

Editorial Team

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Loss of lives this monsoon

Baglung	24
Bajura	11
Gulmi	11
Salyan	7
Mahottari	7
Rautahat	7
Ramechhap	7
Bardia	7
Banke	6
Kailali	6
Udayapur	5
Dang	4
Jhapa	4
Jajarkot	3
Siraha	3
Sindhuli	2
Dhanusha	2
Saptari	2
Morang	2
Chitwan	1
Bajhang	1
Sarlahi	1
Arghakhachi	1
Bara	1
Tanahun	1

(As of 3rd August, 2007)

Major Displacements

Saptari	10000 family
Siraha	6000 family
Mahottari	3700 family
Bardiya	2500 family
Parsa	2000 family
Rupandehi	1000 family
Sunsari	1000 family
Banke	750 family
Dhanusha	550 family

Total affected population:
 Around 2 lakh 68 thousand (as of 3rd August, 2007)

Sources : Media reports/MCN

Disaster Related Reports

- [DM Report \(MCN\) 2006](#)
- [NRCS Bulletin 29th July, 2007](#)
- [Baglung Landslides Report, 2007](#)
- [Flood scenario of Saptari, 2007](#)

Snapshots



[Water, water, every where water, but not a single drop to drink. A swamped village area of Dhanusha. \(SDRC/Janakpur\)](#)



[An Indian villager transports his mother to safety on a raft through floodwaters at the Kaziranga National Park, Guwahati. \(AFP\)](#)

Our Words

The regular phenomenon of water induced disaster has taken its toll in Nepal during this monsoon. The death, injured and displaced numbers, physical damages revealed so. The government is reiterating non of the victims will be left out for rescue and relief. The eruption of diseases following flood, the emergency distribution of relief packages and the rehabilitation of the victims are the major challenges to curb on. The death toll due to water and vector born diseases is ascending and seems that flood repercussions will continue.

The initiation of government, public, private sector and none theless international community to generate relief funds for the disaster victims is indeed commendable. But the dearth of relief materials is also a ground reality. The media is reporting that victims went berserk on some places accusing disparity on distribution of relief materials. Some victims reportedly are deprived of any assistance. Hence, we urge the related sector actors to consolidate scrutiny on distribution patterns to ensure appropriate utilization of available resources.

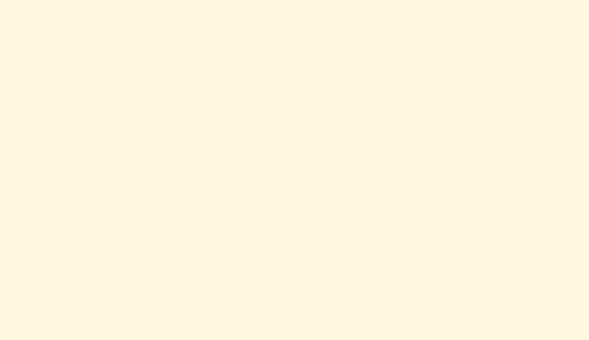
On this hour, we should join hands together for the humanitarian assistance to the ill-fated persons. We should not pass the buck to the government and the related organisations only. Being a human, it's our moral duty to express humanity to support the needed ones.

At last, we are overwhelmed with the response and suggestions from the viewers. We again request to provide available information that could be beneficial to this newsletter. Thanks ActionAid Nepal to make happen this possible.

Highlights

- In Rautahat, the DAO on Friday deployed a team of researchers to collect factual data of flood victims in the district, as the authority is facing difficulties in providing relief materials to victims due to lack of information.
- 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.
- Armed Police Force (APF), Nepal handover NRs 2.5 million for disaster victims on 2nd August.
- Nepa Medical Association established relief fund where NRs 2 lakh has been collected till 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.
- In Sunsari, district hospital and local health posts are facing an influx of patients suffering from viral fever.
- The worst-hit victims demonstrated against the administration claiming that relief materials were distributed elsewhere.
- Aasman Nepal with financial support of Save the Children Japan (SC-J) supported relief materials worth Rs. two lakhs in 12 VDCs of Mahottari.
- Owing to dearth of relief materials, enraged flood victims in Sunsari tried to manhandle Chief District Officer (CDO) Prem Narayan Sharma wednesday evening.
- Home minister advised the local administration to form an all sided team to carryout relief and rescue operations.
- Flood victims of Banke accused administration on being partial in relief distribution.
- Sixty six family of Nirdana Village, Sirim havenot received any releif materials for five days, as media reports on 1st August.
- Flood victims of Sunsari criticized local bodies for distributing inadequate relief materials.
- Ministry of Health and Population Teams 15 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) to tackle possible disease outbreak in flood hit areas.
- 5000 displaced families of Saptari are severely suffering from hunger and shelter for the last five days.
- Monsoon is moving towards eastern region, according to the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology.
- Four quintals of beaten rice and bhuja leant for flood victims were looted by a group in Sunsari.
- Civil Society Committee would be formed at district level to identify and distribute relief materials.
- Danda dam and embankment unilaterally made by the Indian government inundated 6 VDCs of Rupandehi district.
- Hundreds of childrens of more than 12 inundated VDCs of Sunsari are suffering from Pneumonia and gastro-enteritis.
- 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.

Supported by



Govt apprised diplomatic mission

The government on Friday formally called for international help of at least \$1.5 million to support over 10,000 persons displaced by floods and landslides . The heads of foreign missions and donor agencies were apprised of the situation in the affected districts during a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"We need at least \$ 1.5 million to provide food to the displaced persons for the next three months," said Pratap Kumar Pathak, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), who was present during the briefing at Shital Niwas. While the United Nations World Food Programme has "committed" \$5 lakh as flood relief, the United States Agency for International Development has already given \$50,000 through Nepal Red Cross Society for the children affected by the flood, and the United Nations Development programme has pledged \$10,000. Country Director of WFP, Richard Regan said that WFP had only \$5 lakh for immediate release.

Home ministry statistics show that 2.68 lakh people have been affected by the floods and the landslides since July 10. "We have allocated \$50,000 for the children affected by the floods and we would seriously think about further assistance," said Robert Hugins, the acting US ambassador.

British Ambassador Dr Andrew Hall said the British international development agency (Department for International Development) was evaluating the situation to assist Nepal in "reconstruction and rehabilitation."

Minister for Foreign Affairs Sahana Pradhan said the government expected support from international community in rehabilitating those affected.
Posted on 4th August, 2007

Five more died in Bardiya and Udayapur

Three persons died due to the flood and one died of landslide in Gulariya district. According to police, Thakur Malaha of Gulariya municipality-13 was swept away by the flood while he was sleeping at his home on Thursday. His dead body, according to police, was recovered the next day. Similarly, Sita Chaudhary, 35, of Jamuni VDC and Dhaniram Tharu, 55 of Motipur VDC-7 were also swept away by the flood in Mankhola River.

Meanwhile in Udaypur, fourteen-year-old Rajendra Raut of Ladabhir VDC-1 in Sindhuli district died after being swept away by the river current at the confluence of Pakaru and Kawakhola on Friday. Pushkar Khadka, a local said that his dead body was recovered nearly two kilometers away on the same day.

In Bardiya, one microbus passenger died after landslide hit the vehicle at Belawa VDC-7 in Bardiya district, Friday. Parashuram Gautam of Gangapur VDC in Surkhet died when the Surkhet-bound microbus (Na 2 Kha 1206) was buried in the landslide. Six passengers were injured in the accident. The injured are receiving treatment at local health posts of Banke and Surkhet districts. *Posted on 4th August, 2007*

Viral influenza rampant

Viral influenza epidemic has spread in the Mahottari district after the cessation of the rainfall. According to District Public Health Office Mahottari, locals of over 12 VDCs are suffering from viral influenza while the health condition of locals in other VDCs is still unknown as access to villages remains cut off due to inundation.

Health workers in the district said women and children mostly fell prey to the disease. Patients complained of cold, fever, headache and dizziness - the initial symptoms of the disease. Some 39 patients out of 47, coming for treatment to the District Hospital suffered from viral influenza. *Posted on 4th August, 2007*

AIN urges for safe movement

Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN) has requested all conflicting groups to extend full support for the safe movement of disaster relief workers in order to have immediate reach. In a press statement issued today, AIN stated that its member organisations are currently trying their best to bring relief materials to those who are most vulnerable and most severely affected. AIN represents 70 INGOs working in Nepal. *Posted on 3rd August, 2007*

Govt to brief diplomatic missions

The government has decided to seek assistance from the international community to handle the situation arising out floods and landslides in Tarai districts. Minister for Foreign Affairs Sahana Pradhan is scheduled to brief Kathmandu-based heads of diplomatic missions today in this regard, according to an official at the ministry. The briefing will be chaired by the foreign minister. Senior government officials would be present in the meeting. *Posted on 3rd August, 2007*

Victims warned of agitation

Dissatisfaction of Disaster victims on the scarce of relief materials is continuing. In Banke, displaced locals of Holikaya VDC on Thursday warned the local administration of strong agitation if the latter failed to provide proper services. Similarly, locals of Nepalgunj municipality-5 on Thursday encircled the municipality and other local bodies protesting that the office chiefs didnot visit affected areas that were waterlogged for nine days. *Posted on 3rd August, 2007*

Teenager buried to death

Budhraj Karki, 16, of Limpatar VDC-7, Udayapur was buried to death by a landslide on Thursday while he was working in the field. In Mahottari, Bindeshwor Mandal, 45, of Bagiya VDC went missing after the flood in Ratu River swept him away. *Posted on 3rd August, 2007*

A nightmare period for flood victims

NEPALGUNJ, 2 August 2007 (IRIN) - Sita Chaudhary and her family have been taking shelter from incessant rain for the last nine days in her makeshift shack with a plastic roof in Nepalgunj town, Banke District, in southwestern Nepal. Like hundreds of families, she was displaced after the floods - caused by the rapidly rising waters of the River Rapti - submerged her Ganespur village and completely destroyed her house.

"My children are getting sick due to lack of health care and improper food," said Chaudhary, adding that flood victims were only eating dry food provided by relief agencies. "We're lucky to be alive but we are unable to sleep as the dangerous flood may kill us any time," she added, sounding frightened after many villagers had died in Banke District.

According to government estimates, the death toll has reached nearly 90 and the number of displaced persons is now over 5,000 in Nepalgunj alone. Most will be unable to return home for a long time as many of their houses have been destroyed, according to the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), a key non-governmental organisation helping to provide humanitarian aid to flood victims.

Aid agencies under pressure

"The situation is so bad and we fear it will worsen due to the heavy rainfall even now, and there seems to be a shortage of supplies no matter how hard we try to reach most of the victims," said Ajit Kumar Sharma of the NRCS. Floods happen every year in Nepal but this time the rainfall has been so incessant that aid workers are unable to carry out their humanitarian assistance work smoothly, said NRCS officials.

"No matter how much we try to get our food and supplies to the victims, they never get enough because the number of victims and casualties are increasing every day," said Sharma, who added that relief agencies were still unable to reach many villages, especially the worst-affected ones like Holiya and Betani. He described an army helicopter food drop which led to fights as stronger and younger villagers snatched the food, leaving women and the elderly with nothing.

Some health officials have warned that there is a possibility of an epidemic if medicines, latrines and proper food and housing are not provided soon. Some officials from local hospitals said over 1,000 flood victims had already fallen sick, many of them due to water-borne diseases. The long queues of patients at Bheri Anchal Hospital, Nepalgunj Medical College and private clinics suggest that the water is contaminated and action needs to be taken fast, officials said. "We have been asking the government and international agencies to provide more medicines and more health care support," said Rama Shanker, head of Banke District public health unit. *Posted on 3rd August, 2007*

Death of protesting flood victim sparks Inaruwa unrest

Cops forming a chain to bar irate protesters from heading towards Sunsari district police office where the body of a flood victim, Kushmi Devi Sada, allegedly killed in police action in Inaruwa, was kept on Thursday.

Inaruwa in Sunsari district remained tense today after flood victims said an old woman succumbed to injuries sustained during a protest demonstration yesterday when the cops rained batons on the agitators. Flood victims from Ward No 6, 7 and 9 of Inaruwa staged a protest saying the promised relief did not reach them. Seventy-year-old Kushmi Devi Sada succumbed to her injuries in the savage baton charges mounted by the police.

Demonstrators held another protest with her corpse. In view of the spiralling situation, the administration ordered curfew from 1 pm to 7 pm today in entire Inaruwa. More than 50 demonstrators were hurt in the police action yesterday. Those severely injured have been taken to the BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences at Dharan. Most of those injured are women and children. Four cops were also hurt as the demonstrators hurled stones at them, said DSP Rupam Lama at the area police office.

The flood victims were protesting since Monday to decry the non-availability of relief promised by the government. Yesterday, they came to the Sunsari DAO to gherao the office and demand the rester assistance. Tension escalated after police arrested a non-government organisation coordinator and human rights activist Bhesh Raj Pokhrel after accusing him of fomenting the agitation.

The agitators then blocked traffic at bus chowk on the East-West Highway and vandalised over 20 vehicles, said police. Sukdev Chaudhari said police cut off the power supply at around 9 pm.

Flood victims defied curfew and demonstrated in Inaruwa, demanding Po-khrel's release, compensation to deceased Sada's kin and immediate flood relief measures. They have also warned of an indefinite Inaruwa bandh from tomorrow if the government does not fulfil their demands.

Meanwhile, Sunsari CDO Prem Narayan Sharma said Sada died of natural causes. He added that Pokhrel would be charged under the public offences act for obstructing administrative functioning. *Posted on 3rd August, 2007*

Twelve more death :

The rainfall of past two weeks claims twelve more lives in Nepal. Out of them 6 died of inundation and six by diarrhea epidemics.

In Kailali, locals of Lalbojhi VDC-5 found the dead body of Nain Singh Bohora, 55, of the same village on Tuesday. According to police, Bohora slipped on the culvert and drowned. Similarly, the three-year-old Prakash Chaudhary of Thapapur VDC-3 in the district drowned in the flood while he was on his way to local Krishnadhvaj Chand Secondary School to receive relief materials, Monday.

Over 11 villages in the district including Tikapur municipality, Bhajani, Durgauli, Toraiyapur, Pathraiya, Narayanpur, Dhansingpur, Joshipur and Munuwa VDCs were still under the grip of inundation till Wednesday. Most parts of the district are still receiving rainfall, while terrified locals are sheltering in local school buildings. Most of the areas are cut-off from the road.

Similarly in Bardiya, Dhaniram Tharu of Motipur VDC-7 and six-year-old Nisha Chaudhary of Kalika VDC-2 in the district were killed in separate incidents of flooding.

In Jhapa, two children died due to flood on Tuesday. According to police, seven-year-old Chandra Bahadur Raut of Charpane VDC-5 and six-year-old Reema Deuja of Sharanamati VDC-6 drowned in Ghagra and Biring Rivers respectively.

Five persons have died of dysentery and viral fever over the last week in two VDCs of Rautahat district and one died of diarrhoea in Ramechhap.

The diseases spread due to floods and waterlogging caused by incessant rains have lashed the country since a fortnight. Scores of others have been affected by viral fever and dysentery. People are increasingly falling prey to the diseases due to the contaminated drinking water. The flood has contaminated all ground drinking water sources, said locals.

In Rautahat, Chaniya Khaton, 43, and Ramula Khatun, 32, of Karuniya VDC and Kaniyawa Khatun, 48, and the 33-year-old wife of Shiv Sahani in Dewahmi VDC died of dysentery. In Karunia VDC, Ramkalia Devi, 43, died of viral fever. Sheikh Nurullah, a local, said at least five persons have succumbed to viral fever and dysentery over the last seven days. Locals complained that the District Public Health Office (DPHO) was not showing any concern despite their repeated appeals to come and treat ailing persons. No team of health workers has visited the affected areas, they said.

The flooded Lalbakalya River has submerged all ground drinking water sources, said a local Phool Babu adding that the DPHO has not made any arrangement for either safe drinking water or treatment of those falling sick. No NGO also has cared to do anything, he said. Meanwhile, superintendent at the Gaur hospital, Dr Braj Kishor Thakur, said a team of health workers has been sent out in the field.

In Ramechhap, Sailo Newar, 56, of Tilpung VDC died on Monday owing to lack of treatment for diarrhea. Earlier, diarrhea outbreak claimed five lives in Tilpung and Gotghaun VDCs of the district. According to locals, diarrhea has spread in almost 100 families of Tilpung VDC. The health condition of six persons is reported to be serious. *Posted on 2nd August, 2007*

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