

KOSHI FLOOD RESPONSE UPDATE

6 May 2009

Sunsari District

This Koshi Flood Response Update is based on information received from the weekly Koshi Flood General Coordination Meeting, chaired by the Sunsari Chief District Officer (CDO), Government of Nepal District Offices, UN Agencies and relief partners.

1. General Situation Update

Background: Approximately 42,807 Nepalese (7,572 households) were affected by the Koshi floods in Sunsari and Saptari Districts on 18 August 2008, in addition to an estimated 11,000 Indian nationals (2,328 households), according to the Government of Nepal (GoN).

Situation Update: The majority of Koshi flood-affected displaced households returned to their area of pre-flood origin. However, the flood displaced households from the heavily sanded areas returned with limited shelter, access to basic facilities including drinking water or livelihood support. The WSSDO has committed to establish tube wells throughout the return areas. The District Health Office (DHO) committed to ensuring that health services will be adequately provided in all areas and stated that no further human resources or medicines are required for the general treatments. However, given the severity of the impact of the living conditions, intensive health monitoring is required. Shelter remains the gap and there is an increase of health concerns with the worsening weather conditions, in particular for infants and the elderly. Sanitation also remains a gap in return areas.

Cash-for-Food Update: From 27 April, the DDRC Sunsari provided the *Cash-for-Food* for the Koshi flood affected families of Shreepur 1-9 and Paschim Kusaha 3, 4. Total of 4,506 households received the *Cash-for-Food*, as of 6 May. DDRC provided the *Cash-for-Food* with the norms of NPR 1,000 per family member to households with less than five members, families with more than five members received a lump sum of NPR 5075.00. DAO Sunsari is planning to complete the distribution of *Cash-for-Food* by 8 May 2009.

Return Package Update: The process of distributing the government Return Package of NPR 50,000.00 was postponed from 27 April, as the District Administrative Office (DAO) Sunsari prioritised the provision of *Cash-for-Food*, given the dire situation for the families unable to procure food, in particular families from the red zone and those residing in the camps. The distribution of the Return Package will resume after the completion of the *Cash-for-Food* distribution, expected to be from 10 May that will be decided by the meeting with local political parties organized by DAO on 7 May. A total of 5,961 families applied for the Government Return Package, as of 6 May. A total of 2,071 families (Green zone: 1500, yellow zone: 571 families) from the flood affected area received the sum, as of 6 May.

Government Compensation Package: The government approved a total of NPR 1608.2975 million to compensate damaged buildings, land and crops, as well as fund to support landless to procure land and compensation for deaths that occurred in camps. The DAO Sunsari will distribute the compensation package when the Government releases the budget. A District Technical Team, including District Land Survey Office and District Land Revenue Office, has started to delineate the damaged land in the red zone of the flooded area from 6 May.

Relocation/Camp Consolidation: The DUDBC and IOM completed the site planning of Lauki Border Custom Camp and Khuniyadhar Camp for possible relocation of the flood-affected displaced from Sunsari Khola and Nahar Chowk Camps, which are mostly landless households. The capacity of the camps is an additional 200 households (HHs) in Khuniyadhar camp and 275 HHs in Lauki Border Custom Camp. However, only 22 HHs in Khuniyadhar Camp and 110 HHs in Lauki Border Custom Camp can be accommodated with the existing households residing in the camps. The study noted that the current total of displaced from Jhumka and Sunsari Khola Camp cannot be accommodated in the above mentioned two camps. There is also need to re-organize the camps, raise the platform of the

tents, provide protection such as drainage facilities along the side of tents, river flow protection in the camps against flash flood and heavy rainfall, and a need to provide electricity facilities in the relocation camps.

It is anticipated that the execution of the GoN Compensation Package will be delayed to some extent due to present political situation in Nepal. Based on this scenario, the meeting decided to consolidate Sunsari Khola Camp into Lauki Border Custom Camp by next week since Sunsari Khola Camp is highly vulnerable to re-flooding, hazardous to health and majority of the flood-affected are landless. The WASH cluster will ensure the necessary arrangements are in place regarding water and sanitation facilities before the relocation takes place. Transportation will be managed from DDRRC budget and NRCS will provide tarpaulins. There is a need for an active information dissemination and interaction with the flood-affected displaced families to ensure households are informed of options.

Shelter/NFI: NRCS Sunsari will distribute tarpaulin to replace the damaged shelters in camps based on the re-verification data provided by CCCM this week. UN Habitat will follow up the NRCS for the distribution of the tarpaulin.

Landlessness: The estimated number of flood-affected landless household is 1,422 families. The Assistant Chief District Officer (ACDO) stated the need of re-verification of the number of landless households, as this figure will possibly decrease. Since the landless are illegible to purchase 2 Kattha of land under the compensation package, there needs a durable solution which will require a guideline or detailed approach for purchasing land to landless. The DAO will meet with Local Political Parties for a consensus on the approach on 7 May.

Health Service in Return Areas: There was a lapse in the provision of health services, in particular in the red areas where children, pregnant women and elderly are particularly vulnerable to the harsh weather conditions. Flood-affected families commonly suffer from sand in the air (from winds), cough and fever, eye infections, diarrhoea, skin infections. On 6 May, the District Health Office (DHO) committed to ensuring that health services will be adequately provided in all areas and stated that no further human resources or medicines are required for the general basic treatments. However, given the severity of the impact of the living conditions, intensive health monitoring and follow-up is recommended from the meeting for the effective and efficient service delivery.

2. Recovery and Reconstruction

Returns Area Multi-Inter Sectoral Rapid Assessment: About 90% of the flood affected population of red zone returned to the place of pre-flood origin. The majority of the land is casted with sand except in Milanchowk of Paschim Kusaha VDC. Livelihoods are not resumed in settlements except in Milanchok of Paschim Kusaha VDC and partially resumed in Chulaitole and Muslim Tole of Paschim Kusaha VDC; Lahitole and Pravakar Tole of Shreepur VDC. All returnees stay overnight in area of origin under basic shelter and there is a need for tarpaulins and tin sheets. There is a lack of WASH facilities in the return areas, with 25-30 % of households having access to drinking water and families practising open defecation. Returnees suffer from eye infections, local threats, wind, heat, cough and fever. Lack of Police patrolling in the return areas, wild animals and threats from locals are among the security-related concerns. There is a need to improve health service and schooling facilities in the return areas. [Results based on the Multi Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment, led by the DDC].

Recovery Sector Updates:

Protection:

o *Lack of security:* The majority of Koshi flood-affected displaced households have returned to their place of pre-flood origin without provision of security. In the returned red area, there is a lack of security presence.

- *Child labour*: The involvement of child labour in 'Food for Work' programme is elevated by media. Therefore, the GCM requested respective organizations to verify the incidents and strictly prohibit child labour in the work.
- *Child protection*: IRC with support from UNICEF is going to conduct child protection training to the members of security forces next week in Sunsari and Saptari. UPCA with support from Save the Children is mobilizing FCHVs from flood affected area to promote hygiene and sanitation in the community.

WASH:

- UNICEF will support the decommissioning of WASH facilities in vacated camps. WSSDO will prepare a detailed proposal on the decommissioning that will be submitted by the end of this week to UNICEF.
- WASH assessment of returned area was completed, which was conducted by WSSDO and partner organizations of UNICEF. The final report is under compilation and will come out by the end of the week.
- WSSDO is distributing hand pumps in the IDP returned area of Haripur, Shreepur and Paschim Kusaha VDC to meet the immediate need of drinking water for which UNDP/LDF has agreed to support transportation and sinking cost.
- DEPROSC, implementing partner of WFP, has installed 4 tube wells in Shreepur VDC through Food for Work programme.
- WASH cluster, following the request of DDC during GCM, will increase activities in return areas.
- As the flood affected area is the arsenic zone, agencies willing to implement WASH projects (tube wells) in returned area should coordinate with WSSDO for arsenic tests. WSSDO will assist for arsenic test and the concerned agencies will reimburse the cost of arsenic test to WSSDO.
- Department of Irrigation agreed to provide 400 Shallow tube-wells in return areas this year. WSSDO plans for 2,000 Tube Wells and 2,000 Toilets in return areas, but awaits for final approval.

Food Security:

- DEPROSC-Nepal (WFP partner NGO) has implemented a total of 46 schemes on Food-for-Work (FfW) in the return areas of 4 VDCs – Paschim Kusaha, Shreepur, Haripur and Lauki. The total benefited households are 3,186 HHs, out of which 102 HHs dropped out from the work. Most of the running schemes include Rural Road Rehabilitation and some new road constructions, community fish ponds, Hume Pipe maintenances and culvert maintenances, check dam construction and deep land filling. On average, 38 % - 40 % portion/section of the ongoing schemes is completed. Four new schemes were selected in Paschim Kusaha and the estimation work is in-progress. Nine schemes in Haripur will be started by 9 May after receiving the return package from DDRC and tool kits from NRCS.
- Out of 3,084 participating households in FfW, 2,998 households received food and cash from FfW programme. The number of food receiver households varies depending on the family size. For families of up to 8 people, one family member will be involved in FfW. For families with more than eight people, up to two family members will be involved in FfW, providing food for the whole household.
- A total of 159,040 MT of rice and 19,980 MT of lentils were distributed to 2,998 households through FfW programme.
- A total of NPR 1341000.00 distributed to 1,341 participants of Shreepur and Haripur until 6 May through *Cash-for-Food* (CfF) and it is targeted to distribute a total of NPR 3280000 for first instalment by 8 May. Cash distribution point is Bhandabari Police Check Post for both Haripur and Shreepur VDCs.
- To use child labour in FfW is strictly prohibited and the User Groups are committed to defend the child rights. DEPROSC asked community if children are found working it will breach the agreement between UC and DEPROSC and will not be liable for distributing food and cash further.
- Total of NPR 7540111.00 released by LDF/DDC to DEPROSC for FfW and CfF programme.
- A joint monitoring was conducted by DEPROSC, DDC, UNDP/QIPSI, LDF and political parties in FfW and CfF area.

Health and Nutrition:

- WOREC with support from Plan Nepal is providing fresh milk for under-two children from various IDP camps until the end of May 2009. A total of 213 children are benefiting from this programme. There is no availability of adequate pasteurised milk in market for further feeding to those children.
- DHO plans to establish a unit in Shreepur to cover wards 1-4 soon.
- Action Point: DHO and relief partners should conduct intensive health monitoring to the flood affected area at least two times a week for the effective service delivery.

Education:

- The District Education Office (DEO) with support from UNICEF and other cluster members launched an 'Admission Campaign' in Sunsari with a focus on the flood affected four VDCs of Haripur, Shreepur, Paschim Kusaha and Lauki, which will continue throughout the week.
- DEPROSC-Nepal is implementing a Food-for-Work programme in educational institutions (community schools and Madrasa) of the flood affected area to improve play grounds, WASH facilities, fencing etc.
- The detailed cost estimation of flood affected educational institutions is on-going with support from WEL, partner of UNICEF, and te DEO with support of Plan Nepal. The final report of the detail cost estimation will enable education cluster to decide who will do what and where in future.

Agriculture and Livestock:

- SFRALSO distributed 3,000 packets of Mung seed and 4,000 packets of vegetable seed. DADO plans to promote yam cultivation, provide vermin compost and vegetable seed (3,000 packets) to farmers. FAO is identifying the gap/need for farms.
- DLISO plans to conduct an animal health camp that includes vaccination and artificial insemination. The cattle feed by FAO is delivered in Sunsari and will be distributed this week. Plan-Nepal will provide livestock medicine equivalent to NPR 50,000.00 to DLISO Sunsari.
- Local community need to aware about the technical know-how for vegetable farming. Therefore, DEPROSC is willing and ready to coordinate with DADO to conduct vegetable farming training at community level. DADO and DEPROSC will plan jointly within this week regarding the vegetable farming training.

Livelihood Programmes:

- Face Board (A partner NGO of MEDEP/UNDP) formed a total of 24 entrepreneur groups comprising vegetable farming, shuttering, Rickshaw, Saloon, cream separation, brass band etc in return areas.
- The skill-based training – carpentry, toilet ring, vegetable farming, masonry and bamboo basket and will be started by next week through Face Board in return areas.
- The MEDEP will provide pump set/boring pump @ 2 per group and installation support by this week in Haripur VDC.
- The MEDEP has planned an exposure visit to Kamala River on 16 May for 120 persons, where people are cultivating cash crops in sand with success. The findings from the demonstration will support in identifying and improving the cultivation methods for livelihood enhancement in the red zones.
- UN Habitat/WFP completed the screening and the verification of the applications received for skill-based training with the data provided by CCCM-IOM.
- Plan Nepal is conducting Butik training for 20 participants and has a plan to conduct steel fabrication training for 20 participants.

Shelter/NFI: There remains a gap in the provision of shelter support for households in red return areas.

3. Any Other Business

- The Sunsari Assistant CDO provided an overview from the observation of repaired diversion section along East-West Highway in Koshi, which are at risk of damage during monsoon as the Hump Pipes and edging will not resist the water current. The Assistant CDO has informed the Regional Administrator for the preventative measures to be taken.
- The need assessments conducted by the various sectors in the return areas should be shared with the DDC (focal point: UNDP) to support the planning process. The review and implementation will based

on the assessments and minimize duplication, and ensure partners have access to the assessment information. Different Clusters who have completed their assessment will present the summary in next GCM.

Up-Coming Meetings:

Koshi Floods Sector/Cluster Meeting Schedule in Sunsari, as of 22 April 2009			
Meeting	Frequency	Next Meeting	Location
Koshi GCM	1300 hrs Every Wednesday	Wednesday, 13 May	DDC Meeting Hall, Inaruwa
Education	1100 hrs Every Thursday	7 May	DEO Office
Protection/ Child Protection	1300 hrs Monday	11 May	Women Development Office, Inaruwa
WASH	1100 hrs Tuesday	19 May	WSSDO, Itahari

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

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