



Media Consultancy Nepal

Disaster Watch - Nepal

A daily newsletter on disaster updates

Editorial Team

Chief Editor: Deepak Acharya
Assistants: Bhaskar Aryal
Santosh Joshi
Media Consultancy Nepal
Email: media_con@wlink.com.np
P.O. Box. 75
Bharatpur, Chitwan, Nepal

Issue-63, Sep 28, 2007

Landslide blocks entry road to Kamathanka

Transport service has been disrupted as the entry road of Kamathanka (Sankhuwasabha district) bordering China has remained blocked by landslide. The main road leading to Kamathanka 5 and 7 Chemtanga was totally damaged by the landslide causing people to move to and fro.

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

According to Secretary of Chepuwa VDC, Kalashmani Gautam, local people are facing problem as the main road has not been rebuilt although local administration and local bodies have been approached many times.

(Posted on 28th September)

Caritas Nepal distributes relief aid amid adversity

Caritas workers have endured stress and physical danger to bring food aid to thousands of flood-affected families. "We are completing one of our biggest disaster relief operations amid the worst ethnic violence and rivalry in Nepal's history," Father Silas Bogati, director of Caritas Nepal, told UCA News. "This year's rains brought about the worst-ever flood situation."

Father Bogati led first-phase relief in the eastern districts of Dhanusha and Mahottari, where more than 30 percent of farmlands were inundated since early August. Monsoon rains washed out roads and bridges, the priest said, and the problem was further complicated by ethnic rioting between Madhises, the dark-skinned people of the flatlands, and Pahades, light-skinned hill people. He said Pahades Caritas staff, especially women, endured extensive verbal abuse.

Floodwaters are now receding, so disease and hunger have become the pressing concerns. Father Bogati said some displaced people stranded on either side of still-raging Himalayan rivers are almost impossible to reach. The Himalayas run the breadth of Nepal, which is shaped roughly like a rectangle with a thin strip of flat land along the southern border. Nonetheless, the priest went on, "a dozen staffers worked in the field for almost two months," and Caritas distributed relief in 12 flatland districts.

Mukti Suvedi, a Hindu Caritas team leader who returned to Kathmandu from eastern Nepal, told UCA News on Sept. 19 about the distribution challenge. Our team finished distributing relief to 1,922 families in Saptari district and 866 in Siraha district, but other NGOs have withdrawn because of the high level of ethnic tension. "When we arrived there," Suvedi recalled, "government and police officials asked why we were distributing relief in such a dangerous place." He explained that truckloads of rice and foodstuffs had to be brought in from other districts because supplies could be not bought locally. "Trucks refused to move during daytime, fearing attacks from armed groups," he continued, "so police had to escort them at night along the highway."

He said the Caritas workers "were sleepless at night" awaiting the trucks in Duhabi town's only hotel. After they loaded the supplies on tractors, armed police escorted them "across a river to where thousands gathered, after having walked hours."

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

(As of 28th 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 28th 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)

"It was frightening," Suvedi admitted. "Unruly villagers demanded relief for all. Threats and abuse from angry youths stopped us short of distributing relief to all families on our list." He also noted that Caritas Nepal prepared a list of affected families after consulting local NGOs. Each family was allotted 30 kilograms of rice, five kilograms of lentils, two kilograms of cooking oil and two kilograms of salt.

Other Caritas staff workers also talked with UCA News after returning to Kathmandu. They spoke of families surviving on small packets of junk food and contaminated drinking water as flies and mosquitoes swarmed their leaking plastic sheds set up near muddy river embankments. One staffer recalled a displaced woman about to give birth in a classroom where villagers took refuge after their mud huts were washed away.

Ram Singh, a social activist in Janakpur, eastern Nepal, who mobilized volunteers and coordinated Caritas efforts, told UCA News, "Caritas gave the right kind of flood relief at the right time by taking the trouble to reach the victims directly."

The government has pledged 15,000 rupees (US\$235) for all who lost homes and 5,000 rupees for partially destroyed homes, but Caritas workers say people fear they will never see that money, due to graft and cronyism. Father Bogati said about US\$600,000 in flood relief has been made available via the international Caritas network and the Vatican, but "more than 50,000 people were displaced, so no amount of relief will really be sufficient."

Catholic institutions in Nepal also contributed to flood relief. Jesuit-run St. Xavier's High School in Kathmandu collected more than 100,000 rupees. (UCA News)

(Posted on 28th September)

Rotarians deliver shelter boxes to Nepal

By George Petrena

Branford Rotary Club president, John Lacquey and his wife, Trannie, both Rotarians, delivered shelter boxes to flood distraught Nepal, a very small country between India and China.

They delivered 137 boxes in a three day period to six different villages. They were directed by Pastor Man Baudel and his network of pastors who had obtained a list from the Red Cross which contained every village in Nepal that was affected by the flood. The list included the name of the village and the number of families and children in each village. It also broke down to include the number of men, woman and children. This information proved valuable in planning the disbursements to the most needy.

The truck carrying the boxes got stuck. So John and Trannie and the workers unloaded the boxes, dug the truck out and reloaded the boxes. Trannie said, "It took two and a half hours and then we continued on our way. We waded the river in the dark on the return trip. It rained and we got soaked. We went through the jungle where there were lions, tigers, and elephants, even though we didn't see any," said Trannie.

While on their mission they went through military check points, and met an incredible young man who was a member of the Maoist Army. They also met 19 young men who were members of the Nepal Army.

Speaking at the Rotary Club, Trannie stated, "We met some wonderful people. We ate with these people twice. They prepared a meal in our honor and to not

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

eat would have been an insult to them. It went against all we have been trained for but we ate, and prayed. Afterwards I watched them feed my leftovers to a goat. He licked the plate clean."

John and Trannie saw people waiting on the river bank where the bridge had been washed out. These people's homes had been destroyed. They were waiting to carry shelter boxes across the river and then walk another two miles further to their camp. A line of green boxes on the backs of men and women, some old, some young going down the trail could be seen.

"We watched a young girl struggle to carry a full box on her back knowing it's important for her and all of them to do this for themselves. It's about seeing these families standing around in the pouring rain to get their supplies from shelter box and then in turn helping their neighbors with theirs. Seeing people so poor it's almost incomprehensible and yet seeing beautiful, happy children and incredible smiles on the women. Seeing the sacrifices these people who have so little make, so their children can go to school. I watched John pay special attention to a little boy in a group of kids. A little boy with a deformed hand and a shy smile. It's seeing boxes loaded on a boat to go across the river at sunset to a village across that river," Trannie said.

"It's coming home with memories both good and bad, and memories of the friends we made and the lives that were touched, and with the good impressions you left with them of shelterbox. It's hard to put into words the emotions, high and lows you experience in this situation. I'm grateful John and I were together. He made me strong." (*Suwannee Democrat - Live Oak, FL, USA*)

(Posted on 28th September)

Media houses donate Rs. 7.2 M for flood victims

A total of more than Rs. 7.2 million collected by media houses and other organisations was handed over to Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala Wednesday as relief to the flood victims.

Executive chairman of Gorkhapatra Corporation (GC) Om Sharma handed over a check of Rs. 231,479 to Prime Minister Koirala at Baluwatar. Out of the amount, the employees of the GC contributed Rs. 128,796.

Similarly, chairman of Kantipur Publication Pvt. Ltd., Hem Raj Gyawali handed over Rs. 4.56 million that was collected through Kantipur Flood Victim Relief Fund. Advertising Association Nepal (AAN) handed over Rs. 735,468 which was collected through SMS programmes in collaboration with Nepal Telecom.

Image Channel and Nepal Television handed over Rs.1.25 million and Rs.119,000 respectively to the Prime Minister. Regarding the amount collected through SMS, Prime Minister Koirala said the method had great value because it was collected in direct contact with the people.

At a separate meeting, Nepal Revolutionary Peasants Association, sister organisation of Nepal Workers and Peasants Party gave Rs. 3,78,686 to the Prime Minister.

(Posted on 28th September)

Prolonged monsoon nearing towards end

This year's monsoon, which caused disastrous floods and landslides in various parts of the country is nearing its end, according to meteorological forecasting

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)

division. K.B Malla, a senior meteorologist said this year's monsoon, which lasted longer than usual, will end in a couple of days.

"This year's monsoon was longer due to an active depression (low pressure system) toward the northwest part of the Bay of Bengal," he said. Generally, monsoon starts in the first week of June and lasts till September 23. During this time, the country gets 80 percent of the total rainfall in a year.

Due to the extended monsoon, different parts of the country including Kathmandu valley experienced continuous rainfall for the past two days. According to the forecasting division, Dhangadhi saw the highest rainfall measuring 71.7 millimeter on Wednesday. Kathmandu registered 21.1 millimeter rainfall on the same day. "The condition will improve from Thursday," said Malla.

There will be slight rain or thundershowers at some places in the country while other places will see clear atmosphere from tomorrow, he added.

(Posted on 27th September)

Rainfall affects life in Mahottari

Mahottari, one of the major monsoon hit district of Nepal this season, relapsed into the travail after incessant rain has been affecting normal life in Mahottari for the last three days. Transport services and functioning of the educational institutions have been hit.

Local farmer Biltu Mandal said the untimely rain would affect standing crops in the fields and cause poor production. Meanwhile, district agricultural office chief Dinesh Chandra Yadav said if the rain continues for another two to three days, the farmers will suffer extensive losses.

(Posted on 27th September)

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.

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)

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, 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

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)

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 of Health and the Red Cross. Ms. Mellisop 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. Mellisop. "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. Mellisop 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.

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 Jaleshwar.

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.

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, 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)

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

South Asia's Death Toll From Monsoon Flooding Exceeds 3,500

By Jay Shankar (Bloomberg)

Floods in South Asia have left 3,533 people dead from drowning and disease outbreaks, with more rainfall forecast this week as the four-month monsoon season heads for its scheduled month-end close.

Most of the deaths occurred due to drowning, diarrhea, snakebites and acute respiratory disease in Bangladesh, India and Nepal in the July 30-Sept. 5 period, the World Health Organization said in a posting on its Web site. The floods are the "worst in living memory," the United Nations has said.

"Almost three months after rains began, millions of people across Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan are still affected by the flooding and landslides," the United Nations Children Fund said in a statement Sept. 21.

About 48 million people in India, a majority in the east and

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 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)

northeastern states of Bihar and Assam, 13.3 million in Bangladesh and 2.5 million in Pakistan have been affected by the floods, Unicef said.

The Indian government has put the death toll in the southwest monsoon, which runs from June to September, at 3,020 and according to the Indian Meteorological Department "isolated to heavy" rainfall is likely to occur in eastern and northern districts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh states in the next two days.

In the state of Assam, 380,070 people are sheltered in 658 relief camps and 1,234 villages in 26 districts are affected, the government's disaster management department said in a release on Sept. 24. As many as 22.6 million people in 10,804 villages of 22 districts in Bihar state have been hit by the floods, India said.

In neighboring Bangladesh, 128,957 people are suffering from diarrheal diseases, the WHO said. In Nepal, "while no major or unexpected outbreaks have been reported, common illnesses such as water, food and vector-borne diseases are observed in a majority" of the 47 affected districts, the WHO said.

(To contact the reporter on this story: Jay Shankar in Bangalore at jshankar1@bloomberg.net)

Supported by

act:onaid

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)

Previous Issues

Issue 1 (July 26, 2007)	Issue 11 (Aug 5, 2007)	Issue 21 (Aug 15, 2007)
Issue 2 (July 27, 2007)	Issue 12 (Aug 6, 2007)	Issue 22 (Aug 16, 2007)
Issue 3 (July 28, 2007)	Issue 13 (Aug 7, 2007)	Issue 23 (Aug 17, 2007)
Issue 4 (July 29, 2007)	Issue 14 (Aug 8, 2007)	Issue 24 (Aug 18, 2007)
Issue 5 (July 30, 2007)	Issue 15 (Aug 9, 2007)	Issue 25 (Aug 19, 2007)
Issue 6 (July 31, 2007)	Issue 16 (Aug 10, 2007)	Issue 26 (Aug 20, 2007)
Issue 7 (Aug 1, 2007)	Issue 17 (Aug 11, 2007)	Issue 27 (Aug 21, 2007)
Issue 8 (Aug 2, 2007)	Issue 18 (Aug 12, 2007)	Issue 28 (Aug 22, 2007)
Issue 9 (Aug 3, 2007)	Issue 19 (Aug 13, 2007)	Issue 29 (Aug 23, 2007)
Issue 10 (Aug 4, 2007)	Issue 20 (Aug 14, 2007)	Issue 30 (Aug 24, 2007)

Recent Issues

Issue 31 (Aug 25, 2007)	Issue 41 (Sep 4, 2007)	Issue 51 (Sep 15, 2007)
Issue 32 (Aug 26, 2007)	Issue 42 (Sep 5, 2007)	Issue 52 (Sep 16, 2007)
Issue 33 (Aug 27, 2007)	Issue 43 (Sep 6, 2007)	Issue 53 (Sep 17, 2007)
Issue 34 (Aug 28, 2007)	Issue 44 (Sep 7, 2007)	Issue 54 (Sep 18, 2007)
Issue 35 (Aug 29, 2007)	Issue 45 (Sep 8, 2007)	Issue 55 (Sep 20, 2007)
Issue 36 (Aug 30, 2007)	Issue 46 (Sep 9, 2007)	Issue 56 (Sep 21, 2007)
Issue 37 (Aug 31, 2007)	Issue 47 (Sep 10, 2007)	Issue 57 (Sep 22, 2007)
Issue 38 (Sep 1, 2007)	Issue 48 (Sep 11, 2007)	Issue 58 (Sep 23, 2007)
Issue 39 (Sep 2, 2007)	Issue 49 (Sep 12, 2007)	Issue 59 (Sep 24, 2007)
Issue 40 (Sep 3, 2007)	Issue 50 (Sep 14, 2007)	Issue 60 (Sep 25, 2007)
		Issue 61 (Sep 26, 2007)
		Issue 62 (Sep 27, 2007)

For regular update, please visit our website www.nepaldisaster.org

Copyright © 2007 Media Consultancy Nepal. All rights reserved.