



# Disaster Watch - Nepal

A daily newsletter on disaster updates

Issue-32, Aug 26, 2007

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## Loss of lives this monsoon

Baglung	29
Gulmi	17
Bajura	11
Darchula	9
Bardia	9
Baitadi	8
Banke	8
Pyuthan	7
Salyan	7
Mahottari	7
Rautahat	7
Ramechhap	7
Kailali	6
Dang	5
Udayapur	5
Jumla	4
Surkhet	4
Jhapa	4
Dhanusha	3
Jajarkot	5
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 26th August, 2007)

## Major Displacements

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

## Landslide Massacre

### Seven killed in Pyuthan

Seven persons died and one person was injured in a landslide in Arkha VDC in northern Pyuthan district Friday night. Those dead in the landslide triggered by incessant rains included four members of a family. Six persons were killed in Gulmi and three in Rukum on the same day.

The landslide occurred in Payunpata ward 5 of Purda Arkha VDC. Pregnant Sumitra Giri, her five-year-old son, Rohini Giri and Bel Bahadur Giri, all of the same family, perished in the landslide. Their house was also demolished in the disaster. Three others Chatak BK of the same village and two other unidentified persons also died in the landslide, which occurred while they were collecting firewood.

A local, Prem Thapa, said five of the seven died on the spot while two, who were being taken to a hospital, died near the border of Pyuthan and Gulmi districts. Bhimi thapa, who was hurt in the landslide, is being treated at the Pyuthan hospital. Arkha VDC lies 14 km from Khalanga, the headquarters of Pyuthan.

According to Thapa, some locals had taken shelter in a cowshed belonging to Bir Bahadur Thapa after landslides started there Thursday night. The whole Arkha VDC has been affected as smaller landslides are frequent because of incessant rain. Police and Red Cross Society volunteers have reached the village for rescue with relief materials.

(Posted on 26th August, 2007)

### Inundation in vegetable farms tripled the price

Prices of vegetable have skyrocketed in the region due to inundation of the major vegetable farms in the tarai region triggered by incessant rain in the last couple of weeks. The markets in the region have witnessed a crunch in fresh vegetables mainly due to decline in supply, traders said.

According to Makawanpur Vegetable and Fruit Traders Association (MVFTA), the prices of tomato, bitter gourd, cabbage, cauliflower, Christophine (skush), potato and green chilly have gone up three folds over the last two weeks.

The price of bitter gourd shot up from Rs 15 to Rs 45 per kg in two weeks. Potato was eight rupees more expensive today, rising to Rs 24 per Kg over the period, said traders. Bhola Thing, a trader, said that the prices of other vegetable items like brinjal, pointed gourd, cowpea and spinach, have also risen significantly.

"Vegetables from the hilly areas of the district are coming to the Hetauda market from last week, but the amount is far less than the demand as the supply from tarai has gone down significantly due to the floods and inundation of vegetable farms," said Keshav Dahal, vice-president of MVFTA.

Parsa 2000 family  
 Rupendehi 1000 family  
 Sunsari 1000 family  
 Banke 750 family  
**Total displacement: 48000 family**  
**Total affected population:**  
**Around 4 lakh 72 thousand (as of 23rd August, 2007)**

Sources : NRCS, Media reports/MCN

### Disaster Related Reports

[NRCS Bulletin 21st Aug, 2007](#)  
[WHO SITREP \(5-19th Aug,2007\)](#)  
[OCHA Situation Report,13th Aug](#)  
[WHO SITREP \(4-12 Aug,2007\)](#)  
[Sink or Swim \(Oxfam Int\)](#)  
[DM Report \(MCN\) 2006](#)  
[NRCS Bulletin 29th July, 2007](#)  
[Baglung Landslides Report, 2007](#)  
[Flood scenario of Saptari,2007](#)  
[Report on relief, Mahottari,2007](#)

### Snapshots



Bangladeshi flood victim women stand in a queue to receive relief material at Kamrangir char, on the outskirts of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Monsoon floods have laid waste to much of South Asia in recent weeks, killing more than 2,000 people and displacing millions. (AP Photo/Pavel Rahman)

### 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

According to Dahal, vegetable supplies in Hetauda have dwindled to 15 tons from 45 tons in normal times. Traders have warned that the prices would further rise in the days ahead if the supply situation did not improve.

Similarly, the prices of vegetables have ballooned sharply in Dailekh, a hilly district in Mid-western Nepal, over the last three weeks following a landslide that blocked vehicular movement along the 40 kilometer-long Dailekh-Surkhet highway.

The supply of vegetable from Nepalgunj, Surkhet and Ratanagla, which are the major sources of vegetables for Dailekh, have come to a grinding halt due to the disruption in transportation. The prices of tomato, potato, dry onion and cabbage have inched up by two to three folds over the period in Dailekh.

According to the traders, tomato, potato and cabbage are priced at Rs 60, Rs 32 and Rs 30 per kg respectively at the present, up from Rs 30, Rs 18 and Rs 8 respectively three weeks ago. (*The Kathmandu Post*)

(Posted on 26th August, 2007)

## Landslide killed nine in western Nepal

A landslide in Neta VDC of Gulmi district killed six persons, including four members of a family, at 4 am Friday. The landslide killed four family members of a local Sob Bahadur BK and two of his neighbours. Four members of Sop Bahadur's family Tika Kumari (mother),75; Amrita (wife),35; Krishna,11 and Suraj, 4 (sons) and two neighbours Jamuna BK, 27 and her six-year-old daughter Muna were killed on the spot.

Sob Bahadur had recently left for India where he works. Till a month ago the locality had altogether 14 dalit households. Twelve of these had been displaced following a landslide in neighboring Jaljala VDC of Baglung district. Only two households had stayed behind.

It is believed that Jumana, who was pregnant, had gone to her neighbor's, along with her daughter, after she felt labor pains. That was when the landslide struck the house. Jamuna's spouse is also in India for work.

Similarly, three persons of a single family were killed in a landslide at Duli VDC-3 in Rukum district, Friday morning. Mani Khatri, 28, and his sons Bhopal, 8, and Lok Bahadur, 5, were killed by the landslide. Their house was buried by landslide at around 3 am.

(Posted on 25th August, 2007)

## Slow relief response in eastern Terai

Though highly affected, the distribution of relief materials in central and eastern Terai districts have been slower than in other flood-hit districts. Saptari, Dhanusa, Mahottari, Siraha are among those districts.

Security, transportation and communication problems have hindered the easy flow of relief in the central and eastern Terai, said Indra Prasad Adhikari, director of communication department of Nepal Red Cross Society. Politically, the eastern and central Terai are in crisis. Unrepaired roads and lack of adequate communication facilities have complicated the situation, he said with The Himalayan Times Daily.

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

### Highlights

Seven thousand residents of Kusma, district headquarter of Parwat, are suffering from water scarcity as the pipe line of main supply center was swept away by the landslide. (25th Aug)

The Thai government has extended an assistance of Rs 3.9 million for flood victims on Friday. (25th Aug)

The Women Foundation (WF) on Thursday provided shelter boxes worth Rs 10 million to 129 flood victim families of Balaha Sabhara VDC at Dahanusha. (24th Aug)

However, the western Tarai has received adequate relief. People are receiving relief from different organisations for resettlement, said Adhikari. The NRCS said it has received Rs 4.7 million from the government, organisations and people. It has distributed food items to 151,200 people and non-food items to 9,762 families. Over 1,000 Red Cross volunteers are engaged in the distribution of relief.

*(Posted on 25th August, 2007)*

## Baglung faces food shortage

Food shortage has affected the remote VDCs of Baglung district including Rajkut, Devisthan, Darling and Nisi from the past two months. The VDCs lie some 108 km west of the district headquarters Baglung bazaar. The natural disasters caused lack of food grains in the VDCs.

"Stock of food grain in my home finished and I have no money to buy more," Tejendra Bikram Kunwar of Rajkut said. He said that the local administration and the Nepal Food Corporation have to take initiatives to provide relief at the earliest. "We have been facing food shortage for the past two months," Jeetendra Kather of Nisi said. Recent storm damaged maize plantation at Rajkut and Devisthan VDCs, locals said.

"The administration has already directed the NFC depots at Birtibang and Harichaur to distribute food grains," CDO Surya Prasad Bhandari said, adding that they are already discussing the matter with the NFC regional office in Pokhara.

*(Posted on 25th August, 2007)*

## Flood victims picketed Indian land office

Nepali flood victims who were badly affected by the Gandak barrage picketed the Indian land office at Balmikinagar Thursday, demanding compensation for their crops.

Some 400 victims from Kudiya, Tribeni Susta and Rupoliya VDCs of Nawalparasi district encircled the office and confined Ananda Prasad Parajuli, an official, there for two hours. Parajuli was later set free as he assured the victims he would to appraise the Indian authorities of the problem soon. The victims claimed that since the last 10 years more than 2,000 hectares of land has been inundated annually due to the barrage.

Seven thousand residents of Kusma, district headquarter of Parwat, are suffering from water scarcity as the pipe line of main supply center was swept away by the landslide.

*(Posted on 25th August, 2007)*

## Nepal's recent disaster scenario

**24,815 houses completely destroyed**

**4,72,280 people affected**

Preliminary assessment carried out by Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has recognized that 148 people have died; displaced families are 24, 116 and over 79, 200 families have been affected, 4 are still missing and 94 are injured, as Nepal Red Cross Society stated in its bulletin yesterday.

Marwadi Service Trust, Birgunj handed over relief materials worth NRs. Five lakh Rupees to NRCS Parsa chapter. (23rd Aug)

NRCS Makwanpur distributed relief materials to 16 flood displaced family of Dhiynal VDC. (23rd Aug)

All Banks and financial institutions of Chitwan together ventured to solace disaster victims and collected NRs Sixty Thousand Five Hundred. Money was handedover to NRCS Chitwan. (23rd Aug)

Five thousand houses were damaged in Bardia due to the flood of Babai and Karnali river. Out of them 144 houses were fully damaged. (22nd Aug)

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 havebeen 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 infront of the Red Cross Society Thursday alleging that it was biased in distributing relief materials. (16th Aug)

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

Total 472, 280 people reportedly affected through the country. 45, 707 houses are partially and 24, 815 houses are completely destroyed. The assessment has highlighted immediate shelter, clean drinking water and food needs. General water and insect health complaints are being reported and needs to monitor closely to reduce additional outbreak of diseases. In Kalikot, 10 people died of diarrhea and 7 people are serious. NRCS DC has asked for monitoring situation closely to prevent additional breakouts.

The reports have envisaged; renovation of houses, re-storing public infrastructure, providing basic HH items, addressing livelihood options and providing staple food as long term needs. NRCS HQ is processing for making food distribution plan for Mahottari, Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusa, Bara, Parsa, Udayapur, Rauthaut, Sarlahi District.

*(Posted on 24th August, 2007)*

## Rehabilitation for 15,000 family in the offing

Home Minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula has said the government is actively working to providing relief assistance to the flood and landslide-affected families in a speedy manner.

He made this remark at a programme organized at Reporters' Club Nepal here today while receiving check for the amount donated by the Club and Nepal Medical Association for the flood-affected people. The amount donated is to be deposited in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund.

At the programme, Club president Rishi Dhamala handed over a check for Rs. 100,001 and president of Nepal Medical Association Dr. Chopraj Bhusal a cheque for Rs. 200,000 to the Home Minister.

Stating that altogether 47 districts, including 16 in Terai and 31 in hilly regions, have been hit by floods and landslide, the Minister for Home Affairs informed that human casualties have occurred in 36 districts out of all the districts hit by floods and landslides. The Minister for Home Affairs added that so far Rs. 80 million has been provided to the district natural disaster rescue and relief committees.

Minister Sitaula also made it clear that the Disaster Relief Committee is working for the rehabilitation of the 15,000 out of nearly 20,000 displaced families whose houses were completely damaged due to the flood and landslide.

He added that the government has provided Rs. 25,000 to the families of people killed in the disaster, Rs. 10,000 to families whose houses have been completely damaged and Rs. 5,000 to families whose houses have been partially damaged.

*(Posted on 24th August, 2007)*

## Flood victims of Sarlahi irated

Flood victims of Sarlahi demonstrated yesterday alleging irregularities in the distribution process. This happened in just next day the local Red Cross began distributing relief materials.

Locals of Balara VDC even surrounded the local police post, Thursday, charging that people whose houses remained unscathed in the floods received relief aid. They also said the "real victims" who have been rendered homeless have been deprived of relief.

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.

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.

"Even flood victims who have been ranked in A category haven't got relief materials distributed by the Red Cross," said local Bhag Narayan Sah.

Chief District Officer Sitaram Pokhrel, who is also chairman of district natural disaster rescue committee, said he also received such complaints. "We have instructed local police posts to learn the reality." The recent floods wrought havoc in over a dozen VDCs on the banks of the local Bagmati River in the district.

Flood victims of southern Sarlahi, Khutauna had also decried earlier for not getting any relief materials even after a week rain stopped.

*(Posted on 24th August, 2007)*

## France provides aid to flood victims of Nepal

The French government is providing financial assistance of about 40,000 U.S. dollars to the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) for the flood victims. According to a press release issued by the French Embassy in Nepal on Thursday, the assistance will be directly supplied by the embassy to the NRCS to help in its relief operations in the affected areas.

The embassy in the press release expressed confidence that the assistance would help enable the NRCS to supply support for construction of individual houses, to distribute agriculture inputs (seeds and local tools) for recovery process, to clean and renovate community water sources, and to promote health activities as well as small scale risk reduction activities.

*(Posted on 24th August, 2007)*

**"It's a week, no one came, shall we die ? "**

### **Relief workers, rush to Khutauna**

Fifty flood affected people of Khutauna, Sarlahi district plead for relief materials in district headquarter as no one went their village even to inquire their situation. 'The rain stopped a week ago, but till now not a single person reached there to salvage us', Rampari Devi Kapad said.

They sheltered on school and temples after flood damaged their houses waiting for the support but went in vain. Eventually, they were forced to throng district headquarter Malangwa as Annapurna Post Daily reported today.

"We can starve but can't tolerate our children starvation", Rampari Devi said.

*(Posted on 23rd August, 2007)*

## Eight schools closed, 50 affected in Bardia

Over eight schools in Bardiya have been lying closed for a month while over 50 others have been affected due to the absence of students and teachers in the aftermath of floods.

In Rajapur, Soriya primary school in Nayagaun, Deepjyoti primary school in Guptipur and Amar Shaheed Dharmbhakta primary school in Baspur have been lying closed. Janjyoti primary school in Bangai, Malika primary school in

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.

## Asia Watch

### Smell of Floating Corpses Adds to South Asia Flood Woes

**(Reuters)**

Residents in eastern India complained on Wednesday about the smell of corpses floating in flood waters as the toll from widespread monsoon flooding in South Asia rose by 68 overnight.

Close to 1,800 people have died from drowning, house collapses, snakebite and waterborne diseases in the densely populated and largely im-poverished region since July, as heavy monsoon rains caused numerous rivers to burst their banks.

Millions of people are living in miserable conditions, many of them homeless or stranded on crowded embankments with relief operations patchy in many areas. Some parts of eastern India and Bangladesh have remained flooded for weeks, causing a spike in waterborne diseases.

In India's eastern region, at least 300,000 people were suffering from diarrhoea and other waterborne illnesses, with complaints that authorities were not doing enough to assist them.

In the impoverished Indian state of Bihar, residents and officials said dozens of bodies could be seen floating in flood waters in the worst-hit districts. "The

Godahana, Gyanodaya primary school in Neulapur, Sarawasti primary school in Pathhergoji and Nera primary school in Taruwa have also been lying closed, said acting president of the Bardiya Red Cross, Mahesh Gautam.

Incessant rain has damaged the roofs of several schools while the foundations of others have been damaged. The walls of some of these schools are on the verge of collapse. Some 2000 students of these eight schools have been unable to attend classes. Gyanodaya primary school has remained closed for over a month, said its headmaster Bir Bahadur Thapa, adding that the school building is on the verge of collapse. The school will be reopened if some organisation provides aid for repairing the building, he said.

Gyanjyoti primary school has 114 students, including 65 boys and 49 girls. Amar Shaheed primary school, situated near the Karnali river banks, was closed after the water level rose too high, making it impossible for the students to come to the school even on boats. Acting chief of the Bardiya Red Cross Gautam said Nera primary school in Taruwa closed after the Babai river washed away houses in that area, causing the displacement of 72 households.

Janjyoti primary school in Bangai closed down after the local freed Kamaiya settlement was displaced due to flooding. Gautam said the students' safety was the main reason for the schools' closure, adding that in 50 other schools, students were unable to attend classes as their families were displaced due to flooding.

A guardian of Nayagaun in Rajapur, Ramprasad Chauhdary, said: "We are worried as the children's classes have been disrupted. We hope some organisation gives monetary aid for repairing the damaged school buildings so that classes can resume."

*(Posted on 23rd August, 2007)*

### Gwalichaur victims got relief materials

Relief materials collected by the Janapriya Campus Pokhara with an objective of assisting victims of landslides that hit Gwalichaur and Jaljala VDCs of Baglung district were handed over to the District Disaster Relief Committee. Chairman of the Campus Management Committee Shyam Prasad Baral handed over the amount to CDO Surya Prasad Bhandary.

The relief consists of cash Rs. 51,151 and clothes totaling Rs. 58,000. On the occasion, CDO Bhandari said the assistance would be a great relief to the flood and landslide victims.

Campus Management Committee Chairman Baral said six students in B.Ed and one each in other levels from among landslide victims will be provided with free education.

At the programme, NRCS Baglung Branch President Biswonath Regmi, Assistant Campus Chief Bir Bahadur Karki, Lecturer Pitriraj Banstola and Ramesh Pant informed that the campus will make the Dhorpatan area of the district a environmental study zone.

In Bhaktapur, the District Administration Office Bhaktapur has deposited Rs. 77,000, which was collected for the flood and landslide victims in various parts of the country, in the Prime Ministers' Natural Disaster Relief Fund.

The amount was collected from employees of various offices and organizations in the district and donations for the same is continuing.

unbearable stench of rotting corpses floating in the water has made us sick," Anupiya Devi, a resident of Samastipur district, told reporters.

#### BRIMMING CUP OF WOES

The widespread flooding has led to nearly 1 million hectares (2.5 million acres) of cultivable land being submerged in Bihar, resulting in a steep rise in vegetable prices.

In West Bengal state, which neighbours Bihar, authorities asked the Indian army to help relief and rescue operations with over 1.1 million people affected by fresh flooding over the past week across four districts.

In West Midnapore district, people shouting "we want food" protested against the pace of the relief effort. Further south, in the mineral-rich state of Orissa, which shares a border with West Bengal, flood waters have affected 1.2 million people, and destroyed thousands of homes, officials said.

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(Posted on 23rd August, 2007)

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