



# Mid and Far Western Floods and Landslides OCHA Situation Report No. 1

22 September 2008

This situation report is based on information received from UN Agencies and humanitarian partners and government sources based in Kathmandu and the affected districts.

## CONTEXT

### Situation Overview

On 19 September, heavy rains hit several districts in Mid and Far Western regions of Nepal. The incessant rains caused floods and landslides in Bardiya, Banke, Dang, Dadeldhura, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Doti and Salyan Districts. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs as well as the Nepal Red Cross Society and other humanitarian partners on the ground, the greatest impact of the floods and landslides are being felt in Kailali and Kanchanpur districts.

Around 100 metres of road along the East-West Highway at Pahalmanpur, Kailali is completely washed away. It is estimated that it will take at least 3 days to repair this stretch of the road. Electricity and telephones are cut off in some VDCs, which hampered information collection from the affected areas. Air transport from Dhangadhi was canceled on 20 September but has since resumed. Many people are attempting to move to Nepalgunj by the Highway or via India. Landslides along the Dhangadhi- Dadeldhura highway have obstructed vehicles movement from Dadeldhura.

The weather forecasting system of the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) indicate that that the rains are likely to gradually reduce in intensity in the affected districts by 23 September.

*Kailali:* According to the government and Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), floods and landslides have caused 13 deaths, 28 people reported missing and an estimated 8,942 families displaced in 19 VDCs including Khailad, Khurkuriya, Ratanpur, Bhuyaphata, Mohanpur, Khonpur, Hasauliya, Lalbojih, Dhansinghpur, Narayanpur and Nigali Village Development Councils (VDCs) and Dhangadhi Municipality in Kailali District. The Geta Eye Hospital is also reportedly inundated by flood waters. The majority of Sukumbasi (landless) and former Kamaiya settlements are severely affected by the flood waters in Kailali District.

*Kanchanpur:* In Kanchanpur District, as of 22 September, 9 people were reported killed in Dhodohara VDC and estimated 3,000 families are displaced from several VDCs. In Chadani VDC, 32 houses are completely swept away by the flooded Jogbudha River. The flood affected VDCs include Sudha, Daiji, Dhakatbhuli, Krishnanagar, Mahendranagar Municipality ward numbers 1,3,6,10,11,12 and 13. Dhodohara and Chadani VDCs are cut off from communication and the true extent of damage remains unknown

*Doti:* According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), 5 people died and 3 were seriously injured due to the floods and landslide. Transport, electricity and communications systems between Doti district headquarters and Kailali are disrupted.

According to NRCS, the floods and landslides have also

caused heavy damage and displacement in Bardiya, Dadeldhura, Dang and Salyan districts. Transport, communication and electricity in these districts are disrupted.

### RESPONSE

On 21 September, the government convened the Central Disaster Relief Committee (CDRC), under the chairmanship of the Minister for Home Affairs, in Kathmandu. The Meeting decided to mobilize all existing government resources including security forces, helicopters and relief equipments to rescue people in the affected districts and take them to safer places where temporary shelter, food and basic health services could be provided. The CDRC also decided to mobilize more resources at the national and local level to respond to the disaster.

On 21 September, the government dispatched two Nepal Army helicopters to Kailali and Kanchanpur districts to support local response. A team of Constituent Assembly members led by the Minister for Labour and Transport Management and health teams left Kathmandu for Kailali District.

On 22 September, the Home Ministry requested OCHA to support the government coordination efforts at the District and regional levels through participation in the DDRC meetings.



Floods in Geta VDC, Kailali: Source World Vision

### Kailali Response:

The District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) met and mobilized security forces for search, rescue and evacuation. However, bad weather conditions and lack of search and

rescue equipments has impacted negatively upon the search and rescue operations.

The NRCS started distributing food items, tarpaulins and blankets to the affected population. NRCS also mobilised its regional warehouse in Mahendranagar to provide additional supplies.

On 22 September, the Chief District Officer- CDO endorsed the establishment of 9 clusters to coordinate response. WASH, Protection and Health clusters were immediately activated.

### **Kanchanpur Response:**

On 21 September, the DDRC Kanchanpur met and mobilized security forces for the search and rescue efforts. An assessment team was formed, which includes VDC Secretaries, NRCS volunteers and Political Party representatives. The DDRC requested all organizations to coordinate with NRCS during the relief distribution phase.

On 21 September, NRCS collected 10 quintals of rice locally. An estimated 20 collection centres (temporary camps) are established in different flood affected VDCs. The displaced people are located in the following collection centres:

- Punarbas-5 collection centres in 5 schools
- Belaur-2
- Mahendranagar Municipality-2
- Dekhatbhuli

The Inter-Agency Initial Rapid Assessment Team meeting in Kailali will also designate an assessment mission for Kanchanpur. However, absence of many humanitarian actors in Kanchanpur district is hampering effective response.

### **COORDINATION**

*Government Lead Role:* The DDRC meeting on 21 September decided to expedite the search and rescue operations. The DDRC, World Vision International (WVI), DFID-CSP, Save the Children (SC) will support the distribution of immediate ready-to-eat (RTE) food with NRCS to the flood hit VDCs.

*Cluster coordination:* The DDRC Kailali has activated the DDRC cluster approach for the Kailali response. Organisations are encouraged to go through the focal points for each cluster to ensure a coordinated response. Cluster leads, active participants and contact details are available on the Nepal Information Platform ([www.un.org.np/DisasterPreparedness/index.php](http://www.un.org.np/DisasterPreparedness/index.php)). Organisations interested in supporting the relief efforts are encouraged to contact the cluster leads.

*OCHA Satellite Office:* On 22 September, OCHA established a satellite office in Dhangadhi in the OHCHR Office and will be supporting coordination and disseminating humanitarian information from there.

### **Rapid Assessments**

An Inter Agency Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA) team will assesses the affected VDCs from 22 September. The Inter-Agency IRA team consists of UN Agencies, INGOs and NRCS. RVWRMP/FINIDA will carry out an assessment in 6 VDCs in Kailali, including Lalboji

### **Health**

On 21 September, Health Cluster meeting took place at the District Public Health Office (DPHO) to coordinate the health response to the flood affected communities. Participants included NRCS, WVI and BASE.

### **Cluster lead contacts:**

Food: WFP, Kimberly Deni, [kimberly.deni@wfp.org](mailto:kimberly.deni@wfp.org)

WASH: UNICEF, Larry Robertson, [lrobertson@unicef.org](mailto:lrobertson@unicef.org)

Health: WHO, Damodar Adhikari,

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Nutrition: UNICEF, Monique Beun, [mbeun@unicef.org](mailto:mbeun@unicef.org)

Protection: OHCHR, Annette Lyth, [alyth@ohchr.org](mailto:alyth@ohchr.org)

Child Protection: UNICEF, Radha Gurung,

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Education: UNICEF, Melinda Smith, [msmith@unicef.org](mailto:msmith@unicef.org)

and Save the Children, Gopini Pandey,

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Emergency Shelter: Gregg McDonald,

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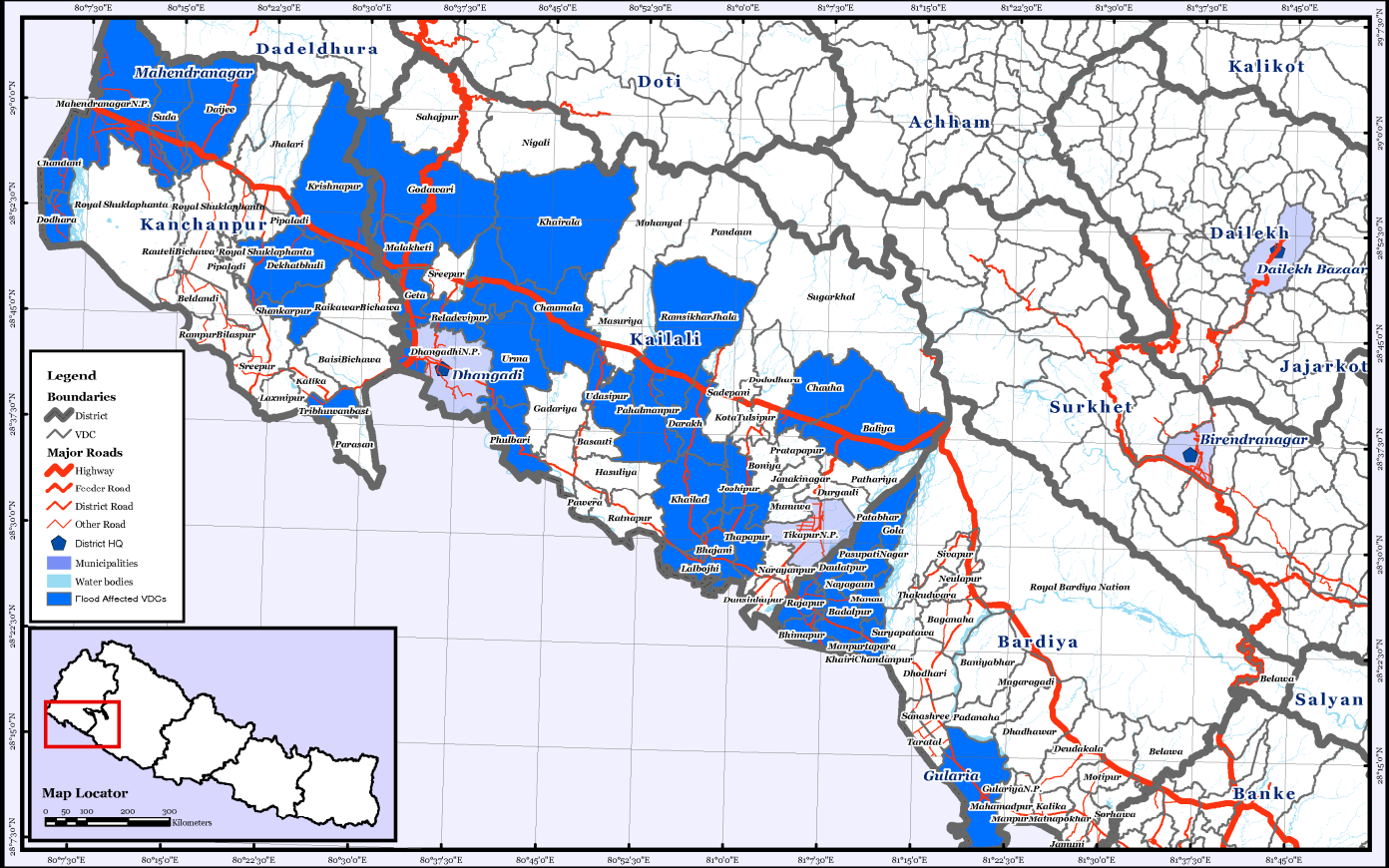
Camp Coordination and Management: Christopher Hoffman,

[CHOFFMAN@iom.int](mailto:CHOFFMAN@iom.int)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 22 September: DDRC Kailali meeting at 0800 hrs at District Administration Office (DAO), Kailali
- 22 September, Inter- Agency Initial Rapid Assessment Team meeting at 0700 hrs at NRCS Office Kailali
- 22 September: DDRC Kanchanpur meeting at 1100 hrs at DAO, Mahendranagar
- 23 September: DDRC Kailali meeting at 0800hrs at District Administration Office (DAO), Kailali

# Mid-West and Far-West Region: Flood Affected Areas (as of 22 Sept)



<p><b>OCHA</b> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</p>	<p>Map produced by OCHA Nepal Data Source: Press Release by MoHA and NRCS</p>	<p>The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations</p>	<p>Map Created Sept. 22 2008</p>	
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**For more detailed and updated information please visit the Nepal Information Platform (<http://www.un.org.np>) or contact:**

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