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Loss of lives this monsoon

Baglung	24
Bajura	11
Gulmi	11
Salyan	7
Ramechhap	6
Banke	6
Mahottari	6
Dang	4
Sindhuli	2
Dhanusha	2
Rautahat	2
Kailali	2
Siraha	2
Udayapur	2
Chitwan	1
Morang	1
Arghakhachi	1
Bara	1
Saptari	1

Major Displacements

Saptari	10000 family
Siraha	5000 family
Mahottari	3700 family
Bardiya	2500 family
Parsa	2000 family
Sunsari	1000 family
Banke	750 family
Dhanusha	550 family

Total affected population:
 Around 2 lakhs (as of 29th July)

Sources : Media reports/MCN

Snapshots



Water, water, everywhere water, but not a single drop to drink. A swamped village area of Dhanusha. (CDRC/Janakpur)



Indian villagers use a raft made of banana plants to navigate through floodwaters in Dharmaji district, Guwahati. (AFP)

Our Words

Disaster Watch is a joint initiative of Media Consultancy Nepal and ActionAid to stay vigilant and to disseminate accurate and updated information on water induced disaster of Nepal. Due to the primary causes of co-ordination gap, inaccessible to disaster sites, it is always challengeable to acquire appropriate information on disaster.

We would try to surface the prevailing scenarios of the disaster, scale of its hazards, key needs of the affected and at risk people. We would render our best effort to raise the issues behind the scenes such as situation on disaster preparedness, laxity and problems. Disaster Watch will be a peephole to view the disaster landscape of Nepal. We hope this attempt will aware and influence the governmental and non governmental sector actors related with disasters. Similarly, we expect the media professionals will also have an advantage from this website.

We will have privilege on availability of information, pictures and related contents. We seek information, suggestion and feedback from the viewers.

Highlights

- The Central Disaster Relief Committee (CDRC) urged the health ministry to help prevent possible outbreak of epidemics.
- Civil Society Committee would be formed at district level to identify and distribute relief materials.
- Danda dam and embankment unilaterally made by the Indian government inundated 6 VDCs of Rupandehi district.
- An entire Gothgaun village, Ramechhap are suffering from diarrhoea.
- Government warns against water borne and vector borne diseases in flood-hit areas.
- Eight VDCs of Sarlahi are turned into islands deprived of any means of transport due to flooding.
- Hundreds of childrens of more than 12 inundated VDCs of Sunsari are suffering from Pneumonia and gastro-enteritis.
- Nepalgunj is facing a power blackout for the fourth consecutive days.
- Incessant rainfall will continue for more three or four days.
- 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.
- Amidst the monsoon rainfall, the patients of viral fever is surging in Jhapa, Parsa and Saptari districts.

Asia Watch



People wade through a flooded road after heavy rains in the eastern Indian state of Bihar July 25, 2007. (Krishna Murari Kishan/Reuters)

BEIJING, July 27 (Reuters) - More rain is expected to bring further chaos to China's drowned southwest, where many have already lost homes, livelihoods and loved ones. Rescuers dropped relief supplies to hundreds of people in Indonesia's Sulawesi island on Friday after days of torrential rain triggered landslides and floods. About 85 people have died and nearly 8,000 people displaced from their homes in central Sulawesi. A relief official said authorities had not been able to pull out many bodies because of a lack of heavy machinery and equipment.

In China, the toll is far higher, with more than 500 people killed across this country in floods this summer. Meteorologists forecast more downpours for the Guangxi region and the provinces of Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan where floods and related disasters have already taken a heavy toll. "The possibility of landslides and mud and rock flows is high and preventive measures should be taken," the centre said on its Web site(www.nmc.gov.cn). This year's monsoon has also caused widespread flooding in South Asia and Indochina, straining disaster relief agencies.

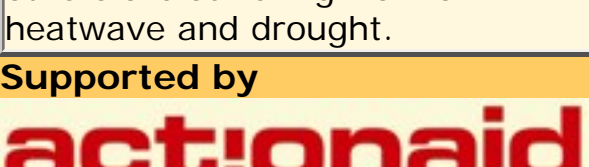
FLOODWATERS SPREAD

In Bangladesh, monsoon floods continued to spread, inundating vast areas in 30 of the country's 64 administrative districts, officials said on Friday. "Thousands of people have been marooned or displaced. We have opened flood shelters at several places and are bracing for the worst," said Ibrahim Khalil, an official in Sirajganj district, one of the worst-hit areas north of the capital Dhaka. Across the border in India, incessant rains over the past week have displaced hundreds of thousands of people in the east and northeast, destroyed crops and damaged bridges, officials said on Friday.

In the eastern state of Bihar, 21 people have died and hundreds of thousands of villagers have seen their houses washed away. Road and rail networks have been disrupted by heavy monsoon rains over the past three days. Rivers in the northeast -- including the Brahmaputra that also flows through Bangladesh -- have burst their banks. Floodwaters have submerged paddy fields and destroyed houses.

"The situation is grim," said Bharat Chandra Narah, flood control minister for Assam state. Weeks of rain in China's mountainous southwest, home to the upper reaches of the Yangtze river, have made floods peak in Wuhan, capital of the central province of Hubei, state media said. Authorities in Hubei had mobilised tens of thousands of people to check embankments as the Han River, a main tributary that converges with Yangtze, was also swollen. But as parts of China battle floods and landslides, others are suffering from a heatwave and drought.

Supported by



Health hazards post disaster

Health hazards are apparently spreading in the disaster hit areas of the country. Snakebites, water-borne diseases (diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid, jaundice, gastroenteritis) and vector-borne diseases (malaria, hepatitis A, E) are the major threats prevailing in mid and western Terai. The Central Disaster Relief Committee have already urged health ministry for immediate remedy.

Salyan, Ramechhap, Arghakhachi are the few of suffering areas of the sudden outbreak of these epidemics. Ironically, the health services and facilities are always been poor there. Prompt deliverances of the health personnel, medicines are utmost required now. The vulnerable population should also be aware on preventive measures. The initiation should be taken to check the quality of food materials, water and sanitation in the disaster prone areas and in makeshift shelter too. The concerned agencies should plan and act to recede prevailing and long term tribulations aftermath of disaster.

More than two lakh population affected

According to the report of Nepal Red Cross Society, flood has affected Far Western District; Kailali, Mid Western Districts: Banke, Bardiya and Dang, Western District; Nawalparasi Eastern Districts: Sunsari and Jhapa and Udayapur and Central Terai Districts: Rautahat, Bara, Parsa, Siraha, Sarlahi, Saptari, Mahottari, Dhanusha, Rautahat whilst landslide has affected Baglung, Jajarkot, Puythan, Ramechhap, Saynga, Shankhuwashaba and Bajura Districts. Preliminary assessment carried out by NRCS DC has recognized that total 213, 127 people reportedly affected through the country. The assessment has highlighted immediate shelter, clean drinking water and food needs. Health issues appeared in two district; Rautahat and Dhanusha and potential to appear in other affected district, if logging continued for more days.

As the rain continued across the nation Monday, health officials voiced concerns about disease spreading through polluted floodwaters. "Due to the high risk of outbreaks of diarrhoea, dysentery and other waterborne diseases, we have asked all health institutions in the area to remain on high alert," said Manas Banerjee, director general of the Epidemiology and Disease Control Department at the Health Ministry.

The government has formed rapid-response teams of doctors to be deployed at the first sign of an epidemic, Banerjee said. Teams of doctors are ready to tackle waterborne disease outbreaks in the sodden plains of southern Nepal.

Relief workers in helicopters were dropping water purification tablets and packets of food to victims stranded by the floods, said Home Ministry official Pratap Kumar Pathak, who was coordinating rescue and relief operations.

Posted on 30th July, 2007

Diseases turned into epidemics

The diarrhoea epidemic that broke out in various villages in Ramechhap, Salyan and Arghakhanchi districts in the wake of recent flashfloods, claimed 12 lives. Five persons in Tilpung and Gothgaun villages of Ramechhap died due to diarrhoea, while over 100 have fallen sick. The condition of two dozen among them is reported to be critical. According to locals, the dead are Gangamaya Karki, Krishnamaya Karki, Sabita Karki of Gothgaun VDC ward-5, and Kaili Shrestha and another unidentified youth of Tilpung VDC ward-1.

Locals who arrived at district headquarters Manthali for the treatment of their sick relatives, said the disease has affected almost all persons in Tapke village of Tilpung VDC. According to health worker Dhruba Magar of Gothgaun, all locals in the village are suffering from the disease that spread three days ago.

Similarly, four more people fell prey to the diarrhoea epidemic in Kalagaun of Salyan district Saturday, taking the death toll in the area to six. The dead have been identified as Kumari Kumai and Durga Budhathoki of ward-9, Gaine Rana of ward-5, Lalmati Budhathoki, a two-year-old child of Ward-4 and wife of one Sarku Jaishi. The disease gradually turned into epidemic after the torrential rain polluted the drinking water source of the village.

In yet another report from Arghakhanchi, one Kamala BK, 28, of Gokhung VDC-7, died due to diarrhoea on Sunday. Hundreds of others in the village have fallen ill. District Hospital sources said that patients of diarrhoea, typhoid, fever and jaundice are on the rise in recent days. Meanwhile, our correspondent from Banke said over 500 persons have fallen sick due to diarrhoea and fever.

Posted on 30th July, 2007

More casualties and ravage: In Jhapa district, 30-year-old Anupa Magar of Rajgarh-6 was swept away by the Bhutni Khola Sunday. In Mahottari district, 54-year-old Banarasi Chaudhari of Badiya's Banchauri-4 died in a house collapse last evening, said the district police office. Ram Sakhi Paswan of Pipra VDC died Sunday when his house collapsed. Kapil Dev Lal Karna of Suda VDC and a 15-day-old infant of Jaleswor died of pneumonia caused by flood waters Sunday.

Rautahat's Saggadha-10 resident Faizul Haque's six-year-old daughter Anjuman Khatun drowned Saturday night in Bakaiya River near her house. Her body was recovered Sunday. A pregnant Shakuntala Devi, 30, of Rampur Khap-4 of Rautahat also died Saturday night when she could not get medical treatment on time, said her husband Ram Kishore Kushwaha. In same district, Ramsakhi Devi, of Pipara VDC ward-3 died due to cold after her house caved in, thus allowing the flood enter the house.

In Bara, Pritam Kumari, the two-year-old daughter of Moti Mahara of Prasauna-9, drowned in a stream last night when water from the flooded Tear Khola swamped the stream. Thousands of families have been displaced due to the floods in Morang, Jhapa, Sunsari, Saptari, Sarlahi, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Rautahat, Bara, Parsa, Nawalparasi, Kapilvastu, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Rupandehi, Udayapur and other districts.

Posted on 30th July, 2007

Five children swept away:

Among the series of tragic incidents, five children of Nawalparasi districts were swept away this morning. All of them belongs to the same family. They were drowned by Ramkhandha Khola of Sanahi VDC and were still missing. Southern VDCs of Nawalparasi are hard hit by the floods.

In another report, torrential rainfall starts to awash Rupandehi district. 75% areas of the Bhairahawa are inundated today.

Posted on 12:30 PM, 29th July

Death numbers increasing: Seven persons sheltering from the rains in Janardan Sharma's house at Phediya in Hasra VDC-7 of hilly Gulmi district were buried alive when a landslide hit the house Saturday noon. An eyewitness Kashi Ram Neupane said they had barely been inside for 10 minutes when a mudslide fell on the house from 30 metres above. Those killed have been identified as Devi Prasad Neupane, Sita Neupane, Saraswati Neupane, Maya Neupane, Durga Neupane, Sabitra Neupane and Radha Gharti, said Gulmi DSP Dilip Chaudhari.

A woman and a man, both unidentified, were swept away at different places in Dang district. In Sindhuli district, Bhes Bahadur Khadka of Ratnawati VDC was swept away by Sunkoshi River Saturday, while Vanarasi Devi of Banchauri VDC died in a house collapse. In Mahottari district, Dular Sada of Jaleswor municipality-11 died when his house collapsed.

Poisonous snakes are being swept into human settlements by the flood waters. On Saturday, Kunji Mahat and Kanchan Mahat of Harminiya, Dhan Bahadur Magar of Kohalpur in Banke district died of snakebite. Durga Chaudhari of Banke's Bankatwa died of snakebite Friday night. In Siraha, Bishnu Mahar, 40, of ward 1 in Majhauilya VDC and Pramod Mukhiya's 8-year-old granddaughter Rinku Kumari were swept away when the Kamala River breached its embankment and swept away houses.

Monsoon misery rampant: The Home ministry Saturday said that the incessant rains in Terai have directly affected about 86,000 persons from 16,000 families. The ministry said a meeting was held among home minister KP Sitaula, UN representatives and other national and international NGOs and decided to cope with the situation collectively. The meeting has decided to provide relief materials to the flood-affected people through Nepal Red Cross Society in coordination with the Natural Calamities Disaster Management Committee.

Thousands of families are displaced, hundreds of houses have collapsed as the Terai region remains inundated. Morang, Sunsari, Saptari, Siraha, Sarlahi, Jhapa, Udaypur, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Bara, Parsa, Rautahat, Rupandehi, Nawalparasi, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Dang and several other districts continue to reel under the impact of floods. Relief materials, drinking water, provisions and medicines are in short supply. Flood-affected people are living in constant fear of epidemics breaking out. Many are already suffering from skin itch and swelling in the legs.

The Maoists combatants of third division cantonment, Chitwan are struggling with illness caused by contaminated water. According to the division, around 700 combatants are affected by fever and diarrhoea. Nepalgunj town is facing an acute shortage of drinking water. All groundwater sources are contaminated. The weather office recorded 205.05 mm of rain here over the past 24 hours. Rescue teams have been unable to provide relief materials to the people trapped across the Rapti river. The whole of town in mid-western Nepal center has been submerged under 5 feet of water due to poor drainage system following torrential rains for days.

A helicopter used by the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) is being used to monitor the situation as the government has been unable to charter choppers for emergency operations so far. Nepal Army has continued its rescue operations and bringing relief packages to the areas most affected by the floods. In a press statement issued Saturday, the NA stated that MI-17 and ALH choppers of the army has been used to distribute 2500 kg of food materials received by Nepal Red Cross, medicine to purify water, utensils made up of plastics and 100 life-jackets for rescue purposes in Dhanusha and Mahottari districts. The army's SKY Truck plane has also been used to rescue flood victims in Nepalgunj. Four boats and 4 boat-drivers have been deployed from the capital to the area, the army's Directorate of Public Relations informed in the statement.

Similarly, the NA forces have been deployed for rescue operations in Dharmapani of Jhapa, Topahama in Saptari, Guhar Jivog of Dang, Suryapatuwa, Karnali bridge, Magaragathi, Babiagaau, Jorigau, Baragadha, Betahani of Bardiya and Bahjani and Thapagau of Kailali.

In Mahottari jail, the 204 prisoners have had nothing but beaten rice to eat for the past two days. A passenger bus bound to Ghorahi from Tulsipur was swept away by flood in Gwar River on Saturday morning. The police and local residents were able to rescue the passengers. In Mahottari district, Ratu, Bighni and Madaha Rivers have affected 30 VDCs, the Natural Disasters Rescue Committee informed.

Similarly, around three thousand houses in nearly a dozen VDCs including Bhuthaha, Narasingh, Satterjhoda in Sunsari district are flooded. Meanwhile, about six houses have been buried under landslides in Parbat district. As the danger of landslides looms large upon the residents of ward number 4 and 5 of Pang VDC, two dozen families have left their homes. A local school building was buried in a landslide in Bhayaladada village in Udayapur district. In Gulmi district, a dozen houses were flooded in Rupakot and Gaudakot VDCs leaving about 50 families homeless. Hundreds of children in more than one dozen VDCs inundated in the wake of incessant rainfall in Sunsari district are suffering from pneumonia and gastro-enteritis.

In Bara district, around 200 people have been rescued by their neighbours at Kailaiya Sunday morning. They are taking shelter at a government building. Eight houses in Margawa VDC are also inundated. Similarly, some houses at some VDCs such as Simara, Raipur and Silautiya in the Marchawar region in Rupandehi district have also submerged.

Around three dozen houses have been submerged in Rupandehi. Eleven more houses have been swept away by flooding Kamal River in Jhapa. Around two hundred houses at Dharampur are at risk, and 45 families have been rendered homeless.

Posted on 29th July, 2007

Landslides killed seven

Landslide killed seven members of a family in Gulmi today. According to the reports, the landslides buried a house of Devi Neupane in Hantara VDC -7 at 1 PM this afternoon. The deceased were reported to be a member of same family. The details are yet to be confirmed.

Posted on 6:00 PM, July 28

Eastern Region: Districts like Sunsari, Morang, Saptari, Siraha, Bara, Rautahat, are the worst hit. Life across the Terai region remained paralyzed for the fifth consecutive day. Security personnel in the region are ready to undertake rescue operations in the stricken areas. A 30-year-old woman was killed Friday when her roof collapsed on her while she was still asleep at Khadihani VDC-4 in Dhanusha district. Similarly, 45-year-old Old Barahau Urau drowned to death in Banigama VDC-3 in Morang and 45-year-old Gyan Bahadur Karki also died when his house was flooded while he was still asleep in Biruwagathi VDC-6 in Parsa. Mukund Upadhyaya, 60, of Saraswar-3 of Siraha district was swept away by the Kamala river Friday as he was returning from Saraswarnath Temple.

In Janakpur, the Kamala River has flooded more than three dozen villages. At least one hundred houses in Mushalman Tol and Mushahar Tol are under water. The swelling Koshi River has encroached on to nearby villages leaving thousands of people stranded. Authorities have opened 35 dam doors of the Koshi river barrage. The Koshi River administration has declared an emergency. More than 1000 households have been waterlogged in Sunsari and more than a dozen industries have been shut down. The torrential downpour has destroyed hundreds of rice fields. Thousands of farm lands have been swept away by the Triyoga River in Udayapur and hundreds have been left homeless. In Rautahat, the Bagmati river swept away three houses at Gadau VDC, caused the collapse of over 300 temporary houses and displaced 30 persons. Over 200 houses collapsed in nine VDCs and Gaur municipality. Relief materials will be distributed there after listing the victims. In Sarlahi, 142 houses were flooded, while 161 houses collapsed, police said. Flood in the Bagmati river has hit 61 houses, including a border police post in Balara VDC-2. In Bara, 11 days of rain has affected 98 VDCs and one municipality. Floods submerged 50 houses in Batara.

A landslide in Madimulkharka village of Sankhuwasava district demolished three houses and displaced 15 persons Friday. A landslide in Thonthong village of Dolakha also displaced 10 households and swept away a primary school building.

Posted on July 28

Mid Region: In Nawalparasi, flood waters from the Narayani river have inundated Guldi, Dewaha, Sehari, Sitapur and Amaltari villages. Floods also swept away houses in Rampur, Khadauna, Bhujahawa, Pratappur and Semari villages. Non-government organisations distributed life-jackets and boats to locals of Sitapur and Sehari VDCs on the banks of the Narayani river. Landslide in Shivapur VDC of Kapilkhola swept away a truck that was heading for Nepalgunj from Butwal at Korchhola Thursday night, the driver and his helper sustained minor injuries.

Western Region: The whole of Nepalgunj town center has been submerged under 5 to 6 ft of water. All educational institutions, power supply, traffic, businesses and government offices have completely closed. Rescue operations have been affected due to lack of relief equipment. All flights from Nepalgunj to the mid and western regions have been halted. The city is facing an acute shortage of food items. Rains and floods caused 101 houses to collapse in Nepalgunj municipality, Kamdi and Bankatwa VDCs. Due to waterlogging, Nepalgunj bazaar is closed and consumer items are in short supply. As power supply has been cut off since Thursday morning, local newspapers in Nepalgunj didn't hit the stands today. FM stations also stopped transmission, while government offices and schools were closed.

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