



A flood-affected classroom of Shree Nayan Kamakshya Primary School in Badaharawa village in Rautahat District. The blackboard shows the level where the flood water reached, and the floor is still covered in sludge. Photo: UNICEF Nepal/2017/ RJoshi

NEPAL

Humanitarian Situation Report No.6



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

26 August 2017

1.7 million

of people in need
(OCHA August 2017)

680,000

of children in need of humanitarian assistance

UNICEF Appeal 2017*

*A UNICEF-specific appeal for the response to the floods is under preparation. It will be aligned to the UNCT 6-month Joint Response Plan (JRP) released on 25 August.

Highlights

Since 11 August, Nepal has experienced long periods of incessant rainfall, triggering widespread flooding and landslides in 32 of the country's 75 districts. Monsoon flooding and landslides have so far claimed 143 lives, injured at least 43 people, affected 1.7 million people, and displaced 460,000 people throughout the country; particularly in Terai (southern plain area bordering India). Some communities in Rautahat, Banke, Bardiya, Mahottari, Dhanusa and Saptari districts remain inaccessible by road.

- Rapid nutrition screening has been conducted in 16 districts, covering more than 7,000 children aged 6 to 59 months. Results showed a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 23.7 per cent – which is well above the 15 per cent categorised as “Critical” (highest level of severity) by the WHO’s Guideline on the Management of Nutrition in Major Emergencies.
- In September, intensified immunisation (measles, tetanus), integrated with nutrition and hygiene promotion, is being planned for five days in 16 districts. The immunisation aims to reach over 620,000 children under 2 years of age, and pregnant and lactating women.
- Loss of civil documentation (e.g. birth registration, citizenship documents, and land certificates) of affected communities poses great challenges to access some entitlements and benefits.
- Over US\$320,000 worth of contingency supplies for WASH, Health, Nutrition, Education and Child protection have been dispatched so far to affected areas.
- Additional funds are urgently required to provide hygiene kits; repair water tap stands; procure health commodities (ORS, essential medicines and mosquito nets); conduct intensified immunisation activities; procure therapeutic food for severely malnourished children; and procure essential school supplies for children including recreational kits and early childhood development kits.

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Nepal experienced a period of sustained heavy rainfall from the second week of August, resulting in large-scale adverse impacts on lives, livelihoods and infrastructure across 32 of 75 districts. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), over 80 per cent of land in the Terai – along Nepal’s southern border with India and Nepal’s breadbasket – was inundated by flood waters following the heaviest recorded rainfall in the central and western regions in the last 60 years. A total of 143 people died, 43 were injured, and 30 are still missing due to rain-induced flood and landslides.

According to the data from the ‘Initial Rapid Assessment’ (IRA) conducted between 14 and 20 August in 28 districts, 1.7 million people have been affected, the majority of whom are concentrated in 10 districts in the Terai. Flooding has impacted already vulnerable and marginalised groups, including women and children who require targeted support. A total of 460,000 people from 91,400 families have been displaced, and nearly 65,000 houses have been completely destroyed. There are an estimated 19,000 persons currently residing in informal displacements sites including in 93 schools.

The Government of Nepal has mobilised 27,000 security personnel and civil servants to support relief efforts; provided more than US\$11.3 million to affected areas for non-food items; and planning cash distribution of Nepal Rupees 70 (equivalent to US\$ 0.68) per person per day to families whose houses are completely destroyed. However, the humanitarian needs to be met are quite substantial. MoHA has asked 18 flood-affected districts to carry out Cluster-Specific Detailed Assessments (CSDA) as well as to assess crop and livestock losses, and to submit reports within ten days. Meanwhile the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) has directed all District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs) to support the repair of damaged local roads in the flood-affected areas.

The nutritional situation of children from low-income households in Terai was already regarded as poor, and has worsened since the onset of flooding. A Rapid Nutrition Assessment conducted, covering more than 7,000 children aged 6 to 59 months in 16 districts in August revealed a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 23.7 per cent (Severe Acute Malnutrition [SAM] of 6.3 per cent, and Moderate Acute Malnutrition [MAM] of 17.4 per cent). This is well above the 15 per cent categorised as “Critical” (highest level of severity) according to WHO’s Guideline on the Management of Nutrition in Major Emergencies and very serious. For comparison, the results of 2016 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) showed the prevalence of wasting among children under 5 years of age as 9.7 per cent for the country as a whole; 12.2 per cent for Terai; and 14.4 per cent and 11.8 per cent for Province 2 and Province 1 (provinces particularly affected by flood this time), respectively. It is clear that the incidence of GAM among the sample children is far higher than those pre-flood figures which were already high prior to the floods. In view of very high SAM fatality rates (typically ranging between 30 and 50 per cent if not treated in time), urgent actions are being taken to respond to the situation by using in-country stocks of related supplies. However, more resources are required to respond fully. This is particularly important as the flood washed away or spoiled already meager food stocks of low-income households, damaged or destroyed their houses, and ruined their crops and other means of livelihood.

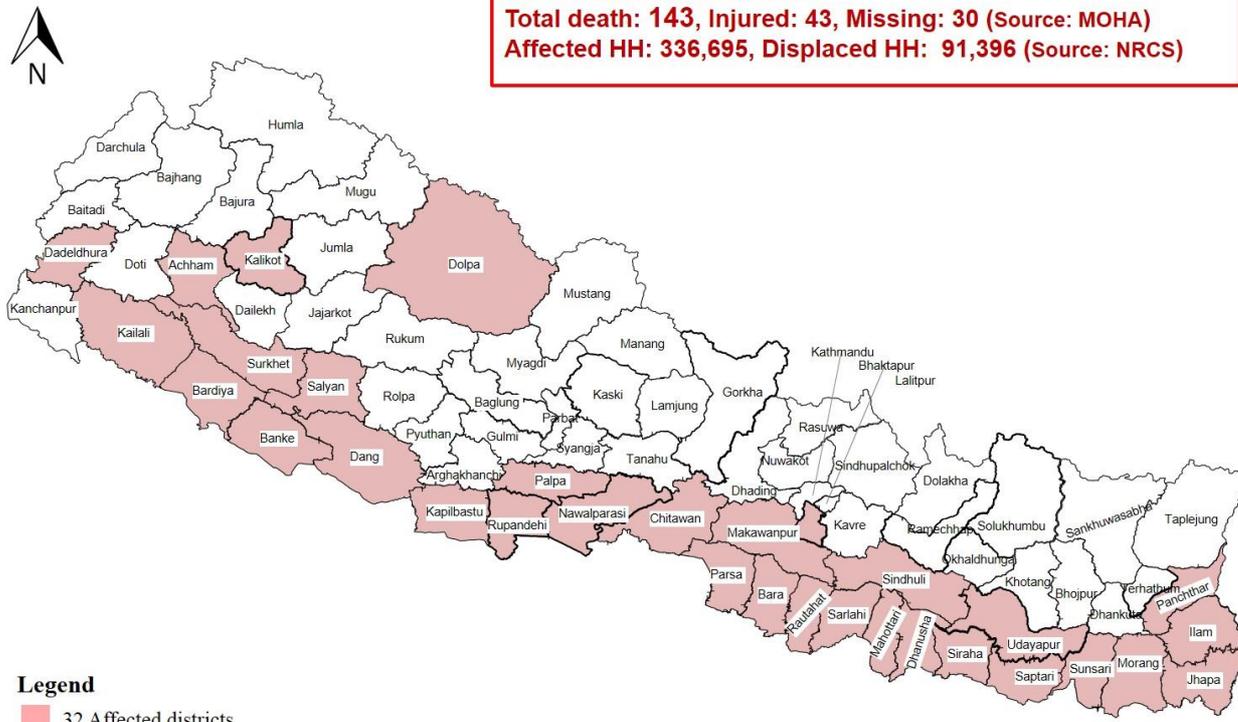
According to the Education Cluster data, 416 schools have been destroyed and a further 1,043 have sustained varying degrees of damages in 14 districts, affecting the education of 291,000 children. In addition, 10 health posts have been destroyed and 64 have been partially damaged. About 64,000 hectares of standing crops have been destroyed in the 10 worst-affected districts and families have also lost important food stocks in most of the flooded areas, which could further compromise food security in the Terai.

Estimated Population in Need of Humanitarian Assistance
(calculated based on initial rapid assessment figures and Nepal Census 2011)

	Total	Male	Female
Total population in need	1,700,000	816,000	884,000
Children under 18 years of age	714,000	342,720	371,280
Children under 5 years of aged	164,900	79,152	85,748
Children aged 6 to 23 months	54,400	26,112	28,288
Pregnant and lactating women	44,200	-	-

Flood and landslide affected districts
 (22 August 2017)

Total affected: 32 districts
Total death: 143, Injured: 43, Missing: 30 (Source: MOHA)
Affected HH: 336,695, Displaced HH: 91,396 (Source: NRCS)



Source: MOHA and NRCS, 22 August 2017, 15:00 HRS

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

- On 18 August, the Government of Nepal formally issued a statement inviting “assistance from friendly Governments”. At the national level, MoHA is coordinating the humanitarian response. Sector-based Humanitarian Clusters led by the respective government ministries have been fully activated at both the national and sub-national levels, with the concerned UN agencies and the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) as co-leads.
- UNICEF is the co-lead for WASH, Education and Nutrition Clusters and Child Protection Area of Responsibility, and an active member of the Health Cluster.
- UNICEF is also an active member of the Community Engagement Working Group and the Cash Coordinating Group. The groups have been meeting regularly to plan and coordinate the immediate response- and early recovery-related activities.

Humanitarian Strategy

To address the immediate needs of the flood-affected communities, the UN Humanitarian Country Team (UNHCT) has submitted a request to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and has also issued a Joint Response Plan (JRP) seeking US\$41.4 million for six months to meet the ongoing response and recovery needs of the affected communities. The strategic objectives within the JRP are to: (1) meet the immediate food needs of the affected population to avoid deterioration of their nutritional status; (2) provide basic and protective shelter solutions for families with destroyed or damaged homes including the displaced population; (3) provide immediate access to basic water, sanitation, hygiene and health services to prevent increase in mortality and morbidity and the outbreak of communicable diseases; and (4) protect affected people from violence and enable them to have equal access to assistance, services and entitlements without discrimination.

Taking these UN-wide strategic objectives into consideration, a UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children document for Nepal is currently being finalised and will be shared by early next week.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

- Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) along with Micronutrient Powder (MNP), Vitamin A, Iron and folic acid tablets and de-worming tablets are needed. In-country pre-positioned stocks have already been dispatched and procurement of additional supplies has been initiated, but funding gaps remain.
- Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling and broadcasting of various nutrition messages on the importance of breastfeeding have started, and will be expanded to 162 local FM stations in 22 districts in the last week of August.
- A rapid nutrition assessment was conducted by the Nutrition Cluster in 16 districts covering children aged 6 to 59 months, using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tape. A very high incidence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) was recorded.
- A total of 2,212 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) are under treatment through on-going Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) Programme in nine districts through 11 Nutrition Rehabilitation Homes.
- Additional Outpatient Treatment Centres (OTC) for the management of children with SAM will be established by early September.

Health

- No significant outbreaks of diseases have been reported so far though there have been reports of diarrhoea, respiratory infections, viral fever and skin diseases in accordance with seasonal patterns. Cases of snake bites have also been recorded.
- The Ministry of Health has sent UNICEF an official letter requesting the provision of required drugs and equipment. UNICEF has already purchased ORS, ORS plus Zinc, and insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) to support the most vulnerable flood-affected population.
- An intensified immunization programme (measles, tetanus), integrated with nutrition and hygiene promotion, is being planned for five days in September in 16 affected districts. The programme aims to reach 404,124 children aged 0 to 23 months and 217,002 of pregnant and lactating women.

WASH

- Many of the flood-affected population remain without access to safe water and sanitation facilities, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases outbreaks; especially since there is a high prevalence of unhygienic behaviours and lack of sanitation facilities.
- Technical guidance was also provided to finalise the arrangements for Cluster-Specific Detail Assessment (CSDA) which will be initiated in all the affected districts from late August.
- Contingency partnership agreements with two NGOs were activated to support the implementation of CSDA; provide hygiene promotion at the community level and in camp settings; provide safe water supply in camps for displaced population and communities and provide sanitation facilities in camp set-up and shared among affected households.

- Additional funds are required to provide hygiene kits, household water purifications, and other life-saving WASH-related items, for 160,000 families and to support early recovery work.

Child Protection

- Loss of civil documents (birth registration, citizenship documents, land certificates, etc.) has emerged as an issue for the affected communities as it poses a great challenge for them to access some entitlements and benefits, for instance for receiving cash relief from the government.
- Child-friendly spaces are being planned in nine districts and will be established starting from the end of August.
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Watch Groups and women's federations were mobilised to support other Clusters to deliver essential supplies such as tarpaulins, blankets, hygiene kits and bed nets to the affected communities.
- Public service announcements on the prevention of trafficking, psychosocial support, GBV and Child Protection are being aired through 64 FM stations in 18 districts in four languages.
- There have been requests of support for clothes and blankets for children, women and lactating mothers among others. These needs are being looked into holistically including possible use of emergency cash transfer as it was successfully conducted during 2015 Nepal Earthquake Emergency Response (see below).
- Necessary technical assistance has been provided to the Department of Women and Children and District Women and Children Offices together with advocacy to mainstream the protection issues in the responses by other Humanitarian Clusters.

Education

- According to the Education Cluster, 416 schools have been destroyed and a further 1,043 have sustained varying degrees of damage in 14 districts, affecting the education of 291,000. UNICEF's response will target 158,000 schoolchildren.
- Initially, several schools were being used as temporary shelters, however now people are gradually moving back to their homes. Prior to resuming normal function, there is a need to clean the schools of stagnant water in the premises; clean the debris in the classrooms; repair broken doors and damaged furniture; and provide education materials such as text books, notebooks, pencils, and pens. School kits, early childhood kits and recreational kits will also need to be provided. Many children have also lost all their clothing including school uniforms. The funding requirement included in the Joint Response Plan is to meet these critical needs for the resumption of regular education activities at the earliest.
- Given that some schools have been fully or partially damaged, learning spaces will have to be set up to provide a safe educational environment for children affected. WASH-related support including hygiene promotion messages will also be required.
- There are still data gaps under this sector, so a proper sectoral assessment is required to validate the initial rapid assessment.

Cash-based programming

- A concept note for an emergency cash transfer programme to support vulnerable flood-affected communities by using the existing social protection system has been developed, and discussions are being held with a donor to fund this initiative.
- The Cash Coordinating Group has been active, and five other agencies besides UNICEF have also planned for cash distribution, some conditional and others as unconditional transfers.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement and Accountability

- A rapid needs assessment was carried out by the Common Feedback Project (CFP) based on an analysis of calls received by two NGOs' helplines. The primary concerns/needs were related to lack of food and shelter, inadequate relief distribution, concerns over the loss of agriculture and livestock, concerns about the outbreak of waterborne diseases/epidemics, and the safety of children.
- Messages on safety during flood and landslides have been aired through 162 radio stations across 22 affected districts in Nepali as well as local languages of the affected areas.
- Episodes on preparedness as well as precautions to be taken during floods were aired in 22 districts in Nepali and in focused districts in local dialects (Maithili, Awadhi, Bhojpuri and Khas languages). Repeat broadcasts are continuing to reach affected populations.

- UNICEF provided training to community radio stations on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and emergency response programming. Eleven radio stations across the affected districts are producing and airing contents on floods and landslides. Out of them, eight are producing content exclusively focusing on issues related to women and children. Nine are also collecting feedback from affected communities. Some of the emerging priority needs among affected communities were related to relief and shelter, water, food, health and education.

Supply and Logistics

- Over US\$320,000 worth of pre-positioned contingency supplies for WASH, Health, Nutrition, Education and Child protection has been dispatched so far to respond to this emergency. Supplies distributed include 1,199,000 Aqua tabs, 21,620 water purifying chlorine tablets (35 mg), 614 water flocculation tablets, 7,865 buckets, 28,000 long-lasting insecticide treated nets, 8,010 hygiene kits, 2,590 blankets, 460 newborn kits, 5,815 tarpaulins, 3,350 ORS and Zinc tablets and education supplies in small amounts.
- Inaccessibility continues to pose a challenge for distribution of supplies in some locations as well as in importing RUTF worth US\$100,000 from India as floods have ravaged bordering areas, too, making border crossing at some points difficult.

Media and External Communication

- On 22 August, UNICEF organized a trip for the UNICEF Nepal National Ambassador Ani Choying Drolma to Rautahat District– one of the districts worst affected by the floods – to highlight the plight of the flood victims.
- Photographers and writers hired by UNICEF have been documenting the situation of children and women, and the impact of UNICEF's response in the flood-affected districts. Materials produced in the field have been used for social media posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and shared with UNICEF Headquarters. A human-interest story was uploaded on global website and ICON. Additionally, field-based staff have been sending photos of their response and relief work, which have also been used for these posts and reports.

Security

- The general security situation in the country is stable. Although there are no restrictions in accessing affected population due to security reasons, access to certain areas remains a challenge due to continuing inundation.
- The third phase of the local level election has been scheduled in Province 2 which incorporates eight districts on 18 September. These are all in the flood-affected areas. The Government has also announced that it will hold provincial and federal parliamentary elections on 26 November.

Funding

- A UNICEF Nepal-specific Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal is under preparation. Meanwhile, as part of the UNCT CERF request, UNICEF has asked for US\$1.85 million, including US\$500,000 for nutrition, US\$200,000 for health, US\$1 million for WASH, and US\$137,500 for Child Protection, to respond to the floods.

Next Situation Report: 4 September 2017

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further
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