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In collaboration with
Action Aid Nepal
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Climate Change Corner

- Climate Change Campaign in Lamjung
- Climate Change, Bali conference and Nepal
- Climate Change and Disaster risk
- Climate Change & Conservation
- Effects of Climate Change on the Ocean
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Cold Fatalities 2007-2008

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As of 6th Feb, 2008

Issue-93, Feb 6, 2008

According to the global report on disaster risk, Nepal ranks 11th in terms of earthquake risk and 30th in terms of flood risk.

Six more death recorded from cold

Three old-aged people died in Nawalparasi district due to the cold that increased from last week of January. Manilal Shrestha and Homnath Lamsal of Shivamandir VDC-1 and one Chaudhari Woman of Kawasoti-6 died from cold. This year cold fatalities totaled five in the district till now.

One more person died from cold in Saptari as temperature continues to drop with the cold wave for the past one week. Nanu Sada, 45, of Yoginiya VDC-3 died because of excessive cold. He died while being taken to Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital Rajbiraj for treatment, said the family. Three dozen people have been treated of cold diarrhea from the hospital.

One dozen people come daily for treatment of cold diarrhea, pneumonia, and cold fever. In-charge of the hospital's Emergency Ward Lal Kishor Singh said most of them are children and elderly. Cold affected people are also treated in Kanchanpur Primary Health Center, Kalyanpur, Kadarbona and Topa, the District Health Office said.

In Bara, two years old son of Mohan Chauhan at Kalaiya and 8 days infant of Parmanda Pasawan at Kariya-5 have been died of cold.

(Posted on 6th Feb,2008)

Heavy snow disconnects dozen VDCs in Rukum

Incessant snowfall in the northern region of the Rukum district for the past two weeks has crippled daily lives of the people. Excessive snow around the region has marred the movement of horses and mules to the district headquarters triggering a food crisis. "Solar panels and telephone service are also out of order due to heavy snowfall," said Amar Pun, a local of Khara VDC. A dozen VDCs in the northern region of the district have been cut off from the headquarters due to the snow.

One Purna Bahadur KC, 35, and his sister-in-law Kusala KC, 33, of Bafikot-9 of Jhimruka, Rukum died in a drowning accident in Small Bheri River on 4th February. The strong river current had swept them away while crossing the river. They were returning home after buying daily consumables from Bhalkhola bazaar. Their bodies were recovered by the locals near Syapurdaha Small Hydro-power Project.

(Posted on 6th Feb,2008)

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.](#)
[Flood Response Study 2007](#)
[Global flood lesson 2007](#)
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[Adaptive capacity and livelihood resilience](#)

Snapshots



Residents of Taulihawa in Kapilvastu have to use wooden bridge to cross the Banganga river. Photo: Rajesh Dhungana/TRN

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 .

Mustang on starvation after flight disruption

Various places of the nation have been adversely affected after the continuous snowfall for the past few days. It is learnt that the life of Mustang is in crisis as the problem of starvation arises there after the disruption of Pokhara- Jomsom Air Service due to continuous snowfall and adverse weather in various parts of the district for the last week.

Temperature of Mustang had dropped to minus 3 degree Celsius which is expected to be continued for a few days, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology informed. The decline in temperature also adversely affected various sectors of Mustang such as tourism, trade, education and so on.

Meanwhile, transport of Dadheldhura was also disrupted as it witnessed the snowfall. Sahukharka- Hagulte road section of Bhim Dutta Pant Highway was disrupted due to snowfall. Many vehicles were stranded there and a team was sent to clear the highway, the District Police Office, Dhadeldhura said.

(Posted on 2nd Feb,2008)

Snowfall halts road construction in Dhading

Construction works of the road linking Kiranchok VDC-5 Tinghare in south Dhading to Bhandara (Chitwan) has been stopped because of the snowfall. The construction was stopped after snowfall continued from January 29. The road was started three years ago as an alternative road of the Prithvi Highway and Tribhuvan Highway, said Sri Bahadur Tamang of Tinghare.

The road has reached Kiranchok of Dhading after construction of 25 kms from Palung and 95 km in total will be constructed upto Bhandara, said the Users Committee. The road will benefit 19 VDCs of Dhading and Makwanpur districts.

(Posted on 2nd Feb,2008)

Cold kills two in Sarlahi, Saptari

One person died in Sarlahi on Friday as the mercury continued to dip for the past few days. Bindeshowr Roy of Sarlahi's Salempur VDC-7, died of cold, said a local health personnel Birendra Yadav. Roy, shivering of cold, suddenly fell down on the ground while he was working on the field and died on his way to hospital, yadav added.

One person died in Saptari district Thursday night from the dropping temperature for the past few days. Chhatu Ram, 50, a resident of Jagatpur of Saptari died because of excessive cold. Ram, admitted for treatment at the local health center died during treatment, the family said. Epidemic of cold diarrhea and pneumonia has increased among children with the dropping temperature.

In Bhojpur district, one person died and five others were injured when they were swept away by a landslide at Gupteshwor-1 on Thursday morning. Police said the killed and the injured are all construction workers working at Cihandanda road section at around 9 am on Thursday. Raj Kumar Rai, 20, breathed his last on way to district hospital.

(Posted on 2nd Feb,2008)

Link dams in crisis

Asia Watch

A Climate Disaster ? Snow Storm in China!

Overall Assessment of the Situation

The latest reports from various parts of China suggest that in the south-western provinces of the country a large population is affected by the Winter Snow-storm. This snowfall, the worst in five decades in many places, has affected 77.86 million people in 14 provinces in northern, central, eastern and southern China by Monday, the 3rd February. The extreme weather has forced the evacuation of 827,000 people to safer places, damaged 4.22 million hectares of crops, toppled 107,000 houses and damaged 399,000 homes (People's Daily). People in Anhui, Guangdong, Jiangxi, Hubei and Hunan provinces are the most affected.df

The Ministry of Civil Affairs has reported 24 casualties due to the heavy snow since January 10. Among the deaths, 10 people were killed in house collapses brought on by the snow and another 10 died after falling on slippery roads. Two people drowned and two were hit by falling trees laden with heavy snow.

The freezing of roads, railway tracks and electric transmission lines has affected the transportation system and power-supply to these regions very badly.

Relief Operations

The Chinese government has provided a total of 126 million yuan (GBP 8.87m) in financial aid to six provinces and an autonomous region hit hard by icy rain and heavy snow. The aid was mainly used to help people affected by the cold weather or those stranded in train stations or on blocked highways. Nearly one million police have been dispatched to maintain smooth traffic.

'A' Gap and 'B' Gap link dams of Nawalparasi of Gandak Canal are under threat as the Indian Government did not carry out the works according to agreement. The structures made by Nepal are facing crisis due to the misappropriation of budget allocated by Nepal Government by the Indian officials, the locals said.

The flood at Narayani River swept away around 20 bighas of land of Kudiya Paklihawa VDCs, inundated six VDCs and affected the powerhouse of Suryapura last year as those dams ruptured due to negligence on proper maintenance.

(Posted on 2nd Feb, 2008)

Norwegian PM to learn climate change impact in Nepal

Prime Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg is paying a working visit to Nepal on February 8, 2008. Beside political meetings, he would visit to a glacier lake to observe how the climate change is affecting the Himalayan region. In this connection, he will make a visit to one of the glacier lakes in Nepal, which is showing signs of climate change.

(Posted on 2nd Feb, 2008)

Rukum gets stuck from snowfall, severe cold

The normal life in district headquarters of Rukum district, Khalanga has been hit hard due to the heavy snowfall that took place on last Saturday. The snowfall that occurred on Saturday night is so far the biggest one in the area, said Meteorology Measurement Centre, Rukum.

The snowfall also took place at and around Musikot and other adjoining VDCs owing to the cold increased following a week-long continuous snow fall in upper region. Locals said the headquarters measured above half feet snow fall while it is one-and-half to five feet in Saankh, Chaukhawang, Jhula, Syalapakha including nearby VDCs.

Normal life is being affected when the food supply in the northern belt of the district has been obstructed due to the problem surfaced in the movement of horse and mule with the snowfall. The locals of the region have been sustaining their livelihoods relying on millet, potato and barley, said Pheran Budha of Hukam.

The flight services and road transport in the district were also obstructed during Saturday and Sunday due to the snowfall. The score of patients suffering from pneumonia has gone on rise due to the excessive cold in the area, said Dr. Shyam BK.

No public service related works took place in the public offices in the districts as service user did not approach the offices, Arjun Bhandari of District Administration said. More than 30 locals at Syalapakha have been detected with pneumonia, Manbir Shahi, a local, informed.

(Posted on 30th January, 2008)

Snowfall badly hits Humla, Rasuwa, Mustang

Snowfall along with windstorm yesterday has badly affected normal life in Lali VDC of Humla district. The windstorm damaged the roof of the health post in the VDC and damaged medicines and documents, health worker Rudrabir Shahi said. Both health workers and patients have been affected after the storm damaged the roof

of the health post.

Many other local organizations including Oxfam, the Amity Foundation and others are raising funds and are planning to enter into relief operations soon. The poor communication and transportation has not allowed other players to be at the place of action. However, the government has mobilized 158,000 People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops and the Chinese People's Armed Police (PAP) and 303,000 paramilitary members have joined the anti-snow campaign. They are largely working to clear the roads, helping maintain order at the train stations and supporting stranded people to move to safer shelters nearby. Government at the local level has opened up all public places to provide shelter to the affected people.

As one of the management strategies of the government, the migrant workers have been advised to stay in cities (where they are now) for Spring Festival. Appalling weather has led authorities in south China's Guangdong Province to advise millions of migrant workers to abandon family reunion plans and stay in the cities where they work during the upcoming Spring Festival because they may not be able to complete their journeys home. The migrant workers have been asked to take leave later to go to their hometowns for family reunion.

The State Council, China's highest governing body, has issued a wide-reaching decree to speed up and ease food shipments to markets as winter storms lashing much of China hamper efforts to curb rising food prices. The decree, issued late Friday and published in national press on Saturday (2nd February), calls on road police, railway bureaus and gas pump stations to do all they can to ensure timely delivery of food supplies after crushing snow and ice storms clogged roads, cut electricity and delayed deliveries.

Our assessment is that the

Normal life in northern parts of Rasuwa district has been affected due to the snowfall for the last few days. The snowfall has affected the langtang area the most followed by Briddhim, Timure, Thuman, Chilime and Gatlang areas. Livestock have also been affected due to the lack of grazing following the snowfall. Almost all areas 2,000 metres above sea level are covered with snow.

It has been very difficult for the people in Mustang district after the heavy snowfall occurring since last friday brought severe cold. Even the livestock are badly affected by the snowfall. The snowfall recurred after two days have disrupted the communication and also the Pokhara-Jomsom air flights. A local Res Bahadur Tulachan said people in upper Mustang are making fire in the houses and those in the lower region could not come out of home due to the snow piled up to three feet.

(Posted on 30th January,2008)

Hailstone causes heavy loss in Myagdi

A heavy rain with hailstone that took place on January 26 has destroyed standing wheat and vegetable worth tens of thousand in the rural area of Myagdi district.

The hailstone that occurred in Barangja, Okharbot, Takam, Bhakimli Gaushwara including other VDCs of Myagdi district destroyed wheat, potato, cabbage, tomato and other seasonal and off-seasonal vegetables worth around Rs. 500 thousands, said the local farmers.

According to the information provided by Dor Bahadur Gharti, a local farmer of Bhakimli, the hailstone measuring one and half fit has caused entire damage of vegetable production and has buried wheat plantation in Bhakimli. The detail of loss caused by the hailstone has yet to be finalized, said District Agriculture Development Office.

(Posted on 30th January,2008)

Pneumonia patients on rise, one dead

Health officials of Dhankuta district have said that the number of patients with pneumonia and other respiratory diseases has shot up in Dhankuta. Health officials say that around three dozen such patients visit the hospital every day. According to Dr Ayush Khanal, the dipping temperatures are behind such diseases. A six-year old boy from Dhankuta Municipality died of pneumonia on Sunday.

(Posted on 30th January,2008)

Nepal sees 10 minor quakes a day

The National Seismological Centre (NSC), last year, recorded 929 earthquakes with a magnitude of more than two on the Richter scale The record doesn't tell all, chief of the NSC Soma Nath Sapkota says. Around ten earthquakes, very minor ones, take place every day, he added.

"It is observed that around ten earthquakes take place every day, but they are less powerful and quakes of less than two on the Richter scale are insignificant and so not recorded," Sapkota said. Those earthquakes being very small and harmless, people "would not even realise the tremor," he added.

Government is prioritizing people stranded on the railway stations etc to ensure they reach home. However, it is facing difficulty in shifting those whose houses have been damaged in the winter snow storm.

The Red Cross Society of China has mobilized volunteers to provide water and is supplying warm clothes to those affected.

Assessment of the situation and action plan

This snow storm has affected people around the time when large number of people are moving back to their hometowns to join their families for the Chinese Lunar New Year/Spring Festival. Under the pressure of Spring Festival, the government's response seems to be little better than in any other situation. The overall government response for relief operations has been satisfactory so far.

The snow storm has affected the crops, particularly vegetables, very badly. In addition, the food that is available at this point of time is likely to run out soon because of the expected over-consumption of food items during the Spring Festivities (New Year celebrations). In these circumstances, we are envisaging very high pressure on the food stocks/vegetables in the coming months resulting into price rises and a possible food crisis for poor people.

Source: ActionAid Field report as of February 04, 2008

Loss of lives in monsoon 2007

Baglung	29
Banke	28
Gulmi	19
Rautahat	12
Bajura	11
Bardia	10
Sindhuli	10
Darchula	9
Ramechhap	9
Sindhuli	10
Baitadi	8
Dang	8

The NSC has recorded 21 earthquakes which had a magnitude of more than four on the Richter scale, three which were over five on the scale, including the one in Kathmandu on October 29, which had Nuwakot as its epicentre. Sapkota said unless the earthquakes have a magnitude of around six, there is little chance of big damage. However, he added that the impact of any earthquake could vary based on the distance from the epicentre and the land type.

"If the area have bedrocks, there is less chance of destruction, but on soft soil there is a higher risk." Nepal is positioned on the boundary between the Indian and Tibetan tectonic plates and therefore lies in a seismically active region. It is the 11th most earthquake-prone state.

According to Surya Narayan Shrestha of National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), small tremors are frequent in the country, but an earthquake as big as that of 1934 occurs only in a span of 70 to 80 years. He added that the earthquakes could not be prevented. All that we can do is to minimise the hazards and prepare ourselves to face them. (*The Himalayan Times*)

(Posted on 30th January, 2008)

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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

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