

**This situation report is based on information received from UN Agencies and humanitarian partners, government sources, and OCHA staff based in Sunsari and Saptari Districts.**

### Key Highlights

- **Verification process almost complete in Sunsari but Indian nationals have yet to be included**
- **Embankment Repair works underway, completion expected in March 2009**
- **25 – 50% displaced families return to Shirpur VDC, parts of Haripur VDC see 10% return, emphasising the need for a comprehensive returns program**
- **Serious concerns about WASH conditions**

### I. Situation in Sunsari and Saptari Districts, Eastern Nepal

1. The Government of Nepal estimates approximately 70,000 people are affected by flooding in the area. According to the preliminary results of the inter-agency Koshi River Flood Impact assessment, a total of 66,500 individuals have been displaced by the flood of which 42% are of Indian origin.
2. Spontaneous returns have begun. UN OCHA, WFP, Save the Children and NRCS conducted a series of visits to areas of return and found that following the recent food distribution, people from the Shiripur and Haripur VDCs had returned to their homes. 25 – 50% of families were home in parts of Shiripur and nearly 100% of families had returned to areas around Bhandabari, Haripur. Some returnees in Bhandabari, Haripur reported that they would return to camps after the Nov 4<sup>th</sup> holiday in order to access services and the food distribution. In other areas, IDPs were returning and starting to rebuild and bringing livestock with them. Communities visited were concerned that they would miss out on food distribution if they did not return to the camps and were hoping for government assistance. Other issues raised were snakes found in houses after the flooding and an increase in mosquitoes due to the stagnant water in the area. Some areas inundated by sand from the floods may render the land infertile in the near future.
3. There is a need for a clear returns policy and support program. A meeting in Sunsari on Oct 24<sup>th</sup> concluded that IOM would consolidate return intention and obstacle information collected from camps and during the food distribution for a report available on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>. A rapid assessment of areas of return by government live agencies has been delayed due to the holidays. A meeting is scheduled with Sunsari line agencies on Nov 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss when such an assessment could take place. Agencies and district government are in agreement about the need for a return package and returns strategy, however, there are mixed signals from Kathmandu about how such a plan could move forward.
4. The registration verification exercise will finish in Sunsari during the first week of November. The verification teams are scheduled to cross to the Saptari side after completing Sunsari. IOM and UNHCR have offered logistic support to the verification teams and IOM is leading discussions to ensure that the verification process includes the recommendations made by a UNHCR registration/verification technical support mission on Oct 20<sup>th</sup>.
5. The plan for the return of Indians displaced into Nepal is an outstanding issue. Indians are leaving the collective centers in Sunsari after not being verified, but without support and their final destination is unclear. A spontaneous settlement of displaced Indians has formed across from the Laukhi customs office and residents are getting no visible support.
6. Collective centers (Schools and madarasas) continue to empty with the majority of remaining collective centers emptied over the Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> weekend. Spontaneous settlements continue to appear as a result including two at the site of the new camp in Pashim Kushaha VDC.
7. Formal settlement of the new site in Pashim Kushaha VDC has begun. However, the majority of IDPs brought here from collective centres have preferred to return to their homes and the population of this new camp is lower than anticipated. Facilities at this new site are not in place.

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### II. Ongoing Humanitarian Response

- 1) **Emergency Shelter/NFI:** <http://groups.google.com/group/esc-koshi>

Oxfam has distributed batteries to those who have already received lights. The total number of the distribution will be entered into the Gap Analysis. The number of beneficiaries remains the main challenge. E.g. in one camp there are 500 shelters but 800 beneficiary cards. It is necessary to distribute shelter-by-shelter but this takes a lot of extra time and resources.

CARITAS Nepal has distributed Smokeless Chulo and Briquettes in Camp A, B & Neharu Camp. The total number of the distribution will be entered into the Gap Analysis.

Oxfam is planning to distribute Clothing Pack for 5500 families and Woolen cap for babies. They will redistribute the Tarpulin Sheets for 4000 families after completion of the re-assessment. They are providing lights to the women headed families and pregnant. Also they are providing Bamboo cot (~2000) with a focus on vulnerable families. Distributions are expected to be completed by the end of November. CARITAS Nepal targeted to distribute Winterization clothes for 4000 households.

Cooking stoves: already 100 by NRCS/NRC and 1874 by Care. Caritas is planning for 4000 more. It was noted that cooking stoves may not be required by all affected households as many have constructed their own tradition stoves from mud and other materials.

Winterisation gap filling being coordinated:

- Raised beds: Oxfam is targeting 2,000 vulnerable families. As there is quite a number of raised beds already present in the camps (self-constructed or rescued from the original home by the beneficiaries), this will probably be enough
- Closing walls of shelter: Oxfam can supply labour and equipment but not materials. It was suggested that these materials are generally available for harvest locally and Oxfam could talk with the CMCs to motivate the camp populations
- Condensation dripping from the shelters can be decreased by putting thatch below the plastic (not possible for ShelterBox). ESC will provide a model/input so Oxfam can instruct the beneficiaries.
- Solid fuel: Oxfam will cover 2,500 until Caritas briquettes arrive. Information on the use of briquettes must be distributed to the beneficiaries as they are unfamiliar with the use

2) **Camp Management:** <http://groups.google.com/group/cccmnepal>

As of 30 October, IDP population in Sunsari totalled 2,912 HH and in Saptari 5,847 HH covering formal camps, collective centres and spontaneous camps.

**Sunsari:** This week has seen a drop in the number of IDPs in Sunsari as schools were being vacated and the displaced population were moved into Laukhi, moved or created spontaneous camps, moved in with host families or returned to their homes. A total of five collective centres were vacated over the last week alongwith two spontaneous camps. An updated map of the Sunsari camps is available on the CCCM google group. Population numbers in Saptari remain stable at this point.

The lease process for the new formal camp at Pashim Kusaha has been finalised and WATSAN facilities are starting to be established.

It was reported that Jhumka camp is being locked nightly from 6pm until 6am, with a second entrance yet to be constructed.

In the formal sites, CCCM with assistance from Oxfam/KVS have started developing Camp Management Committees (CMCs).

**Saptari:** In Saptari the CCMM is led by OXFAM with technical support from IOM. The Oxfam team continues to work closely with their local partner, KVS (Koshi Victims Society) in establishing CMCs at all sites. So far, 16 CMCs have been formed with at least 50% women membership.

The first CCCM survey has been completed. An IOM and OXFAM team have trained camp in-charge officers (KVS staff) to collect information and fill in the form on a weekly basis.

3) **Food:**

Final food distribution by WFP in coordination with Save the Children and DEPROSC is scheduled for 6 and 7 November in Sunsari with one months' rations and from 15 November for 15 days in Saptari. It was understood that the Minister of Home Affairs had suggested that the Government take over distributions from 1 December but during a recent visit with the Sunsari CDO where it was discussed, suggested that WFP should continue with the distributions.

Following field assessments, WFP has identified 6 new Food Distribution Points on the Sunsari side, which could encourage IDPs to return home where feasible.

An UNICEF nutritionist conducted an assessment of food distributed following complaints regarding the quality. It was found that it was not a matter of quality but preparation and perhaps taste. Preparation demonstrations were provided.

4) **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

**Sunsari:** Concern has been raised about the new Pachim Kucha site where toilet construction has not completed and there are no hand pumps despite the formal and spontaneous settlements already taking place.

Ongoing sanitation problems were also reported in Jhumka camp with the septic tank overflowing. Assistance by the Government to rectify this issue has been sought.

The water and sanitation facilities at the Laukhi customs office planned site are reportedly in very poor condition. Several hand pumps do not work, bathing facilities have no drainage, etc.

**Saptari:** There is still a great need for water and sanitation facilities in most camps. Some of the toilets and wells which were poorly constructed are in need of repairs or improvements.

5) **Health:**

No update available.

6) **Education:**

No update available.

7) **Protection/child protection:**

No update available.

8) **Agriculture and Livestock:**

No update available.

9) **Security and Logistics:**

Both Sunsari and Saptari remain UN Security Phase-III

The Nepal army continues to provide free boat services across the river between 10.00 am and 4.00 p.m. Similarly, a number of commercial boats cross the river. The UNDSS carried out an assessment and cleared the usage for UN personnel of the Nepal army boats as well as hired private motor boats. The current crossing point is at the beach in the eastern embankment, but may move further south to cross the largest break in the highway as low water levels make the current crossing point more difficult.

**Koshi Floods**  
Meeting Schedule in Sunsari as of 22<sup>nd</sup> October

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>GCM</b>	0900 hrs, Every Wednesday	05 November 2008	DDC Meeting Hall, Inaruwa	
<b>Meeting on Strategy Planning for Returns</b>	0900 hrs, Friday, 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2008	-	DDC Meeting Hall, Inaruwa	
<b>Food, Nutrition</b>	1400 hrs, Every Sunday and Thursday	02 November 2008	District Agriculture Office, Inaruwa	
<b>Health</b>	1400 hrs, Every Monday	03 November 2008	District Public Health Office, Inaruwa	
<b>Education</b>	1300 hrs, Every Monday	03 November 2008	District Education Office, Inaruwa	
<b>Protection/ Child Protection</b>	1100 hrs, Every Monday	03 November 2008	Women Development Office, Inaruwa	
<b>Shelter/ Site Planning/ Camp Management</b>	1100 hrs, Every Wednesday	05 November 2008	DDC Office, Inaruwa	
<b>WASH</b>	0800 hrs, Every Wednesday	05 November 2008	OCHA Satellite Office, Inaruwa	
<b>Agriculture/ Livestock</b>	1400 hrs, Every Friday	31 October 2008	DLSO, Inaruwa	

Koshi Flood Meeting Schedule in Saptari as of 27 October				
Meeting	Day	Next Meeting	Where	Remarks
<b>GCM</b>	Every Tuesday, 0730 hrs	Thursday 06 Nov 2008	OCHA Satellite Office, NRCS Office, Rajbiraj	Because of festivals and many people away, meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, 06 Nov 2008.
<b>Agriculture and Livestock</b>		Not available		
<b>Education</b>		Not available	DEO's office	
<b>Food/Nutrition</b>	Every Thursday, 0830 hrs	Thursday, 6 Nov 2008	at DADO office.	
<b>Health</b>	Every Monday 0900 hrs	Not Available		
<b>Protection / Child Protection</b>	Every Wednesday, at 1000 hrs	Not Available		
<b>Shelter/NFI</b>	Every Sunday, 0730 hrs	Sunday, 02 November	OCHA Satellite Office, NRCS Office, Rajbiraj	
<b>WASH</b>	Every Wednesday 0830 hrs	Wednesday, 05 November	DWSSO Office, Saptari	
<b>DDRC</b>	Monday 20, 2008 , 1400 hrs	Not Available		

For more detailed and updated information please visit the Nepal Information Platform (<http://www.un.org.np>) or contact:

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