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In collaboration with
Action Aid Nepal
Co-Action Nepal

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
- Linking Climate Change, Forestry and Biodiversity
- Climate Change Presentation from Co-Action Nepal
- Information Paper on Climate Change
- Global Warming and GLOF Danger to Nepal

Cold Fatalities 2007-2008

Mugu	5
Bajura	5
Siraha	5
Bara	5
Nawalparasi	5
Sunsari	2
Rautahat	2
Kathmandu	1
Dhankuta	1
Sarlahi	1
Saptari	2

As of 6th Feb, 2008

Issue-94, Feb 12, 2008

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

Mission Everest for climate change awareness

Eco Everest Expedition 2008 will attempt on Mount Everest in the spring of 2008 to raise awareness on the impact of climate change in the Himalayas. The expedition is part of the celebration of ICIMOD's 25 years.

Dawa Steven Sherpa, whose father is Nepali and mother is Belgian, of Asian Trekking will lead the expedition in partnership of ICIMOD and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The expedition is also supported and endorsed by pioneering US mountaineer Conrad Anker.

Accompanying the expedition is Ken Noguchi, Japanese alpinist and conservationist who acts as senior advisor to Eco Everest, according to a press statement of ICIMOD.

Dawa Steven, Everest summiteer, has his roots and close culture ties in the Khumbu region. In recent year he has become acutely aware of the threat of climate change on this vulnerable habit that is both a major world water resource and climate regulator, the statement said.

"I fulfilled my dream and stood on the summit of Mount Everest in May 2007. But I noticed strange things happening. The solid ice of the Khumbu icefall had melted into slush and, on the way down, was crackling and crumbling beneath my feet, he said at a press conference on Monday, 11th February.

"Fellow Sherpas on the mountain were running for their lives and asking me to get down as quickly as possible. I did, and on that same day the entire ice field simply collapsed. I was shocked, and wanted to understand why this had happened. After returning to Kathmandu I began my quest for answers. Most of my findings pointed towards the effects of global warming."

Acting Director General and deputy director general - programmes of ICIMOD, Dr. Madhav Karki said that Eco Everest Expedition 2008 would be a platform to draw maximum global attention to the issues of climate change and melting glaciers in the Himalayas. "It will specifically highlight the threats glacial lake outburst with floods threatening the local communities and environment in the region. It will also raise awareness on early warning systems and on conserving the fragile mountain ecosystem".

According to the ICIMOD statement, climate change is having a strong affect on the Himalayan glaciers; most are retreating at a fast rate. If the glaciers continue to shrink, this could have a profound impact on the water flowing through the nine major river basins originating in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region.

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](#)
[Flood Response Study 2007](#)
[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 .

"The total amount of water in the rivers might increase as the glaciers melt, but when the total amount of ice in the glaciers drops below a critical level, the flow is likely to decline", Dr. Karki said. The seasonal changes in the flow would also be affected. Some changes in the patterns of water have already been observed in some rivers in Nepal.

(Posted on 12th Feb,2008)

Landslide cursed highway resumes after seven months

Traffic on the Siddhicharan Highway resumed after a hiatus of seven months. Traffic on the highway had been obstructed for seven months after a landslide swept away 200 metres of Katari–Ghurmi section of the road in Lapsebhir.

Bus entrepreneurs, Katari Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) and the Om Halesi Truck Association of Udayapur district repaired the road. The KCCI had collected Rs 80 lakh from several individuals and organizations for the maintenance of the road, coordinator of the Maintenance Committee Krishna Thapa said. The road division office had provided a dozer and a tipper for road maintenance, he said.

(Posted on 12th Feb,2008)

People of Eastern Himalayan region towards Madhes

People of high Himalayan region of Sankhuwasabha district have landed to warmer places in Terai because of excessive cold in their region. People of Hatiyagola and Olangchunggola adjoining the Chinese border have been coming to Terai to protect their lives from cold after snowfall began in the region.

They are seen in Dharan and Inaruwa with their bamboo basket selling Himalayan herbs nowadays. They usually sell silajit, saldhub, hing, and jethimadhu herbs.

The people of Sherpa community have come here as winter chill increased this year, said one Furba Sherpa who was in Inaruwa. They said that with the news of China's snowfall being the heaviest in fifty years, it might have affected in the border region of Nepalese side as well.

They hardly speak Nepali and people of school age are rarely sent to schools because of household works. Furba says, "The school is far away and usually there are no classes in the cold, and we cannot send children to school because of poverty".

(Posted on 12th Feb,2008)

Properties gutted in a fire

Six households have been homeless while the properties worth Rs.3.8 million destroyed after a fire broke out at Panchthar district headquarters Fidim on February 9.

The properties of the house owner Laxmi Narayan Bhattarai and the tenants with shops Kul Chandra Adhikari, Jit Bahadur Gurung, Sital Aryal, Syam Krishna Nepal and Niraj Bhattarai were gutted in fire. Even the offices of Dalit Oppressed Ethnical Development Forum and Liberation Society and the store of Survey Section were destroyed.

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.

The fire was extinguished in an hour with the help of locals, police, armies and media persons. The cause of the fire is yet to be divulged.

(Posted on 12th Feb,2008)

Displaced living a difficult life

Cold has badly affected the life of 24 poor families displaced from Bandipur VDC of Siraha district and currently living makeshift camps on the bank of Kamala river. The families were displaced after a Maoist attack on Army barrack and police post at Bandipur four years ago. They were then rehabilitated at the Kamalanadi Centre in Badharamal VDC-2.

Nights are specially very difficult to pass, said Sriram Thakur, a displaced. While the displaced had facility of electricity, telephone and drinking water in Bandipur, they don't have any of this facility here, according to Prachu Saha (50). He added those who were injured in the Bandipur attack suffer more as many of them are yet to be treated properly.

They complained that the local administration had promised them with tube well, drinking water, telephone, graveled road and electricity facility and toilet, two-room house and Rs 30,000 loan without interest for each family when they were displaced from Bandipur, but none of the facilities was provided so far.

(Posted on 12th Feb,2008)

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)

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.

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

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

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

'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,

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

Supported by

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.

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)

Previous Issues

Issue 1 (July 26, 2007)	Issue 21 (Aug 15, 2007)	Issue 41 (Sep 4, 2007)
Issue 2 (July 27, 2007)	Issue 22 (Aug 16, 2007)	Issue 42 (Sep 5, 2007)
Issue 3 (July 28, 2007)	Issue 23 (Aug 17, 2007)	Issue 43 (Sep 6, 2007)
Issue 4 (July 29, 2007)	Issue 24 (Aug 18, 2007)	Issue 44 (Sep 7, 2007)
Issue 5 (July 30, 2007)	Issue 25 (Aug 19, 2007)	Issue 45 (Sep 8, 2007)
Issue 6 (July 31, 2007)	Issue 26 (Aug 20, 2007)	Issue 46 (Sep 9, 2007)
Issue 7 (Aug 1, 2007)	Issue 27 (Aug 21, 2007)	Issue 47 (Sep 10, 2007)
Issue 8 (Aug 2, 2007)	Issue 28 (Aug 22, 2007)	Issue 48 (Sep 11, 2007)
Issue 9 (Aug 3, 2007)	Issue 29 (Aug 23, 2007)	Issue 49 (Sep 12, 2007)
Issue 10 (Aug 4, 2007)	Issue 30 (Aug 24, 2007)	Issue 50 (Sep 14, 2007)
Issue 11 (Aug 5, 2007)	Issue 31 (Aug 25, 2007)	Issue 51 (Sep 15, 2007)
Issue 12 (Aug 6, 2007)	Issue 32 (Aug 26, 2007)	Issue 52 (Sep 16, 2007)
Issue 13 (Aug 7, 2007)	Issue 33 (Aug 27, 2007)	Issue 53 (Sep 17, 2007)
Issue 14 (Aug 8, 2007)	Issue 34 (Aug 28, 2007)	Issue 54 (Sep 18, 2007)
Issue 15 (Aug 9, 2007)	Issue 35 (Aug 29, 2007)	Issue 55 (Sep 20, 2007)
Issue 16 (Aug 10, 2007)	Issue 36 (Aug 30, 2007)	Issue 56 (Sep 21, 2007)
Issue 17 (Aug 11, 2007)	Issue 37 (Aug 31, 2007)	Issue 57 (Sep 22, 2007)
Issue 18 (Aug 12, 2007)	Issue 38 (Sep 1, 2007)	Issue 58 (Sep 23, 2007)
Issue 19 (Aug 13, 2007)	Issue 39 (Sep 2, 2007)	Issue 59 (Sep 24, 2007)
Issue 20 (Aug 14, 2007)	Issue 40 (Sep 3, 2007)	Issue 60 (Sep 25, 2007)

Recent Issues

Issue 61 (Sep 26, 2007)	Issue 81 (Dec 13, 2007)
Issue 62 (Sep 27, 2007)	Issue 82 (Dec 16, 2007)
Issue 63 (Sep 28, 2007)	Issue 83 (Dec 22, 2007)
Issue 64 (Sep 30, 2007)	Issue 84 (Dec 30, 2007)
Issue 65 (Oct 3, 2007)	Issue 85 (Jan 4, 2008)
Issue 66 (Oct 4, 2007)	Issue 86 (Jan 8, 2008)
Issue 67 (Oct 5, 2007)	Issue 87 (Jan 15, 2008)
Issue 68 (Oct 6, 2007)	Issue 88 (Jan 16, 2008)
Issue 69 (Oct 7, 2007)	Issue 89 (Jan 21, 2008)
Issue 70 (Oct 10, 2007)	Issue 90 (Jan 25, 2008)
Issue 71 (Oct 12, 2007)	Issue 91 (Jan 30, 2008)
Issue 72 (Oct 13, 2007)	Issue 92 (Feb 2, 2008)
Issue 73 (Oct 16, 2007)	Issue 93 (Feb 6, 2008)
Issue 74 (Oct 18, 2007)	
Issue 75 (Oct 30, 2007)	
Issue 76 (Nov 5, 2007)	
Issue 77 (Nov 9, 2007)	
Issue 78 (Nov 15, 2007)	
Issue 79 (Nov 30, 2007)	
Issue 80 (Dec 10, 2007)	