily goods in Okhaldhunga were transported from Terai through Katari-Ghurmi. But, the transportation is halted now, Haleshi Transport Entrepreneurs Association said.

People are increasing day by day for the rice in Food Depot of Okhaldhunga. A dozen of locals including a police were injured in a clash broken among the people come for the rice in Depot three days ago.

Similarly, as the mule track is eroded in several places, people of Khotang district are facing food scarcity, said a local Bhim Rai.

Meanwhile, in Shanishchare, Private and Boarding Schools' Organization, Nepal (PABSON), Jhapa chapter has provided Rs 29,446 for the flood victims as relief. The amount, collected from the PABSON, teachers and staffers of the institutionalized schools, was handed over to Jhapa Chief District Officer (CDO), Dipak Sharma to deposit the amount in the Central Natural Disaster Relief Fund, said PABSON, Jhapa Chairman, Hari Kumar Prasain.

(Posted on 17th September, 2007)

Siblings drowned to death

Two siblings drowned in a pond at Majhgawa village development committee in Rupandehi district. The dead are identified as five-year-old Santoli Harijan and three-year-old Akash Harijan, son and daughter of Dayaram Harijan, of Majhgawa VDC-2.

The two had been missing since Saturday afternoon. Locals and police personnel recovered the bodies on Sunday.

(Posted on 17th September, 2007)

Family of deceased decried over government role

The family members of deceased in a boat capsized in Banke have vehemently accused government for showing extreme apathy towards them. Two weeks ago, a boat ferrying 42 locals on their way to Gowarpur of Kanchanpur capsized causing the death of 32 persons, mostly female and school students. The dead bodies of 15 had been recovered while 11 were still missing.

Nar Bahadur Raut of Baijapur VDC, who has lost his daughter and daughter in law

Sindhupalchowk	1
Lalitpur	1
Dadeldhura	1
Kavre	1
Mustang	1
Myagdi	1

(As of 17th September, 2007)

Major Displacements

Saptari	10000 family
Siraha	6000 family
Mahottari	3700 family
Bardiya	2500 family
Dhanusha	2050 family
Parsa	2000 family
Rupendehi	2000 family
Sunsari	1000 family
Banke	750 family

Total displacement: 48000 family

Total affected population:

Around 4 lakh 72 thousand (as of 17th September, 2007)

Sources : NRCS, Media reports/MCN

Disaster Related Reports

[Situation Repot NRCS, 10th Sep](#)

[NRCS Bulletin 21st Aug, 2007](#)

[WHO SITREP \(5-19th Aug,2007\)](#)

[OCHA Situation Report,13th Aug](#)

[WHO SITREP \(4-12 Aug,2007\)](#)

[Sink or Swim \(Oxfam Int\)](#)

[DM Report \(MCN\) 2006](#)

[NRCS Bulletin 29th July, 2007](#)

[Baglung Landslides Report, 2007](#)

[Flood scenario of Saptari,2007](#)

[Report on relief, Mahottari,2007](#)

Snapshots



Schoolchildren use a bamboo bridge to cross floodwater at the village of Gopongoi in Assam. (Photo: Prashant Panjiar)

lamented he couldnot arrange firewoods for last rituals as he was unable to afford it . He said even no one appeared to console them and to take stock of the situation.

"Government did not take interest to send water-divers for recovery of the dead bodies, prospects of support was far-fetched", Lahuram Chaudhary of Baijapur VDC vented his ire. He lost his daughter in that incident.

Locals said, had the prompt rescue measures been implemented, the bodies of more persons would have recovered. Irked villagers decried over locals administration for not being able to send rafting boat. VDC secretary also bemoaned on government role. He said provided rescue materials were immensely inadequate.

(Posted on 16th September, 2007)

Nepal floods take a heavy toll on families

In July, torrential monsoon rains inundated the Nepalese village of Tulsiyahi Jabdi, which lies south-west of the historical city of Janakpur in the country's famed Terai region. This fertile savannah across the border from India is home to nearly half of Nepal's inhabitants and is normally the most productive agricultural and industrial region in the country.

However, this year's floods have taken a heavy toll on residents, wiping out thousands of homes and decimating crops. "It looked like a sea, we could not do anything... Nothing was possible in the first few days, though we were ready with relief items," says Dr. Vijay Kumar Singh, the Nepal Red Cross president in Dhanusa and a physician in Janakpur. "We never thought river boats would be needed here in the plains."

More than 2,000 Red Cross volunteers were mobilized all over Nepal in an effort to reach isolated villages, like Tulsiyahi, with desperately needed relief supplies. "It was not one or two days of rains as it used to be in the past," Dr. Singh continues. "It rained continuously, for more than three weeks."

Meanwhile in Tulsiyahi, the village's 200 families found safe haven in the local school and the temple. With no hope of evacuation and no medical attention available, diarrhoea and vomiting, which often follow severe floods, afflicted entire families.

Kalam Husain Yahev, 35, tried to cure his wife and four children when the illness hit. Nothing worked and within days his wife passed away never having seen a doctor.

"Who will care for our children while I go to work? My young kids will miss their mother's affection forever. They have been missing her for weeks," he says while waving toward his children sleeping on the cool floor, "How can I care for them?" he asks.

For now, Yahev's 10-year-old and eldest daughter, Nanu, is expected to look after her brothers and sister. School resumed recently and Nanu's friends are back in class while she makes sure her siblings get to school and takes care of the household chores. She's still trying to repair the house, which was badly damaged when the flood waters caused the mud walls to collapse.

Throughout South Asia, floods and landslides this season affected upwards of 43 million people, in particular the poor and disadvantaged. In Nepal, early July rains in the Himalayas came rushing downstream in a torrent to combine with heavy monsoons, thus creating the unusually long-lasting floods in the Terai.

Our Words

The monsoon rage is not over yet. Incidents of flood and landslides are still taking lives, dislodging people and rendering thousands into terrible ordeal. Despite of several appeals by national and international humanitarian organizations, relief supply activities are being obstructed. Intermittent protests and strikes by dissident groups throughout the country and political, ethnic interest induced unrest in Terai, are continually appeared to be the main stumbling blocks for the relief activities.

Thus, the disaster response of Nepal sound serious as the victims are deprived of basic requirements and delay in rescue operations. For instance, five hundred displaced flood victims of Kailali district are downcast with governmental and non governmental agencies as they are being deprived of water (Disaster Watch- 30th August report). Emergency relief materials are inadequate comparing with multitude of disaster victims in several districts, as media reports. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) has also stressed on increasing risk of diarrhoeal and vector borne diseases after flood situation.

The discrepancy between flood and landslides victims in terms of response and recovery can be easily noticed. Apparently, landslides areas are geographical far and remote. Moreover, the institutional strength of related organizations such as NRCS in those districts are not well enough to furnish adequate support. Thus, the landslides victims are being overlooked there. The scourge of disaster is not less for them, instead its tougher due to the irrecoverable property demolition. The magnitude of the affected population from landslide may not be as that of flood but victimized are utterly ravaged.

Nepal is on the eve of festive season. Teej, festival of Nepalese women has already knocked the

"This is the second time in my lifetime I have seen such a big flood and vast water-logged areas continuing for more than three weeks," said 80-year-old Bilath Sahu, who works with the Red Cross radio programme in Nepal.

In addition to Yahev's wife, more than 160 people died. In some cases, entire families were wiped out. Thousands of acres of agricultural land have been deserted. Survivors numbering around 97,000 families throughout two-thirds of Nepal's districts are facing sustained challenges as they struggle to get access to adequate nutrition and proper hygiene.

In an effort to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, the International Federation launched an appeal for 2.3 million Swiss francs (\$1.9 million USD/€1.4 million). It aims to help 120,000 people over the next year. (*Media For Freedom*)

(Posted on 16th September, 2007)

No let up in monsoon tragedy

Five dead in four districts

Death of five persons due to monsoon disaster have been confirmed in four districts. In Dhading, two persons, missing after being swept away by the Baguwakhola in Salyankot VDC, north of Dhading district, were found dead on Friday. Gore Gurung, 50, and Fatteh Gurung, 45, had been swept away on Thursday evening and were found dead at Baguwa bazaar on the banks of Baguwakhola on Friday afternoon. Their last rites were performed on Friday.

Two persons were drowned to death while wading through rivulet in separate incidents in Khotang district. Ram Bahadur Rai, 49, of Likuwa Pokharai VDC-1 and 19 years old lady PhulMaya Magar of Arkhaule-8, had been swept away on Thursday. The dead bodies were recovered Friday.

In TankiSinuwari-3 of Morang district, eight years old boy Kaju Rishidev drowned in the Singhiya Khola. Locals found his dead body being floating.

(Posted on 15th September, 2007)

EC Donates € 500,000 for flood victims

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) has granted €500,000 to the United Nations World Food Programme to be used in feeding victims of flood in Nepal. The WFP on Friday welcomed the aid.

"ECHO has been one of the largest donors to WFP's emergency operations in Nepal, giving €3 million over the last two years. ECHO has provided aid to more than 150,000 people struggling after natural disasters in Nepal," a WFP statement quoted Richard Ragan, the WFP Country Representative in Nepal, as saying.

At a cost of nearly €3.3 million, WFP aims to provide food aid to over 266,000 people who have been hit by floods in Nepal. As part of this effort, the donation from ECHO will provide food aid to 40,000 people.

"The European Commission has been monitoring this year's floods closely in Nepal and also in the rest of South Asia. We are happy to contribute to this project which will, along with three others, alleviate the suffering of thousands and provide for much needed food, shelter, and adequate water and sanitation," the statement quoted Dominique Feron, the head of the EC's Humanitarian Aid

door, which will be followed by Dashain and Tihar. On one hand, disaster victims are starving for two square meal but on other hand rest are making merry on festivals. Disaster victims will be not in festive mood this year, but at least they should be ensured on having basic requirements: appropriate food, safe drinking water and shelter before they will be transferred into resilience mode.

Highlights

In a bid to support disaster victims of Nepal, students of Budanilkantha School have organized an art exhibition at Nafa Gallery Kathmandu. Two hundred pictures are being exhibited with the price range NRs 200 to NRS 5000. (16th Sep)

A policeman at the Kirne Post, Surke Majhi, has gone missing in the Tamakoshi river of Sindhupalchowk district. Majhi had gone to the river to take bath at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, but never returned, DSP Surendra Mainali said. (12th Sep)

Tribhuvan Highway, one of the major roads linking capital with other parts of the country had damaged at the Naubise-Simbhanjyang stretch due to the landslide since Thursday. (7th Sep)

The Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers has received Rs. 500,000 from Employees' Provident Fund, for the victims of disaster. (6th Sep)

Landslides occurred at Laghuwa of Tansen-Tamghas road section has disrupted vehicular movement since Tuesday. Passengers bound for Gulmi are left stranded. (5th Sep)

74-year-old Bhim Bahadur Pakhrin of Padampokhari VDC drowned in the flooded Rapti river, Monday. The elderly man was swept away by the current while trying to cross the river. (4th Sep)

office in Kathmandu, as saying.

Monsoon floods have hit 70,000 households and have affected 50 districts in the country. Continued rains over the last month have challenged relief efforts, in some cases reflooding areas already damaged by floods and rains earlier. The WFP launched its emergency food aid operations in response to a request from the government to feed 60,000 people displaced by flooding.

It expanded its operations to include 266,000 more people after subsequent assessments placed the number of flood-affected people to over 470,000.

(Posted on 15th September, 2007)

Victims accused politicking on relief distribution

Accusing that the distribution of relief materials provided by Caritas Nepal in Rautahat District was being done in a biased manner, flood victims staged a demonstration at the District Administration Office (DAO) on Friday. They have charged relief materials are being given only to supporters of the CPN-UML party.

The demonstrators demanded an investigation and also padlocked the godown of Caritas Nepal. Those distributing the relief materials, however, said that relief was being distributed in accordance with a list of the victims provided by the DAO.

However, a member of the relief distribution team refuted the charge and said the victims are needlessly levelling the accusation.

(Posted on 15th September, 2007)

Fishing boat capsized, three missing

Two killed in house collapse

Three people of Odraha VDC-1 in Siraha district have gone missing after a boat capsized in Odraha stream, Thursday. Thakkan Mukhiya, 45, Gulat Bahardar, 46 and Gosai Bahardar, 28 are missing in the boat capsized at Odraha. The missing persons were fishing in the stream.

In same district, one child was killed when a hut in a dalit settlement at Khoriyatole of Chandra Ayodyapur VDC collapsed on Thursday. "Seven-year-old Laxminiya Mahara, daughter of Parmeshwor was killed when my hut collapsed", a local Jaya Lal said. Six houses of the Dalits collapsed due to heavy rains, locals said, adding that the homeless are taking shelter in a local primary school.

Meanwhile, in, Lekhnath, Dhruba Prasad, an 8-year-old son of Hari Prasad Baral from Lekhnath Municipality, Ward No 2 of Kaski district died in the house debris as the landslide originated from Rithepani hill overwhelmed his house.

Even the houses belonging to Tek Bahadur Nepal, Durga Bahadur Budhamagar and Sam Bahadur Mahato have been destroyed in the landslide. As a result, they have been taking shelter at their relatives' homes. Rs 15,500 collected in the local level was distributed immediately to the landslide victims as a relief.

(Posted on 14th September, 2007)

3000 families rendered homeless in Saptari

In Banke district 2,500 flood-hit locals of Holiya VDC have started coming down with many diseases as they have not been provided any relief material as yet. Locals complained that the foodstuff provided by the Red Cross Society was also inadequate. (4th Sep)

As a post flood consequence, fever patients are crammed in district hospital of Syangja. At least 60 patients of fever used to come for the checkup daily. (3rd Sep)

A landslide triggered by three days of heavy rainfall has blocked the Kusma-Baglung section of Pokhara. (1st Sep)

The cases of encephalitis and meningitis viral fever are rapid in Nepalgunj aftermath of flood and inundation. Till now four persons were died of encephalitis and more than 30 were affected. (30th Aug)

As a consequence of flood triggered circumstances, at least 60 persons are affected from viral influenza in Narayan Khola VDC-3 of Sarlahi district. (30th Aug)

Seven thousand residents of Kusma, district headquarter of Parwat, are suffering from water scarcity as the pipe line of main supply center was swept away by the landslide. (25th Aug)

The Thai government has extended an assistance of Rs 3.9 million for flood victims on Friday. (25th Aug)

The Women Foundation (WF) on Thursday provided shelter boxes worth Rs 10 million to 129 flood victim families of Balaha Sabhara VDC at Dahanusha. (24th Aug)

Marwadi Service Trust, Birgunj handed over relief materials worth NRs. Five lakh Rupees to NRCS Parsa chapter. (23rd Aug)

NRCS Makwanpur distributed relief materials to 16 flood displaced family of Dhiynal VDC. (23rd Aug)

Around 3,000 households have been rendered homeless when one-dozen VDCs in Saptari district were waterlogged due to the flood in different rivers triggered by incessant rainfall.

Around 1,000 displaced families are taking shelters in nearby villages and school buildings. VDCs including Baikha, Barmajhiya, Portaha, Bhardaha, Badagama, Mainakaderi, Diman, Lohajara, Rampur Malhaniya, Sakarpura, Tilathi, Mowaha and Belahi have been submerged in water due to the flood in Khando, Mahuli, Sundari, Jita and Balan rivers of the district.

Water has been accrued three to four feet in the eastern VDCs of the district, said Hemraj Tated, Chairman of the Kanchanpur Chapter of Nepal Red Cross Society. Ward numbers 2 and 10 of Rajbiraj municipality have also been inundated due to the flood of Khando river. Locals here have been facing difficulty when water started to pass through Rajbiraj Bazaar too.

Meanwhile, in Sankhuwasabha, four families have been displaced by landslide that occurred wednesday and Tuesday in Baneswor -9 of the district. The incessant rainfall has displaced Jeet Bahadur Raut, Kul Bahadur Raut, Ek Bahadur Raut and other four members of the family. The displaced family has been transferred elsewhere.

(Posted on 14th September, 2007)

Chinese relief materials delivered to Nepal

Relief materials donated by the government of China's Tibet Autonomous Region were handed over to the Nepal Red Cross Society in the Nepali capital of Kathmandu on Thursday. The relief materials equivalent to 300,000 yuan (39,600 U.S. dollars) are for Nepal's flood-stricken areas, including tents, carpets, pure water and food.

On the delivery ceremony, Counselor Xi Hui of the Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu spoke on behalf of the Government of Tibet Autonomous Region that "the Chinese government and people cherish the traditional friendship between the two countries and peoples and are ready to deliver any kind of help when necessary.

This time Nepal has suffered from flood, though China has also suffered severe flood, we firmly stand with the Nepalese people." She said she was impressed that the Nepalese are striving to conquer the disaster with fearless courage. President of Nepal Red Cross Society Sanjeep Thapa said the donation "is a good testimony of profound friendship between the two nations." He said the Nepali people will take the assistance "as the feelings and togetherness of the Chinese people with the affected people in Nepal."

The Nepali Home Ministry statistics showed altogether 69,398 families have been affected by flood and landslide across Nepal so far. Flood and landslide completely destroyed 18,753 households while another 29,335 others were left partially damaged.

The ministry has estimated the loss caused by water-induced disaster this year amounted to 229.98 million Nepali rupees (around 3.50 million U.S. dollars) as of Sept. 10.

(Posted on 14th September, 2007)

Global warming : a threat to glacial lakes in Nepal

All Banks and financial institutions of Chitwan together ventured to solace disaster victims and collected NRs Sixty Thousand Five Hundred. Money was handedover to NRCS Chitwan. (23rd Aug)

Five thousand houses were damaged in Bardia due to the flood of Babai and Karnali river. Out of them 144 houses were fully damaged. (22nd Aug)

Janapriya Campus of Pokhara announced free education in all faculties to the flood and landslides victims of Guaulichaur and Jaljala of Baglung district. (21st Aug)

Eighty percent of the farms in Dhanusha and Mahottari districts have been washed off by flood. (20th Aug)

Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) has provided Rs.225,525 to flood victims through Kantipur Flood victim Relief Fund. (18th Aug)

Road links between rural areas and district headquarters Gaur, Birgunj have been respectively severed in Rautahat and Parsa district. (18th Aug)

700 people are displaced from Rajapur Tapu in Bardia, fearing of flood. (17th Aug)

Flood of Susta river, Nawalparasi forced to displace one hundred family. (17th Aug)

Flood victims in Bardiya demonstrated in front of the Red Cross Society Thursday alleging that it was biased in distributing relief materials. (16th Aug)

Thirty thousand villagers of six villages in Rautahat are at risk due to the swollen water of Bagmati, LalBakiya and Jhanj river. (17th Aug)

Flood victims in Bardiya demonstrated in front of the Red Cross Society Thursday alleging that it was biased in distributing relief materials. (16th Aug)

Landslides induced by the continuous rainfall for two days obstructed Baitadi-Darchula stretch of Dashrath Chandra highway (15th Aug)

Global warming is posing a threat to glacial lakes in Nepal. Of the 2,323 glacial lakes in the country, 20 are under threat, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). One-third of the Himalayas lie in Nepal. Due to global warming, temperature in the Himalayas has been increasing by 0.06 degrees Celsius every year.

According to the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, the Shorang glacier is shrinking at the rate of 10 metre per year due to the rising temperature. The Trakarding glacier, which feeds the Tsho Rolpa glacial lake, shrunk by 100m in the last decade. As a result, the Tsho Rolpa lake has expanded to 1.4 square kilometres from 0.23 square kilometres. No different is the situation of other glacial lakes.

"Glacial retreat can cause floods and landslides, scarcity of drinking water, loss of habitat and biodiversity and Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)," Jeevan Thapa, chairperson of the Youth Network of Social and Environmental Development told .

He added that about 21 major GLOF events have occurred, including Tam Pokhari GLOF in 1998, which killed many people and destroyed property worth Rs 156 million. Over 188 countries ratified the policies, strategies and future plans of the climate change in the Kyoto Protocol on February 16, 2005.

Nepal is the only South Asian country that is signatory to the protocol. Countries, including the USA and Australia, have not signed on the protocol. Prof Dr Madan Koirala of the Central Department of Environment Science under the Tribhuvan University said though Nepal contributes 0.025 per cent of the total greenhouse gas emission, it is highly vulnerable to the hazards of climate change.

"The government should focus on the clean energy mechanism to minimise greenhouse emission," he said, calling on the world community to accord top priority to emission control measures. (*The Himalayan Times*)

(Posted on 14th September, 2007)

Four buried, two swept away in Sindhuli

Two more died in Bhojpur

Four persons died in separate landslides and two others were swept away in floods in Sindhuli district Monday. Dhan Bahadur Khatri, 85, of Sirthauli VDC-7 and his wife died when a landslide buried their house Monday. Landslides and flooding claimed four more lives at Ladabhir VDC. Two persons died in landslide and two were swept away by the flooded Kamala River. They are yet to be identified.

About 100 households at wards no. 3, 5, 6 and 8 in the VDC have been displaced to nearby Dudhauri VDC.

In Bhojpur, Devi Kala Rai, a five-year-old daughter of Ash Kumar Rai from Dovane VDC-8 died as their house collapsed with the landslide triggered by the incessant rainfall. Jimani Rai, 30, the wife and a two-year old son were injured in the incident. Meanwhile, Sushila Rai, 26, of Basikhora VDC-1, died after the Akhuwa river swept her away while coming to Bhojpur from Falate of Dhankuta.

Similarly, the landslide has eroded hundred ropanis of land belonging to a dozen of locals at Kudak Kaule-8. A police team has been deputed to collect the exact record of the damage. Even some families in Kulung VDC have been displaced and lands buried due to landslide.

An engine steamer of Geruwa river of Bardia fell into the flooded water Monday. A conductor of steamer, Rajesh, went missing whereas 10 passengers were rescued. (15th Aug)

For the demand of relief materials, flood victims of Mahottari are regularly demonstrating in district head quarter Jaleswor.

32 districts of Nepal, out of 75, are affected by flood and inundation, according to the Home Ministry.

The lawmakers of Banke and Bardia, worst flood hit districts, asked the government to think about the impact of dams and barrages constructed by India along the border.

Staffers and the management of Spice Nepal Private Ltd, provider of Mero Mobile, have dispatched relief materials worth NRs. 426000 for flood victims.

Rainfall and flood destroyed seventy five percent of vegetable crops in Rupandehi.

in Mahottari, Madhesi Maitri Kendra, a civil society in the district working for the welfare of flood victims, postponed providing free-of-cost meals to victims, citing fatigues of their volunteers and lack of funds.

Armed Police Force (APF), Nepal handover NRs 2.5 million for disaster victims on 2nd August.

55 VDCs of Mahottari is affected from flood. Properties and infrastructures worth NRs 70 million hasbeen lost.

Dharampur VDC of Jhapa suffered a loss of NRS 30 million.

Home minister advised the local administration to form an all sided team to carryout relief and rescue operations.

Danda dam and embankment unilaterally made by the Indian government inundated 6 VDCs of Rupandehi district.

Rainfall is significantly higher this year than 2006, according to Meteorological Forecasting Division.

(Posted on 12th September, 2007)

Sunsari and Saptari at risk

Saptakoshi meanders towards west

Saptakoshi river is posing inundation threats over Sunsari and Saptari district after it meanders towards west. Saptakoshi river has already eroded 20 meters of number 13 spur located at Barahchhetra of Sunsari. If the river breaches total area of the spur, southern VDCs of Sunsari, seven VDCs of Saptari and even some areas of neighbouring Bihar state of India would come under the immense risk of inundation. Following incessant downpours, Saptakoshi has changed its direction towards west from the east.

According to the engineer Mohan Bhattarai of Water Induced Calamity Control Office Sunsari, as the river flows in full spate, risk is relatively high. Saptakoshi river has even started to breach 18 number riverbank and has already eroded 75 meters so far. It was constructed with the support of Chinese government.

Local people has urged government to initiate more for preventive measures. Three spurs and 1200 meters long embankment have been built for the cost of NRs 64 million at Sukrabare.

(Posted on 12th September, 2007)

Flood victims need urgent aid : relief agencies

Serious flooding in the lowland Terai region of southern Nepal has subsided after nearly three months of torrential rain, but there is an urgent need for humanitarian relief for those affected, as IRIN reported on 11 September.

Hardest hit was the Terai, especially in western and central areas, according to Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), the leading local organisation responsible for relief distribution. "The most vulnerable are the farmers who have lost their arable land and crops," said Sanjeev Kafle, head of the NRCS disaster unit. The Terai is Nepal's main agricultural area and serves as a bread-basket for the country's estimated 27 million people.

According to a recent joint flood assessment report by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and Save the Children Alliance, the worst impact was on livelihoods and housing. The report said the poorest, most marginalised and landless communities - like the Dalits, Madhesi, Tharu, Muslims and Janjati - were worst affected.

The fact that vegetable prices had more than doubled was also putting basic food items beyond the reach of these people, and they needed urgent aid, relief workers said.

Aid agencies are concerned food security might worsen in the coming months. They point out that up till now the affected population has been borrowing heavily to satisfy their food needs.

More suffering to female-headed households

Also badly affected were female-headed households. They need urgent help especially to repair and rebuild their homes, said NRCS officials. "The women already have difficulty making a living to support their families and are now tending to suffer more," Vincent Omuga, humanitarian affairs officer with the UN

Lawmakers blamed Indian dams for floods in the contiguous areas of Nepal.

Asia Watch

Australia increases South Asia flood relief

Australia will add to its emergency relief efforts by providing non-food relief items and emergency medical services to flood-damaged communities in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

Heavy rains and flooding across South Asia in August caused massive damage to infrastructure and communications, leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless. More than 13.5 million people have been affected in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal.

Australia's contribution of a further \$3.6 million will be provided through the Australian Red Cross, Caritas, Austcare, Oxfam, World Vision and CARE and will assist an estimated 565,000 people.

Support will include the provision of mobile health facilities, essential medicines such as anti-diarrhoeal and anti-malaria medication and antibiotics to treat infection, and utensils, hygiene kits, water purifying tablets and equipment for building temporary shelters. In addition, basic education materials, clothing, livestock and economic support will be provided in Bangladesh.

Longer term, communities will be supported through Cash for Work programs to assist the restoration of village infrastructure and in re-establishing livelihoods. This will include the distribution of agricultural seed for the summer cultivation season and livestock distribution.

This assistance is in addition to \$4.7 million already provided in response to UN and Red Cross appeals for international assistance in the region. It brings Australia's total contribution to flood-affected communities in South Asia to \$8.3 million.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Nepal, told IRIN.

"Relief and humanitarian agencies are working actively to provide support to these families to restructure their lives," Omuga said, adding that cooperation with government aid efforts was also good.

According to UN agencies and Save the Children Alliance, half of the displaced families have now returned home, but local relief workers fear they have, in fact, nothing to return to. **(IRIN)**

(Posted on 12th September, 2007)

HK provides emergency relief

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government approved a grant of HK\$1.2 million (US\$154,000) from the Disaster Relief Fund to Hong Kong Red Cross to undertake relief project for flood victims in Nepal.

The newly approved grant raises Hong Kong's relief to flood victims in South Asia to HK\$6.26 million (US\$803,000) after its two disbursements in August totaling HK\$5.06 million (US\$650,000) for emergency relief to flood victims in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

(Posted on 12th September, 2007)

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