

Nepal: Flood 2017

Office of the Resident Coordinator Situation Report No. 1

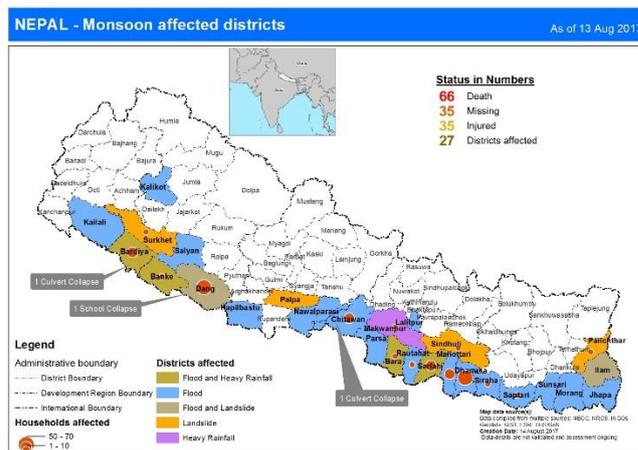
(as of 14 August 2017)



This report is produced by the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Nepal in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 11 August 2017 to 14 August 2017.

Highlights

- Beginning on 11 August 2017, the worst rains in 15 years struck Nepal, triggering widespread large-scale flooding and landslides in 27 of the country's 75 districts.
- Search and rescue efforts have been initiated in all affected districts. A total of 8,300 trained security forces (5,600 Nepal Police, 1,700 Armed Police Force and 1,000 Nepal Army) as well as 700 civil servants have been deployed.
- The full extent of the disaster is not yet known. Many affected areas remain inaccessible due to damaged roads and bridges, while Biratnagar airport in the east of is completely inundated.
- While heavy rains have subsided, warnings remain in place for the East Rapti, West Rapti, Babai and Ruikhola (Madi) basins, and moderate to heavy rains are forecast on 16-17 August 2017.



66

Dead

35

Missing

35

Injured

Situation Overview

Beginning on 11 August 2017, Nepal experienced its worst rains in 15 years, resulting in large-scale impacts on lives, livelihoods and infrastructure across 27 of Nepal's 75 districts: Panchthar, Illam, Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusa, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bar, Parsa, Chitwan, Makwanpur, Lalitpur, Sindhuli, Nawalparasi, Palpa, Kapilbastu, Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Surkhet, Salyan and Kalikot. As of 14 August 2017 (11:00 local time) the National Emergency Operations Centre has reported that 66 people are known to have died, 35 people remain missing and 35 have been injured.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) authorities estimate that hundreds of thousands of people have been affected across the country. The population of the affected districts totals approximately 11.5 million, however, the exact number of people in need of assistance is not yet known. Initial Rapid Assessments (IRA) have been triggered in at least three affected districts in the west of the country - (Dang, Banke and Bardiya) - where Assessment and Coordination Teams (ACT) have been deployed.

Search and rescue efforts have been initiated in all affected districts, with a total of 8,300 trained security forces (5,600 Nepal Police, 1,700 Armed Police Force and 1,000 Nepal Army) as well as 700 civil servants deployed. Helicopters, motorboats, rafts, rope and tubes have been used to rescue people and evacuate them to safer locations. MoHA's National Emergency Operation Centre Command Force has been established and will run 24 hours a day, led by MoHA Joint Secretary and Senior Police Officers.

A Cabinet Meeting held on 13 August 2017 decided to provide NRs. 200,000 (approx. US \$2,000) to those who have lost family members in the floods and landslides. MoHA has also mobilized its stockpiles from its emergency warehouses, and District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs) in all affected districts and are continuing to provide immediate food support to the affected population. In Bardiya, newly elected government officials have provided assistance to 25,000 people in various locations.

While the heavy rains have subsided, warnings remain in place for the East Rapti, West Rapti, Babai and Ruikhola (Madi) basins. The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology is forecasting moderate to heavy rains for 16-17 August 2017, but not as heavy as those observed over the past three days.

This emergency comes at a time when Nepal is still struggling to recover from the 2015 earthquake, and when much reconstruction and recovery work remains to be done. Five of the current flood affected districts are also earthquake affected districts. Additionally, four of the current flood affected districts were affected by large scale flooding in 2014, and have yet to fully recover.

The impact of the current floods could be exacerbated by pre-existing social and economic disparities. Some of the affected districts are among the lowest scoring on the Human Development Index (HDI) in the country. Experience from the 2014 floods that affected Banke, Bardiya, Dang and Surkhet (all among current affected districts) indicates that in districts where malnutrition is already a concern, the onset of such an emergency can have a sudden and severe impact on malnutrition rates, as within a matter of weeks following the 2014 floods, the General Malnutrition Rate in these districts had increased by 15-20 percent.

Funding

Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) has released NRs. 19.5 million (approximately US \$200,000) for the relief and rescue operations. A number of private sector actors have come forward to pledge their support including NRs.10 million from the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI); NRs.10 million from Sesh Ghale, Chair of Non-Resident Nepali Association; and NRs. 2.5 million from Buddha Air. These private sector contributions to the relief efforts total approximately US \$225,000.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) has released a disaster relief fund of CHF 500,000 (approx. US \$515,000).

As of 14 August, the total funds pledged to the flood response is approximately US \$940,000.

Humanitarian Response



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- The CCCM Cluster is awaiting data from the Initial Rapid Assessments and plans to carry out a detailed assessment as soon as search and rescue is completed.

Response:

- Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) has developed a workplan with technical support requested for design and layout of emergency shelters and camp management. The division offices of DUDBC have been assigned to identify safer locations and create the environment for the safe relocation of displaced population.
- The CCCM cluster is on standby to be mobilized for camp set up and management in coordination with other cluster members if and as needed.



Education

Needs:

- Initial Rapid Assessments are still ongoing to determine needs across the country.

Response:

- UNICEF and Save the Children, together with the Department of Education, have activated the Education Cluster and its contingency plan. The Cluster meeting is planned for 15th August.
- All schools in Mahottari, Parsa and Saptari Districts are closed until 16 August due to floods.
- It is reported that schools are being used as temporary shelters for affected people. No confirmed numbers have been received yet.

- Education Cluster Meeting at Mahottari held 14 August. Regional Education Directorate advised District Education Officers to activate the district education cluster, to assess situation and implement the response plan in a coordinated way.



Emergency Telecommunications

Needs:

- Connectivity:
 - Optical fibre is damaged causing interruptions to internet service in affected areas.
 - Both Nepal Telecom and Ncell are suffering from the Nepal Electric Authority blackout in the eastern regions that will continue to affect site availability in coming days if not improved.
 - Coverage through Nepal Telecom and Ncell is progressing each hour as their teams are deployed in all the affected areas, mostly Biratnagar, Rajbiraj and Itahari.
 - Nepal Telecom landlines in the eastern regions are operational since 13 August evening.
 - Ncell mobile network is currently available in all regions, but with limited sites.
- Power:
 - There has been no power in the eastern districts for the past three days, including Biratnagar, Itahari and Rajbiraj. Teams visiting the affected areas are advised to carry portable solar chargers or battery packs.



Food Security

Needs:

- Assessments are still ongoing to determine food needs across the country.

Response:

- Food security cluster meeting took place on 13 August. Regional Agriculture Directors, in Kathmandu at the time of the floods, provided an overview of losses in their respective regions.
- An assessment team has been formed, comprising of Ministry of Agriculture and Development, Department of Agriculture, Nepal Agriculture Research Council, FAO, WFP and one representative from I/NGO. This team will visit the most severely affected districts and finalize a report by 19 August.
- Ministry of Agriculture Development is planning a Post-Flood Needs Assessment for livelihood recovery.
- Nepal Food Corporation is planning to provide food packages (30 kg rice, 1 liter oil, 1 kg salt, 2 kg beans) to 50,000 families, with WFP logistics support. The Nepal Food Corporation currently has 215,000 quintal tonnes of rice stock in warehouses across the country.



Health

Needs:

- Health facilities in Jaleshowor, Mahottari (District headquarters) and Fattepur, Banke have been completely inundated.
- Health needs across the affected areas are still being assessed. Water-borne diseases are a major concern.

Response:

- Coordination teams formed at the central level for the evaluation and analysis of the current scenario.
- Rapid Response Teams (district and community-levels) mobilized and dispatched to affected areas.
- Teams from Epidemiology and Diseases Control Division (EDCD) mobilized and dispatched.
- Coordination in the affected districts is led by EDCCD and National Health Emergency Operation Centers to maintain a database of information for necessary action. WHO staff are supporting EDCCD and with EDCCD, is monitoring possible disease outbreaks.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access remains the greatest constraint in assisting the affected population.



Logistics

Needs:

- In the east of the country the Biratnagar airport (in Morang district) is completely inundated and likely to remain closed for the coming days.
- Major roads between Kathmandu and the eastern and central Tarai have been obstructed or damaged and remain closed for the most part.
- While the Nepalgunj airport is open in the west of the country, roads between Nepalgunj and Bardiya district headquarters, as well as Dang district headquarters are cut off.
- In most areas, overland access to rural areas is impossible.

Response:

- Logistics cluster is mapping access and has vehicles ready to be deployed once roads are open.



Nutrition

Needs:

- Initial Rapid Assessments ongoing to determine needs across the country.

Response:

- The cluster meeting held on 13 August 2017 Child Health Division (CHD), Department of Health Services (DoHS), Ministry of Health (MoH) jointly with UNICEF and other cluster members have activated the national Nutrition Cluster and its contingency plan.
- Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) deployed three teams for Initial Rapid Assessment, to Mid and Far-western Terai, Central Terai and Western Terai. Nutrition cluster deployed an additional four cluster members from different agencies. The team will report initial results by 16 August.
- Nutrition cluster meeting reviewed the emergency nutrition contingency stocks/supplies and identified specific gaps.



Protection

Needs:

- Anecdotal information from the field indicates that a significant number of pregnant and lactating mothers, disabled and other vulnerable groups are affected.

Response:

- National level Protection Cluster met on 13 August. The Department of Women and Children (Cluster lead) has requested all District Women and Children Offices in the affected areas to activate the Protection Clusters and send situation updates. District level Protection Cluster meetings will be conducted as soon as possible.
- Safe houses have been identified to provide temporary shelter and food support particularly pregnant women, lactating women and other vulnerable women in Dang.
- UNICEF and UNFPA are mobilizing their staff and prepositioned stocks.
- UNFPA has the following prepositioned supplies: 18,240 dignity kits in Kathmandu; 200 dignity kits in each of the 2 regional support offices in the affected areas, Dang and Janakpur.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Request for warm clothes, including blankets for children, women and other vulnerable population.
- Protection of vulnerable groups including prevention of GBV, psychosocial support and ensuring the sexual and reproductive health needs of displaced people challenging due to inadequate information.



Shelter

Needs:

- According to Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) an estimated 6,247 families have been displaced while 27,861 families have been affected.

Response:

- Shelter Cluster Nepal meeting was held on 13 August 2017.
- 18 NFI sets and 165 tarpaulins distributed in affected districts by 351 trained NRCS volunteers. 500 tarps and 265 blankets have been handed over to Morang DDRC for distribution, 1000 NFI sets being sent to affected areas in Rautahat.
- DUDBC to provide the technical support to identify the safe open spaces, analyse and coordinate to distribute the NFIs and shelter kit in coordinated manner. DUDBC has provided a focal person to the districts where there is no DUDBC division office.
- Prepositioned stockpiles in affected districts are being mapped and shared with DUDBC to be shared with MOHA and DDRCs. Current in-country stockpiles include: 48,900 NFIs, 31,697 tarpaulins, 5,350 shelter kits, 139 tents.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Available stockpiles of NFIs and tarpaulins in various warehouses are impossible to distribute due to damaged roadways leading to inaccessibility of affected population.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene****Needs:**

- Total beneficiary needs are unclear as Initial Rapid Assessments are still ongoing.

Response:

- WASH Cluster meeting was held on 13 August chaired by the Ministry of Water Supply and Sanitation. WASH Cluster and its contingency plan have been activated.
- District Support Agency (DSA) identified to support the Water Supply and Sanitation Division Office for WASH response coordination and information management.
- Coordination teams for response have been formed at the national, regional and district levels.
- WASH Cluster has stockpiles to cover 36,000 families supported by WASH cluster members.
- Initial batches of supplies have been moved to the affected districts including hygiene kits, soap, aqua tablets, water flocculation and disinfectant powders, buckets, tarpaulins and bed nets.

General Coordination

The Government of Nepal Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) is leading the response efforts and has activated the cluster system and the Emergency Response Preparedness plan. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has been activated in support of the government response to fill gaps where needed, and the Resident Coordinator's Office is coordinating. MoHA has instructed all districts to activate the Initial Rapid Assessment process, and assessments are ongoing in at least three districts. District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs) are activated and meeting regularly to coordinate response in all affected districts. District Lead Support Agencies (DLSAs) are supporting district level coordination.

The floods are set against the backdrop of political change across the country. In 19 of the flood affected districts newly formed local bodies and representatives have recently been deputed. In eight of the flood affected districts in the Central Tarai local elections are pending, and currently scheduled for September 2017.

Background on the crisis

Beginning Friday, 11 August 2017 Nepal has experienced its worst rains in 15 years, resulting in large scale impacts on life, livelihood and infrastructure across 27 of Nepal's 75 districts: Panchthar, Illam, Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusa, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bar, Parsa, Chitwan, Makwanpur, Lalitpur, Sindhuli, Nawalparasi, Palpa, Kapilbastu, Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Surkhet, Salyan and Kalikot. This emergency comes at a time when Nepal is already struggling to recover from the 2015 earthquake, with much reconstruction and recovery work still to be done. Five of the current flood affected districts are also earthquake affected districts, while four of the current flood affected districts were affected by large scale flooding in 2014, and have yet to fully recover.

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