
Koshi Floods
Saptari Situation Brief nr. 11
10 September 2008, (as of 10:00 am)

Background

On 18 August, the Koshi River broke through an Eastern retaining wall roughly 10 kilometers north of the Koshi barrage. Shreepurjavdi and Shreeharipur, and portions of Lohaki and Kusahapaschim VDCs in Sunsari District have been completely flooded. The East-West Highway is currently impassable and there are displaced families living along the non-flooded portion of the highway, along the embankment wall and in Neighboring VDCs in Saptari District. Temporary settlements along the Western side of the highway and the embankment are only accessible from Saptari district.

Affected Population

People from Paschim Kausha, Shreepur, Laukhani and Haripur from Sunsari District.

Assessments

- Joint IRA by Oxfam, Caritas and partners.
- Rapid assessment by NRCS completed on 27 August.
- Joint household survey by Oxfam, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP and their partners. Draft results were shared on 31 August. The assessment covers details on disaggregated population by age and sex, place of origin, PLW and special needs, and livestock.

Displacement

- 3365 families (NRCS, as of 27 Aug)
- The total no. of displaced families as per DDRC record is 3260 and the total population affected is 21,140.
- A recent household level survey carried out by Oxfam, UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA puts the total number of displaced at 4,022 families (31 August) composed of 27,812 persons
- It is difficult to access the total displaced households as there is a large influx of affected people from Birpur, Lalpur and Fatehpur in India, whose actual number is unknown. The new registration to be done by NRCS and camp management volunteers is likely to give a more accurate figure.

Registration of the Displaced

Overview

For the first response a temporary registration card was used that was distributed to all the affected people within 5 days ("white card" distributed by NRCS). Because of abuse of the card it was abandoned and replaced by a permanent registration card ("yellow card").

Relevant details

Till date, 162 nepali victims have got the registration and provided the ration cards. Where as 72 Indian victims have got their registration. No card is going to be issued to Indian victims but their names are got registered in separate register and they are liable to receive the relief materials.

Issues:

- Registration work is slow as it takes time for filling some formats, asking information, tally with voter list and confirming their names and details with any legal id cards like : citizenship, driving license, land holding certificate, senior citizenship card etc.
- NRCS said that the registration work is not the NRCS task only it should be completed by involving more and more manpower and continuous presence of administration personnel throughout the distribution work.

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- Lack of proper transportation facility to drop and pick up the registration team at campsites.
 - Continues security support is required from administration side.
 - Government's monitoring team is doing monitoring only. It is analyzed that this team should be actively mobilized in campsite and functioned there.
 - Some Indian victims are asking about the card distribution for them.

Suggestions:

- CDO committed to support the security to the registration team. Don't wait for the registration only and distribute the relief as per needs;
- Oxfam suggest that the involvement of camp management committee members in registration work may be the helpful as manpower support. It is requested to I/NGOs to overview their budget and provide such supports from the organization side to make easy and quick registration.

Assistance to people from India

In The current policy of the government is not to issue official beneficiary cards to Indian nationals. However the CDO supports the approach of the UN and I/NGOs to assisting the displaced from India on humanitarian grounds based on a temporary beneficiary card.

Updates from central level-Kathmandu dd. 10/09/2008

- First CCCM cluster meeting held with active participation of all clusters (except health). Meeting discussed standards and tools, sector-specific support at camp level, priority camps, and liaison with government on resettlement issues.
- Logistics plans being finalised for inter-agency assessment mission, with agencies committing staff members and vehicles. Staff to arrive in the field tomorrow for full-day training on Sept 12th. Assessment to start on Sept 13th and to run for 5 days.
- OCHA public situation report no. 8 on Koshi floods to be disseminated globally today
- Cluster lead agencies liaising with cluster partners to develop sectoral flood response plan (due for submission on Sept 15th)

Updates from the CDO (Chief District Officer dd. 10/09/2008

- The CDO was briefed on the structure of the daily inter-cluster coordination meeting and informed that the co-chairing of the meeting by his secondment was valued positively. His secondment is the focal point for information sharing with the government.
- A Nepali translation of the most important parts of the daily situation brief will be provided to the CDO. The CDO said he could arrange for the Nepali version to be typed.
- On the issue of registration of the displaced, the CDO said that it would not be possible to have multiple teams doing the registration due to possible duplication. He, however, agreed to have the displaced be issued temporary beneficiary cards so that relief distribution can continue until the registration can be completed.
- On the issue of accountability the CDO said that the government was transparent and all relief received is being stored in 4 warehouses. All the relief that goes out from the government is channeled through NRCS who keeps track on the relief items.
- The CDO was informed about the up coming of the inter agency assessment and welcomed it.
- The CDO requested relief agencies to immediately provide shelter, food, cooking utensils, water and sanitation facilities to the displaced.
- The CDO agreed with the commitment to remove and burn the second hand clothes that are on the streets.

Cluster Updates

Health (WHO, CONCERN, MSF, SC Alliance, UNFPA, UNICEF)

Overview

Current Situation, Response and Needs

- The number of beds in Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital has been increased to meet the need.
- Additional doctors that had arrived from Kathmandu will be returning on 11 September, which will create a gap in the provision of health services.
- A joint surveillance is being carried out by EDCD/DPHO and WHO.
- There has not been any mortality in the health facilities; causes of deaths elsewhere are being kept track of.
- Disinfectant needed at the hospital and 2 medical camps. UNICEF will discuss to address this issue.
- Monitoring of health services are being carried out by UNICEF and UNFPA.
- Overall health situation appears to be improving day by day.

Future Plans or Developments

- Government plans to set up a 15-20 bed temporary hospital in Bhardaha

Constraints and Relevant Remarks

- Shortage of medical staff after doctors that arrived from Kathmandu go back. Need additional doctors, nurses and paramedics; and medical equipment such as x-ray machine.
- Infrastructure at the health camps need to be improved.
- Issues of easy access to health camps from the temporary shelters – possibly run a rickshaw ambulance service.

Relevant health details

- No. of doctors and beds are increased so far to respond the upcoming patients in zonal hospital. But the doctors arrived from the Kathmandu are available till 11th September only. It is question about how the gap of doctors could be fulfilled?
- Surveillance is done by WHO and DPHO. Where as monitoring is done by jointly UNICEF and UNFPA.
- No any mortality case is found so far in health centers.
- Overall health situation is in improving trend day by day. E.g. diarrhea cases are decreased for last days.
- There will be measles campaign very soon in camp areas;
- MSF is setting up cholera treatment unit in spur side.
- It is observed that WASH cluster should do work in depth in cholera found areas for not further spreading. Up to now 4 cholera positive cases found in Koshi Barrage health unit.

Shelter (Oxfam)

Overview

- The displaced are living in a total of 23 shelter locations/settlements in 9 schools, 2 public buildings and 12 temporary settlements. A map of the camp locations is available by OCHA/UNDAC office.
- The number of the displaced living with host families remains unknown.
- According to the Chief District Officer (CDO), possible relocation of IDPs from the spur areas to a new location is no longer a priority and will be considered only once there is a need.
- All together 2688 camps have been completed by Oxfam.

Relevant shelter details

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- There is a local pressure from Bhardah VDC to make the camps in western side more and having the involvement of locals in the work, too. Due to that pressure, Oxfam focused its work in eastern side.

Issues :

- Administration assured for provide the security in Bhardah site for making the camps (Koshi Colony area). As soon the security is provided, Oxfam committed for making camps there.
- In western canal, there is still bamboo set but no tarpaulin is provided so far. There is requirement for tarpaulins.

Food and Nutrition (WFP, NRCS, DEPROSC, CONCERN)

Overview

Current situation, response and needs

- WFP is currently replenishing their stocks and with that has enough food available for another 3 months as on the official request of the government..
- The distribution system is set up and recently there where no concerns with the distribution.
- Food has been distributed to around 4927 families out of initial target of 4,300 families. Distribution is continuing on demand of specific areas.
- WFP is ready and able for the next round of distribution if registration has been done. Distribution will be based on head count.

Future plans or developments

- CONCERN is monitoring the situation in schools.

Constraints and relevant remarks

- Double distribution is not confirmed by WFP.

Relevant food and nutrition details

- All together 4927 families have received 15 days food ration till 9th September;
- Yesterday, 493 families have received 15 days food ration.
- There is a plan to distribute the food in camp C and D today.
- WFP is providing the food in following camps :
 - 4 camps (A,B,C,D)
 - 4 schools (Barmajhiya, Badgama, Portaha and Joginiya). 4 schools are covered by 4-days dry ration.

Issues: (raised by government monitoring team member)

- There is no any food distribution done sofar in Lilja Rastriya Primary School, Hanuman nagar there 21 Indian victims are living.
- Rice is not available in Joginiya school.
- 7 bags of rice was taken away by tractor, yesterday by the labor; it is doubt that is that WFP distributed rice or wage of the labor ?
- 10-15% of victims have only received tarpaulin so far. The distribution of tarpaulin is late.
- Due to lack of fire wood for cooking, people are bond to cook food by digging the ground and using stones as cooking stoves. There is a requirement of fire wood to cook food in camp sides.
- DDRC/CDO has distributed 120 quintal of rice so far but its record is not shared yet about where and who got this rice.
- NRCS, Kathmandu has provided 108 quintal beaten rice and 120 quintal rice to DDRC, Saptari but its distribution status is not shared yet.

Suggestion:

- CDO suggested that the matter of food distribution details will be shared very soon .

More details to be found in the minutes of the cluster meeting. Available with the cluster leads or the OCHA/UNDAC office.

NFI (Non Food Items)

Overview

Current situation, response and needs

- 2221 families are covered by NFI items so far.
- NFI items for other 1144 families are available in stocks.

- NFI items for 970 families still in need .
- 500 cooking utensils for schools are still in need
- Firewood needs are to be figured out with Oxfam and Caritas

Future plans or developments

- 200 families will be covered by NFI items on 10.09.08
- Mobilization of a new staff will take place in 2 days.(22 staff member will be replaced by 27)
- Monitoring the situation and distribution planning are going on.

Constraints and relevant remarks

- 5000 shelterboxes suppose to be provided under the appeal of NRCS HQ in coordination with IFRC for both regions (Saptari and Sunsari) soon (to be confirmed).

Relevant NFI details

- Till 9th September: 2221 family package is distributed and there is 144 families package in stock.
- The target is to distribute 1400 package more.
- Save the children is committed to provide 1000 family package then the target will be fulfilled.
- The plan for today is to distribute 200-300 family packages in camp D.

Issues :

- The relief distribution is in continuous process though victims used to say that nothing they have received, nothing happened when the outside visitor, official ask the victims during their visit.

Suggestion :

- If the camp management committee members are involved in relief distribution in camp then it would be better for proper accountability and clear pictures of relief distribution.

More details to be found in the minutes of the cluster meeting. Available with the cluster leads or the OCHA/UNDAC office.

WASH (Participation from Oxfam, CONCERN, UNICEF, WSSDO, RRN, SABAL, DWSS, CARITAS, Save the Saptari)

Overview

Total Hand pumps installed 188 (UNICEF= 94 & Concerned= 94 A,B, C,D,E)
Total Toilet Constructed 100 (UNICEF= 32 & CONCERNED= 68 in A camp)
Total Ladies Bathroom 61 (UNICEF= 17 & CONCERNED= 44)

Garbage Pits 17 (UNICEF=17)

Note : tubes are reinstalled and well development activities are continuous where there is a problem of depth less than 22 Fts .

from CONCERN world wide 355 HH first round visit completed regarding sanitation promotion and .
Continuous miking / message delivered in the camps. 74 ORS distributed.

Regarding UNICEF Continuous miking / message deliver through village facilitators and volunteers in camp B, D and spurs areas.

Village facilitators visited House to house for hygiene promotion and sanitation activities.

Environmental Sanitation: Collection of garbage and fyniel spray .

Relevant WASH details

- Till date , 188 tubewell installed; 100 toilet constructed; 61 bathing space made; 70 garbage kit established; plastic bucket distributed for 600 families; hygiene kits distributed for 1870 families.
- Target: 300 tube well; out of that 200 tube well is finalized and 100 tube well is still gap???
- Awareness campaign, door to door visit, spraying of anti mosquito medicines etc are continued.
- It is observed that the diarrhea cases are in decreasing order; it may be due to the WASH services.
- Nets, lights, mats are distributed for 42 families by Save the Saptari / local NGO supported by CARITAS. Its next target is to install 100 tube well and 400 toilet..

Issues:

- Old cloths are not under distribution as victims don't like this; and distributed old cloths are found fallen scattered way;

Suggestion:

- Administration advised for not to distribute old cloths and suggested to WASH cluster to arrange for collection of scattered old clothes and burnt it at safe place.

EDUCATION (Participation from DEO, Save the Children, UNICEF)

Overview

To be obtained by tomorrow

Relevant details

- There is plan to establish 30 safe space for children of victim families. Agreement is done for making such safe space between DEO and UNICEF, Save the Children.
- Out of 30 safe space (20 will be done by UNICEF, 10 will be done by save the children).
- The training for safe space is going on for the facilitators who will work for such activity.
- There are 9 schools where flood victims are living now. DEO wants to re start the school from 1st Aswin 2065 B.S.
- For re start the school, the victims should be transferred to the other site. Some victims are going to the camps made by Oxfam and there is still need some tarpaulin for making camps for such transferred people.
- There is still some cloths packed in two rooms in Bhardah Secondary school, which should be removed before re start the school.

Issues :

- PABSON, Saptari has to coordinate with DEO for avoid the duplication of works in the camp site. As Save the Children is also working there.

Protection (WDO, UNICEF, UNFPA, Save the Children Alliance, CARE)

Overview

Current situation, response and needs:

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- Total 1 psycho social counselor for TPO and 2 psycho social worker from partner NGO of Save the children is working;
 - 7 rape case information received so far but all are found as falls during cross checking;
 - Ladies police is required in protection cluster meeting;
 - CDO agrees to increase the female police in patrolling of camps.

Future plan or developments:

- Child protection monitoring team formation having 13 persons hired from community. UNICEF, Save the children and WDO will support for this.

Constraints and relevant remarks:

- No place for safe space programme.
- Standard area for safe space is 12' X 18' which is likely to be available at every 10-20 camps where 30 children can do study.
- Less priority is given to the safe space by working partners.

Relevant details

- There is only one psycho social counselor working in camp site that is not enough to complete the tasks.
- It is requested to WOREC, TPO to support some psycho social counselor and worker more for such tasks. There psycho social workers should be aware about the local know how of Saptari.
- Save the children have made available of 2 psycho social worker through its partner NGO.
- As per yesterday protection cluster meeting, WDO is agreed to monitor the victims with UNICEF team from today onward.
- UNICEF has released certain budget from central level for supporting the child monitoring team which works for the victim children.

Agriculture and livestock (DLSO):

- The number of affected animals is assessed to be 37 835 (large and small).
- There are 5 mobile teams for vaccination and treatment available at Balanda.
- Till date : total vaccination – 5387, total treatment – 588, total injured animals found – 197, total scads animals – 2026
- There is a shortage on vaccines and medicines
- There is a shortage of food for the animals (land to graze)
- A epidemic outbreak is expected.
- There is a risk of zoonotic diseases (transfer from animal to human)