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Loss of lives this monsoon

Baglung	24
Bajura	11
Gulmi	11
Salyan	7
Mahottari	7
Ramechhap	6
Banke	6
Kailali	4
Dang	4
Udayapur	3
Jajarkot	3
Siraha	3
Sindhuli	2
Dhanusha	2
Rautahat	2
Saptari	2
Jhapa	2
Morang	2
Chitwan	1
Bajhang	1
Sarlahi	1
Arghakhachi	1
Bara	1
Bardiya	1
Tanahun	1

(As of 31st July, 2007)

Major Displacements

Saptari	10000 family
Siraha	6000 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

Disaster Related Reports

- [DM Report \(MCN\) 2006](#)
- [NRCS Bulletin 29th July, 2007](#)
- [Baglung Landslides Report, 2007](#)

Snapshots



Water, water, every where 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 Dhemaaji 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 challenging 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

- Home minister advised the local administration to form an all sided team to carryout relief and rescue operations.
- Flood victims of Banke accused administration on being partial in relief distribution.
- Sixty victim family of Nirdana village, Siraha havenot received any relief materials for five days, as media reports on 1st August.
- Flood victims of Sunsari criticized local bodies for distributing inadequate relief materials.
- Ministry of Health and Population prepared 15 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) to tackle possible disease outbreak in flood hit areas.
- 5000 displaced families of Saptari are severely suffering from hunger and shelter for the last five days.
- Monsoon is moving towards eastern region, according to the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology.
- Residents of Holiya village, Banke demanded to shift themselves as the overflowing Rapti river poses threats.
- Four quintals of beaten rice and buja meant for flood victims were looted by a group in Sunsari.
- 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 diarrheal.
- Government warns against water borne and vector borne diseases in flood-hit areas.
- Hundreds of childrens of more than 12 inundated VDCs of Sunsari are suffering from Pneumonia and gastro-enteritis.
- 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.

Supported by



After deluge, it's famine and disease

Over 1,000 flood victims are suffering from various diseases in Bardiya district.

Doctors said that the victims are falling sick as there is no clean drinking water. An epidemic looms in the district as the flood victims have been drinking polluted water.

Teams of health workers and medicines have not been sent to all the flood-affected areas yet. Around 1,200 victims are suffering from various diseases in the district.

Ninety-five persons are suffering from different diseases in Badhupur village and 95 have fallen victim to the diseases in Suryagadhi village of Mohamadpur village development committee. The diseases that have spread are diarrhoea, typhoid, conjunctivitis, flu, pneumonia and common cold. Five seriously ill diarrhoea and typhoid patients are undergoing treatment in the Bardiya District Hospital.

Even as the chances of the diseases spreading are increasing due to the polluted water, there is shortage of medicine. Of the 23 inundated VDCs and a municipality hit by floods, teams of health workers have reached the Mohamadpur village development committee only.

Flood victims in Bardiya and Banke districts are starving as transportation to many villages remains disrupted. According to local administration, transportation difficulties have left Nepalgunj without any food supply.

Similarly, locals of 11 VDCs in Rajapur Tappu of Bardiya are starving. Although locals in the area are using steamers to cross the Karnali river, the situation in the villages is worse as roadways to nearby cities remain damaged. Mean-while, a large number of locals from Mahammadpur, Suryagaudi and Taduwa are sheltering in makeshift tents along the Gulariya-Nepalgunj road section.

Almost 2,000 locals of Nepalgunj are sheltering in dharmashalas, educational institutes, government offices and hospitals since the last week. Flood victims have been complaining that the local administration is being 'partial' in relief distribution.

Reports from Sarlahi said locals are suffering from diarrhea and fever. A team of Red Cross Society that managed to reach Khairwa VDC on Monday, distributed medicines and relief to flood and disease affected victims.

Likewise, locals in Ilam are also suffering due to lack of commodities as the rainfall has damaged the 15-kilometer-long Damak-Ravi Falgu-nand roadway. According to locals, Luvde, Sakfara, Fuyetappa and Aamchowk VDCs in Ilam and Rabi, Kurumba and Lumba VDCs among others in Panchthar districts are worst-hit due to food scarcity.

The locals of Niguradin VDC-7 in Taplejung district have been staying at their neighbors' homes after landslide damaged their houses. Similarly, landslides also displaced three houses in Aankhivui VDC of Sankhuwasabha district, Monday night.

In Sunsari, flood victims on Tuesday criticized local bodies for distributing 'inadequate' relief materials. However, Chief District Officer Prem Narayan Sharma said the administration has already distributed over 16 quintals of ration to 2,000 displaced locals of Basantapur and Narsingh VDCs. The administration also provided relief to over 700 flood victims of Inaruwa municipality who had launched agitation demanding relief.

In Parsa, Red Cross Society in the district said nearly 330 houses have been displaced so far. According to the Red Cross team's report - Dhobini, Langadi, Jhauwa Guthi, Bindabasini, Mad-hwal, Shrisiya, Prasauni-birta and Prasaunibhatha VDCs, including ward no 15 and 16 of Birgunj municipality were waterlogged till Tuesday. The team also provided relief materials to victims.

In Sarlahi, locals of Sakarpura VDC have started repairing the Bhim barrage on Khado River after two weeks of rainfall ceased on Tuesday. Earlier, nearly 2,500 households in Sakarpura, Rampura Malhaniya, Launiya and Tilathi VDCs were displaced after the river wrecked the barrage. (Posted on Aug 1, 2007)

Three swept away

Two persons were swept away on Monday night in Kailali district, while the body of a 50-year-old man, who was swept away by Khadam river was recovered from Kerabari in Morang on Tuesday. The police said Nain Singh Bohara, 55, of Laibojhi VDC-9 and three-year-old Akash Chaudhary of Thapapur VDC-6 died after being swept away by flood in Kailali district on Monday night.

Altogether 67 families at Ward No 9 of Thapapur VDC, surrounded by Kandra and Kanda rivers, have been awaiting rescue from the rooftops of their houses and trees and most of them are starving.

Meanwhile, five members of a family in Gonarpura VDC-5 of Mahottari district were injured when their house collapsed. Seventy-five-year-old Bartu Devi was seriously injured. The injured are receiving treatment at a local health post, police said. (Posted on Aug 1, 2007)

Trickling respite but challenges ahead

As the rainfall subsidizes, the country has witnessed some respite while comparing to the previous days, but floods and landslides continue to wreak havoc across the country. Five more deaths reported on Monday. Health organisations and officials have warned that water borne diseases and epidemics could bring the already rising death toll higher. Various disaster-stricken areas are facing acute shortage of drinking water.

In Saptari district, Kaili Khangaki, 12, of Gobargadha VDC-7 drowned in the Koshi river on Sunday. The girl had gone to set free cattle tied to a rope after seeing the water level rising. Min Bahadur Tamang, 47, of Vyash Municipality-10, Tanahun died on Monday morning. His body still remains missing.

Similarly, sixty year old Patiraj Devi Singh of ward number 5 of Manara VDC in Mahottari district also died after she got drowned on a submerged field in the village Monday. In Morang district, a 50 year old man was swept away by the Khadam River Sunday evening. Similarly, another man was swept away when a dam at Bhangalo Gerua River broke in Bardiya on Monday.

In Chitwan, a teacher, Badri Narayan Tiwari, was swept away by Rewa Khola in Sitalpur Madi. Meanwhile, three other persons swept away by the River were rescued by Nepal Army personnel. Two policemen involved in a rescue operation at ward number 3 of Khalanga VDC in Jajarkot got injured when they tried to pull out people trapped inside a house that had collapsed following a mudslide in the village. Both of them are in a critical condition.

Residents of Panchthar have been facing an acute shortage of drinking water for the last three days after landslides swept away the water supply pipe. Disaster Relief Committee of Mahottari on Monday requested the government to declare the district a flood-affected area, claiming that almost 90 percent of the land surface has been flooded.

Two villages in Siraha district still remain in the grip of flood as they are without any means of communication. Locals of 15 other VDCs came into contact after those areas saw sunny weather early Monday.

In Bardiya district, a dam has broken down leaving hundreds of houses waterlogged in the villages including Churephatuwa, Thakurdwara, Neulapur. Nepal Army personnel have been mobilized in the affected areas. The Bardiya National Park area has been flooded. Likewise, flooded Bakraha River has affected 60 houses of Govindapur and 24 houses of Bardhunga. An overflowing Ratuwa River has affected villages including Itahar, Rajghat and Chiduwa and swept away paddy fields in Mahadeva. (Posted on 31st July)

Nepalgunj towards normalcy

Nepalgunj seemed to retuning to normal after the rain abated on Monday. Transport services and business resumed in the town almost after five days. The power supply has resumed today after four days. But the people here are suffering lack of safe drinking water.

Water supply could not be resumed hitherto as the floods had swept away water pipe lines. According to the local authorities, it would take a few more days to normalize city's water supply system. The Banke district administration distributed water to the locals from two water tankers that were sent from the capital to the area. Security personnel have been deployed to clear the sewage system.

Meanwhile, the residents of Holiya village demanded that they should be shifted to safer places as the overflowing Rapti river seemed to burst into the nearby villages. They submitted a memorandum to the local bodies, District Development Committee, among others and urged the government to release funds for their settlement in safer places. (Posted on 31st July)

Health hazards post disaster

Health hazards are apparently spreading in the disaster hit areas of the country. Snakebites, water-borne diseases (diarrhea, 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, Arghakhacchi 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. (Posted on 30th July, 2007)

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, Mahhotari, Dhanusa, 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 Dhanusa 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 diarrheal 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 diarrheal, 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 Kall 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 Tapkte village of Tilpung VDC. According to health worker Dhruva 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 diarrheal 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, and wife Rana of ward-5, Lalmati Mahathoki, a two-year-old child of Ward-1 and a girl 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 diarrheal on Sunday. Hundreds of others in the village have fallen ill. District Hospital sources said that patients of diarrheal, 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 diarrheal 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 of Suda VDC and a 15-day-old infant of Jaleshwor died of pneumonia caused by flood waters Sunday.

Rautahat's Sapagadha-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 Pipra 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 Sapauna-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, Udaypur and other districts. (Posted on 30th July, 2007)

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