



Media Consultancy Nepal

Disaster Watch - Nepal

A newsletter on disaster updates

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Nepal asks for Japan's help to prevent glacial melt, floods

Windsor Genova

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has proposed the creation by Japan of a glacial research institute in the country. The institute will conduct research on how to prevent glaciers in the Himalayas from melting and causing disastrous floods and water shortage in the world's highest region.

The Asahi Shimbun on December 6, quoted the Nepalese prime minister as saying in a Nov. 22 interview with the Japanese newspaper that Japan should set up the proposed institute because it has abundant experts, equipment and data to conduct the anti-global warming study.

The newspaper also quoted him as saying that Japanese organizations have long been researching the glaciers in Himalayas, where the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest, is located. Koirala wanted scientists from both Japan and Nepal to work together in coming up with precautions against floods and other disasters caused by the melting of the glaciers.

A study by the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development and the United Nations and Environment Program released in Katmandu and Bangkok, Thailand during the World Environment Day on June 5 warned that global warming is melting glaciers and causing glacial lakes in the Himalayas. The study called for mitigation measures to avert disaster.

(Posted on 10th December, 2007)

Climate Change Campaign reached in Lamjung

On 8th December, 2007, Co-Action Nepal (CAN) has conducted awareness raising programs about climate change issues in Besisahar of Lamjung district with the support of Action Aid. CAN has organized 'Press Meet' and 'Workshop with Key Stakeholders' as a part of global climate change campaign.

Lamjung district has been suffering from the climate change induced circumstances and is increasing every year. It has witnessed sharp decline in the production of agriculture and cash crops, increasing drought, adverse precipitation and hailstorms, floods, landslides and soil erosion.

Participants of awareness campaign have voiced upon comprehensive study on vulnerability status of climate change impact and imperative strategies to adapt with climate change hazards in the context of Lamjung.

Participants from the government agencies committed to add climate change issues in their district plan as far as possible but it needs support from various quarters. Representatives from the political parties said development and prosperity of Lamjung has been hindered by climate change impact and they will try to build collective political commitment in the district level towards the issue.

Loss of lives this monsoon

Baglung	29
Banke	28
Gulmi	19
Rautahat	12
Bajura	11
Bardia	10
Sindhuli	10
Darchula	9
Ramechhap	9
Sindhuli	10
Baitadi	8
Dang	8
Pyuthan	7
Salyan	7
Mahottari	7
Siraha	7
Kailali	6
Kaski	6
Makwanpur	6
Achham	6
Udayapur	5
Jajarkot	5
Kalikot	5
Arghakhachi	5
Saptari	5
Jumla	4
Surkhet	4
Jhapa	4
Chitwan	4
Morang	4
Sunsari	4
Nawalparasi	3
Rukum	3
Dhanusha	3
Khotang	2
Bhojpur	2
Panchthar	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 30th October, 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 30th October, 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](#)

[Delhi Declaration, Nov, 2007](#)

[We Know What We Need : Nov.](#)

Snapshots



Workshop on climate change organised by Co-Action Nepal in Lamjung on 8th December.

Members of nongovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and professional organizations have stressed to link coping mechanism of climate change along with development activities. They said as Lamjung has been stuck in limbo on climate change issues, climate change campaign should be intensified as soon as possible. Media persons said climate change is less known issues and they too didnot have enough sensitization on climate change issues and it's impact hitherto to address confidently in the media. Hence, they sought for more knowledgeable inputs.

Participants have strongly recommended to increase awareness level of the Lamjung people to adapt with impending risk of climate change, to build network of key stakeholders for utmost co-ordination, to increase discourse on different level as an initial strategy. Likewise, they urged government to strictly abide protocols and conventions on climate change which had been previously committed.

According to the participants, CAN has for the first time initiate programs related with climate change in Lamjung district and it should continue it's effort in Lamjung.

(Posted on 10th December, 2007)

Climate Change Threatening Glaciers: Expert

At least 20 glaciers in Nepal are facing threat of explosion any time due to the climate change. Continued change in climate has threatened glaciers in Nepal and they may burst anytime, Dr Bishwo Shrestha, a geographer, said on December 9, Sunday while addressing a programme organised to mark the Climate Change Campaign 2007.

The developed and industrialised nations are responsible for the global climate change and their activities are affecting the existence of other countries, he said. President of the National Lake Development Board Khagaraj Adhikari said the industrialised nations, which have signed the Kyoto Protocol of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, are violating the international agreement and they should be fined for that.

The greenhouse gases emitted by the industries in the developed countries are contributing to rapid climate change, he said. Vice-chancellor of Pokhara University Dr Keshar Jung Baral said that the nations responsible for causing pollution need to pay compensation to other nations which are suffering due to their activities.

(Posted on 10th December, 2007)

Disaster preparedness skills programs in Kathmandu

With an aim to equip people of Kathmandu with the necessary skills to tackle disasters, the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS)-Kathmandu is launching a disaster preparedness programme in the Valley soon.

The programme comprises conducting awareness activities; training on earthquake, flood, landslide and fire; first aid knowledge; effective measures to respond during disasters; search and rescue operations and socio-psychological trainings.

The programme will be launched in wards 30 and 16 of KMC and Kirtipur Municipality, said Sangha Ratna Shakya, NRCS's secretary. The Belgian Red Cross will fund the programme.

Our Words

Disaster Watch Newsletter is now going to change its pattern. Along with the end of monsoon, daily updates will not be available but new updates will be posted regularly. Disaster Watch Newsletter would be made more interactive henceforth.

We will start regular columns and invite guest, viewers to have their say on different disaster issues. Suggestions and feedbacks would be heartedly appreciated .

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)

(Posted on 10th December,2007)

"We know what we need"

SA women spoke out on climate change adaptation

International efforts to help poor women – the world's most vulnerable - to adapt to climate change will fail unless urgent action is taken, says a joint study report commissioned by international anti-poverty agency ActionAid and the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) in Nepal, India and Bangladesh.

The report, which comes a week before the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Bali, urges governments to give women, who are on the frontline of climate change, an equal say in adaptation financing to ensure funds effectively support poor women.

"The impact of the climate change in Nepal, which affected nearly 406,587 people, comes on top of the massive monsoon floods earlier this year. It's a wake-up call that urgent action is needed to save and protect people's lives", says Shyam Sundar Jnavaly, Senior Theme Leader, Emergency and Disaster Management of ActionAid Nepal.

"Women are hit hardest by climate change because they have fewer means to adapt and prepare for extreme weather conditions worsened by climate change." The report shows how poor women are struggling to cope with the impact of global warming and presents first-hand testimonies on what they think adaptation funds should be spent on.

"We are far behind in terms of new skills. I think we also need information, training and other alternatives. We want to know how women in other villages are managing their livelihoods" Muna Mukeri from Matehiya village in Banke district told ActionAid researchers.

"Our research shows that although poor women are one of the groups most affected by climate change, they also have clear priorities for adaptation – for example having a safe place to store harvest and livestock during the monsoon season," says Tom Mitchell, researcher at the IDS.

"For adaptation funding to be effective, efficient and equitable, it is crucial that the poor women's needs are reflected in both policies and interventions for adaptation to climate change. To do so, the world first has to listen to them."

One of the primary reasons that women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change is that they are disproportionately dependent on threatened natural resources. Women are responsible for approximately 75 percent of household food production in sub-Saharan Africa, 65 percent in Asia, and 45 percent in Latin America.

The IPCC report "Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability" predicts that yields from rain-fed agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa could be reduced by as much as 50 percent by 2020. When poor women lose their livelihoods, they slip deeper into poverty and the inequality and marginalisation they suffer from because of their gender increases.

As crop yields decline and resources become scarcer, women's workloads will expand, jeopardizing their chances to work outside the home or attend school. In times of drought, they will also have to spend more time performing another typical female responsibility – carrying, purifying, and supplying the family's water. Moreover, as water- and heat-related diseases increase because of climate

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)

change, women will bear the extra burdens of increased care giving and increased threats to their own health.

(Posted on 29th November)

Sunsari prepared to check flood damages

The Sunsari District Development Committee has prepared a special flood control plan for a permanent solution to the damages caused every year by floods in different rivers in the district.

Local Development Officer Guru Prasad Subedi said the DDC has come up with the special plan this year so as to find a permanent solution to the problem of land encroachment by Seutikhola, Tengrakhola, Sunsari Khola, Baghkhola, Patnali river and Saptakoshi river during the monsoon season.

Subedi said the new plan integrates all government and non-government organizations working in the field. The plan was prepared after collecting the data on flood damages and a field assessment, Subedi said.

The plan will cost at least Rs 250 million and the DDC will request the Natural Disasters Control Division Office, NGOs and the Prime Minister's Natural Disasters Rescue Fund for financial assistance for the projects to be implemented under the plan. Small projects with financial assistance ranging from Rs 50,000 to 100,000 are not effective in flood control, Subedi said, adding the DDC has thus geared up to adopt a new strategy in flood control.

Though the flood control in the Saptakoshi river demands separate plan of action, flood control in other small rivers need to be sorted out once for all. He said the work on flood control in these small rivers will begin this winter.

He said the integrated plan is being implemented after consultations with political parties, NGOs and all other stakeholder concerned so as to relieve the residents of areas including Inaruwa municipality and Babiya, Narsingh, Madhuwan, Prakashpur, Mahendranagar, Barakhshetra, Bharaul, Madhyaharshahi and Jhokraha VDCs from the nuisance of floods during the monsoon season.

In Madhyapur Thimi, Khopa Engineering College, Bhaktapur has started campaign across the country with a view to mitigating risks resulting out of quake. Nepal is among the quake-prone countries.

The campaign that kicked off with the objective of reducing chances of loss of lives and properties during the quake would reach to various districts and impart information to public and persons involved in various professions, said Principle Dr. Rajan Suwal.

The campaign would begin from Chitwan district, he informed, adding, the training on mitigation of quake risks was provided to headmaster, teachers, employees and students of 67 secondary schools. The campaign would be started in other districts of the country by this month, he informed.

(Posted on 29th November)

Pak assistance to flood victims handed over

In a ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Friday, Ambassador of Pakistan, Sohail Amin presented a consignment of medicines from the government and the people of Pakistan to the Foreign Secretary Gyan Chandra Acharya for the victims of recent floods in Nepal.

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 havebeen 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)

The medicines which have wide ranging application can be utilised in emergency situations, particularly in case of epidemics as is usually witnessed after the floods, said a press statement issued by the Embassy of Pakistan.

On the occasion, ambassador Amin said that the gesture of goodwill from the government and people of Pakistan was reflective of excellent bilateral friendly relations between the two countries. Foreign Secretary Acharya thanked the Ambassador of Pakistan for the donation and expressed similar sentiments.

(Posted on 25th November)

Hail damage put at Rs 4.6m in Kaski

Hailstones on first week of November damaged crops and fruits worth Rs 46 lakhs in Kaski district according to the District Agriculture Office.

Crop protection officer at the office Dhan Bahadur Rana today said that the hail damaged paddy worth Rs 20 lakhs, vegetables and fruits worth Rs 17 lakhs and millet worth Rs nine lakh planted in 1,316 hectares of land in the district. The damage was high in Hemja, Lamachaur, Sarangkot, Sildajure and areas within the Pokhara city Before the hail, it was projected that paddy production in the district could rise by 10 per cent.

But now, it will not exceed last year's figure, the office said. A report from Lamjung said hail caused damage to crops planted in all wards of Mohoriyakot VDC on Tuesday.

(Posted on 29th November)

GIS to minimise disaster impact

Vice Chairman of National Planning Commission, Dr. Jagadish Chandra Pokharel has said Geographical Information System has significant role in effective planning, minimising impact of natural disasters and protecting environment, and should be strengthened.

Vice Chairman Pokharel, speaking in the programme organised in Kathmandu Wednesday by Nepal Geographical Information System Society on World Geographical Information System Day, said different programmes should be organised by forging coordination between the System and Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS).

Stressing that the government should pay heed to making the system sustainable and advanced, he said people cannot be made alert in the absence of full information about geographical status.

Director General of Department of Survey, Toyenath Baral informed that Nepal retains conventional geographical information system and it should be replaced by modern technologies.

Dean of Pulchok Engineering Campus Babu Ram Bhattarai said the Campus is ready to provide technical assistance to improve the current geographical information system. Vice Chairman of High Level Commission for Information Technology, Dr. Saroj Devkota also spoke at the programme.

(Posted on 15th November)

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.

Red Cross staff embezzles relief funds in Saptari

Chairman of Nepal Red Cross Society, Saptari Chapter, Jogendra Bhagat has embezzled the relief materials provided to the flood victims of Saptari district, a representative of an international donor agency revealed.

Raj Kumar Yadav, representative of the UN-WFP revealed the secret at a review programme on emergency relief distribution organized yesterday by the Koshi Victims Society, Saptari with the help of Oxfam G B Nepal. President Bhagat had arbitrarily distributed the relief provided by the WFP against the WFP policy, Yadav claimed.

The WFP had provided 70.5 kg of rice, 10 kg of pulse, 4.5 litre of cooking oil and 1.3 kg of salt per family to some 4,000 families of 25 VDCs in the district. However, President Bhagat had distributed 30 kg of rice, 4 kg of pulse, 2 litre of cooking oil and 1 kg of salt. Bhagat was indifferent to my objection, Yadav added.

The speakers at the programme said the seven political parties had created problems in course of relief distribution. Some victims said they were deprived of the relief because of the political clout, they added.

Moreover, various other people including Chit Narayan Yadav, Mahesh Yadav of Nepal Sadbhavana Party and Shiva Hari Bhattarai speaking at the programme presided over by the Chairman of Appellate Court Bar, Rajbiraj, Dinesh Yadav had revealed that President Bhagat had embezzled in the relief distribution. National as well as international communities provided relief goods worth nearly 30 million rupees through NRCS Saptari alone.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided 12.5 million rupees to support 3,957 flood-hit families, Save the Children contributed one million rupees for 700 families, Save the Children offered five million rupees for 2,000 victim families, Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN) provided 400,000 rupees and the United Nations Children Fund (Unicef) distributed tents to 2,500 families. Likewise, NRCS center, Unicef and RRF additionally provided relief goods worth 300,000 rupees, 500,000 and 200,000 rupees respectively.

Similarly, another INGO Oxfam and Koshi Victims Society jointly provided 10 million rupees. Saraswoti Community Development Forum supported nearly 1,000 victim families. Business communities and local NGOs are other donors.

(Posted on 15th November)

Road damage lead towards food crunch

Shortage of food items has hit the mountainous districts of Bajhang and Darchula on the eve of Tihar. Mainly, it is the remote villages of the districts — Gongal, Chaigaun, Sainkhola and Kada — that are facing food scarcity for last one week. One has to walk for 2-3 days from Bajhang district headquarter, Chainpur to reach the VDCs.

In Darchula, main road was damaged in the rainy season, and is one of the main reasons for food shortage. The district is virtually cut off from the headquarters. Road is in poor condition for last three months. Bid to make it operational is being made with the help of a dozer. According to a report, locals of remote villages of Darchula go to Dharchula in India to purchase daily food items.

Food supply in Bajhang district has also been hit due to road damage in Saddy, said DSP Til Bahadur Chand of Regional Police Office, Dipayal. Absence of

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

Plan continues to help affected communities

The floods that hit India, Bangladesh and Nepal in August 2007 and left millions homeless have been receding - but life is still a struggle for the survivors, many of which are still living in temporary shelters, facing hunger, and risking death from disease outbursts.

Stop preventable death

Plan staff and volunteers continue to work around the clock to organise health camps, distribute temporary shelters and toilets, health kits, dry rations, food grains, bleaching powder, chlorine tablets to purify water, and carbolic acid bottles to curb snake bites, as well as educating families on the importance of sanitation.

Virendra Kumar, a teenage boy from Muzzaffarpur, India, says: "During and after the flood we were in a very bad condition. Many people were suffering from different kinds of disease, but Plan provided us with all kinds of support including 24 hour free

government officials in the offices like Far Western Regional Office of Dipayal and Food Store room of Chainpur is also causing of food shortage. The locals blame that the officials have not yet returned from the Dashain vacation.

Food shortage during Dashain and Tihar, the greatest festival of Nepal, is an age-old problem in these districts. "The government has been turning deaf ear to the woes of the villagers," said Bhanubhakta Joshi, secretary of CPN-UML Bajhang district committee.

(Posted on 9th November)

Disaster risk reduction plan in offing

Home Minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula said that Nepal was on the final stage of formulating national strategic plan on disaster risk reduction to implement Hyogo Framework for Action at the national level. "Nepal has initiated legal reforms to incorporate adequate provision for effective disaster risk reduction," he said.

Addressing at high level 'Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction' Conference in New Delhi, Minister Sitaula said by being inspired from the global platform, Nepal had established a participatory, professionally competent, high-performing National Program on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in pursuit of mainstreaming DRR on national development framework.

Sitaula has pointed the necessity of collective help for disaster reduction. "The newly established SAARC Disaster Management Center also needs collective support for strengthening its capacity to be transformed into the center of excellence in disaster reduction in the region," he said.

He also said the conference had provided an opportunity to regenerate better understanding, sharing thoughts and exchanging views on wide range of concerns of DRR.

The conference is being organised with the objective of reviewing the Hyogo Framework for Action progress, assessing board-based cooperation and collaboration, sharing and exchanging experiences and strategizing for developing a vision and roadmap for the region of Asia pursuit of effective DDR. The conference with the theme 'Development without Disaster' ends Thursday.

(Posted on 9th November)

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health camps. Their contribution is very much appreciated."

Improve livelihood

The floods have also destroyed crops which are the main source of income for people in Bihar, one of the poorest states in India. As a result, the price of food and household commodities has gone up drastically. Men are forced to search for work in other states, leaving women and children even more vulnerable.

Plan works closely with the local governments to make sure the families have access to various government provisions and schemes. Pre-school activities are arranged for young children to free up their parents, while Plan livelihood volunteers work with communities and self-help groups on disaster prevention and mitigation.

Children also 'act'

Children are also helping to develop and spread the message on sanitation and disaster prevention through wall newspapers, rallies, and radio and theatre programs. Kanchan Kumari, member of a child club in Bihar, says: "During the flood, diseases like diarrhoea were breaking out but through Plan's programs we educate our friends and neighbours about disaster prevention and reduction. Now we are aware of the importance of a proper toilet and chlorine-tested water."

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