



Disaster Watch - Nepal

A daily newsletter on disaster updates

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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 28th August, 2007)

Major Displacements

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

Strikes hampering aid deliveries to flood victims

Strikes and political violence in southern Nepal have been hampering efforts by aid workers to distribute aid to flood victims, said officials from the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS).

Over 583,000 flood victims in the country's densely populated Terai region continue to be affected by food shortages and face accommodation problems, according to the NRCS, the country's most active relief organisation.

"The current political situation has greatly restricted our movements and affected the work of our rescuers," Sanjeev Kafle, director of an NRCS disaster unit, told IRIN.

Over the past few months, Madhesi activists have been demonstrating for greater political rights and regional autonomy in the Terai region. Local human rights activists, however, said they feared the violence had got worse and that aid workers felt threatened.

Dozens of local and international aid agencies have been providing assistance, but they have had difficulty accessing vehicles for rescuing people and sending in supplies because of strikes by Madhesi protesters, led by Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha (JTMM), aid agencies said.

UN and non-governmental organisations have been appealing to the JTMM to allow unhindered access to flood victims, but despite its leaders' positive response, fears among aid workers, especially those who happen to be from the rival ethnic Pahade (hill people) community, persist.

The problem is most acute in the flood-affected districts of Sarlahi, Mohattari, Dhanusa and Saptari where the JTMM has been organising strikes over the past six days, the NRCS said.

Floods and landslides have affected nearly 50 of Nepal's 75 districts, killing around 146 people and displacing 22,000 families. Over 46,000 houses have been damaged and more than 130,000 hectares of arable land have been ruined, according to the NRCS.

In the past couple of days over 16 people have also died in landslides in Gulmi, Pyuthan and Rukum districts in the northwest of the country. *IRIN*

(Posted on 28th August, 2007)

Cash, relief materials worth millions handed over

Representative from four organisations handed over relief materials worth around Rs 15 million to Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala. Representatives from Kantipur Publications Pvt Ltd, Image Channel Pvt Ltd, Nepal Telecom and Nepal Electricity Authority met Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala at his official residence at Baluwatar on Monday and handed over the cash to be deposited in

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



A landslide at Argha Village Development Committee of Pyuthan district has caused major damage to a local suspension bridge. (Sanjay Rijal/TRN)

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

the PM's Natural Disaster Relief Fund and the relief materials.

The Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) said it has collected cash and relief materials worth Rs 32 lakh for the flood victims. The FNCCI aims to collect cash and materials worth Rs 5 million in total, the FNCCI told a press meet here. The FNCCI handed over the cash and relief materials to the district coordination committee that has representatives of the FNCCI's district chapters as members.

The FNCCI has divided the flood-hit districts into five categories and the relief materials would be distributed accordingly, the meet was told. Kailali, Bardiya and Banke fall in category A, while Kapilbastu, Rupandehi and Nawalparasi are

in category B and Parsa, Bara and Rautahat are in category C. Sarlahi, Mahottari and Dhanusha fall in category D and Baglung is in category E. The FNCCI, in coordination with Annapurna Post and The Himalayan Times, and with the support of Nepal Red Cross and local chapters of the FNCCI, organised free-health camps in Banke, Parsa and Sarlahi districts for the flood victims recently.

Addressing the press conference, Chandiraj Dhakal, the FNCCI president, said the relief materials would reach the flood victims very soon. The top three cash donors in the list of the FNCCI are its staffers (Rs 350,000), Chandi Raj Dhakal (Rs 50,000) and industrialist Padma Jyoti (Rs 51,000).

(Posted on 28th August, 2007)

Pyuthan victims yet to get relief

Landslide-affected people of Arkha VDC in Pyuthan district, where seven persons died in a landslip on Friday, are yet to get any relief despite repeated appeals. Due to the landslide, the ground in six VDCs has split leaving gaping cracks. Due to the landslide it is taking people at least four hours to move from one VDC to another.

On landslide massacre, Sumitra Giri, her five-year-old son Momeb, her 12-year-old daughter Rukmini, 32-year-old brother-in-law Belbahadur Giri, 38-year-old Shivprasad BK, 74-year-old Khadku Thapa and another unidentified person died in the landslide. Nine houses were damaged while 27 others are facing the risk of damage. All 164 persons from these 27 houses have shifted to a safer place. The landslide swept away standing crops of rice, maize, millet and 37 heads of buffaloes.

Assistant chief district officer Khem Bahadur Thapa, chief of the district police office Shyam Gyawali, district representatives of Red Cross and Tikuri Sakriya Yuva Samuh conducted an inspection of the disaster site. Assistant CDO Thapa said the landslide had caused damage to the tune of crores of rupees. The landslide also damaged the 18 KW mini-hydel project at Ghattekholra, a suspension bridge and drinking water pipes.

Pyuthan Red Cross minister Govind Rijal confessed that his organisation did not have the immediate wherewithal to provide assistance to the landslide affected people. Pyuthan CDO Tej Prasad Poudel said the administration would rush the first phase of assistance by Monday to the affected area. Fears of an epidemic breaking out in the affected area are looming large. Arkha VDC is the only one in the district that does not have telecom facilities.

(Posted on 27th August, 2007)

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 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)

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

2 students die, 3 feared dead in Rukum

At least two students of Saraswati Lower Secondary School of the district headquarters Musikot of Rukum district drowned while three others remain missing after a boat they were rowing in Syarpu Lake at Bafikot capsized on Sunday.

The missing students are also feared dead. State-owned Radio Nepal put the death toll at five. The two dead students have been identified as seventh grader Asmita Budha and eighth grader Keshav Khadka. Sangeeta BC, Deepa Giri and Kamala Wali were those missing in the Lake. A hundred students of the School had set out for Syarpu Lake for an excursion early morning the same day. The incident site is situated nearly 12 kilometers from the district headquarters.

According to District Police Office, altogether 13 students were in the boat when the accident occurred. According to a local Adarsha KC, the boat capsized as it was overloaded beyond capacity. However, police said the capsizing could have occurred as the water level in the Lake rose due to torrential rain from Saturday night. Police personnel and locals are making frantic efforts to trace and rescue the missing students.

(Posted on 27th August, 2007)

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

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 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)

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)

mainly due to decline in supply, traders said.

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

The price of bitter melon 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.

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.

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.

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

(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.

However, the western Terai 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, Devasthan, 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 Devasthan 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

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

Supported by



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.

"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)

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