

Kailali/ Kanchanpur Floods Humanitarian Situation Update

27 October 2008

Highlights

- Food and NFI distribution continues. Data discrepancies addressed and distribution continues
- Crop salvaging continues with high percentage of grain loss due to flood damage
- DPHO mobile health teams withdrawn and regular health services provided
- Fear of recurrent annual flooding remains high in flood-affected communities

Content:

- Situation Overview
- Assessments
- Coordination
- Up-Coming Meetings

Reports attached separately:

Kailali:

- *Summary of coordination meeting, 24 October*
- *Kailali NRCS statistics, as of 27 October*
- *NFI 3W, as of 27 October*

Kanchanpur:

- *Summary of coordination meeting, 26 October*
- *NFI 3W, as of 22 October*
- *Health 3W, as of 18 October*

Kailali and Kanchanpur:

- *Contact List for Kailali and Kanchanpur*

Situation Overview:

Heavy rainfall from 19-21 September caused severe flash floods and landslides in many of the Districts in the Far-West Region (FWR) and parts of the Mid-West Region (MWR). Over 200,000 people were affected throughout the western regions by the heavy rainfall that caused flash floods and landslides in the Districts of Kailali, Kanchanpur, Bardiya, Dadeldhura, Kalikot, Doti, Bajhang, Mugu and Dang. Kailali and Kanchanpur Districts were the worst affected by the floods and landslides with an estimated 158,663 people (23,660 households) affected in Kailali and 30,733 people (5,961 households) affected in Kanchanpur, according to NRCS.

A large number of the affected population were displaced in the immediate aftermath of the flash floods. The flood waters receded quickly in most areas, enabling families to return to their place of origin prior to the floods only to find their homes, food supplies / rice stores, gardens and crops, property and livelihoods damaged or washed away. The water inundation damage caused by these devastating floods on infrastructure, private property and livelihoods was severe. A number of flood-affected people also remain displaced and in a vulnerable situation in terms of health, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition. In addition to food aid and drinking water, blankets, clothing, bed nets and tarpaulin were also identified as gaps in the relief response.

Food and Non-Food Item (NFI) distribution is underway throughout Kailali and Kanchanpur. The main challenge remains data verification, with the number of flood-affected people increasing in both Districts. In some VDCs, distribution ceased until the data was verified to ensure that relief support was reaching the flood-affected people. The data verification process is being addressed on a case-by-case basis by a team consisting of the NRCS, VDC Secretaries and Political Party representatives.

Residents and local organisations of the flood-affected areas were the first responders in the emergency. Immediate support from the government, Red Cross movement, UN, and I/NGOs followed, providing substantial assistance and unwavering support in the relief efforts. The DDRC activated clusters that coordinated the response to specific sectors. The relief efforts were consistent and cooperative, resulting in effective use of minimal resources and targeted responses. The relief community, in support of the DDRC, are now turning toward recovery and reconstruction activities in the flood affected communities.

Sectors highlighted under relief, recovery and reconstruction include agriculture, livelihood support and local infrastructure and rehabilitation support. Community-based preparedness, early warning and disaster mitigation are also activities that are key to minimising the future impact of disasters and alleviate the pressure on local authorities to respond.

Assessments:

Kailali: Community Preparedness minimising impact of disasters

Site Visit: Hasuliya, Pabera and Ratanpur VDCs along the Mohana River on 25 October.
(Mercy Corps and UN OCHA)

People are recovering, in most communities except the poorest of the poor have repaired the houses, in Mohanpur, Hasuliya VDC most of the houses are damaged and require reconstruction. The early warning system and the community based disaster preparedness activities in these communities were effective during the onset of the floods. The communities played the siren at 0300 hrs on 20 September, evacuating the residents to higher ground. The community people also rescued Police located in the village. The low cost river training and bio-engineering along the river banks helped a lot to protect from the river land-cutting and river entering into the village. After the floods, at least two dozen people, including men and women, migrated to India for employment. One community elder in Choti Paliya noted that after Tihar more youth will go to India, which indicates a need for livelihood support. People are busy salvaging rice from the fields that the floods had damaged. Only an estimated 25- 30 kg of rice will be gleaned from 100 kg of un-husked rice. This is a 70-75 per cent decrease in production that impact on household food security. The farmers also urgently require winter seeds (cereals and vegetable). The flood affected people received ready-to-eat food and medical support in the initial response period. NFI distribution is ongoing in Hasuliya, Pabera, Ratnapur and Phulbari VDCs. NFI distribution has also resumed in Ghuiyaphata, Pabera VDC, where it had previously stopped following claims by non-flood affected people.

Coordination:

Cluster coordination: The DDRC Clusters are functioning in Kailali and Kanchanpur. The 'who, what, where' (3w) tool maps the provision and distribution of relief materials, which support in planning and identifying gaps. Contributing and implementing organisations are encouraged to go through the focal points for each Cluster to ensure a

coordinated response to the relief efforts that minimises duplication and maximises use of resources.

Food:

- *Food Distribution:* NRCS distribution the WFP food contribution of 1,922MT to the flood-affected households in Kailali and Kanchanpur Districts is underway from 15 October. The WFP food package per average household contains 40KG rice; 7KG pulse; 3 Lt oil and 1 KG salt.
- NRCS, WFP, WVI, FAYA / ActionAid, LWF, Nepal A.G. Church, Save the Children, CARITAS, DFID CSB, BASE, ADRA, CODECS and WOREC are among the organisations that support the Food Cluster.

Non-Food Items (NFI):

Gap: NFI Kits:

- Kailali gap in NFI kits: 3,524 kits
- Kanchanpur has sufficient NFI stock, according to NRCS
- The 3w, as well as the pledges, contributions and gaps, is attached separately. Concerns were raised that some organisations are yet to fulfil pledges.
- Standard kits will be distributed based on the needs identified in the NRCS household survey data.
- Organisations contributing to the NFI Cluster include NRCS (lead), UNICEF, Save the Children, ICRC, FAYA Nepal, CORDECS, ActionAid, CARE, CARITAS, NEEDS, Mercy Corps, LWF, WVI, RRN, Concern Worldwide, Nepal Kishan Sangh, Samajik Samanata Abhiyan, Helvetas and INF.

Health:

- *Kanchanpur:* According to the acting DPHO, the emergency phase is over and the DPHO, Sub Health Posts (SHPs) and Health Posts (HPs) are involved in surveillance and had informed local Health Posts and NRCS volunteers to report through to SHPs and HPs in case of disease outbreak in the flood affected VDCs. Since 19 October DPHO have not received any reports related to the public health in the flood affected VDCs. As of the 19 October, the following number of patients from the flood affected communities were treated by the health teams: Eye infection - 675; ARI - 675; Skin disease – 417; Fever - 388; Diarrhoea with pain- 323; Fever with Chills and rigor- 227; Bloody diarrhoea- 219; Diarrhoea without pain- 211; Ear infection- 199; Fever and Rash- 185; Fever and Jundice-25; Fever and Sub acute haemorrhage- 35. There were no increases in the number cases treated.
- *Kailali:* DPHO states that there is sufficient medicine stock and health facilities are adequately staffed. Medical teams are prepared to respond to reports of health problems reported by the health staff, NRCS, FCHV or VDC secretaries. WOREC, WHRD and WDO established a 'Flood Victim New Mother Care Centre' in Dhangadhi to provide health services for pregnant and new born mothers. Two rooms in the DDC guest house are used as the Care Centre.
- NNSWA, Merry Stopes, RUWDUC, Family Planning Association, INF, UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, WOREC, National Environment and Education Development Society (NEEDS), CARE Nepal, are among the organisations supporting public health activities.

Gaps:

- *Mosquitoes and communicable diseases:* There was an increase in mosquitoes in the flood affected VDCs. Mosquito nets and mosquito control methods are required to prevent from malaria, encephalitis and other vector borne diseases. Major bed net contributions to date received from UNICEF, World Vision International, INF, CARITAS and Save the Children.

Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH):

- *Kailali*: The hilly areas require long-term assistance than the Terai region, due to less access to water compared to lowlands. The DWSSO annual budget has not been finalized to enable it to move forward on a response. An assessment of water pumps and gravity flow water supply schemes in the hilly VDCs is underway.
- *Kanchanpur*: The DWSSO has completed the assessment of water and sanitation facilities requirements in the flood affected areas. The WASH Cluster has pledged for hand pumps, but requires the approval of the DDRC as to the location for the installation of the hand pumps.
- The DWSSO chairs the WASH Cluster, which includes participants from UNICEF, NRCS, Mercy Corps, CARE Nepal, Helvetas, Tharu Mahila Munch (TMM), Concern Worldwide, NEWAH and RRN.

Protection:

Overview of concerns:

- *Vulnerable groups*: Vulnerable groups were particularly susceptible to the impact of the floods due to location of settlements, these included the Sukumbasi (landless), former Kamaiya (bonded-labourers), Dalit, indigenous communities and other marginalised groups in Kailali and Kanchanpur Districts.
- *Female-Headed Households*: High number of female-headed households in the displaced camps and flood-affected communities, as a high number of males migrate to India for employment.
- *Displacement*: While the majority of the flood-affected population returned home to rebuild their lives, several displacement locations remained occupied, mainly in community or national forest land. The reasons for not returning are mainly related to recurrent disasters impacting on the household's home and livelihoods annually. The Protection Cluster is monitoring displacement locations for the following points: Food Security and access to water; Access to health services; Shelter; Sanitation; Security and lighting; Victim psychosocial counselling.
- Kailali Displacement Locations:

~ Bhajani	Mohanyal Community Forest (ward 3)	170HH
~ Khailad	Jhaljahaliya National Forest (ward 6)	350 HH
~ Khailad	Bandevi Community Forest (ward 4)	75HH
~ Pahalmanpur	Nakhforuwa Forest	49HH

 - *Based on OHCHR Assessment data and verified by DPHO*
- Kanchanpur Displacement locations:
 - ~ Shankarpur - Raniban Forest
 - o Ward 6: 121 HH (952 people)
 - o Ward 7: 158 HH (978 people)
 - o Ward 8: 147 HH (1,175 people)
 - *Based on UNFPA/WDO Assessment data and verified by OCHA*
- Concerns regarding adequate medical care and nutritional support for pregnant and lactating women is targeted by WOREC, using NRCS and DPHO data. UNICEF is assessing nutritional support for pregnant and lactating women.

The Protection Cluster is chaired by the WDO and participants include OHCHR, UNICEF, NRCS, INSEC, NNDSWO, WOREC, Maiti Nepal, Women's Advocacy Forum, TMM (Tharu Mahila Munch), OREC, WASC (Women and Aged Service Centre), BASE (Backward Society for Education), NNSWA (Nepal National Social Welfare Association), CSG (Community Support Group) and WPC (Women Progress Committee).

