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Acute shortage of food in Rasuwa

People in the northern part of Rasuwa district have been facing shortage of foods due to the obstructions in the Pasang Lamhu Highway at Mulkharka for three months. The road to Dhunche was washed away by the landslides and it was not repaired for long.

Most of the VDCs including district headquarters Dhunche was facing acute shortage of foods. Local businessmen had food stocks for four months but almost 95 per cent of the stock was finished.

Gyanu Neupane, a local businessman said that if the highway is not repaired within a few days, there would not remain anything in the market. Local people blamed the administration for not showing concern over the removing debris from the road. The local administration said that they are coordinating with District Road Division Office at Nuwakot for road maintenance.

(Posted on 26th September)

More Australian aid for flood victims

Australian ambassador to Nepal, Graeme Lade announced that his country would provide 880,000 Australian dollars (AUD) as additional emergency flood relief assistance to Nepal.

AUD 350,000 of additional assistance will be provided through the Australian Red Cross to the Nepal Red Cross Society; AUD 180,000 through Austcare to Action Aid Nepal; and AUD 350,000 through CARE Australia to CARE Nepal. This was stated in a press statement issued by the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer.

The additional assistance will be used towards providing food and non-food relief items; provision of mobile health facilities across the flood-affected regions, supply of essential medicines to fight dysentery, diarrhoea, typhoid and cholera, hygiene kits and water purifying tablets for the recent monsoon flood victims across the country, the press statement further said.

Australia responded to previous appeals by the United Nations and the Red Cross with an AUD 600,000 contribution in mid August 2007 to the World Food Program AUD 500,000 and Nepal Red Cross Society AUD 100,000.

(Posted on 26th September)

Diseases stalk Kapilvastu riot-displaced

Riot-displaced people of Kapilvastu district are falling prey to infectious diseases, due to appalling living conditions in camps. These people were displaced as riots broke out following the murder of president of the Democratic Madhesi Mukti Morcha Moin Khan over a week ago.

Over 4,000 persons have been putting up in camps at Chandrauta, Turantapur,

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

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

(As of 26th 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 26th 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)

Sundaridanda and Mahuwakhani, Premnagar, Daalpur and Manpur. According to the District Public Health Office (DPHO), many of the displaced have been suffering from conjunctivitis, stomach ache, diarrhoea, dysentery, headache, dizziness, cough, cold and fever. Many have been forced to live out in the open. The Kapilvastu district chapter of the Red Cross has provided them with 550 blankets, 150 tarpaulins, food grain and clothes, but all these are not enough for a huge number of camp-dwellers.

DPHO chief Altaf Hussain said four teams of health workers have been sent to the camps. Rama Poudel, who has been putting up at the Sundaridanda camp, said, "Over 100 persons have been suffering from conjunctivitis." Some of the 5,000 displaced persons have been putting up at the Gandhi Inter College, Chanuari Pradhannagar, Dudhbaniya, Dihrawa and Gidwa areas bordering India.

(Posted on 25th September)

Providing vital supplies to vulnerable Nepalese families displaced by floods

Rupa Joshi

Nepalgunj. The flood waters from the Dundhuwa river receded over three weeks ago, yet the destruction left in its wake still remains. Most of the homes and food stores of the people of Rajarampur Village have been completely washed away.

"I spoke to a couple, and the river basically went through their house," says UNICEF Country Representative Gillian Mellsop. "They have lost all their food, their pigs and their goats."

Swollen rivers washed away many homes, while others – made of mud and thatch – simply collapsed. In most cases, it was the homes of already vulnerable, poverty-stricken people which were destroyed. Paddy fields, which provide income for many families, were also destroyed. "This crop is gone," says Ramesh Kumar Tripathy of the local Red Cross chapter. "The crop was flattened and whatever remains will, at best, be used as fodder for cattle."

About 250 people fled their homes for the safety of their Village Office. There, they waited three days for the rain to stop and the waters to recede.

"We left as soon as we saw the river showing signs of overflowing its banks," says Phulmati Kori, a young mother of two small children. "I picked up the kids and, along with the other villagers, headed for the Village Office."

Providing much-needed relief

Flooding is nothing new in this area during monsoon season, and many Nepalese have devised ways to cope. However, during a severe flood, there is nothing to do but flee for higher ground.

"We store grain in raised containers and hang our belongings from the ceiling," says a flood survivor from Padanaha Village Thagu Prasad Chaudhary. "This time, for three hours we tried to wait out the floods by staying on top of a raised platform we had erected in the village. Then we realised the water was still rising and left in a hurry."

In response, UNICEF has provided vital relief supplies to many village residents who have been displaced from their homes. The organization has provided hygiene kits, blankets, tarpaulins and bed nets, as well as water purification tablets which have been distributed in partnership with the Government's Ministry

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

of Health and the Red Cross. Ms. Mellsoop handed out supplies at relief distribution centres in several villages in the flood-affected Banke and Bardiya Districts of Mid-far Western Nepal.

"Most of these people are day labourers," said Ms. Mellsoop. "The land that they were working on was destroyed and they will have to rely on food supplies provided by the World Food Programme and distributed through the Red Cross.

"These people are living in the most vulnerable areas close the rivers, so they have very little to start with," Ms. Mellsoop continued. "When a flood like this comes through, they are really back to nothing." (Source : UNICEF)

"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

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)

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, 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 Sammilito 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

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)

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 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 Rangisira 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

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 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)

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 Dadeldhurain in Dang on Wednesday. While 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.

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.

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'.

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 capsizing, 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 Banskharakar-6.

According to eyewitness Kedar Karki, they were drowned 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

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.

Asia Watch

Natural disasters: Implication and remedies

Mohammad Amjad Hossain

Natural disasters, floods, cyclones or earthquakes, take heavy toll of lives around the world every year. It is true that man can do nothing about a natural disaster of huge magnitude, but vision, and timely precaution and practical measures could save millions of people. Natural disasters bring not only misery and hardship, but also cause water borne diseases in the wake of receding flood waters in particular.

Floods have been visiting Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan every year, but cause havoc in cycles of four or ten years. It may be recalled that Bangladesh was affected severely by floods in 1988, in 1998, and also this year. This year, 35 million people in South Asia have been affected according to Care, one of the world's largest private humanitarian organizations.

Floods not only affect the people of the country concerned, they

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.

(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 Pakliha-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,

also involve the international community for financial and material assistance.

Bangladesh is a lower riparian country, while India and Nepal are upper riparian. If there is heavy rainfall in the upper riparian region, Bangladesh is at the receiving end because it does not have any control over waters, which are within the boundaries of India and Nepal.

Now that the people in Bangladesh, India and Nepal have become victims of floods there is an imperative need to take up joint venture projects, not only to share the water equitably but also to build water reservoirs and dams to preserve the quality of life in this region.

Generally speaking, two types of rivers come under the purview of the international maritime laws, boundary rivers and successive rivers. Boundary rivers pass through two or more sovereign states, and are the joint property of the states concerned. The Ganges and the Brahmaputra rivers fall within the definition of boundary rivers. A state has the legal rights and exclusive sovereignty over that portion of the river, which passes through its territory.

In 1997, the United Nations General Assembly passed a draft submitted by the International Law Commission with regard to the non-navigational uses of international watercourses. The International Law Commission encourages upper riparian and lower riparian countries to come up with mutual agreements which serve the interests of both countries.

The Commission has always underlined the uninterrupted flow of successive rivers from upper to lower riparian regions. These are the principles on which the interests of lower and upper riparian countries depend.

A good number of examples of

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 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.

cooperation between lower and upper riparian countries exist around the world. The Columbia River Agreement between Canada (upper riparian) and the US (lower riparian) and the Rio Grande River Agreement between US (upper riparian) and Mexico (lower riparian) are some examples of water policies between upper and lower riparian countries.

Another example would be the River Nile Treaty, which involves Egypt and Sudan as collaborators. If we look at our region, we find a number of joint venture cooperation projects between India and Nepal and India and Bhutan that are beneficial to the people of these countries.

The Kosi river agreement between India and Nepal and the Wangchhu river agreement between India and Bhutan reflect such cooperation between countries.

There is an imperative need to undertake geological and hydrographic studies in Bangladesh to build another barrage on the Gomuti river in Comilla. If these barrages are constructed, water could be stored during the rainy season and be of immense benefit during the lean period of the year. Similarly, a study should be carried out to find ways to increase the flow of water in the Teesta barrage in Rangpur.

Bangladesh and India should leave aside unproductive and destructive politics and work together for solutions that will have a positive impact on the people of Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

(Mohammad Amjad Hossain, former Bangladesh diplomat, writes from Virginia)

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"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. "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)

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