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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	7
Kailali	6
Kaski	6
Makwanpur	6
Udayapur	5
Jajarkot	5
Kalikot	5
Arghakhachi	5
Saptari	5
Jumla	4
Surkhet	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

"Rise above geographical boundaries"

The South Asian countries need to rise above geographical boundaries and cooperate with each other for lifting the under-developed neighbours to ensure a balanced regional development, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.

Citing regional cooperation that helped many European countries reach peak of development, they noted that small South Asian countries cannot develop much without the help of their big neighbours.

The discussion was organised by Sammilito Samajik Andolon at the Liberation War Museum in the city. Noted economist Dr Atiur Rahman presented a keynote paper on 'Bangladesh Development Perspective: Regional Cooperation-Flood Control and Water Management' at the discussion. He said local and regional development is not possible with the help of distant international bodies like International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank while keeping the neighbours away from each other.

"Bangladesh and India had spent hundreds of thousands of dollar separately in last 40/50 years in building infrastructures to control the floods, but could not achieve the desired goal. Had the two countries built infrastructures jointly to flush out water, then flooding could be checked to a great extent," he added.

Dr Atiur said adequate preparation for disaster management could be taken if the two countries can work out a system of exchanging weather forecast and prior information about flood by developing geographic information system. "It will help reduce damage in life and property during flooding every year and the governments won't need to ask for foreign aid for rehabilitation after flood," he said.

Dr Atiur laid strong emphasis on cooperation between the South and South Asian countries where the major rivers originate and pass through for flood control. "While only eight percent catchment area of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna is in Bangladesh, it is 62 percent in India, 18 percent in China, eight percent in Nepal and four percent in Bhutan. This means 12 times water of the capacity of Bangladesh rivers flows over the country," he added.

"Agreements on water distribution of these rivers are limited only to India, Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh," he said, adding that Bangladesh could be benefited if China would have been included in the international rivers water distribution talks. But the agreements were done bilaterally and all countries were not included, he noted. Dr Atiur lamented that the South Asian countries could not use \$300 million of South Asian Development Fund as well as the money of Food Fund during the floods.

The IMF and World Bank prescriptions are not appropriate for countries like Bangladesh and their prescribed globalisation have instilled a strong tendency of consumerism among people without contributing much to their "real development," he observed.

Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, banker Ibrahim Khaled and journalist Syed Abul Moksud took part in the discussion. The speakers noted that while breach was created in regional cooperation during geographical division in South Asia,

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

(As of 23rd 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 23rd September, 2007)

Sources : NRCS, Media reports/MCN

Disaster Related Reports

[Situation Report 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)

growing economic integration in Europe despite geographical division is helping development of the whole region there.

"China is helping Singapore, Thailand ... but we cannot even take advantage of technology hub in Kolkata," they said. While Asean countries have 30 percent intra-trade, South Asian countries do only five percent trade among them, they added. The speakers said Saarc countries, especially India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, need to come forward to create export-friendly environment, increase internal and foreign investment and develop political relations. The discussion was presided over by Sammillito Samajik Andolon President Ajoy Roy.

(The Daily Star)

(Posted on 23rd September)

New rice strain could save farmers

Farmers hope a new strain of rice may be able to resist the floods that submerge paddy fields in Bangladesh each year. The new rice strain, called Swarna Submergence 1, developed in the Philippines has proved to be flood resistant in trials in northern Bangladesh.

Normal rice varieties cannot survive under flood waters for more than three days, resulting in huge losses for farmers. The new rice, in tests, stood up again after 10 days when flood water receded from two farms in which it had been planted.

It is now believed the rice can survive flood waters for 10 to 17 days.

(Posted on 23rd September)

UNICEF continues providing relief in Nepal

Nearly three months after the start of torrential rains, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and its partners are assisting millions of people across Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan still impacted by the resulting floods and landslides.

In Nepal, UNICEF has provided 12,000 families with supplies, including 61,000 ORS sachets, 15,000 hygiene kits and additional water purification agents for 100,000 people. UNICEF, along with the UN Mission to Nepal (UNMIN), has also provided 3,800 bottles of water purification agents to combatants of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in the UNMIN-monitored cantonments.

UNICEF is endeavouring to distribute 40,000 medicated bed nets, rehabilitate dozens of damaged water systems in 24 districts and supply school kits to bolster the education of some 20,000 children. The agency is also supporting the training of female community health volunteers who will launch a hand-washing campaign and hand out water purification agents in seven districts.

(Posted on 22nd September, 2007)

Climate change plummet paddy production

Owing to the erratic weather that has been afflicting the country, production of paddy has nosedive by a whopping 17 percent over the past four years. This has resulted in shrinking availability of major food grains across the country, says the latest report of Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC).

The report states that the production of the biggest food crop has been declining

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

consistently, dropping to just 3.68 million tons in 2006/07, whereas in 2003/04 it was recorded at 4.45 million tons. "Worse is, the trend shows no sign of changing for the better," said Bhola Sing Basnet, senior rice expert and spokesperson of the apex government agriculture research body. "The production is estimated to further go down this year as well," he added.

Officials at the District Agriculture Development Office Sunsari have already warned that paddy production would be sliding by 25 percent this season due to the recent floods and inundation. Basnet elaborated that the change in weather resulting from global climate change has affected the production of major crops, mainly rice, in the country.

"The erratic rains followed by the unexpected flood and long drought has hit paddy production," says the NARC report. "Such a phenomenon has led to decrease in productivity as well." Basnet said the productivity of rice dwindled to 2.6 tons per hectare last year from 2.9 tons four years ago. Over the period, the area of paddy production has also squeezed to 1.43 million hectares from 1.54 million hectares.

The phenomenon is not limited to Nepal alone. Referring to data of the Philippines based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Basnet informed that the production of paddy plummeted to nearly 100 million tons globally in 2005 from 150 million tons in 2001.

Dr Hari Dahal, spokesperson of Agriculture Ministry said that the dwindling production will not pose a threat in food security, as the deficit can be supplemented from India.

(Posted on 22nd September, 2007)

2 elderly swept away in Makwanpur

Irrated locals disrupted highway

Two persons were swept away by swollen rivers at separate places in Makwanpur district, Thursday. Ganesh Chepang, 57, of Sarikhet VDC-2 was swept away by a local stream at Rangkira area, Thursday evening. His body was recovered about a kilometer away from the site, said a local. Similarly, Rupak Prasad Adhikari, 73, of Manahari VDC-8 died after Rapti River swept him away while he was crossing the river, Thursday.

Following the incidents, locals of Manahari disrupted the national highway for three hours at Rajaiya on Friday morning.

In other incident of Siraha district on Thursday, eight years old Mukesh Yadav of Bariyarti-4 drowned to death in a pond near by his house. He was fishing in the pond when incident occurred.

(Posted on 22nd September, 2007)

Provide safe passage to humanitarian assistance : WFP

The World Food Programme (WFP) on Friday stressed the need for safe passage to its trucks from all parties and concerned individuals so that it can continue its mission of providing humanitarian food assistance to the needy section of population.

The UN agency said this in a statement in the wake of an attack on a food truck ferrying 12 metric tons foodgrains to Dadeldhura in Dang on Wednesday. While

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

Flood hit five thousand family of Mahottari district will soon get food aid worth NRs 20 million from World Food Program. Food aid will be provided for severely ravaged 5758 family which will carry them for one month. (23rd Sep)

Transport service in Jhaukhel VDC-3 of the Changunarayan road section in Sallaghari of Bhaktapur has been closed since 15 days after landslide swept away the road. Following the halt in transport service locals of Changunarayan, Pikhel, Jhaukhel, Duwakot are forced to walk. (22nd Sep)

Advertising Association of Nepal (AAN) and Nepal Telecom (NTC) has extended the time for SMS donation for flood victims to October 17. NTC customers have to SMS 1410 to donate Rs 10 and 1450 to donate Rs 50. In the past one month 37,145 SMS were sent for Rs 10 and 10,262 SMS for Rs 50. (18th Sep)

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)

the truck was set afire the driver had escaped unhurt. The truck was carrying a month's supply of fortified food rations for more than 1,700 undernourished women and their young children of Dadeldhura who are entitled to food assistance under Maternal Child Health Care Programme, the statement said.

This is the first time since the signing of the peace accord that such an incident has occurred and it represents an escalation in insecurity that will severely impact WFP's ability to continue to provide humanitarian food aid to needy populations in Nepal.

WFP efforts to provide humanitarian food assistance to flood-affected population in the Terai continue to face significant challenges and delays because of ongoing violence and strikes in the Terai.

The destruction of the truck carrying WFP food aid is likely to further impede our ability to maintain the delivery of food aid across all of our programmes - threatening the lifeline for over 2.5 million needy people in Nepal, the statement further said.

"In order to continue our humanitarian food relief operations in Nepal, WFP staff, implementing partners, food suppliers and transport partners carrying WFP food aid must be provided unhindered and safe passage by all parties and individuals," statement said.

(Posted on 22nd September, 2007)

Dysentery gripped two VDCs of Chitwan

One person has died and some 400 have fallen sick due to dysentery in Jutpani and Padampur VDCs in the Chitwan district since yesterday. Locals said the disease might have spread due to the polluted water at the source, mainly because of the flood.

Lati Kumal of Jutpani-3 died of dysentery on Thursday, administrator of District Public Health Office (DPHO) at Bharatpur, Mohamad Daud, said. He reached the site with a team of health workers on Thursday. Over 60 dysentery patients have been admitted at Bharatpur Hospital, Dr Sanjaya Shrestha said.

All health institutions at Jutpani are crowded with patients, Some patients have not been able to reach hospital due to lack of money.

"I supplied saline water to several patients. I did not get time to sleep for two whole days and now I myself have fallen sick," a drug store owner from Jutpani-3, who was undergoing treatment in Bharatpur, said. Over 400 persons of Jutapani and Padampur VDCs are suffering from dysentery.

(Posted on 21st September, 2007)

Victims family got relief after two weeks

Government authority has provided relief amount to the family members of those who were dead and missed in a boat capsized occurred in Banke district on 3rd September. Family members of dead 15 and missed 11 persons were provided NRs. 12,500/- each after more than two weeks of the tragedy.

Government bodies have continuously drawn flak from the media for showing extreme apathy on relief and rescue activities. The relief amount has been provided for 'last ritual' and 'search of missing'.

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)

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)

A boat ferrying 42 locals on their way to Gowarpur of Kanchanpur capsized at Govarpurghat in Kanchanpur VDC-1. causing the death of 32 persons, mostly female and school students. The boat was going towards Govarpur village to watch the traditional Lakhe dance programme. The survivors said overload and flooding in the river resulted in the accident. The boat had a maximum capacity for a dozen persons.

Many were left helpless on a loss of single bread-winner of the family. Locals have demanded assistance for rearing and education for those.

(Posted on 20th September, 2007)

Four persons missing in separate incidents

Yet in another incident of boat capsized, two minors are missing from Wednesday evening in Bardia district. A boat ferrying 10 persons capsized at Guptipurghat, Manau VDC. Eight were able to swim across the river and hence survived.

Minor girls Bindu Biswakarma and Latu Biswakarma were drowned in the river and still missing. Flooded water in Geruwa river is hindering rescue efforts.

Similarly, the condition of two persons who were drowned Wednesday in the Indrawati river in Sindhupalchowk district is still unknown. Those missing in the Indrawati river include Singha Dong (42) and Bel Bahadur Dong (35) of Banskharkar-6.

According to eyewitness Kedar Karki, they were drown by the river near hydropower. Police and locals have been involved in rescue procedures.

(Posted on 20th September, 2007)

Flood hit districts suffered from diarrhoea

Diarrhea has spread across a dozen villages of Rautahat district recently, with three minors succumbing to the disease in the past one week. Four-year-old Radho Babu of Gaur municipality-6, Sanju Kumari, one-and-a-half of Pipra area in Bhagwanpur VDC and an unidentified four-year-old of Saruaatha VDC fell victim to diarrhoea within the last week.

Patients suffering from diarrhoea have outnumbered hospital beds, due to which many of them are occupying the hospital corridor. "We are also taking care of patients lying on the floor," Dr. Ramashankar Thakur said.

According to Thakur, although about a hundred patients returned after being treated for the disease, the influx of new patients is growing everyday. The outbreak has spread mostly in Bhalohiya, Jhunkhunuwqa, Jethrahiya, Madhopur, Piprajwada, Rajpur Bhediya, Saruaatha and five other VDCs.

Dr. Thakur said that a majority of patients fell ill after consuming stale food and drinking polluted water. He also added that children were mostly susceptible to the disease.

Similarly in Saptari, over five dozen children in several villages have been affected by diarrhoea since Sunday. Some 12 seriously affected children are receiving treatment at the Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital and local health posts. According to doctors, the disease has spread mostly in Babhangabha Katti, Komadhepupara, Sakarpura, Rampura Malhaniya. The villages were badly hit by floods last month.

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)

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 Gualichaur 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)

(Posted on 20th September, 2007)

Two missing, eight injured

Two youths were missing from Sunday after a boat capsized in Nawalparasi district. Six local lads have ventured for boat fishing in flooded water of Narayani river. Among them four survived after they were able to swim.

Missing were identified as Rajesh Lonia.22, and Sabir Miya,18 of Paklihawa-4 of Nawalparasi.

Similarly, in Keurepani of Bhojpur, eight members of a single family injured when landslide overwhelmed their house.

(Posted on 18th September, 2007)

20 million loss estimated in single ward

In Jaubari-8 of Nawalparasi district, eight families were left homeless after landslides eroded arable lands and houses.

According to Hum Bahadur Gurung, immediate past president of ward, 50 ropanies of land belonging to 12 family was eroded. The loss of 20 million Nepalese Rupees has been predicted in ward number 8 of Jaubari.

(Posted on 18th September, 2007)

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)

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)

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.

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 lamented he could not 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

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 has been 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.

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

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. "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.

Asia Watch

13 million stranded by floods in India, Bangladesh

Nearly 13.5 million people have been marooned or displaced by floods in India and Bangladesh, officials said. The flooding in South Asia caused by the June-to-September monsoon has been described as the worst in decades, with more than 2,200 people killed by floods and rains in India since it started.

In neighbouring Bangladesh, the number of people killed by flooding topped 1,000 on Saturday, the government said.

Monsoon-swollen rivers have burst their banks, submerging thousands of villages across more than a third of the impoverished country, the Bangladesh flood centre said.

The floods have hit about 10,000 villages in India's northeastern Assam state taking the death toll since July in the region to 77.

"The overall situation is still grim with an estimated 11 million people displaced by floods since

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)

July," state rehabilitation minister Bhumidhar Barman told AFP. The Brahmaputra river was flowing above the danger mark in 17 places in the tea-and-mineral-rich state.

On Saturday, five people were hurt when the propellers of a relief helicopter caused a freak "storm-like situation" that knocked down 25 huts, another official said.

"So many people have lost their homes and these are mostly the poorest of the poor," said Vinoy Ohdar, who heads anti-poverty agency ActionAid's office in the eastern Indian state of Bihar. Bihar is still recovering from flooding earlier in the monsoon season that affected 15 million people.

Bangladesh's agriculture ministry said crops worth at least 290 million dollars had been damaged in the flooding. The government flood centre said the flood situation would improve in northern districts but the receding water would submerge more areas in the central and southern region. The devastation in India also threatens an entire season's crops in some areas, raising fears of food shortages.

Flood victims have also been suffering from diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases, with clean water in short supply.

Bangladesh has sought an initial 150 million dollars from donor agencies with 60 million dollars already pledged in immediate food and medical help.

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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 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)

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