

# Nepal Monthly Situation Update



Issue No. 61, covering the period 1- 31 May 2010

Kathmandu, 7 June 2010

## I. HIGHLIGHTS

- Three major political parties agreed to extend the Constituent Assembly term by one year, Constitution-drafting deadline also extended
- Consultations for Mid Year Review of Nepal Humanitarian Transition Appeal 2010 underway
- Number of food insecure approaching 600,000 in Mid and Far-Western regions, an increase of 1.2 percent
- UN Security Council approves UNMIN extension by four months
- Disaster Preparedness activities started in 66 districts

## II. CONTEXT

### *Political Development*

The three main political parties averted a constitutional vacuum when they reached consensus to extend the Constituent Assembly (CA) term for one more year by midnight of the 28 May 2010 deadline for the promulgation of 'Nepal's New Constitution'. The major parties – Unified Communist Party of Nepal–Maoist (UCPN-M), Nepali Congress (NC) and Communist Party of Nepal–Unified Marxist Leninist (UML) – signed a three-point agreement to: (i) move ahead in consensus and work to complete the remaining tasks of peace and constitution processes, (ii) extend the CA term for a year to complete of the remainder of the constitution drafting work and; (iii) clarify that the Prime Minister (PM) of the current coalition government was ready to resign to facilitate the implementation of above two points. However, divergent interpretations of the three-point accord and suspicions of each other's intentions surfaced the next day. In a continuation of a long-running debate over the past months, controversy surrounded the sequencing of the resignation of the PM and the implementation of the past agreements.

All meetings of the top three parties held daily since 29 May have ended inconclusively, with parties reverting to pre-28 May positions. The ruling parties maintain that the PM should not step down before there is a package agreement, with a credible time-line for finalising the constitution and peace process, and some proof of initial implementation. However, the UCPN-M insists on his immediate resignation to allow for a national unity government as a prerequisite for further steps. The extension of the CA was generally welcomed by the smaller parties though some question whether it will be wasted through persistent lack of consensus among the three major parties. The UN Secretary-General, UNMIN Representative Karin Landgren, international actors including the European Union (EU), Japan, and the United States (US) welcomed the decision to extend the CA's term, urging the parties to continue in the spirit of compromise to finalise the constitution and peace processes.

At the beginning of May, the UCPN-M organised mass demonstrations across Nepal to launch its protest movement calling for the resignation of the Prime Minister on the occasion of the Labor Day on 1 May. Large gatherings were organised in many locations across the country including Kathmandu, Butwal and Biratnagar. From 2 May, the UCPN-M imposed a 'Nationwide General Strike' (*bandh*) across the country. It was relatively calm in the initial phase but quickly deteriorated.

A range of other actors were vocal in calling for an end to the strikes and a solution to the political deadlock. On 6 May, approximately 30,000 people gathered in Kathmandu, urging the Maoists to end the general strike and calling on the political parties to reach consensus within two days, in a gathering organized by the Federation of Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) and civil society groups. Similar rallies were held in other districts across the country. The international community, including the EU, US and Norway, held a series of meetings with political leaders calling on the parties to maintain flexibility for the timely finalization of the party negotiations.

On 17 May the Government registered a Bill in the Legislature-Parliament (LP) seeking a one-year extension of the tenure of the CA. The UML Parliamentary Party, supported by ten of the ruling parties, and the NC Central Working Committee meeting agreed to an extension of the CA. NC contended the extension should be linked to a timeline for constitution drafting and a concrete plan for the integration and rehabilitation of the former People's Liberation Army (PLA).

PM Madhav Kumar Nepal came under severe criticism for his statement on 21 May that he 'was never in

favor of forming a CA but accepted it merely to please the Maoists and in the interest of the country'. The CPN UML quickly issued a statement denouncing the statement and urging everyone to follow the institutional decision of the party. The PM later apologized, calling it a 'slip of tongue.'

Following months of negotiation, the leaders and cadres of Akhil Terai Mukti Morcha (ATMM), an armed group operating in the Terai, handed over weapons to the government in Birgunj, Parsa district, on 21 May. This was part of the six point agreement reached between the Government and the group.

On 19 May, the Technical Committee (TC) for the Supervision, Integration & Rehabilitation of Maoist Army prepared a draft compensation package which proposed to provide NPR 375,000 (\$5,208) to each PLA member opting to go into politics or retirement. The amount is based on the voluntary retirement package for civil servants who have served for 14 years. The Maoists have not agreed to this and instead suggest a cash payment of at least two million Nepali rupees (\$27,778).

On 29 May the UCPN-M made public its version of a draft constitution called "The People's Federal Republican Constitution of Nepal 2067" It proposes twelve (rather than the fourteen previously proposed) federal states based on ethnicity, region and language and outlines provisions for a directly-elected presidential system with five-year terms.

Former King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah made a public appearance in Western Nepal and was given a red-carpet welcome by hundreds of royalists demanding the restoration of monarchy and asking the former king 'to save Nepal from political chaos.' The pro-monarchist Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) Nepal had previously demanded a national referendum regarding restitution of the monarchy. The former King was highly unpopular and general commitment to a republican and secular state remains strong.

### *Protests*

The strike called by the UCPN-M brought humanitarian operations to a halt across the country affecting food assistance, emergency seed distribution, and access to emergency medical services (see OCHA's 7 May Situation Report "UCPN-M General Strike" available at <http://un.org.np/situation/situation.php>) The Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) issued a press statement and called on all parties to protect humanitarian access and to assist in re-launching critical operations with minimum delays.

On 25 May, the 'Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities' (NEFIN) held a sit-in in front of the Constituent Assembly (CA) to pressure the parties to extend the CA's tenure.

A newly formed group in Western Terai, the Madesh Tarai Forum, announced its agitation program in a press meet in Nepalgunj on 18 May, and declared a Terai *bandh* on 25 May with torch rallies the day before. Demands include for Nepal to be recognized as a Hindu state, and for Hindi to be recognized as an official language. Apart for partial closure of markets in some areas, the *bandh*, for the most part, was not observed.

On 18 May, demonstrating a protest rally, workers of Sunsari-Morang industrial corridor opposed the industrial policy of government 'no work, no pay' that was made public as being detrimental for them.

### *Operational Space*

Following the UCPN-M General Strike up to 7 May access improved the majority of operations resumed. However, there were 11 cases of violations of the Basic Operating Guidelines (BOGs) reported during the month of May. According to a UN source, on 7 May, an NGO office was vandalized by UCPN-M in Mugu district, reportedly for violating the general strike. In the Far Western Hill districts organizations were reportedly visited by UCPN-M cadres on 11 and 12 May, asking for donations.

Several incidents took place on 12 May in different districts. According to human rights defenders in Achham district, UCPN-M and Young Communist League (YCL) cadres allegedly collected donations from teachers, businessmen and civil servants. In Surkhet district, a local human rights defender reported that the UCPN-M allegedly issued letters to VDC Secretaries, Government staff and businessmen to provide "support" for their movement. In Dang district, a journalist was threatened by the Laxmipur VDC YCL Area-in-Charge for reporting on forced donations from workers at a local factory. Similar donation requests were reportedly received in Parbat district a civil servant received threats from the UCPN-M to pay NPR 27,000 (US\$375) to the party.

Cadres of Kirat Janawadi Worker's Party (KJWP) threatened VDC Secretaries in Sunsari to vacate their VDC offices. Soon after they torched and destroyed Hasposa VDC office in Sunsari on 18 May. Following this incident, on 20 May, VDC secretaries from the district's 49 VDCs moved to the safety of the district headquarters.

## **Safety and Security**

During the reporting period, the security situation in parts of the Terai remained tense due to criminal group activity. Abductions, tax collection and donation drives, robberies, and attacks on different factions of society continued. Impunity for human rights violators, threats against the media, arbitrary arrest, and lengthy pretrial detention remained serious problems across the country.

According to local human rights organisations, the security situation in Dang has been getting worse in the past few months, especially due to an increase in criminal groups. The newly formed Dang Tiger and Ajingar, along with the UCPN-M have been associated with IED explosions, demands for donations (in particular of the business community) and intimidation (including death threats to those refusing to pay). On 29 May, for example, an improvised explosive device (IED) went off in Tulsipur. The owner had reportedly refused to pay a donation demanded by a group called the Young Tiger. Two youths were arrested for extorting businessmen in Tulsipur.

On 11 May, Police seized a large amount of weapons from a temple in Saptari district. The Police said that the weapons might be kept by Madhesi Virus Killers.

On 12 May, a Government school teacher was beaten, allegedly by UCPN-M cadres in Okhaldhunga district. According to information received from human rights defenders, teachers and the District Administration Office (DAO), the teacher was severely injured and was airlifted to Kathmandu for treatment. On 14 May, the police arrested two UCPN-M cadres and a teacher on suspicion of being involved in the assault.

The CPN-UML affiliated trade union has reportedly captured a plot of land in Gauradaha VDC, Jhapa, upon which it has built 20 sheds and erected CPN-UML election stamp flags. The Union leaders said the land was captured to be distributed among landless persons as the unclaimed land was being sold illegally, according to a local media report.

A television journalist based in Itahari, Sunsari district, received a death threat on 15 May by self-identified UCPN-M cadres for having submitted photos of Maoists' activities to the army. Three days earlier, another journalist received death threat in the same place. He was threatened by a person identifying himself as a leader of Kochila State Committee of UCPN-M for writing news against his party during the general strike.

Three lootings by large groups of armed robbers were reported in the media: two in Kailali district (one in Tikapur VDC on 13 May, and one in Malakheti VDC on 15 May), and one in Suda VDC, Kanchanpur, on 13 May. The robbers reportedly took jewellery and cash, assaulted the people, and in Tikapur fired some bullets which injured one person.

On 27 May, Armed Police Force (APF) in Siraha district arrested three persons for supplying weapons to Nepal from India. The three are accused of buying arms from bordering Indian town of Jayanagar and supplying them to agents in Kathmandu.

Terai Janatantrik Mukti Morcha cadres reportedly shot and injured a district committee member of UCPN-M's Tharuwan Rastriya Mukti Morcha on 28 May in Bardiya.

## **Humanitarian and Cluster/Sector Updates**

### *MYR of CAP 2010*

The humanitarian community in Nepal has begun consultations for the Mid Year Review (MYR) of the 2010 Nepal Humanitarian Transition Appeal CAP<sup>1</sup>. Cluster partners from different agencies have already started to revise the strategy, objectives and response plan set at the beginning of the year as per the changed context reflecting the needs and priorities for the remainder of the year. Although Nepal was not a part of the global launch of the 2010 appeal in November 2009 (the Nepal appeal was launched only on 10 March this year), Nepal will be a part of the global MYR process as this will give an opportunity to present Nepal's needs and priorities to the donors together with other appeals.

### *Accidental fire outbreaks in East and West*

A fire broke out in Deuri Bharuwa VDC of Saptari district on 18 May, destroying more than 125 houses of 50 families in two wards. It is estimated that the fire destroyed property worth NPR 10 million (US\$142,857). According to Nepal Police and Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), no casualties were reported in the incident. Most of the affected people were from Muslim and Chamar (Dalit) communities. 40 households from both communities lost houses and property. All houses were made from bamboo, wood and straw, therefore prone

---

<sup>1</sup> The Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) is a tool for aid organizations to jointly plan, coordinate, implement and monitor their response to disasters and emergencies and to appeal for funds together.



Photo 1 : Credit Save the Children; Saptari

to fire. Most of the people were away from home so their property was lost within three hours.

Locals and security personnel (Police and Army) brought the fire under control and rescued the people with the help of fire brigade from Rajbiraj Municipality. NRCS and local residents provided food and non-food items to the affected people. Save the Children (SC) provided 54 non-food relief item (NFRI) sets as the immediate relief to the fire victims on 19 May. DDRC, Saptari provided NPR 162,000 cash (\$2250) for 54 families including cash. NRCS, Saptari provided clothes to the affected families.

In separate fire incidents in Salyan and Banke districts of the Mid Western Region (MWR), 29 households were completely destroyed. According to the NRCS, three people died (a 16-year old boy and two women) in a fire

that began in a nearby community forest in Salyan district. The affected families lost their food stores and personal belongings, and were staying either in cowsheds or with neighbours. The Chief District Officer (CDO), NRCS and local security forces visited the area, and provided NPR 10,000 (\$139) to the families of the three deceased.

According to the NRCS and District Administration Office in Banke, 25 households and 162 people were affected by fire in Banke district. This is the third incident of fire in different wards of Narainapur VDC over the past few months, affecting a total of 124 households if the same VDCs of Banke district.

### **Storm damages schools in Mid and Far West districts**

34 schools in Baitadi district were completely and partially damaged on 31 May following a storm. On the same day in Rukum, seven schools were damaged by a storm as well, which blew away/damaged the tin roofs, furnitures and school rooms (an average of two school rooms damaged). While most schools have managed to continue holding classes by sharing in other classrooms, in Sri Primary School of Kotjahari VDC, where five rooms were damaged, they have discontinued classes for students in those five classrooms until the repairs are finished

### **Education**

The Children Zone of Peace (CZOP) network, of which most of the education cluster agencies are members, organized a School Zone Of Peace (SZOP) campaign from 18-22 May in nine Terai districts with the support of district partners. The main objective was to raise awareness on education rights of children in the face of emergency, crisis or any kind of conflict. The key message was to ensure that children do not miss school because of school closure due to any kind of disturbance. In the Terai, many schools remain closed due to local conflict for months, which is why the campaign focused on this region. The campaign coordinator noted the launch was with the support of government and non-government organizations working in the education sector, various political parties, human rights organizations, schools, school management committees, parents and students. The week long campaign weekend started from Bhagawati Secondary school in Inaruwa, Sunsari and concluded on 22 May in Parsa district.

Due to the indefinite strike called by the UCPN-Maoist during the first week of May, the Education in Emergency Training of Trainers (ToT) has been rescheduled to July. This training will be supported by UNICEF Asia Pacific Shared Service Center (APSSC) and will apply the training package developed by the global education cluster. A training/mentor team has been formed to provide the technical assistance during the ToT.

With the support of APSSC, capacity mapping of key education responders in emergency is underway to assess the areas of expertise and experience. The mapping aims to identify the gaps faced by the cluster, which will be addressed while revisiting the national contingency plan to ensure an adequate preparedness and response plan.

### **Food Security**

On 4 May, WFP suspended all food distribution except for the Bhutanese refugee operation due to the general strike called by UCPN-M on 1-7 May. An estimated 4,500 MT of food was temporarily delayed at the India-Nepal border due to complete movement restrictions. The strike forced cooperating partners to cease all movement, development work and food/cash distributions until 8 May. Equally, school feeding, girls' incentive programme, food/cash for assets, health camps and food for training activities were halted during

the period. The strike not only strained employment activities and food movement throughout the country, negatively impacting income levels and food security, it also affected trade in the Hill and Mountain regions. Trade in these regions – which are critically dependent on transport to ensure sufficient district food stocks - will be cut off once the monsoon takes its toll on roads in June/July. It is unclear how these constraints will affect commodity stocks or market prices in the Mid- and Far-West come the middle or end of the monsoon season. During the strikes, more than 31,000 people in seven food insecure districts could not receive food as per the food-for-asset (FFA) plan, and 73,000 children missed schools meals in four food-for-education (FFE) districts. Moreover, 1,788 households in Humla were not allowed to work on FFA schemes and 556 children in Dolpa missed micronutrient supplementation. Hill and mountain districts were the most affected by food supply constraints, and by the end of the strike the worst affected districts reportedly only had between three-seven days food supply left in stock for key food items. Food transportation and distribution resumed after the strike was called off.

The government has revised the estimated cereal shortfall figure down to 316,500 MT from 400,000 MT due to recent harvests. However, overall 2009/2010 cereal production is down by 350,000 MT as compared to the previous year (2008/2009). Although international food prices have reduced significantly over the past 18 months, prices in Nepal have continued to increase steadily. National food price inflation remains of significant concern to Nepal's food security and requires that the government and the international community monitor the situation vigorously.

WFP continues to provide food assistance to 2.2 million of the 3.5 million moderately to severely food insecure people estimated in Nepal. In April, the last month for which cumulative figures are available, members of over 52,987 households—an estimated 296,727 people—carried out asset creation activities supported by WFP food/cash for assets aimed at improving food security through enhanced accessibility. In exchange for working on critical infrastructure projects, participating households received 3,473 MT of food and US\$ 361,479 in cash assistance.

The focus of Nepal Food Security Bulletin # 27 is on the Far- and Mid-Western region. According to the bulletin, the food security situation deteriorated in parts of the Mid- and Far-Western Hill and Mountain districts due to poor summer crop production. In other regions food security is stable. The areas of main concern include Bajura and Humla where food prices increased by 20% compared to last year, food stocks are more or less depleted, and coping intensity is 2 to 3 times to normal.

### Agriculture and Livestock

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) through European Union Food Facility Program (EUFF) has assisted 103,111 beneficiaries in 10 districts in the Far and Mid-Western and Mid-Eastern of Nepal as reported in earlier monthly updates, through the distribution of 514 MT paddy, 266 MT maize, 13 MT vegetables, and 36 kg True Potato Seeds. The inputs have arrived in the right time just before the forthcoming monsoon rain season this summer.

In addition to that, 50 staffs under the Department of Agriculture and 77 Local Resource Persons have received Training of Trainers. In the same time, 11 Farmers Field Schools are going on in order that the appropriate technology can be adopted in place.



Photo 2 : FAO, Farmer Field School conducted at Khatiwada VDC, Doti VDC

Under the Saptakoshi flood-affected Rehabilitation Agriculture & Livestock Office (SFRALSO), three activities: Sugarcane Plantation<sup>2</sup>, Land Improvement<sup>3</sup> and Agricultural Produce Wholesale Market Center Infrastructure Improvement (LI& APWMCII) have been planned in FY 2009/2010 for yellow and green area in flood affected VDCs. Sugarcane plantation has been targeted to cover 500 bigha<sup>4</sup>, land improvement has been planned in 400 hectares while the LI & APWMCII been planned to be constructed in Inaruwa. Out of targets, sugarcane plantation has been completed in 293 bigha and is over for now due to the off-season.

<sup>2</sup> Sugarcane plantation has been planned in agricultural land with less than 30 cm sand deposition and hence the program has been implemented in green and yellow zone.

<sup>3</sup> Land improvement program has been targeted for low damaged land with less than 15 cm sand deposition and the medium damaged land with 15 cm to 60 cm sand deposition. (ADB has funded the sugarcane plantation, land improvement and establishment of Agricultural Produce Wholesale Market Center Infrastructure).

<sup>4</sup> In Nepal 1 bigha equals about 0.677 hectare (1.67 acres).

Land improvement activity is completed in 344.6 hectares in less affected land where as in 150 hectares moderately affected land it is ongoing. The APWMCII work is under construction. Similarly, elephant foot yam cultivation is almost completed in 2 hectares in Paschim Kusaha. The establishment of banana orchard in 20 ha land is underway. The District Agricultural Development Office (DADO) has distributed seeds of rice, mung oil in green and yellow zone in different wards of affected VDCs. A tender for 400 MT of vermin-compost manure production has already been out. 7,330 agricultural tools have already been procured and will be soon distributed. Similarly, user groups are formed for the construction of a market shed in Haripur-1. Four small irrigation systems will be constructed as a pilot program directly by DADO.

## **Health**

The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) continues to conduct contingency planning exercises for the health sector at the district level, with concentration on the Terai districts in readiness for the monsoon season. In May, the exercise was conducted in Dhanusa, Rautahat, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts with the support of World Health Organization (WHO), and in Rolpa and Pyuthan districts with the support of Merlin. So far the exercise has been completed in 17 districts. Training of Trainers for the contingency plan will also be conducted in the Mid and Far Western Development Regions in June.

The health cluster is in the process of revising the health cluster contingency plan. This will be finalized in June 2010; follow up activities will be discussed with cluster members on the way forward based on the agreed plan.

Following news of an outbreak of chicken pox among children in Dailekh, on 9 May, the District Health Office (DHO) sent a team of health workers and medicines to the affected VDC. 28 children were treated at the sub-health post, and blood samples were taken for further diagnosis. Following this, no additional cases have been reported. According to DHO, there is sufficient medicine at the sub-health post (SHP) and health post (HP) level, and health staff are on standby in case of an increase in the numbers.

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

IFRC has launched an emergency appeal of CHF 738,960 (USD 664,175) to support Nepal Red Cross Society scale up efforts to reduce the risk of a diarrhoea outbreak in seven highly prone districts in the far and mid-west of the country. Ten VDCs will be selected after consultations with the district level partners. Provision of safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, diarrhoea prevention kits, improved hygiene practices through increased WASH awareness and strengthened capacity of NRCS in responding to public health. The operation is expected to be implemented in 9 months and will be completed by 13 Feb 2011. IFRC Operations Update on the Emergency Appeal for the Potential Diarrhoea Outbreak in Nepal is available (<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRNP004OU1.pdf>). IFRC has received contributions from the Spanish, American and Japanese Red Cross; however, the mobilisation of funds remains the biggest challenge at the moment.

In addition to what was reported in April, the WASH cluster has completed agency mapping for WASH Preparedness Activities in 2010, and according to their findings, 15 agencies are carrying out WASH interventions this year. The WASH cluster along with Department of Water Supply and Sewage (DWSS) and other humanitarian partner agencies will be conducting WASH preparedness interventions in over 200 VDC in 14 districts. The Ministry of Health/DHS volunteered to provide over 600,000 packets of ORS for hygiene campaign. Key agencies participating in the campaign include: DWSS, DHS/EDCD, UNICEF, OCHA, WHO, UNICEF, Water Aid, Oxfam, IRD, Plan, DEPROSC, KIRDARC, and NEWAH. All agencies have agreed to implement the same WASH preparedness package (soap-2 bar, chlorine- 4 months, ORS- 2/family and 20-30 ORS/FCHV) along with strong social mobilization. The hygiene campaign will start from June until October in all targeted VDCs and districts. Mass media campaign is ongoing through National Radio and FM stations.

## **Nutrition**

Emergency Health and Nutrition Working Group (EHNWG) will finalize the EHN Contingency Plan during the next meeting in June. A final draft of Nutrition Cluster TOR will be shared and finalized. Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) is ongoing in Bardiya, Mugu and Achham districts. The estimated under five (U5) target is 114,838. The coverage rate of CMAM in Bardiya is 71%. But because of repeatedly admitted defaulted cases in the Out Patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) the cured rate appears to be 61%. Many defaulted SAM are re-admitted in the OTPs and treated in all districts. Child nutrition surveys in six Far and Mid western districts have been completed.

## Protection

At a press conference in Gulariya, Bardiya on 13 May, women from the Badi<sup>5</sup> community said they returned to prostitution because the government was not implementing the agreement signed with the community in 2007, by which it would launch a rehabilitation and employment program. The government is implementing a four-year project through the Women Development Office by which each Badi family is allocated NPR 15,000 (\$208). According to local human rights activists, the Badi women have difficulties getting clients to come to the small shops or food stalls they have opened due to the continuing practice of untouchability. Furthermore, the Badi women have said that the government has provided NPR 8,000 (\$111) instead of NPR 15,000 (\$208), and have received by 130 out of 250 Badi families only.

During the reporting period, several events in Kailali highlighted the need for continued advocacy for the rights of *Kamalaris*<sup>6</sup>. The Freed Kamaiya Women Development Forum (FKWDF) and Kamaiya Women Upliftment Society carried out a rally in Dhangadhi on 16 May demanding free education for the freed Kamalaris and that action is taken against those forced them into labor. The organizers also submitted an appeal to the PM by way of the DAO with 12-points demands including rehabilitation centres, free education and five *Katta*<sup>7</sup> land for each freed Kamaiya family.

On 5 May, the District Forest Office (DFO) in Kanchanpur issued a notice that it would carry out a forced eviction in the Dilasaini Community Forest. According to the DFO, 519 households have encroached upon the forest land in the past one-two years, most of whom are reportedly not landless or former bonded labourers (freed Kamaiya). As of 21 May, 195 families had left already and 118 were in the process. They were coordinating with the DAO and security forces for the eviction process. DFO further said if they identified landless or freed Kamaiya among those evicted, they would make plans for their resettlement.

The DDRC members in Terathum were oriented on protection during natural disasters on 21 & 22 May 2010 with the support from Save the Children (SC). The main objective was to highlight the importance of protection issues during natural disasters. The orientation was guided by IASC Operational Guidelines on Human Rights and Natural Disaster and National Strategy on Disaster Risk Management 2009 and to facilitate DDRC and NRCS to prepare the District Disaster Preparedness Plan. The workshop was chaired by the Chief District Officer (CDO) and participated by DDRC members including media people, NRCS, Clusters and representatives of political parties. During the workshop, major hazards in the district and the most vulnerable to these hazards were identified.

## HIV/AIDS

On 19 May, National Centre for AIDS and STD Control (NCASC), FHI/Nepal and National Association of People living with HIV& AIDs (NAP+N) organized a felicitation program for Rohit Timilsina, the new Guinness World Records holder for "Most Kisses under One Minute". Various Government Agencies, I/NGOs working in the HIV and AIDS sector and members of the press were present at the function in Hotel Annapurna. Rohit accomplished this amazing feat by kissing 116 people in one minute, including people infected by HIV. The new world record counters the general misconceptions that HIV is communicable by touch. The record was set on 1 December 2009, when the world was commemorating World AIDS Day with the theme "Universal Access and Human Rights".

## Shelter

### *Koshi Recovery Updates*

The construction work was suspended due to structural errors as reported in the media. The construction work resumed on 14 May.

NSET is organizing training on the third week of July to formulate a shelter Response Strategy and Plan for Kathmandu Valley (using an earthquake scenario) and funded by UN Habitat Geneva.

### **Disaster Preparedness**

As agreed in the central level disaster preparedness forum together with the Ministry of Home (MoHA), UN, Red Cross and NGOs are providing support to District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) in their respective districts/regions in organizing disaster preparedness meetings and/or workshops. OCHA sub-office and UN

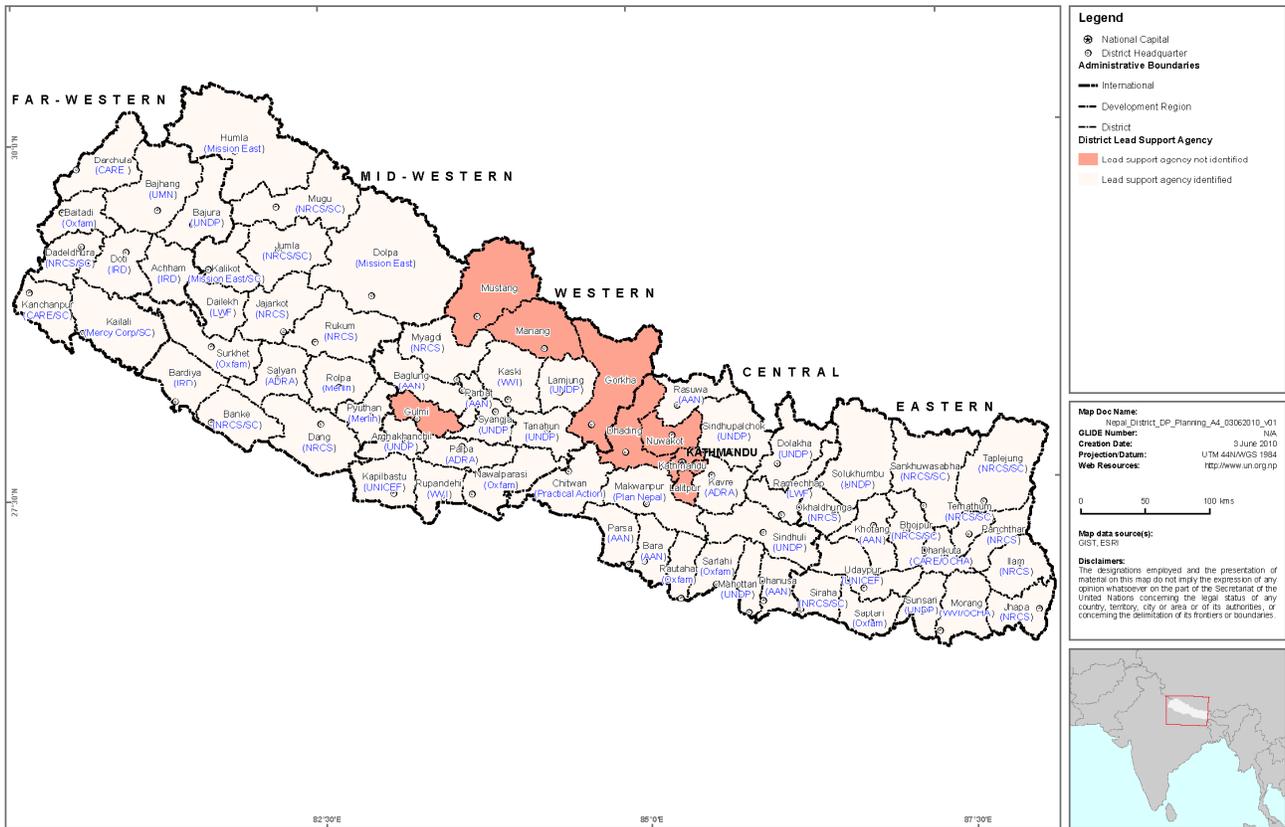
<sup>5</sup> Badis are an ethnic minority associated with flesh trade, and consequently, considered the "untouchables of the untouchables" by Nepal's highly class-based society.

<sup>6</sup> Kamlari are female bonded labourers. In the Kamlari system, adolescent girls from the Tharu community are sent by their families to work in private person's residences to clear the debts of parents or ancestors, or as payment for using the property of a land-holder.

<sup>7</sup> 1 katta equals about 338 square meters in Nepal.

Field Coordination Office (UN-FCO) in Biratnagar and Nepalgunj have been providing support through the DLSA (District Lead Support Agency to DDRC) in their respective regions in organizing disaster preparedness meetings and/or workshops. Out of 66 Disaster Preparedness workshops/meeting planned to be organized before monsoon this year, more than 16 workshops and one regional level workshop (7 & 8 June in Surkhet) have been completed. MoHA has sent the instruction to all DDRC and Regional Administrative Offices to complete pre-monsoon planning tasks by 14 June 2010.

**NEPAL- Mapping of Lead Support Agency for District DP Planning Activities in 2010**



*Map 1 : Distribution of Lead Support Agency for DP Planning 2010*

Surakshit Samudaya II is a Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) project implemented by Action Aid Nepal (AAN) with the support from ECHO/Aus-Aid. In addition to building community resilience to disaster, the project aims to work with government and other stakeholders to strengthen DRR policy framework in Nepal.

Though the ongoing advocacy work with the CA member had to be curtailed due to political uncertainty in May, the project continues involvement in DRR. In May, 50 volunteers from Sunsari and Banke were trained in light Search and Rescue (LSAR) and 20 local masons of Sunsari were trained in earthquake resistance building practices. Moreover, community level Institutional building and awareness initiative continued in Sunsari, Banke and Udaypur districts. In June, the project plans to continue engagement with CA members as well as orient regional level and district authority including VDC secretaries in DRR to operationalise the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM) in Nepal.

On May 26, Handicap International facilitated an orientation in Nepalgunj, Banke district, on disability in disaster preparedness and emergencies, and how to make disaster risk reduction disability-inclusive. The orientation examined the difference between impairment and disability, ways of including people with disabilities (PWD) in preparedness and response activities, and how to create accessible infrastructures. The trainers particularly emphasized the importance of highlighting people with special needs during the on-going preparedness activities.

**COORDINATION**

OCHA is facilitating the MYR and consultations in regard to Nepal Humanitarian Transition Appeal 2010. Agencies and clusters are provided with guideline and templates to review the strategy.

Contact Group Meetings (CGM) in Eastern Region, Central Terai, Mid West Region and Far West Region are facilitated by regional Coordination Offices.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS/ MEETINGS

- 1 June : Central Terai Contact Group Meeting, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, Birgunj, Parsa
- 2 June : Contact Group Meeting, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, UN Conference Room
- 3 June : HCT/ IASC Meeting, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, OCHA Conference Room
- 11 June : HCT Operational Meeting, 10:30 – 12:00 pm, OCHA Conference Room
- 17 June : HCT Principals Meeting, 10:30 – 12 pm (tbc)
- 25 June : HCT Operational Meeting, 10:30am – 12:00pm, OCHA Conference Room

For more details, please visit Meeting schedules at UN Nepal Information Platform (NIP).  
<http://www.un.org.np/WebCalendar/month.php>

#### RECENT MAPS AVAILABLE:

OCHA IMU produced a number of mapping products, some of which are listed below and also available on the Nepal Information Platform (NIP) (<http://www.un.org.np/>).

Nepal: Report of Bandhs /Blockades – 01-30 April, 2010  
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=697>

Nepal: Report of Security Incidents – 01-30 April, 2010  
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=696>

Nepal: Operational Space – 01 -31 March 2010  
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=698>

Nepal: Security incidents related to the UCPN-M general strike, 7-9 May 2010  
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=695>

Nepal: Security incidents related to the UCPN-M general strike, 1-6 May 2010  
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/metadata.php?id=693>

#### RECENT REPORTS AVAILABLE:

Some of the recent reports available on NIP are listed below.

A Report on Launching of DDR Toolkit for Constituent Assembly Members of Nepal  
[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?mid=576](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=576)

Report on Potential Internally Displaced Persons Camp Site Selection in Kathmandu Valley  
[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?mid=575](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=575)

World Vision International Nepal (WVIN) Annual Review 2009  
[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?mid=574](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=574)

Role of Women in Community Based Disaster Risk Management in Rural Communities of Kailali District  
[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?mid=569](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=569)

Situation Analysis of Female Sex Workers in Chitwan  
[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?mid=570](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=570)

Study on Status of Unemployed Slum Youth and their Possible Linkages with Job Market in Greater Kathmandu  
[http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table\\_metadata.php?mid=571](http://www.un.org.np/reportlibrary/table_metadata.php?mid=571)

*Disclaimer: The information in this report is consolidated from media, UN, NGO, and other humanitarian partners, subject to availability of data. Although OCHA aims to confirm reports independently, occasional factual inaccuracies can occur.*

**For inputs, questions or comments please contact: Rita Dhakal Jayasawal, National Coordination Officer on ph. 9851072938, [dhakal@un.org](mailto:dhakal@un.org)**

Wendy Cue, Head of Office  
OCHA Nepal Tel. +977 (1) 5548243 [ocha-nepal@un.org](mailto:ocha-nepal@un.org)  
Visit the Nepal Information Platform at <http://www.un.org.np>