



# Disaster Watch - Nepal

A daily newsletter on disaster updates

## Editorial Team

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## Five hundred displaced family in water scarce

A month ago they were awashed by monsoon flood and forced to displace, but now they are struggling for a single drop. Five hundred displaced family of kailali, a farwest district of Nepal, have such a saga.

The flood victims of Bhajani, Thapapur and Lalbojhi VDC of Kailali are staying in a makeshift shelter at Mahunyal Community Forest of Bhajani VDC since a month. They are being deprived of drinking water since the villagers are denying to share limited water source. The availability of water for washing and bathing are far beyond the reach.

The victims have knocked the door of Village Development Committee, a local governing body of village, to install water pumps, but of no avail. VDC secretary replied it is against the law to install water pumps in temporary shelter. They have even tried to install water pumps with their own sources, raising Rs. 25 per family. This attempt too did not succeed as community forest committee refused to provide approval.

*(Posted on 30h August, 2007)*

## Stress on greater Interaction to end blame game

India wants the inundation and flood problems in the Tarai to be sorted out together with Nepal in a pragmatic manner to ensure a "win-win" situation for both the countries.

Javed Asraf, Counsellor (Commercial) at the Indian Embassy said: "We (Nepal and India) need to look for ways to work together, not raise problems." Asraf was talking to journalists on Wednesday about the problem of inundation faced by people of both the sides at an interaction at the Indian Embassy.

Whenever there are floods, the blame game starts, he said. "While people in the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (UP) accuse Nepal, it is vice-versa here. India is blamed for floods in Nepal," he said.

Referring to issues related to the Rasiawal Khurd Lautan dam and the Laxmanpur barrage, he said the issue of floods and inundation should "not be politicised." He suggested that the Nepal government hold a "greater interaction" with the Bihar and UP governments to address the problem in an "integrated approach."

As part of efforts to resolve the problem, Asraf said India is ready to invest some NRS 2 arab (2 billion) to build an embankment in the Kamala river. However, India is yet to get a nod from the Nepali side, he said.

*(Posted on 30th August, 2007)*

## Nepalis in UAE and Qatar donate for flood victims

The Nepali Diaspora in United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar has made

## 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 30th 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 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 relief worker gives money to a flood victim in Digirchar at Rajbari district, 130 km \(81 miles\) from Dhaka. Flood victims in eastern India were eating raw wheat flour to survive as devastating monsoon flooding in South. \(AFP\)](#)

### 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

donations to help the flood victims of Nepal. The Nepalis in Qatar contributed over Rs 640,000 while those in UAE donated over 14,000 in local currency.

According to a statement by Nepali embassies in UAE and Doha, the fund collected from various organisations and individuals in that country has been transferred to the Prime Minister's Emergency Funds.

The Nepali embassy in Qatar had run donation collection campaign for a week during which 39 organisations and 31 individuals donated for this noble cause. A circular was also made in the UAE for donations.

The donors in UAE include Nepalis in Ghantut (632), Nepal Women Society (501), Emirates Newa Pucha (1437) NRNA and Nepali Professional Organisation (9425) and Nepali Samaaj (2377).

*(Posted on 30th August, 2007)*

### Two hundred family are at risk

Two hundred houses at Pasgaun VDC of Lamjung district have been at extreme risk of landslide. A whole Sidthee village is cracked into two portion due to the landslide occurred on Saturday. Feared of possible incident, 15 families have already been displaced.

*(Posted on 30th August, 2007)*

### Expired medicines distributed to flood victims

Medicines crossing expiry date have been distributed at the health camp intend for flood victims in Dhanusha. According to the largest daily newspaper of Nepal, Kantipur, such happened on Saturday during the free health camp at Raghunathpur of Dhanusha district. Dhanusha is one of the worst flood-hit district of eastern terai.

According to the report, health camp was jointly organized by District Public Health Office, Zonal Hospital and Doctor Association. District Public Health Office and Zonal Hospital are fully state run body.

Locals blamed "Idicom plus kid", a children ailment, was distributed inspite having crossed last date of consumption. Some other distributed medicines too were at the end of expiry, merely one week to a month.. During the health camp, medicines were freely distributed. District Public Health Officer Bizaya Kumar Jha, however, refuted the allegation and claimed that those medicines were not distributed.

*(Posted on 29th August, 2007)*

### Flood damaged crops worth 30 million

The Bardiya District Agriculture Office (BDAO) on Tuesday said that floods that ravaged the district in July damaged crops worth Rs 3 crore (30 million), eroded hundreds of bighas of land and damaged roads.

The floods damaged crops, including paddy and maize, worth Rs 1,66,12000 planted in 5,777 hectares of land. It also damaged vegetables wroth Rs 1,50,00000 planted in 15,000 hectares of land. "We have only taken into account the cost of labour, seeds and fertilizers. The figures will definitely go up if the

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

The cases of encephalitis and meningitis viral fever are rapid in Nepalgunj aftermath of flood and inundation. Till now four persons were died of encephalitis and more than 30 were affected. (30th Aug)

As a consequence of flood triggered circumstances, at least 60 persons are affected from viral influenza in Narayan Khola VDC-3 of Sarlahi district. (30th Aug)

cost of the produce is also included," district agriculture publicity officer Shiva Raj Subedi said.

The floods damaged crops planted in 60,000 hectares of land in 31 VDCs and the Gulariya municipality, the BDAO said. "The floods every year have not only eroded land of the farmers, but also covered fertile land with sand," a social worker Govinda Pandey said. Floods in the Karnali and Babai rivers eroded hundreds of hectares of land and damaged roads.

"The farmers lost around Rs 1 crore due to the erosion caused by the floods," technician at the BDAO, Bhanu Bhakta Bhattarai, said. The movement of the people has been affected as the floods damaged the Hulaki road in the district.

"The Babai and Karnali rivers need to be controlled to prevent floods," district president of the Nepali Congress Sanjaya Gautam said. "The government has made no efforts in this regard though a delegation from the district has been visiting Kathmandu every year to draw the government's attention to the problem," he said.

*(Posted on 29th August, 2007)*

## 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.

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)

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)

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 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

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)

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.

landslide also damaged the 18 KW mini-hydel project at Ghattekhola, 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)*

## 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

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.

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.

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.

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

## Asia Watch

### S. Asia Flood Victims Forced to Consume Raw Food

*By Bei Chatlai Beita (Christian Post)*

Victims of South Asia's ruinous monsoon floods were eating raw wheat flour to survive in Bihar and other Eastern states in India, as Christian NGOs sought more generous gifts for the victims.

"Villages in Bihar were eating wheat flour mixed with water due to not being able to cook and the inadequacy of government relief efforts," reported an official. Roads were also blocked and relief camps were looted by angry villagers who demanded more food.

More than 2,000 people have died from snake bites, drowning, diarrhea and house collapses since heaviest monsoon rain said to hit

South Asia in over three decades devastated much of northern India and Bangladesh beginning in July. More than 30 million, meanwhile, have been displaced by massive flooding in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal.

"We are sleeping and eating inside the trucks as there is water everywhere and we have nowhere to go," said Anukul Samanta, a villager in West Midnapore district. Even drinking water has been difficult, he complained.

Christian volunteers and aid agencies that have been serving the flood victims for the past several weeks, have meanwhile been on high alert and are hoping to bolster their relief efforts with financial support from the international community.

According to the latest reports, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) staff and partners in India are responding to an increase in water-borne illnesses in the Indian state of Bihar on the Nepalese border, an area struggling to recover from the worst monsoon flooding in decades.

Nurses in remote health centers are treating more cases of malaria, diarrhea and respiratory infections. Snake bites are also on the rise, and health workers will need larger supplies of anti-venom to prevent victims from dying, reported CRS, the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States.

"There are still so many families who are totally helpless, living on the streets or under trees or in other people's houses," said Denis Baskey, regional director of Caritas Rajshahi in Bangladesh, in a report last Thursday. "They need food, water, medicines. It is quite desperate."

Caritas Internationalis – the confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development, and social service organizations present in

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.

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.

200 countries and territories – has launched appeals totaling nearly \$6 million to assist those affected by the floods in South Asia.

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### Previous Issues

- |                         |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Issue 1 (July 26, 2007) | Issue 11 (Aug 5, 2007)  | Issue 21 (Aug 15, 2007) |
| Issue 2 (July 27, 2007) | Issue 12 (Aug 6, 2007)  | Issue 22 (Aug 16, 2007) |
| Issue 3 (July 28, 2007) | Issue 13 (Aug 7, 2007)  | Issue 23 (Aug 17, 2007) |
| Issue 4 (July 29, 2007) | Issue 14 (Aug 8, 2007)  | Issue 24 (Aug 18, 2007) |
| Issue 5 (July 30, 2007) | Issue 15 (Aug 9, 2007)  | Issue 25 (Aug 19, 2007) |
| Issue 6 (July 31, 2007) | Issue 16 (Aug 10, 2007) | Issue 26 (Aug 20, 2007) |
| Issue 7 (Aug 1, 2007)   | Issue 17 (Aug 11, 2007) | Issue 27 (Aug 21 2007)  |
| Issue 8 (Aug 2, 2007)   | Issue 18 (Aug 12, 2007) | Issue 28 (Aug 22 2007)  |
| Issue 9 (Aug 3, 2007)   | Issue 19 (Aug 13, 2007) | Issue 29 (Aug 23 2007)  |
| Issue 10 (Aug 4, 2007)  | Issue 20 (Aug 14, 2007) | Issue 30 (Aug 24 2007)  |

### Recent Issues

- Issue 31 (Aug 25 2007)
- Issue 32 (Aug 26 2007)
- Issue 33 (Aug 27 2007)
- Issue 34 (Aug 28 2007)
- Issue 35 (Aug 29 2007)

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