



Disaster Watch - Nepal

A daily newsletter on disaster updates

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Loss of lives this monsoon

Baglung	24
Bajura	11
Gulmi	11
Darchula	9
Bardia	8
Salyan	7
Mahottari	7
Rautahat	7
Ramechhap	7
Banke	6
Baitadi	6
Kailali	6
Jajarkot	5
Udayapur	5
Jumla	4
Dang	4
Jhapa	4
Siraha	3
Sindhuli	2
Dhanusha	2
Saptari	2
Morang	1
Chitwan	1
Bajhang	1
Sarlahi	1
Arghakhachi	1
Bara	1
Tanahun	1

(As of 14th August, 2007)

Major Displacements

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

Total displacement: 48000 family
Total affected population:

Last week, Nepal got some respite from torrential rainfall. During that period, relief activities and health check camps were conducted more effectively and efficiently.

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) reported 337,241 people (56,192 families) were affected by landslides and floods on this monsoon, as of 9th August. However, aid agencies are facing trouble to support disaster victims of eastern Nepal due to the ongoing turmoil induced by different ethnic and armed groups.

Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN) has earlier urged dissenting and agitating groups of that regions to express solidarity, support on relief activities and to ensure safe mobility for humanitarian activists.

Posted on 14th August, 2007

Landslide killed nine in farwest

Entire family members buried

Police involved in rescue operations in Baitadi and Darchula have confirmed that nine persons have died in Sunday night's heavy landslides in the two districts. More than a dozen families have lost their homes.

Six persons of a family were killed in a landslide at Sunkhola village of Sirkot VDC-5 in Baitadi district. The deceased have been identified as 55-year-old Deviram Kaul, his wife Kaushila, 55, Badwa, daughter-in-law Kirti, 25 and grandson Suresh, 4 and another grandson aged two and a half years. The landslide that struck the area yesterday midnight also swept away their house.

Red Cross activists, cadres of the political parties and Maoists are also involved in the rescue operation. At least 40 families have been displaced due the landslide in the area. Rescue operations have been obstructed due to the landslides at different stretches of the Dashrath Highway.

Similarly, three persons have died in landslides at Bohari VDC-5 in Darchula. The dead are Ishwori Devi Saud, Bijuli Devi Bhandari and Anirudra Bhatta. Also in Darchula, twelve-year-old Rana Bahadur Khatry from was swept away by the Ghamgad River Sunday night. His body was recovered monday morning.

Posted on 14th August, 2007

Flood victims relocate

Troubled by the deluge that agonizes locals in Chauferi of Holiya VDC of Banke district every year, most villagers this year have shifted to Jhorajungle area in Uchuwa VDC to protect themselves from flood-related calamities.

The villagers' migration to the area follows the decision of the local administration last year to relocate locals. Although the new dwelling is safe from flood, the locals complained they were deprived of food and relief in the place.

Around 3 lakh 37 thousand (as of 9th August, 2007)

Sources : Media reports/MCN

Disaster Related Reports

[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](#)

Snapshots



A man wades through Kajara river in Saptari in eastern Nepal. REUTERS/Jitendra Khadga



Nepalese flood victim Jarina Salmani (R) poses in the ruins of her home in Nepalgunj, some 350 kilometres southwest of Kathmandu, Nepal 07 August 2007, after it was destroyed by recent monsoon floods (AFP / Janak Nepal)

Our Words

Thirty-three villages in the district are flooded every year by Rapti River owing to India-built Laxmanpur barrage. This year, the administration airlifted many elderly people, women and children of affected areas to Jhorajungle. The administration has provided temporary settlements to over 300 households in Jhorajungle.

The settlers have demanded that the government provide land to them in the area permanently. *(The Kathmandu Post) Posted on 14th August, 2007*

South Korea, China provide assistance

The Republic of Korea on Monday provided a grant of Rs 3.24 million to Nepal as part of humanitarian assistance to flood victims. According to a statement issued by the Korean Embassy, Korean Ambassador to Nepal Nam Sang-jung handed over the grant to Sahana Pradhan, Minister for Foreign Affairs. The grant will go to the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund.

Likewise, the government of China provided a grant of around Rs1.72 million through Red Cross Society of China to Nepal Red Cross Society, while the government of Tibet Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China, also decided to provide relief materials equivalent to Rs 2.58 million, a statement issued by the Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu said.

Posted on 14th August, 2007

Free Health Camp in Birgunj

A total of 550 villagers of Biruwaguthi VDC and adjoining areas of Parsa district benefited from a free health camp organised by Annapurna Post daily for flood victims at Nepal Rastriya primary school on Monday.

700 patients had benefited from a similar camp organised at Rara Chaurasiya secondary school of Jhauwaguthi VDC. Medicines were distributed to the patients for free.

A team of 15 health workers led by Dr Masuri of the National Medical College examined the patients. "Most of the patients were found suffering from stomach and skin diseases," Dr Mansuri said. The flood victims are suffering from stomach diseases, as the source of water is polluted by the flood.

Patients who are unable to afford for treatment greatly benefited from the health camp.

Posted on 14th August, 2007

Four killed, four missing in farwest

At least four persons were killed and four others went missing in the Sunday night's landslides in different villages in Baitadi and Darchula.

Three persons were killed in a landslide at Sirkot-5, Sunkhola in Baitadi district Sunday night. The deceased have been identified as 55-year-old Kaushila Mul, his daughter-in-law Kirti, 25 and grandson Suresh, 4.

The landslide that struck the area Sunday midnight also swept away a house of one Deviram. Deviram, his daughter and grandson have gone missing.

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 none 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 nonetheless 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.

At least 40 families have been displaced due the landslide in the area. Rescue operations have been obstructed due to the landslides at the different stretches of the Dashrath Highway. Similarly, five families of Sirkot-6 have been displaced due to the landslide.

In yet another landslide that struck Bohari VDC, Kuchakholi of Darchula, one person was killed and another one has gone missing. None of them has been identified yet. *Posted on 13th August, 2007*

Denmark and Germany assist for relief

The German government, responding to an appeal by the World Food Programme (WFP) to help flood victims in Nepal, is to provide Euro 1 million (Rs 90 million approximately) to the UN food agency. "The committed amount is intended for food aid to the flood-affected people for up to three months," said a press statement issued by the German Embassy. "Special attention shall be paid to the most vulnerable communities in the impacted areas."

The WFP had issued the appeal on Aug 3 after the Nepal government requested the international community to provide aid for at least three months in light of the ravages caused by rains, floods and landslides in various parts of the country. The amount needed during the three months is US \$15 million, according to Home Ministry. Meanwhile, Denmark has provided Rs 11.6 million as immediate assistance for flood victims in Nepal. The Danish Red Cross, working with the Nepal Red Cross Society, will be providing emergency relief to the flood and landslide victims.

The news agency further said that the Embassy of Denmark has also provided Rs 3.47 million for procurement and delivery of non-food relief items as immediate relief to flood victims. The agreement was signed between the Embassy of Denmark and the Nepal Red Cross Society on Friday.

Posted on 12th August, 2007

Nepal wants to hold top level meeting with India

Nepal government wants to hold top level talks with Indian government to resolve the perennial problem of flooding, which has been affecting people living in border areas.

After meeting with Indian ambassador Shiv Shankar Mukherjee in Shital Niwas, Friday, foreign minister Sahana Pradhan has said, "Not only the joint committee level or the district/state level, we should hold talks at top level at central level." Talking to reporters, Minister Pradhan said that the two countries should cooperate with each other to end the perennial problem of flooding.

Dams and embankments constructed in Indian territory are blamed for flooding in Nepali side while Indian authorities pin the blame on untamed rivers coming from Nepal as causing devastation on their people.

Posted on 11th August, 2007

No readymade stuffs please , victims bemoaned

Flood-affected people in Bardia have bemoaned that the biscuits and beaten rice being provided to them as relief are causing them stomach aches and are not "enough". They have asked the local administration to provide them rice and dal.

Highlights

Landslides induced by the continuous rainfall for two days obstructed Baitadi–Darchula stretch of Dashrath Chandra highway.

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.

After the landslide, six family of Laxmipur VDC, Salyan were forced to displace.

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.

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.

In Sunsari, district hospital and local health posts are facing an influx of patients suffering from viral fever.

Man Bahadur Thapa of Maohammedpur-7 grumbled that he was suffering from diarrhoea relying on just beaten rice for the past two weeks. "Noodles, beaten rice and biscuits are not enough. The children are weeping for lack for proper food. When will the government give us rice and dal?"

Another flood-hit Chandra Bahadur Budha said, "It is time the government gave us rice and dal instead of this readymade stuff. My children are also complaining of stomach aches." Bardiya Red Cross official Keshav Gautam said, "Wherever we go, the flood victims ask for rice and dal. How do we give them that? We have no rice and dal." He added the Red Cross was negotiating with donors for supplies of rice and dal but nothing had been finalised so far.

The Save The Children US, Swiss Red Cross, Plan Nepal, DFID and Save The Children Norway have furnished the Bardiya Red Cross with Rs 11 and a half lakhs. The bulk of the amount has been distributed among flood victims and only peanuts are left, said Gautam. Thirty VDCs and one municipality in Bardiya were submerged in the floods, affecting 24,000 households.

Posted on 10th August, 2007

WFP warns of long-term relief

The United Nations World Food Programme has warned that a long term relief and recovery efforts will be needed for many of the estimated 25 million people that have been affected by severe flooding across south Asia, with huge areas of land under water in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

"In these three countries, as well as Pakistan, hit by a severe cyclone in late June of this year, WFP emphasised its readiness to provide emergency food assistance, if and when requested by their governments," states a press release by WFP.

In Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh, WFP has provided immediate assistance from existing food stocks. "After the floodwaters subside, millions of poor families will remain devastated from the loss of their crops, livestock and in some cases, family members," said Josette Sheeran, WFP's Executive Director. "WFP stands ready to assist with food and logistical support, and we urge donors to step forward with funding for early recovery programmes which are crucial in the wake of a crisis."

"WFP food-for-work projects can quickly help rehabilitate destroyed houses and roads, while school meals are essential to getting children back to school, and back to a normal life," Sheeran added. "To date, the only country to request international food assistance has been Nepal, where WFP has launched an emergency operation to feed 60,000 of the worst affected people for three months. This is out of a total of over 330,000 people affected in 33 out of Nepal's 75 districts. WFP estimates it will need at least US\$1.5 million in additional funding to immediately assist those affected by the Nepali floods. Resource requirements to support longer term recovery are likely to be considerably higher."

In Bangladesh, WFP has already distributed 126 tons of emergency biscuits alongside UNICEF medicines and water purification tablets. Elsewhere in the region, WFP has made small-scale interventions, as part of the immediate response, with the vast bulk of the humanitarian assistance being handled by the governments themselves. WFP has welcomed these efforts by the governments concerned, while reiterating its willingness to provide support, especially in the post-floods recovery period.

"We are pleased to see governments taking a leading role in the response.

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.

Flood victims of Sunsari criticized local bodies for distributing inadequate relief materials.

5000 displaced families of Saptari are severely suffering from hunger and shelter for the last five days.

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.

Rainfall is significantly higher this year than 2006, according to Meteorological Forecasting Division.

Lawmakers blamed Indian dams for floods in the continguous areas of Nepal.

Asia Watch

More than 2200 dead in flood hit South Asia

NEW DELHI (AFP) - The death toll from South Asia's worst floods in 30 years topped 2,200 on Sunday (12th August) as torrential monsoon rains resumed in several parts of the sub continent, officials said.

The floods have affected 30 million people in India, Bangladesh and Nepal since the start of the annual monsoon season in June, and many are still dependent on food and drinking water provided by relief workers.

As survivors struggled to clean up their flooded homes, heavy rains again lashed five states in northern and eastern India, including hardest-hit Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, officials said.

In impoverished Bihar, where about 15 million people have been displaced and scores of roads

Nevertheless, we are prepared to offer assistance to South Asian nations experiencing heavy flooding," said Tony Banbury, WFP's Regional Director for Asia. "In the past we have supported these governments in building capacity to respond to natural disasters. It's great to see them increasingly put this enhanced capacity to direct use." (AFP)

Posted on 10th August,2007

Four workers buried

Four rural road workers gave up their lives when landslides buried them, in Jumla. The mishap happened yesterday at Dhalikhola forest of Bumramadi VDC. The deceased were identified as Bir Bahadur Bhandari (25), Kashi Bhandari (25), Krishna Raut (30) and Karnabir Buda (40). *(Posted on 9th August,2007)*

1,600 Flood-hit Residents to be evacuated

Plans are afoot to shift 1,600 residents of Holiya and Betahani of Banke district who are under the threat of the swollen Rapti river to a secured location. A total of 1,302 families of some areas in Betahani and Holiya will be evacuated and relocated to save them from land erosion and inundation. The Uchuwa area in Jhora jungle of Betahani VDC ward no-6 is being considered a safe place.

Floodwaters from the Laxmanpur dam inundate the two villages every year, damaging houses and destroying crops. A high-level technical committee that will study the flood situation was sent to the areas on Tuesday following demands and pressure from the flood- hit people .

The committee is expected to prepare a report in a few days and a detailed planning would be done after that. *(Posted on 9th August,2007)*

Flood-hit affected by diseases

Hundreds of flood victims sheltering in schools and community forests of Kailali are suffering from viral fever and conjunctivitis. Of 337 victims displaced from Bhajani, Thapapur and Lalbojhi VDCs, sheltering at the Bhajani-based Mohanyal Higher Secondary School and Mohanyal Community Forest, 150 are suffering from viral fever and conjunctivitis.

They complained that relief materials are insufficient and are having noodles and beaten rice. "We have no food and are living by drinking and selling cow and buffalo milk," a flood victim Dal Bahadur said. A nursing mother Madhur Pariyar's condition is miserable due to lack of sufficient food and pure drinking water. Of the 600 victims displaced from Thapapur, over 100 are suffering the diseases like viral fever and conjunctivitis.

Though the Red Cross distributed medicines to them, victims said that it was insufficient. Four health camps are slated to organize at Bhajani, Thapapur and Dhansinghpur VDCs. *(Posted on 9th August,2007)*

Flood victims complain of lack of aid, slow delivery

Nepalgunj (IRIN) - Thousands of families displaced by floods in southwestern Nepal are gradually returning to their homes in remote villages but government aid is still negligible, flood victims bemoaned.

"The government needs to provide more relief and find a long-term solution. Giving us only rice and dry food is not what we consider real assistance," said

remain submerged, 39 people died in flood-related incidents since Saturday night, officials in the state capital Patna said.

One of the victims was a man beaten to death by police Sunday after he joined a protest to demand food at a relief centre in Saharsa district, local administrator Niranjana Kumar Choudhry said.

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar asked Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for tens of millions of dollars in emergency aid at a meeting in New Delhi late Sunday.

"The prime minister assured his government will give all possible assistance to Bihar," Singh's spokesman Sanjaya Baru said after the talks.

In northern India, 15 people have died since late Saturday, including a television reporter whose jeep plunged into a gorge, police and officials from the privately-run Zee Television station said.

The latest deaths took the toll in India alone to at least 1,722, according to one official count, but that figure did not take into account those killed in numerous boat accidents in Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh states.

At least 411 people have died in Bangladesh and another 99 in Nepal.

International organisations and foreign governments from Saudi Arabia to Canada have offered millions of dollars in aid, mainly for Nepal and Bangladesh, where some 40 percent of the land is under water.

Tens of thousands of people have been admitted to hospital this month with diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases, Habiba Khatun of the Bangladeshi health department said Sunday.

In Nepal, where 300,000 people were affected by the floods, officials said the first priority was to prevent a disease epidemic.

Rampyare Harijan, a displaced person returning to his village after 10 days of living in a makeshift shelter in Nepalgunj in southwestern Nepal.

Many displaced and affected persons like Harijan are frustrated over the government's tardiness in delivering aid. Harijan's house was completely destroyed by raging floods and he lost all his rice and vegetables.

He said flood victims needed immediate help to rebuild their houses and receive additional support for clothing, food supplies and clean drinking water. "We need proper housing so that we won't have to suffer like this," said another flood victim, Balkrishna Chapain, who preferred to return to his flooded Sitapur village than live in a tent by the roadside in Nepalgunj. The road to Sitapur has been partially washed away, so the only option is a three-hour walk from Nepalgunj.

"We are now depending on our neighbours and relatives from nearby villages to help us with shelter and money to rebuild our houses," said another displaced villager, Dabal Bahadur Subedi.

Over 330,000 affected

Since the torrential rains began on 10 July, floods and landslides have killed dozens and displaced many more in both hilly and low-lying parts of the Terai region of Nepal. In addition, increasing health problems like fever, acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, vector-borne diseases and snake bites have been causing serious concern, according to the latest report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Nepal.

Government aid

"We are planning to help victims to rebuild and repair homes in the next few weeks," said Narendra Raj Sharma, chief district officer in Banke District. He said the government's priority was to provide food and health care but the sheer number of victims was the problem.

"It's quite difficult to carry out assessments of aid needs for the affected population due to a lack of roads and lack of access," said Sharma. He said the government had contributed around US\$770,000 this week to help with relief aid. Also, six medical teams had been formed by the Ministry of Health and Population for dispatch to 18 districts most vulnerable to epidemics, said officials.

The UN agencies, as well as several international and local aid agencies, have been actively providing financial assistance and relief support in a bid to rush help to the victims, said aid workers. In UN fundraising, OCHA reports that donors are so far being approached for about US\$ 3 million, largely for UNICEF and WFP activities. *Posted on 8th August*

"We are in high alert regarding epidemic breakout from water-borne diseases in the flood- and landslide-affected districts," said Ishwar Regmi, an official at Nepal's home ministry.

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