



Disaster Watch - Nepal

A daily newsletter on disaster updates

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Two girls died of flood in Kalikot

Swollen water in Ghattegaun Khola swept away two teenage girls in Kalikot on Sunday. Amula Shahi and Nanda Shahi of Mugrah were returning to home after appearing in SLC supplementary examination.

According to the state owned National News agency, the deceased were wading to cross Ghattegaun Khola with other friends. Suddenly Amula slipped over and in an attempt to save her, both of them succumbed to death.

(Posted on 21st August, 2007)

No major health outbreaks : WHO Nepal

As WHO Nepal stated on its recent 'flood and landslides situation report' of 19th August, no major or unexpected health outbreaks have been reported from any of the flood-affected areas since 27th July. Common illnesses such as water, food- and vector-borne diseases as well as skin, eye and ear infections are observed in the majority of the affected districts.

WHO prescribed shelter, food, water, sanitation and primary health care as an imperative needs for disaster victims. It has asserted on public health messages dissemination focussing on prevention of water, food and vector-borne diseases in affected population. Insecticide-treated bed-nets should be distributed to people at risk of acquiring vectorborne diseases; especially to displaced populations and Mukta Kamaiyas (landless people) in districts with water-logging.

Meanwhile UNICEF, WFP and Save the Children are currently conducting a joint rapid needs assessment in the 13 most flood-affected districts: Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusa, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara, Parsa, Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, Banke, Bardiya and Kailali. The rapid assessment aims at enhancing the understanding of the impact of the flood on food security, nutritional status, and education.

(Posted on 21st August, 2007)

UN to deploy teams to assess needs of flood victims in Nepal

The United Nations joint assessment missions are set to be deployed to the most flood affected areas of southern Nepal's Terai region to gain a better understanding of the needs of those that have been affected. According to a leading website, nepalnews.com, the missions will be deployed from Tuesday.

"The Nepal Red Cross Society has been doing an outstanding job since the crisis began and our teams will work with them to determine how to support current relief efforts. Specifically we will focus on food, shelter, water and health services for the flood-affected populations," stated a press release by

Loss of lives this monsoon

Baglung	29
Bajura	11
Gulmi	11
Darchula	9
Bardia	9
Baitadi	8
Banke	8
Salyan	7
Mahottari	7
Rautahat	7
Ramechhap	7
Kailali	6
Jajarkot	5
Dang	5
Udayapur	5
Jumla	4
Surkhet	4
Jhapa	4
Dhanusha	3
Siraha	3
Sunsari	3
Morang	3
Chitwan	3
Saptari	3
Sarlahi	2
Sindhuli	2
Parsa	2
Kalikot	2
Bajhang	1
Arghakhachi	1
Bara	1
Makwanpur	1
Panchthar	1
Tanahun	1

(As of 21st August, 2007)

Major Displacements

Saptari	10000 family
Siraha	6000 family
Mahottari	3700 family
Bardiya	2500 family
Dhanusha	2050 family
Parsa	2000 family

Rupendehi 1000 family
 Sunsari 1000 family
 Banke 750 family
Total displacement: 48000 family
Total affected population:
 Around 4 lakh 40 thousand (as of 19th August, 2007)

Sources : NRCS, Media reports/MCN

Disaster Related Reports

[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](#)

Snapshots



People look at a destroyed car in Pisco, some 245 km south of Lima August 17, 2007. Peruvian rescue teams scrambled on Friday to find survivors in the disaster zone of a powerful earthquake that killed some 500 people and where an aftershock of 6.0 magnitude struck on Friday, the U.S. Geological Survey and witnesses said. REUTERS/David Mercado



the UN.

The UN has reiterated its call for safe passage to relief workers. "As previously stated by the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, it is imperative that all humanitarian workers are allowed safe and unhindered access, regardless of their ethnicity," the statement added.

"I appeal to all people within the affected districts to respect international humanitarian principles, to allow safe passage for these workers and to avoid all political interference, or much needed aid will not get to those most in need," said UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthew Kahane.

(Posted on 21st August, 2007)

Donors pour money into relief fund

Many organizations, groups and individuals of different districts have been pouring money into relief funds meant for flood-victims in Nepal. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in Kailali stated that it collected cash and relief materials worth over 3 million rupees from different government as well as non-government organizations.

According to NRCS, the International Committee of Red Cross provided wheat worth over one million rupees and Save the Children US contributed cash and goods worth over 848 thousand rupees under different titles. Likewise, the Community Support Program of the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) provided beaten rice worth over 200,000 rupees, Lutheran World Federation gave 200,000 rupees, Mero Mobile Company donated food worth of 142,000 rupees, and World Vision donated foodstuff worth 109,500 rupees.

Also, relief fund was contributed by the Natural Disaster Relief Fund of the District Administration Office, Kailali, and by students of Far West Campus Dhangadhi. In Lamjung, recently formed Committee to Collect Relief Fund has collected over 102,000 rupees from various organizations and individuals in the district with a view to support landslide and flood victims. The money and goods collected will be handed over to the Prime Minister's Natural Disaster Relief Fund.

Meanwhile, issuing a statement in the capital, United Mission to Nepal (UMN) informed that it deposited a sum of 65,475 rupees in the Kantipur Flood Victims Relief Fund at Kumari Bank Limited. Similarly, representatives from Nepal Film Artists' Association handed over a check of Rs 69, 819 to Director of Kantipur Publications, Binod Gyawali on Monday. Likewise, in Jhapa, Women Association of the Families of Armed Police Force in the Eastern Region collected and handed over 36,000 rupees to Rup Bahadur Chauhan, Chairman of Relief Committee for Flood victims. *(The Kathmandu Post)*

(Posted on 21st August, 2007)

NRCS distributes foodstuff in Bardia

The Bardiya chapter of the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) from Sunday started distributing relief materials to flood victims. The organisation distributed foodstuff to the victims at Mohamadpur in the district.

"We have plans to distribute food stuff provided by the World Food Programme

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



People wade through floods in Manila August 15, 2007. Landslides and floods triggered by typhoon Pabuk killed a boy in northern Philippines and injured five people, disaster officials said on Wednesday, as schools in the capital were shut down. REUTERS/Romeo Ranoco

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 15th August, relief packages are still elusive for victims of Dhanusha and Mahottari. The victims of

(WFP) to over 27,022 victims," Keshav Gautam of the Bardiya NRCS said. A total of 911 households whose houses are completely destroyed in the floods will receive food for one month and 3,113 families whose houses have been partially damaged will get food for 15 days, Gautam said.

Earlier, the victims demanded rice and pulse instead of beaten rice and biscuits. Meanwhile, Nepalis living in Japan provided Rs 105,000 to the Bardia food victims. A teacher of the Kathmandu-based Campus of International Language, Yashiharu Kamimura, handed over the amount to Banke acting CDO Krishna Acharya. Acharya said the administration is planning to relocate 1,300 households of Wards No 5 and 6 of the Holiya VDC who are at the risk of flooding by the Rapti river. "We need funds to shift the families and to arrange schools for their children," Acharya said.

(Posted on 20th August, 2007)

After the deluge

ARUNA UPRETY in MAHOTTARI

The dalit families have been living on road embankments ever since the flood waters inundated their homes in this eastern tarai district two weeks ago. They had just started going back to their homes when the floods returned on Wednesday.

The CDO was here to distribute blue plastic sheets, and tried to get them to move back so the children would not get hit by passing trucks. But the families were reluctant to go back because their houses have been washed off, or they are near collapse.

"We have got only one kilo of chiura and four packets of noodles to eat," says Sita Debi, a mother of four, sitting on a wooden bed with four goats underneath. "We treat the goats like family," she adds, "they are our only source of income. We have some rice in the storeroom at home but that is all rotted by now we'll just have to turn it into fertiliser."

A three-month old baby of another destitute family nearby is being bottlefed because her mother is sick. Flies are swarming all over the nipple of the bottle which is lying on the ground. The child's 13-year-old sister is baby-sitting and puts the bottle in the baby's mouth so she'll stop crying.

Now that the flood waters are receding, it is disease and hunger that are of immediate concern. But the villagers also need to rebuild their houses and their landlords are willing to loan them money at 36 percent interest.

The villagers didn't know about the government's announced grants scheme under which they are entitled to Rs 15,000 if the houses are completely destroyed and Rs 5,000 if partially destroyed. The women from the Musher, Mandal, and Dom communities were skeptical. They'd heard about such schemes before. "What has the government done for us till now? They have always cheated us, at least we get immediate cash from the businessmen to rebuild, and our men can go to India to work and pay back the loan," said one woman with a firmness in her voice that was surprising for a dalit woman.

There are banners along the road announcing the forthcoming Constituent Assembly election. Pushpa Kamal Dahal stares out of a Maoist poster at a nearby teashop, and there is another one of Prime Minister Koirala addressing some big crowd. None of them have ever visited, and neither have their party workers or madhesi activists. But closer to the elections they'll probably all be here

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

Highlights

Janapriya Campus of Pokhara announced free education in all faculties to the flood and landslides victims of Guaulichaur and Jaljala of Baglung district. (21st Aug)

Eighty percent of the farms in Dhanusha and Mahottari districts have been washed off by flood. (20th Aug)

Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) has provided Rs.225,525 to flood victims through Kantipur Flood victim Relief Fund. (18th Aug)

Road links between rural areas and district headquarters Gaur, Birgunj have been respectively severed in Rautahat and Parsa district. (18th Aug)

700 people are displaced from Rajapur Tapu in Bardia, fearing of flood. (17th Aug)

Flood of Susta river, Nawalparasi forced to displace one hundred family. (17th Aug)

Flood victims in Bardiya demonstrated in front of the Red Cross Society Thursday alleging that it was biased in distributing relief materials. (16th Aug)

promising the villagers the sky, because they know that the dalits are a powerful vote bank.

Wading knee-deep from house to house in the village of Simadhai it is difficult to see how all the money collected for flood relief in Kathmandu will ever get here to make a difference. Relief is also not coordinated. People in Kathmandu are collecting clothes which the people here will never wear.

“The priority here is shelter, food, medicines, credit and long-term flood mitigation,” says the head of an NGO here, “please don’t send us what we don’t need. And don’t forget that the real misery begins when the waters recede, when the floods are not in the headlines anymore.” (*Nepali Times*)

(Posted on 20th August, 2007)

Death number unceasing : Three more added

Three persons were died while four others were injured due to flood and landslide in different districts. Amrita Tamang, 13, a vegetable seller from Ranitar-2, Panchthar district who used to attend the weekly market in Phidim died on the spot after she was hit by a landslide at Mahabhir of Phidim-3. Amrita’s father Tilbahadur Tamang, a pregnant Jagna Rai of Ranitar-2, Dhan Bahadur Rai and Niru Gurung of Ranitar-7 were injured in the landslide. Police and army teams dug out Amrita’s body from the debris. The body was handed over to her relatives after post-mortem at the Panchthar hospital. Jagna’s and Til Bahadur’s condition is critical.

In Sunsari, 12-year-old Brijesh Kumar, son of Bindi Yadav of Ward No 4 in Narsingh VDC died while undergoing treatment in the district hospital at Inarwa. Brijesh was injured after he fell into the flood water.

In Bardiya, three-year-old Subash Tharu of Sukkhad in Thakurdwara VDC-3 of the district died after he was swept away in a flood.

(Posted on 19th August, 2007)

Travails of Terai and Hill continuing

Hundreds of families in the Tarai and hill areas continue to remain displaced due to the flood and landslides. Incessant rain for a week has flooded Prangbung, Memeng, Chyangathapu and Sidin VDCs of the Panchthar district. Standing crops of maize, rice, millet and cardamom in hundreds of bighas of land have been destroyed. The district Red Cross unit said more than 25 families have been displaced over the last couple of days.

Nine houses crumbled in Ward Nos 7 and 8 of Chaudandi VDC of Udaypur district due to incessant rain over the last two days.

Meanwhile, inundation by the flooded Arohi and Janahi rivers continues to disrupt transportation along local routes near Bardiya National Park. Flood victims of Rajapur Tappu complained that they were still deprived of any relief supplies. According to Red Cross Society, flood has displaced 700 families in Rajapur.

In Saptari, flooding of the local Khado river since last week has waterlogged the Armed Police Force (APF) border security base camp located in Kunauli village. The 82 security men in the camp are forced to stay on the roof of the building since the last three days as the area was swamped under 4 to 5 feet of water. Kunauli remains submerged after the Bhim barrage was wrecked by floods three

Thirty thousand villagers of six villages in Rautahat are at risk due to the swollen water of Bagmati, LalBakiya and Jhanj river. (17th Aug)

Flood victims in Bardiya demonstrated in front of the Red Cross Society Thursday alleging that it was biased in distributing relief materials. (16th Aug)

Landslides induced by the continuous rainfall for two days obstructed Baitadi-Darchula stretch of Dashrath Chandra highway (15th Aug)

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. (15th Aug)

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.

weeks ago. Locals also said that the area was swamped due to the dam built on the Indian side of the border.

In Dhanusha district, educational activities are at a standstill due to the incessant rain. According to the non-government organisation Asman Nepal 95 of the 103 schools in the district have been damaged due to the rain and flood. Harina and Shivkutti primary schools are completely damaged. More than three dozen houses were swept away by the flood in the Kamala River and dozens of others were badly affected due to the incessant rainfall for the past five days at Balhasaghara VDC.

The villagers in the eastern part of Dhanusha district are also victimised by the erosion and waterlog in that area. After the inspection of the affected area, Central Committee Member of CPN-UML Ram Chandra Jha said the floods during the third week of Shawan had swept away more than four dozen houses in the village.

Due to the increase of water level in the Kamala River, more than 175 families of Barerba have been displaced. If the situation did not improve, then the entire villages are sure to be displaced, said Jha. The flood has also affected Harine, Duwakot, Hapletba, Balaha Sudhara, Inwarba, Fulbariya and other VDCs.

The Kamala River that used to flow in between Siraha and Dhanusha district has changed its way and started flowing almost four kilometres away towards human residence. The nine villages have been surrounded by the Kamala River obstructing the daily movements of the villagers.

(Posted on 19th August, 2007)

Nepal in food crisis : FAO

Food shortages loom in Nepal and other South Asian nations hit by torrential rains, floods and landslides affecting more than 28 million people, the United Nations said on Saturday. The food situation gives "serious cause for concern" due to loss of animals and unfavourable crop prospects following damage to recently planted crops, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said on its website.

"Opportunities for replanting once the water has fully receded are limited as the sowing period of the main cereal season normally ends by mid-August in Nepal," it said.

Nepal's Tarai region which serve as the country's grain basket -- accounting for over 70 per cent of rice production -- have been hard hit. Although water levels have receded from the second week of August, thousands of hectares of agricultural land have been destroyed at the peak of the planting season and the outlook for production has worsened, the FAO said. Food shortages in the Tarai, which was also affected by drought and floods in 2006, are likely to worsen, the food agency added.

(Posted on 19th August, 2007)

Flood-hit deprived of relief

More than 100 flood-affected families from Aurahi, who trekked 15 km to reach district headquarters Janakpurdham, have been deprived of relief. Government sources said relief is not being distributed in the rural areas due to transportation and security problems.

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.

Home minister advised the local administration to form an all sided team to carryout relief and rescue operations.

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 contiguous areas of Nepal.

Many of the flood victims are being denied relief because their names are not in the list. The list was prepared much ago. Chief of the Social Development and Research, Ram Singh, said they have been distributing relief it received from the Caritas to only those victims whose names were in the list of victims prepared by the district administration office (DAO) and VDC secretaries. Flood victims, however, alleged that there was hanky-panky in the distribution of relief materials and that those with connections to politicians and officials were given preference.

Dhanusha chief district officer Ramsharan Chimoriya said he had received a few complaints of irregularities in the relief material distribution had come in. Incessant rain over the last 17 days and subsequent flood has left 75 of the 101 VDCs of the district submerged. Some 35 VDCs among the 75 are very badly affected.

More than 50 houses have collapsed in Singyahi Madan, Nathpatti, Visharbhora, Lakk and other VDCs. (*The Himalayan Times*)

(Posted on 19th August, 2007)

East Nepal severely affected

In Rautahat, rainfall since the last three days washed away 10 houses of Madanpur VDC on Friday. Similarly, 51 families of Sonariya VDC of the district were displaced due to flood.

Meanwhile, in Saptari, rainfall since the last four days has triggered floods in different rivers of the district, displacing thousands of families here. Nearly 500 families in Mauwaha Belhi VDC have been left in a lurch after flood in Balan River dislodged a barrage there. Displaced locals have moved to the nearby Indian village of Laxmipur to take shelter. Twelve other villages, including the worst-hit Sakarpura, Rampura-Malhaniya, Komadhepura, Kobasain and Topa VDCs are completely under the grip of flood.

In Kailali, flood has disrupted the Lamki-Tikapur road section since one week. Villages connected to the highway are cut off from transportation and food supply.

In Dhanusha, different places of Jaleswor municipality and other remote villages have been waterlogged due to the flood. Over 1,500 people at three different villages in the district have been displaced in the past one week. Duwarkot and Harine health posts, situated near the bank of Kamala river in Duwarkot VDC have been completely waterlogged.

A report from Birgunj said that floods in Oriyakhola have inundated a dozen villages. Seven persons were injured on Friday when the flooded stream caused the collapse of a house in Parsa district. Ajaya Shah and Sanjaya Shah of Lahawar Thakari-2 were injured when incessant rains caused the collapse of a house today.

The flooded Sikta river caused the displacement of a police post at Budgai and the collapse of houses belonging to Dhanilal Pandit and Yogendra Shah Teli. Hundreds of bighas of land at Jayamangalapur, Bhikhampur, Janakitola, Sibarwa, Langadi, Biswa, Sikta, Lahawartharkari and Tulsibarwa villages has been swamped due to the floods.

Due to the floods and incessant rains, the road links between Birgunj, the district headquarters of Parsa, and rural areas has been severed. Floods caused displacement of 31 households at Nagawa and Inarwatole.

Asia Watch

Oxfam: Flood Defenses in South Asia May Have Aggravated Floods

By Anjana Pasricha

International aid agency Oxfam says poorly built flood defenses in South Asia may have aggravated the intensity of the recent flooding in the region. It calls for a reassessment of flood policies in the region, where nearly 20 million people have been affected by flooding. Anjana Pasricha has a report from New Delhi.

In a recent report, aid agency Oxfam said that defenses such as river embankments built to prevent flooding in countries such as India, Nepal, and Bangladesh can make matters worse.

'Ian Bray of Oxfam has traveled through flood-hit areas in the Indian state of Bihar. He says many embankments are 50 years old, and are easily breached.

"We witness huge breaks in the embankments. What happens is about a 12-foot wall of water probably 300 meters wide that breaks through the embankments and inundates anything in its

way," he said.

The report estimates that in Bihar, embankments may have tripled the area prone to floods to about seven million hectares from two and a half million hectares. It says in Bangladesh, 75 embankments were breached in one month during this year's floods. And in Nepal culverts and embankments triggered major floods by obstructing the flow of water.

Experts say breached embankments not only contribute to massive flooding, they can be more destructive because they prevent water from draining away from flooded land.

Oxfam says governments must build good drainage systems to reduce the risk of floods. Oxfam also urges South Asian governments to build more flood-proof infrastructure such as shelters on higher ground, and homes and wells on raised land to ease the miseries that flooding inflicts on communities. Other aid agencies agree that flood preparedness needs to improve.

ActionAid India's emergency adviser, P.V. Unnikrishnan, says governments need to spend more to prepare for floods, which have become an annual occurrence. "If you make an investment of \$1 in disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction, it is thousand times more cost effective than reactionary responses which happen after the disaster," he noted. "Invest in early warning systems and early response mechanisms and most importantly, develop plans by engaging the local communities."

This year's floods were the most intense in recent times. Tens of thousands have lost their homes and livelihoods, and thousands of acres of farmland have been destroyed in some of the poorest regions of South Asia.

(Posted on 18th August, 2007)

Every efforts will be rendered : Ministry

The Ministry of Home Affairs has reiterated that it has made arrangements so that there would not be any shortcomings of any kind in the efforts that have to be undertaken from the government's side for providing all kinds of relief necessary for the families affected by the irreparable loss of life and property caused by the natural disaster resulting from incessant rain in most of the districts of the country.

In an appeal issued Friday, the Ministry has stated that in this connection an amount of Rs. 76.7 million has been released for relief works for the affected districts from the Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee by classifying the intensity of the impact of the disaster and also by making adjustments.

Special directives have been issued and additional authority also delegated to the convenors of the District Natural Disaster Relief Committee and the Chief District Officers with a view that the rescue and relief works would not be hampered due to the lack of means and resources, it is stated in the appeal.

The Ministry has also made it clear that an appeal has been made to the national and international humanitarian organisations and benevolent individuals on behalf of the government for the maximum assistance at this hour of national difficulty.

It has expressed special gratitude for the assistance being magnanimously provided for the disaster-affected people by individuals from various walks of life and different social organisations.

The Ministry has also stated that it is active in collecting the details of the damage at the special initiatives of the Nepal Red Cross Society and in cooperation and coordination with the Chief District Officers and the District Natural Disaster Relief Committees of the disaster hit districts by taking into consideration the desire of the donors that the relief assistance reaches the genuinely affected poor families.

It stated in the appeal that sincere cooperation is expected from all sides in the task of collecting data on the real damage as the future action plan and the assistance to be received from the international community on its basis depends on how expeditiously this task can be accomplished.

The Ministry has also stated that complaints of the genuine victims of the natural disaster not receiving the relief assistance have come from several districts since the data on the disaster-hit people in several districts did not reflect the reality. It stressed that realistic information and data on the damage and the displacements is necessary for the rehabilitation and relief works.

In this context, the Ministry has appealed to all the political parties, social workers and civil society in the disaster-hit districts to extend necessary cooperation towards building an environment for transparency, smoothness and speed in the assessment and evaluation of the real damage in the districts.

(Posted on 18th August, 2007)

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