



# Disaster Watch - Nepal

A daily newsletter on disaster updates

Issue-22, Aug 16, 2007

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## Torrential rainfall revive, hit terai

s altogether 600 family displaced

s no possibility of rush relief

## 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
Sarlahi	2
Sindhuli	2
Dhanusha	2
Saptari	2
Morang	1
Chitwan	1
Bajhang	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:

Incessant rainfall since the last two days has flooded parts of Bardiya. People in the district, who had barely begun recovering from the travails of the floods that assailed them for more than three weeks, have relapsed into despair. The flooded Karnali River has waterlogged at least 500 houses in the district, since Saturday.

The district branch of the Red Cross said more than 10 villages have been submerged by the fresh round of flood. While freed Kamaiyas are suffering the most, a majority of the people has been left homeless.

Bardiya Red cross acting chief Mahesh Gautam told that the fresh flood has displaced 307 families and killed dozens of cattle. Some 150 families of freed Kamaiyas have been displaced from Rajapur area across the Karnali river.

Four VDCs in Rajapur are submerged, while 32 households in Belasa of Bhimapur-7 VDC and 50 household in Manau and Khairichandanpur have been displaced. The displaced are sheltering in local schools and relatives' houses. Contact between the headquarters and 11 VDCs of Rajapur has terminated after the steamer services were suspended.

The rains have led to the water level in the river to rise and more areas of Bardiya district are getting flooded, said the Red Cross. District minister of the Red Cross Keshav Gautam said there was no possibility of rushing relief to the displaced in Rajapur as transportation was impossible.

Eighty families in Sutiya village of the Thakurdwar VDC also have been displaced. Wards 2 and 3 of the Mangragadhi VDC are also submerged and scores of families have been displaced. The district police office said 15 households were displaced from wards 6 and 7 of Belbazar in Baniyabhar VDC.

Meanwhile, the Nepalgunj municipality, Bankattuwa, Holiya, Fattehpur, Bethani and a dozen other VDCs in Banke have been inundated again due to continuous rainfall that has been lashing the areas in the past two days.

Ganeshpur, Salyanibagh, New Road, Bilaspur, Dhambojhi of Nepalgunj are under knee-deep water. Nepalgunj received over 148 mm of rainfall over the last 12 hours. DSP Krishna Hari Sharma said armed and civil police teams have been deployed to clear waterlogging.

Similarly in Banke, flood has hit Nepalgunj municipality for the second time on Tuesday. Salyanibag, Ganeshpur and Devafulbari, among other areas in the city, are waterlogged. Nepalgunj remains one of the most affected areas this monsoon. Displaced locals who had just returned home after weeks have been devastated once again.

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

Sources : Media reports/MCN

### Disaster Related Reports

[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](#)

### Snapshots



An aerial view shows a flooded village at Samastipur district, in the northern Indian state of Bihar. (AP Photo/Rajesh Kumar Singh)



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



People waded through floods in Manila August 15, 2007. Landslides and floods triggered by typhoon Pabuk killed a boy in northern Philippines and injured

In Saptari, flooding of the local Khado River caused by incessant rain since the last two days has swamped Sakarpura and Rampur Malhaniya VDCs of the district. The flood has displaced nearly 200 families of the villages by Tuesday. Two weeks ago, a similar deluge had damaged the Bhim barrage, displacing over 1,000 families of the surrounding areas. The misery of the displaced families preparing to return to their villages have multiplied.

Likewise in Dadeldhura, 100 families were displaced after continuous rain swept away 40 houses in Simalkhet area, ward 2 of Jogbada VDC in the district. According to district police office, the incessant rain also eroded the village landmass significantly. According to locals, the rain washed away some 200 hectares of land in the village.

Posted on 16th August, 2007

## Haphazard construction, deforestation causing floods

DHANUSA. Massive deforestation, haphazardly constructed infrastructures including roads, bunds and canals in the bordering areas are the major reasons behind the floods in the plains, people in the flood hit areas of the district said.

Entire Terai region suffers from floods every year and finally the plain may turn into a desert, if the deforestation as well as haphazard construction continues in Terai, they claimed urging the government to pay proper attention for a durable solution.

Providing relief packages to the victims is not a genuine solution so far, as it is a protracted problem in the Terai, they said. The unplanned construction of roads and buildings without managing water outlet has become a big issue in Terai.

The elevated riverbed resulting from soil deposition cause the rivers to flow over their banks destroying whatever comes on the way. The havoc caused by floods becomes acute in the rainy season, even the zonal headquarters Janakpur Municipality and Mahottari district headquarters Jaleswor suffer from flood during the monsoon, they said.

The government should initiate construction of embankments and launch special programmes to control deforestation and protect the Chure Bhawar Pradesh from where the rivers carry soils and other materials and dump in the plains.

The entire plains might turn into a desert in 10 years time, as massive flow of soil and sand is increasing every year by cutting the land of Chure Pradesh, said Dhanusa Red Cross Society Secretary Naresh Prasad Singh who is actively involved in the rescue process of flood victims. Over a hundred thousand people and thousand hectors of cultivated land has been damaged by the recent flood in Dhanusa and Mahottari district. The districts hold fertile land for paddy crops.

Over 13,000 hectare paddy cultivated land, 50 hectare of vegetables, 1007 hectare of Rahar and 175 hector of fruits have been swept away by the flood in Mahottari districts, according to the preliminary report of the Mahottari District Agriculture Office. Over hundred thousand people have been affected by the flood in Dhanusa and Mahottari district.

About 90 per cent paddy crops has been swept away in the flood affected area in Dhanusa district and there is no possibility of re-cultivation, said vice president of Dhanusa branch of Nepal Red Cross Society Ashok Pandey.

Neither the nation nor the civil society are aware of protecting the environment by controlling deforestation and other kinds of pollution.

five people, disaster officials said on Wednesday, as schools in the capital were shut down. REUTERS/Romeo Ranoco

*Posted on 16th August, 2007*

## **Shift to early and medium term recovery mode : a major challenge**

### **Our Words**

Monsoon travail has re-emerged after a week silence. The symptoms suggest second session will not be less tougher than earlier. As per the scientists prediction western terai region of Nepal will suffer more.

Since few weeks, the fund raising activities for the disaster victims are much in vogue. The ranges are wide, from students to professionals, village level clubs to national institutions. It has generated millions of rupees which will definitely provide solace to the sufferers. But the utilization of those funds are questionable again. There is not proper mechanism that can ensure the right usage of the money. To curb on the situation, in some districts Chief District Officer have issued mandatory order for aspiring groups to inform about raised funds and its deliverance.

Unmanaged and random distribution of relief material is one of the major problem. As we have published report on 15<sup>th</sup> August, relief packages are still elusive for victims of Dhanusha and Mahottari. The victims of Banke and Sunsari had previously protested charging officials and political leaders on being partial while distributing relief materials.

The related sector actors should reckon on these circumstances and should initiate to redress it.

In our opinion, distribution should not utterly hinge upon the fund raiser discretion rather it should be delivered according to the needs. It will be far better than now if assistance to the disaster victims would be delivered through one door

According to the OCHA Nepal situation report published on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 50% of the affected families need regular food support for the coming three months. No major disease outbreaks have been reported so far by the various medical surveillance teams as well as mobile health camps in the affected areas. But to address the high level of drinking water contamination, female community health volunteers are being mobilized for awareness raising on water treatment, sanitation and hygiene.

Preliminary assessments of NRCS estimate more than 37,000 houses being either completely or partially damaged. Also hundreds of hectares of arable land are reportedly 'sand-casted'. A major challenge now is to shift to an early and medium term recovery mode, so that the livelihood of the disaster affected population is normalized.

So far, more than 40,000 families have received some kind of ready to eat food, through the NRCS, I/NGOS, and UN agencies. Water treatment supplies, primarily provided by UNICEF have reached more than 30,000 families. Other non-food item and shelter support have also reached more than 10,000 families. Most assistance to-date has continued to be provided through NRCS.

Other agencies actively responding to the disaster are: Action Aid, ADRA, CARE, CARITAS, CRS, IRC, OCHA, OXFAM, PLAN, RRN, Save the Children Alliance Japan, Norway and US, Swiss Red Cross, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNMIN, UMN, WFP, WHO and World Vision. CONCERN, CCS Italy, INF, LWF, Mercycorps, Merlin, and MSF-H, stand ready to mobilize resources if there are more demonstrated needs.

UNICEF from its regular funding has procured water treatment supplies and bed nets, and is looking for an additional US\$ 1.4 million to meet the demand of additional supplies, including those for nutritional support, emergency education kits and temporary shelter items.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has issued a preliminary emergency appeal for CHF 2,320,856 (US\$ 1.93 million approx.) in cash, kind or services to deliver assistance to 20,000 families for six months.

The European Commission's Humanitarian Office (ECHO) is considering an emergency decision of up to 2 million euros. In order to contribute to face the floods crisis in the region, ECHO is in the process of taking a regional (Nepal-India-Bangladesh) emergency funding decision which will probably be official next week. The intervention will have three components: Food/NFI, Health and Accommodation (shelter material, watsan) for IDPs and victims of the floods and landslides.

CARE Nepal issued an appeal to the CARE Emergency Group, as a result of which US\$ 100,000 has been committed to Nepal to assist in the NFI category.

*Posted on 15th August, 2007*

## **Relief packages still elusive**

Over a hundred thousand people in Dhanusha and Mahottari districts whose lives

policy. It can promote proportionate distribution and avoid satiation and devoid.

## 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.

turned miserable following the recent floods are still seen running for relief materials whenever they see outsiders paying on-site visits to assess the damage in the area.

The reason behind the rush is the inadequate relief materials doled out to them by the government and other voluntary organisations despite the elapse of a month since the floods retreated. "We have not received sufficient relief materials excluding some rice given by an NGO," Bindeswor Kayal, a resident of Kuluhabagiya VDC in Mahottari told .

Kayal including other flood victims, however, are all praise for the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) for handing over relief materials at the outset of the unprecedented tragedy that rendered many impoverished citizens homeless.

Their hopes for getting some additional relief has not died out, as their houses, food stocks and other materials were swept away. The floods that wrecked havoc in the two districts have damaged development infrastructure roads, schools have been damaged in the districts.

The flood in Dhanusa district, according to a preliminary data provided by Dhanusa District Administration Office affected a total of 11,000 households. A total of 72,000 population was displaced in Mahottari district.

The flood victims need food, clean water, medicines and sanitation. The flood has destroyed the road (about 17 KM) that links Janakpur-Mahottari-Bhittamod, a border area. "We are facing difficulties to distribute relief to the flood victims because of the lack of transportation between Dhanusa and Mahottari," said Deepak Mishra, NRCS secretary in Mahottari district.

Dhabauli area of Jaleswor Municipality has no link with rest of the wards of the Municipality, as the river has meandered 30 meter left from its normal course. People have no alternative except using home made boats to cross the roads in Dhabauli because the flood has destroyed a causeway of about 30-meter.

Different donor agencies including World Food Programme (WWF) have reached the flood-affected areas but could not start distributing the relief materials due to lack of reliable data.

*Posted on 15th August, 2007*

## Village swept away by flood

A flooded stream completely washed away a village in Dadeldhura district on Tuesday. The flooded Rangoon stream washed away Simalkhet village at Jogabudha VDC-2 in the district on Tuesday afternoon. The swollen stream swept away a primary school and all the houses and land. However, there was no human casualty since the flood occurred during daytime. Locals have been sheltering in neighboring Rampur village after the incident.

Meanwhile, twenty-two year-old Bijaya Mahato of Sasapur VDC-3 in Sarlahi district was swept away by flood in a local river where he had gone to collect sand.

*Posted on 15th August, 2007*

## Karnali swamped hundred houses

Hundred houses were inundated in Bardiya district on Monday due to the flooded

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

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.

Karnali River. Police said about 30 houses of freed Kamaiyas (bonded laborers) at Bhimmapur VDC-7 had been waterlogged.

*Posted on 15th August,2007*

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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 15th 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 Khattry 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.

Thirty-three villages in the district are flooded every year by Rapti River owing to

## 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 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

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*

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were affected by the floods, officials said the first priority was to prevent a disease epidemic.

"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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