

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

- **Sunsari District Government Officials and the humanitarian community will conduct a joint rapid return assessment from 9 – 11 November.**
- **108 families seek assistance to return home to Haripur, wards 2 and 3**
- **Verification to start in Saptari on November 15th**
- **Heavy returns continue. As many as 10,000 people may have now returned to formerly flooded areas.**

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. Many of these Indians have crossed back to India in recent weeks.
2. Local Government and international agencies will conduct a three-day Rapid Return Assessment from 9 – 11 November of the affected areas, headed by the DADO (District Agricultural Development Office), CDO/LDO and district government line agencies, supported by OCHA, WFP and CCCM. The assessment will identify areas where people have returned and will do a rapid identification of needs.
3. Spontaneous returns continue with families requesting assistance to both the local Government and the international community to return home. Building materials such as bamboo and thatching, tool kits, seeds and tools and leveling of roads are sought. Maintaining eligibility for future distributions and compensation packages is a universal concern of returnees. It is estimated that as many as 10,000 people have returned to formally flooded areas.
4. The CDO/LDO offices in Sunsari have indicated that the Sunsari verification is nearly complete with the verification exercise expected to start in Saptari from 15 November. CCCM/UNHCR have obtained photocopies of the original Sunsari verification lists and will commence data entry into the new database in the coming week. Oxfam is currently finalizing the CMC lists which will be used during the verification process and staff from OHCHR, IFRC and IOM will take part to ensure accuracy in data collection.
5. An agitation group calling itself the Koshi Victim Struggle Committee has formed in Sunsari District. In meetings with UN OCHA and WFP the committee agreed not to interfere with humanitarian programs. However, road blocks and demonstrations from this group should be expected and agencies should be prepared to explain their purpose and the BOGs.

II. Ongoing Humanitarian Response

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

The Emergency Shelter Cluster partners continue to use a working figure of 11,890 families affected by the Koshi floods in Nepal. Continuing analysis of the needs in both districts are communicated to agencies weekly to encourage program adjustment and gap filling. More accurate verification of the initial registration remains a priority to assist with distribution plans along with improved coordination at a field level to avoid duplication of assistance.

The last of the madrasas and schools have almost been vacated. Agencies and Government are working together to develop a strategy to provide the affected population with sufficient support when returning to or near their place of origin. The population movement from these collective centres has been difficult to track due to a lack of organised transport by the Government of Nepal.

Currently, more than 6,000 bamboo frames have been distributed covering 50% of the estimated affected households. 17,000 plastic sheets of varying quality have been provided. Other items including over 18,000 blankets, 14,000 mosquito nets, 7,000 battery powered LED lights, 9,000 kitchen sets and 13,000 sleeping mats have also been distributed. Moving towards Early Recovery, tool kits are expected to be in high demand. Graphical representation of the gap analysis indicating shortfalls in distribution and potential for duplication can be viewed at the website highlighted above.

A winterisation working group was formed in both districts with site visits and assessments occurring between 3-5 November. Needs and gaps will be identified and communicated to cluster member agencies.

The Emergency Shelter/NFI Coordination Team has deployed a full time information officer in each of the two districts.

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

As of 6 November, the IDP population in Sunsari totalled 2,619 families and 5,847 families in Saptari, including those residing in Formal Camps, Collective Centers, Spontaneous Camps and Return Areas/Site ('Returns Area/Site' refers to groups of shelters constructed on or near the IDPs original land).

CCCM, Save the Children and WFP and partner agencies completed the Return Intentions survey on behalf of the Sunsari government highlighting the challenges and obstacles faced by the IDPs to return to their place of origin and assistance required. The results of the survey can be viewed on the CCCM google group highlighted above.

The CCCM team is looking to deploy an engineer from Habitat for Humanity as early as next week to conduct an assessment of existing sites and provide options for 'winterising' the shelters. The engineer will also be available to the government and other organisations on an advisory capacity.

Sunsari : This week has seen a dramatic shift in movement of IDPs in Sunsari as many of the schools and madrasas were vacated with the displaced population moving to the new Nahar Chowk site, spontaneous camps, with host families or returning to their place of origin. Tracking the location of the IDPs (approximately 7,000) has been difficult as many people have moved back to their own homes or set up shelters nearby their homes. Assistance from other agencies to identify these areas of return or relocation is ongoing. In total six collective centres were vacated in the past week; Jama Islamiya, Tabali Gul Madrasa, Prtivilnarayan L.S. School, Janata Chowk Madrasa, Shree Prathamik V School and Dhanjit Primary School. There are only 2 collective centres remaining; Madhuban VDC cattle shed (formerly Janata Higher Secondary) and Khairatole Maktab (Madrasa).

The CCCM Team will be gathering information from Shreepur 7 and Shreepur 8 sites where people have moved to be closer to their original homes. Recent visits have revealed that 200 households/families have returned to Shreepur 8 where 150 shelters have been constructed by the community with the remainder under construction. The Shreepur 7 returns site is still under construction with an estimated population of 1,100 households/families. CCCM will hire a technical advisor to support IDPs and the local government to ensure that the sites are constructed properly and to acceptable standards.

These shifts in the population have occurred in large part due to government and host community pressure to vacate the public buildings. Despite active and consistent coordination with the local government to stabilize these populations in situ the pressure to vacate the sites has been significant.

The CCCM Team is currently setting up Camp Management Committees (CMCs) in all formal camps in Sunsari with training and assistance from an Oxfam/KVS staff member from Saptari. It is anticipated that the CMCs will be able to assist in the collection of camp data on IDP population numbers and provide a forum for the IDPs at site to collectively raise their concerns and issues.

Jhumka camp remains a problem with many families still residing in cramped conditions. Advocacy efforts are ongoing with the government to relocate some families to the new Nahar Chowk site. The CMC at the site has been set up by HUDEP (local NGO) and CCCM has offered training to their staff in techniques for setting up CMCs.

In interviews conducted with IDPs in Mahendra Highway spontaneous camps A and B, it was reported that nine families recently moved to the new Nahar Chowk site. The remaining IDPs would also like to move there but have concerns about the lack of facilities and the sandy ground. They also reported a child died recently when struck by a vehicle on the highway.

On Wednesday 5 November, three small dams containing the Koshi river gave way causing flooding in the Nahar Chowk site. The dams were repaired by the government and there was only minor flooding in one of the recently established shelter sites. A hazard assessment of the area needs to be carried out immediately as many more settlements are expected at the new Nahar Chowk site.

In **Saptari**, CMCs have now been set up in all the camps with orientation scheduled to commence next week on the collection of camp data. Some IDPs from Camps A – D have expressed an interest in moving to other camps in the spur areas to be closer to their place of origin and move away from the host community in Saptari, who have been occasionally causing harassment. A letter was submitted to the CDO's office in Saptari this week from 108 families (many from Camp C) seeking assistance to return to the Hariपुर area. OXFAM will transport the families and their belongings on 10 November to Hariपुर. Residents of Camps A and B have also requested assistance to return home. Oxfam is currently looking into this possibility. Efforts are being made by agencies to help facilitate returns by establishing new distribution points closer to areas of return.

Water and sanitation remains a concern at most camps with many facilities not completed due to the holiday period. In most sites toilets are not segregated by gender. Caritas and UNICEF are starting to address some of these problems by altering the design of new latrines and installing more latrines and tube wells. However, some of the latrines and wells which were poorly constructed are in need of repairs or improvements. In Camp A, residents are unhappy with the latrine design and have stopped using them. IDPs have also complained that the tube wells were not dug deep enough therefore the water is either brown or is contaminated.

8. Food and Nutrition:

UNICEF is currently working through the details of conducting a nutrition assessment in both Sunsari and Saptari in the second half of November, while recruitment of two field nutrition coordinators (one for Sunsari and one for Saptari) is ongoing.

Sunsari - Supplementary feeding is being conducted by WVI, supported by WFP, to 1700 children under the age of five and 300 pregnant and lactating mothers.

Saptari: The fourth food distributions have been completed with the fifth starting on 15 November, ending on 1 December, when the Government is anticipated to takeover distributions. Total 1405.527 metric tonnes have been distributed to 5962 beneficiaries by Concern, DEPROSC, UNICEF and four local NGOs, supported by WFP. Twenty three supplementary feeding centres are now operational across the camps.

It was reported that some genuine IDPs have not been included in the registration process, while other IDPs have lost their distribution cards, which has caused problems during distribution. It is thought that between 500 – 700 local families are claiming food in Camp C and D.

9. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Sunsari – WASH facilities are currently under construction at the new Nahar Chowk camp. Issues were previously raised regarding the inadequate WASH facilities in the camp. The WSSDO explained that the delay in installation of WASH facilities in Nahar Chowk was due initially to obstructions by the local community and problems with transportation for toilets and bathing spaces due to the strike called by MPRF. The WSSDO aims to complete the installation of tube wells as per the Sphere guidelines within 3 days and complete the construction of required number of toilets within the week.

Listed below are the WASH facilities available in the respective camps:

Jhumka: 66 toilets, 34 hand pumps, 59 garbage pits, 4 bathing spaces

Laukhi Custom: 130 toilets, 35 hand pumps, 7 bathing spaces

Laukhi Shelter Box: 80 toilets, 20 hand pumps, 48 garbage pits, 7 bathing spaces

Sunsari Riverside Shelter Box: 50 toilets, 9 hand pumps, 7 bathing spaces

Jamuwa Nahar Chowk: 20 pan setting toilets– 5 completed, 6 hand pumps

WEL has been working for hygiene sanitation promotion in Laukhi Custom and Laukhi Shelter Box camps. Information centers have been established and baseline survey completed. WASH mobilizers have also been selected and oriented. The WASH facilities (toilets, hand pumps, bathing spaces) constructed by WSSDO has been handed over to WEL for regular maintenance, and proper use. UNICEF has provided supplies such as washing soap, laundry soap, toothpaste, sanitary pads, water guard and IEC materials for distribution to the IDP families in those camps as per the Sphere guidelines.

The cleaning of school premises, removal of garbage, filling of temporary toilet pits etc. have been done in the vacated schools. A hygiene and sanitation package is being developed and will be implemented soon at Nahar Chowk camp with support from UNICEF.

Issues were also raised about poor WASH facilities in other camps such as overflowing septic tanks in Jhumka camp and some non functioning hand pumps in Lauki Custom camp, etc. It was subsequently agreed that hygiene sanitation promotion in Laukhi Custom, Laukhi Shelter Box and Riverside camp are to be done by WEL and by WSSDO in Jhumka camp.

WSSDO-Sunsari is working to upgrade the existing facilities and to improve the hygiene sanitation condition in Jhumka Camp. The WSSDO has already assigned on providing one technician and four sweepers in the camp for regular repair maintenance and cleaning of the WASH facilities. Four bathing facilities have been established; the blocked drainage which is a problem in the camp has been maintained temporarily, open trenches used for septic tanks have also been covered. The platform for one existing hand pump is being constructed. Management committees and children/youth groups are being formed, oriented and mobilized for hygiene promotion. WASH supplies will be

distributed to the IDPs of the camp with support from UNICEF. The overall WASH condition has been improved in the camp.

Non-functioning hand pumps in Laukhi Custom camp have been repaired and the drainage pit will also be covered 7 November.

Saptari – RRN has committed to maintaining the WASH facilities in the camps. The water drainage issue from hand pumps in Camps A, B, C and D has been resolved by DWSSO. The WSSDO will cover latrines and bathing spaces with bamboo mats starting from 5 November. There are a number of WASH facilities that have not been completed within the allocated timeframe. NGOs have been urged to complete their commitments as soon as possible. There is concern that due to data inaccuracies, there are not enough facilities per household.

There have also been reports of WASH facilities being damaged and/or stolen. Children have been playing near the toilet blocks and destroying the infrastructure in Camp C. Hand pumps have also been damaged by children and livestock in the same camp. Hand pumps across the camps are being brazenly stolen, suggesting the need to establish water points and WASH facilities in potential areas of return.

Oxfam is preparing to do Public Health Promotions in the camps and are aiming at 50% participation of women. There is a recognized need to include more women in WASH activities as they predominantly spend more time at the camps than the men. The DWSSO has committed to filling any hygiene kit gaps. There is a strong need for agencies to conduct hygiene promotion to encourage people to make use of WASH facilities.

10. **Health:**

Sunsari – No update available

Saptari – It was reported that a seven year-old boy from Camp B died last week from pneumonia. He was allegedly taken to a private clinic outside of the camp seeking treatment before being referred on to a hospital in Rajbiraj where he was referred onto another hospital in Dharan, between which he died.

There is a need for information about the health posts to be further disseminated by the CMCs as many IDPs are not aware they exist. At this point in time, there is only one ambulance operating in the camps, while another is being sought from the health post in Kalyanpur. Two health camps operated by DPHO Saptari seems insufficient to cover the IDP population as some of the IDPs have to travel more than 8 km to reach the health camps and there is no reliable means of transportation.

The DPHO reported that in the last two weeks, 3676 patients have been treated. There are two health camps, one at Kankalini Temple and the other at Spur #5. The health camp at Kankalini temple will be moved to the BP high school in Bhardaha, with UNICEF providing water pumps and toilets for the new facility.

The MSF CTC was closed on 23 October and the facilities were handed over to the DPHO. On 4 November, the structure was dismantled in the early hours of the morning by unknown person/s and stolen.

ADRA, funded by UNFPA, have arrived in Saptari and will be working with the DPHO primarily supporting reproductive health efforts. ADRA will have two camps, one in the Spur area in Camp G and the other in Bhardaha, starting from 3 November for two months. They will circulate pamphlets in the camps outlining the services that they will provide.

CVICT, funded by UNFPA, has commenced psycho-social counselling in coordination with ADRA and will continue until the end of December. CVICT will conduct CPSW training for DPHO staff and IDPs.

Security has been requested for health workers, some of whom have been threatened with kidnapping.

11. **Education:**

Sunsari – The majority of schools and madrasas have been vacated. Many schools have already commenced classes and it is expected that the recently vacated schools will resume classes soon. The vacated schools have been cleaned and temporary facilities removed.

An education package with support from UNICEF is being implemented through DEO including 25 temporary class rooms for IDP children, logistics support to teachers, child friendly training, support for host secondary schools, furniture for temporary class rooms, support for sewing uniforms for primary level children, rehabilitation of madrasas and monitoring. Text books for higher grade children are required.

Temporary classes have started in Jhumka camp for grade 1- 5 children where 170 children are enrolled. 8 IDP teachers have been mobilized from the same camp. Students have been provided with school uniforms and stationery.

Temporary class rooms (5 in Lauki Shelter Box Camp and 2 in Sunsari Riverside Camp) are under construction and will be completed soon.

The DEO has completed an assessment of the physical status of schools in the flood affected VDCs and data collection on education needs is ongoing for grade sixers and above.

Saptari – No update available.

12. **Protection/child protection:**

Sunsari - The Women District Development Officer informed the cluster members that her office had received nearly NPR400, 000 from UNFPA to provide ambulance services for pregnant IDP women residing at the various camps of Sunsari District. Concern was raised about the Koshi Flood Victims' Struggle Committee which has launched a series of protest activities, including the Inaruwa *bandh* from 6-8 November where they demanded improved rehabilitation and compensation procedures for lost property. The agitation is likely to be effective given the Committee's rapidly expanding membership among the IDP population and the increasing political support it is receiving as the Committee is chaired by the District President of Nepali Congress. The Committee is also reportedly comprised of members from the MPRF and UML.

Four child protection watch groups have been formed at the Jhumka camp Watch groups formed in the schools and madrasas need to be reorganized following the relocation of IDPs in the permanent camps.

To date, 43 children have been reunited with their families. Sets of clothing (7500) will be distributed through the WDO to women and children (between 5 - 18 years). Plan Nepal has proposed to distribute blankets, sleeping mattress and warm clothing for 3800 families. They will also run ECD centers for 400 children aged 3-5 yrs, life skill training for youth and adolescents and psychosocial counselling to 700+ people.

KYC will conduct youth and adolescents focused programme on HIV, sexual and reproductive health. For this purpose, 8 youth corners will be established in the IDP camps for awareness raising, information sharing and counselling by 2 counsellors.

Saptari – It was reported that members of the CMC were beaten and that a woman was allegedly raped in the same camp during Tihar. It was also alleged that torches have been shone into shelters at night, intimidating IDPs.

A GBV reporting and referral system has not yet been established in Saptari. The Women Rehabilitation Center (WOREC) has been working on this issue in Sunsari and will travel to Saptari to conduct orientation on GBV and look at how to create a reporting system. They will also provide training to the CMCs and develop materials including contact numbers as part of the referral system. The Protection Cluster will coordinate psycho-social counselling.

Women and children's watch committees have not been formed yet. Orientation is tentatively scheduled by UNFPA for 15/16 November and 17/18 November with the location to be advised.

13. **Agriculture and Livestock:**

Response in both districts is being led by the District Livestock Services Officer (DLSO). The displaced population have continued to report the death of livestock due to limited to no veterinary assistance.

IDPs whose land is no longer flooded would like to start planting vegetables and need support. At this stage, there are no plans to distribute seeds.

Sunsari: No update available.

Saptari: No update available.

14. **Security and Logistics:**

Both Sunsari and Saptari remain UN Security Phase-III

The Nepal army has discontinued its service across the Koshi river. Private boats continue to cross --including several that are taking heavy cargo and small vehicles. 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 Sector/Cluster Meeting Schedule in Sunsari as of 05 November				
Meeting	Day	Next Meeting	Where	Remarks
GCM	1300 hrs, Every Wednesday	Wednesday , 12 Nov 2008	DDC Meeting Hall, Inaruwa	Meeting will be rescheduled to 1300 hrs instead of 0900 hrs
Food, Nutrition	1400 hrs, Every Sunday and Thursday	Thursday, 06 Nov 2008	District Agriculture Office, Inaruwa	
Health	1400 hrs, Every Monday	Monday, 10 Nov 2008	District Public Health Office, Inaruwa	
Education	1300 hrs, Every Thursday	Thursday, 06 Nov 2008	District Education Office, Inaruwa	
Protection/ Child Protection	1300 hrs, Every Monday	Monday, 10 Nov 2008	Women Development Office, Inaruwa	
Shelter/ Site Planning/ CCCM	1100 hrs, Every Wednesday	Wednesday, 12 Nov 2008	DDC Office, Inaruwa	
WASH	0830 hrs, Every Wednesday	Wednesday, 05 Nov 2008	OCHA Satellite Office, Inaruwa	
Agriculture/ Livestock	1400 hrs, Every Friday	Not available	DLSO, Inaruwa	
Meeting on Strategy Planning for Returns	0900 hrs, Friday, 24 th October 2008	-	DDC Meeting Hall, Inaruwa	

Koshi Flood Sector/Cluster Meeting Schedule in Saptari as of 06 November				
Meeting	Day	Next Meeting	Where	Remarks
GCM	Every Tuesday, 0730 hrs	Tuesday, 11 Nov 2008	OCHA Satellite Office, NRCS Building, Rajbiraj, Saptari	
Agriculture and Livestock		Not available		
Education		Not available	District Education Office, Rajbiraj	
Food/Nutrition	Every Thursday, 0830 hrs	Friday, 07 Nov 2008	District Agriculture Office, Rajbiraj	Meeting will be held on Friday 07 Nov. instead of Thursday, 06 Nov.
Health	Every Monday at 1000 hrs	Monday, 10 Nov 2008	District Public Health Office, Rajbiraj	
Protection / Child Protection	Every Wednesday, at 1000 hrs			
Shelter/NFI	Every Tuesday, 0900 hrs	Tuesday, 11 Nov 2008	OCHA Satellite Office, NRCS building, Rajbiraj	
WASH	Every Monday, 0800 hrs	Monday, 10 Nov 2008	DWSSO Office, Saptari	Meeting will be held on Monday once a week from hereon.
CCCM	Every Sunday at 0800 hrs	Sunday, 09 Nov 2008	OCHA Satellite Office, NRCS building, Rajbiraj	
DDRC	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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