

**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 completed a joint rapid return assessment from 9 – 11 November**
- **103 families return to Haripur, wards 2 and 3**
- **Verification to start in Saptari this coming week**
- **Spontaneous returns continue with camps being established closer to the homes and land of the IDPs**
- **CDO announces the GoN's plan to provide NRS50,000 to families wishing to return home**

### 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 conducted 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. There was wide support and participation from UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR, UNDP, IOM, WFP, NRCS, IFRC, Save the Children, Care Nepal, Oxfam, DPHO, WSSDO, WDO, DEO, DLSO, DUDBC, WIDPD, DEPROSC Nepal, WEL, and VDC secretary of Shreepur. A report will be circulated shortly.
3. With the verification process almost complete in Sunsari, it is anticipated that the process will commence in Saptari in the coming week. It is expected that the process will confirm the substantial departure of Indians from Camps C and D (OXFAM: 400HH). There is some concern that the potential deregistration of individuals in camps may lead to unrest. The issue is being discussed with the CDO of Saptari and IOM. It was reported that in the interim, approximately 250 duplicated cards have been handed over to the CMCs.
4. During the Sunsari GCM, the CDO announced that the Government of Nepal will provide NRS 50,000 to HHs returning to their homes/land. Further planning will be required to develop a distribution mechanism and registration process. Prior to this happening, a hazard assessment should be conducted to ensure that returning to flood affected areas is a safe and sustainable alternative prior to any efforts being made to re-divert the river.

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### II. Ongoing Humanitarian Response

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

**Sunsari** - UNICEF has delivered clothing material for children aged 6 – 18 years (7500 sets) and 1500 sets of bedding and clothing material for pregnant and lactating mothers to the WDO office for distribution.

**Saptari** - The distribution of 4,000 tarpaulins by Oxfam is set to take place once the verification exercise in Saptari is complete.

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

Dramatic movements of IDPs continue as people start to return to their homes and nearby locations. There is an expectation that this trend will increase over the coming weeks, especially with the finalization of the GoN returns package. It is anticipated that as IDP populations in camps become more stable in coming weeks, it will provide an opportunity to identify potential gaps in aid. At this stage though, IDPs are largely continuing to maintain a shelter in the camps for fear that if they return completely to their place of origin they will no longer continue to receive assistance.

CCCM is in the process of developing a returns strategy using the CMC camp lists to determine which IDPs are from which affected areas. This information will be matched with the recent rapid assessment on affected areas to determine which IDPs can return with assistance. IDPs from the worst affected areas will continue to require the support of the Government and aid agencies in stabilised camp environments.

The Sunsari verification process is due to finish at the end of this week. CCCM/UNHCR have obtained photocopies of the original Sunsari verification lists and will commence data entry imminently.

Sphere training, sponsored by IOM, will be conducted on 16-18 November in Sunsari and 20-22 in Saptari.

In **Sunsari**, the counting of IDPs families has been extremely difficult with many people now residing in their original homes while still having shelters at nearby camps and sometimes in multiple camps. Many of these shelters in the camps are empty but are maintained in order to continue to receive assistance. The current figure for Sunsari stands at 3,154 households/families, which is slightly inflated due to double counting of some households. The double counting is a result of families splitting and creating a residence in the camps as well as in the area of return. These numbers reflect those who reside in Formal Camps, Collective Centers, Spontaneous Camps and Return Areas/Site. The numbers do not reflect the number of IDPs residing with host families.

There has been a continuing shift of IDPs from Collective Centres and Spontaneous Settlements to Formal Camps and returns areas in Sunsari. The only collective centre vacated in the past week was Khairatole Maktab (Madrassa) while the Madhuban VDC cattle shed (formerly Janata Higher Secondary) still has IDPs living there in a stable camp environment. The IDPs at the Madhuban VDC cattle shed (formerly Janata Higher Secondary) camp have indicated that they are most likely to stay there for the long term. Additionally, the spontaneous camps of A, B, E, H and NC South 1 along the Mahendra Highway were all vacated as IDPs continued to move to either Nahar Chowk or closer to their homes in Shreepur 7 and 8. IDPs who recently moved from collective centres are mostly residing in Shreepur 7 and 8, with the numbers expected to increase slightly. Due to the sudden appearance of these sites, establishment of facilities such as tube wells and toilets have just started.

The Nahar Chowk site, which was originally planned to accommodate 3,200 shelters, has only had 284 shelters constructed so far with the numbers expected to increase only slightly. The DTM and maps produced by CCCM will now refer to the existing camps at the Nahar Chowk site and not the site as a whole. Due to the sudden influx of IDPs into the NCRS 1 site, the original site markings were wiped away and shelters were constructed haphazardly. To address this issue, CCCM has hired an engineer to support IFRC & NCRS to reconstruct the existing site and develop the site plan to allow for any new IDP settlements. The engineer will also be available to the government and other organisations on an advisory capacity.

In Jhumka prison camp, the issue of the gate being closed at night still remains an issue. The CDO has committed to resolving this issue and constructing a new entrance/exit to the prison. In recent discussions between the CCCM team and the CMC at Jhumka Camp, it was reported that IDPs are content to continue living in the camp as they prefer it to the conditions at the NC Red Cross 1 site. Only thirteen families have left the camp to returned to Shreepur 7 to date. Six families have recently joined the camp, however, with another 9 expected from the vacated Jamiya Islamia camp.

At the NRCS 1 site, CCCM noted that 3 tube wells were constructed within 5 metres of the latrines, not meeting the minimum Sphere standard of 30 metres. The drums being used as septic tanks have the bottom cut out which allows waste to enter the soil directly which could contaminate the water table. The tube wells are currently being used for drinking water, which is of great concern. The same problem was noted at the Madhuban VDC cattle shed/Janata Higher Secondary site.

The CCCM Team is continuing to set up Camp Management Committees (CMCs) in all formal camps in Sunsari. By establishing CMCs at the new Shreepur 7 and 8 returns sites, CCCM hopes to obtain more accurate IDP population figures and will work with the CMCs to identify which families are actually residing in the camps. CMCs have already been established at Laukhi Border Custom, Laukhi Devkota Camp (Shelter Box 1) and Sunsari Khola (Shelter Box 2) with others in the process of being established in Shreepur 8 Jutgaun, Shreepur 7 Kumiyea 1, NC North Spontaneous 2 and NC Red Cross 1 site.

CCCM is waiting on a proposal by IFRC to fill the gap in winter clothing. Also with the support of the CCCM engineer IOM is looking at developing alternative construction techniques to ensure the shelters are fit for winter.

**Saptari** - As of 13 November, the IDP population in Saptari remained unchanged at 5,847 households/families. IDP populations remain fairly stable with most people still residing in camps. Oxfam is still working with the CMCs to collect information on all residents at site. Gaps in water and sanitation are being addressed by aid agencies at present.

## **7. Food and Nutrition:**

WFP is awaiting official confirmation from Home Ministry that WFP general food distribution will end by 1 December. WFP is currently planning Food For Work (FFW) activities with MLD and others partners, such as rehabilitation of feeder roads and irrigation canals.

At present, an average of 1200-1700 children under the age of five are receiving super flour from WVI/WFP, 150 lactating and pregnant mothers are receiving traditional soup and super flour and 3000 sets of toothpaste and brushes have been provided for children under five through feeding centers, supported by UNICEF. One issue flagged is the need for a coordinated intervention to assist severely malnourished children, pregnant and lactating mothers among IDP population.

UNICEF is working on the details of a nutrition assessment to be conducted in both Sunsari and Saptari in the second half of November, with recruitment of two field nutrition coordinators ongoing (one for both Sunsari and Saptari).

**Sunsari** – The fourth round of food distribution is in progress, finishing on 14 November, including the Indian population. 4165 HH will be covered with a total population of 23,528. Five new Food Distribution Points have been established closer to areas of return such as Shreepur 7, 8 and 9, and Jumawa.

Wet feeding beneficiaries have decreased from 3700 to 1500 because of the movement of the IDPs. WVI has adapted its strategy to continue to support this program closer to areas of return by opening 3 new Food Distribution Points. WVI has also commenced an awareness campaign and training on the preparation of LITO.

Quality control of food continues to be conducted by CQS with WFP logistic support. WFP conducted an orientation course with WVI and its local partner HOLDS on supplementary food.

**Saptari** - UNICEF and Concern Worldwide conducted a survey to assess the nutritional status of under-5 children and pregnant mothers in the camps. According to the results of this survey, of the 2871 children surveyed, 2509 (87%) are normal, 304 (11%) are moderately malnourished and 58 (2%) are severely malnourished. An updated nutrition assessment has found that of the 58 severely malnourished children, 3 had reached normal weight, 17 were moderately malnourished and 38 remained severely malnourished. The percentage of severely malnourished children decreased from 2% to 1% (58 – 41).

The 23 feeding centres established by CONCERN Nepal in collaboration with WFP and UNICEF continue to provide food to 4980 under-5 children, 503 pregnant mother and 517 lactating mothers. The Child Health Division of the Department of Health has oriented 58 public health staff of the camps/hospitals and 62 skilled and unskilled cooking staff from 5 local NGOs working in the 23 feeding centres on Nutrition in Emergencies. UNICEF provided orientation to volunteer students working in the camps and 6 Village Facilitators on child care and supplementary feeding, including breast-feeding.

The fourth round of food distribution will commence on 15 November for an estimated 33, 000 beneficiaries. Three new Food Distribution Points were opened along the Mahendra highway facing the Shreepur and Haripur wards.

WFP concluded the first cycle of post-distribution monitoring and will release the findings in the coming weeks. Initial results concluded: 1) general satisfaction with WFP food package, although there were some complaints about the quantities of salt and rice, 2) small amounts of rice and pulses are being sold in the markets to buy vegetables and others commodities, 3) when the embankment will be fully repaired for those who wish to return so that their livelihoods will be protected and a request for seeds and tools, and 4) complaints about the lack of tarpaulins and clothes with winter approaching.

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

**Sunsari** – A monitoring and evaluation exercise led by the WSSDO will be conducted on all WASH activities in coordination with UNICEF, WEL, PLAN and WVI. The WSSDO will also commence testing the water of all installed hand pumps after completion of installation in IDP camps.

WEL and the WSSDO have conducted the following hygiene/sanitation activities in Lauki Custom, Shelter Box (Khuniyadhar), Sunsari Riverside and Jhumka Camps:

- Establishment of WASH information centers
- Formation and training of CMCs on WASH
- Formation and orientation of WASH youth groups
- Markings in toilets and handover to IDP users
- Distribution of hygiene materials (soap, tooth paste, sanitary pads) to IDPs
- Cleaning of toilets and garbage
- Disinfection of water logged area in the camps.

WASH facilities have been installed in the Nahar Chowk camp (28 toilets and six hand pumps). Although the number of IDP shelters has increased over the last week, the actual number of people residing there is less than expected. The

number of WASH facilities required needs to be ascertained against the actual number of people living there. WEL will conduct Hygiene Promotional Activities in Nahar Chowk Camp with the support of UNICEF

IDPs have returned to close to home and have commenced building camps in two areas of Shreepur 7. In Kumiyahi (including Hudki) and Yadav tole, 600 and 85 huts have been established respectively and the number is increasing. Thus far, 5 hand pumps are installed in Kumiyahi. WASH facilities like toilets, bathing spaces and hand pumps need to be established in these camps as soon as possible to accommodate the camps.

**Saptari** – A total of 1,294 toilets have been constructed and are in use out of 1,326 planned latrines. 580 bathing spaces have been completed. The cluster has committed to building 680 bathing spaces altogether. 229 garbage pits have been constructed, out of a total commitment of 376. Safe drinking water is available in all camps. 649 tube-wells have been installed to date out of a total commitment of 676.

CONCERN have committed to train a care taker on the maintenance of the hand pumps in all camps.

Hygiene promotion activities have been carried out by Oxfam and are ongoing. The activities focus on hand-washing, sanitary practices and toilet usage, and correct water treatment through various media, including public discussions, street drama, posters, and IEC materials. UNICEF has supplied 10,585 Water-guard solution, 18,200 Oral Re-hydration Salts, 94,080 PURE, 324,000 Aqua-tabs, 6000 Hygiene Kits, 19,200 laundry soaps, 5453 bucket sets (20 litre bucket, 10 litre bucket and mug), and 2102 tarpaulins. Ongoing maintenance of tube-wells, bathing spaces and toilets is required as some have become run-down and cannot be used.

People have started to return to Haripur VDC from Camp C but need assistance with WASH facilities. Three facilities will be considered for Shreepur and Haripur in areas of return pending the report of the Rapid Return Assessment.

## 9. Health:

The number of severely malnourished children has reduced from 2% in September to 1% in November. The reduction in numbers is attributed to the control of diarrhoea in camps, supplementary feeding, access to health clinics and regular support from the DACAW village facilitators.

**Sunsari** – UNFPA has provided 200 Clean health delivery kits to the DPHO. KYC, a local NGO, with will provided HIV/ASRH awareness services in the camps for 2 months initially (Nov-Dec 2008), supported by UNFPA.

**Saptari** – UNFPA's medical team consulted approximately 12,000 patients/clients together with DPHO and the zonal hospital team and provided transport to 17 pregnant women requiring hospital care to Rajbiraj hospital. One vehicle from Mahottari field office moved to Saptari for transportation of complicated cases needing caesarean section services in Janakpur hospital. The DPHO was also provided with 250 Clean Health Delivery Kits (CHDKs). UNFPA delivered RH kits procured from Copenhagen targeted for 10,000 people for three months (Kit # 5-2; Kit # 9-1; Kit # 10-1; Kit # 11A-2; Kit # 11B-1; and Kit # 12-2). Kit # 3A-2; Kit # 3B-2 have been pre-positioned in the District Programme Support Unit (DPSU) Saptari. Funding for four ANMs for health camps requested by DPHO Saptari has also been supported by UNFPA. An ambulance was also provided to Kalyanpur Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC) Saptari, to be used for transporting sick people from the camps to hospital. UNFPA also provided funds to procure 15 wooden bed for a 24x7 clinic.

## 10. Education:

**Sunsari** – An assessment of IDP students in 7 relocation sites was completed by a joint team consisting of the DEO and NGOs supported by UNICEF. 830 children aged 3-5 years were found in these camps, 2415 children were found from class 1 to 10, out of which there were in 2135 schools and 280 attending Madarsas. There were 657 school age children (aged 6-15 years) not attending school.

In Jhumka camp four safe spaces are functional. 80 children aged 3-5 years children are enrolled in safe spaces conducted by WVI and material and tarpaulin are supported by UNICEF. There are also 397 children are enrolled in temporary learning schools, with 8 IDP teachers mobilised. Text books for all children have been supplied by the DEO, and Student Kits (stationery, uniform, school bag) for all children have been provided by UNICEF. School kits, black boards, class assistants and logistic support to IDP teachers is supported by UNICEF.

In Lauki - Khuniyadhar, the construction of 6 temporary classes are 90 % completed. Classes are expected to start on 16 November. The DEO has decided to mobilise IDP teachers thus 30 IDP teachers are receiving 3 days orientation on education during emergencies in Itahari supported by Save the Children.

During the Rapid Return Assessment, it was decided that an additional 26 temporary learning schools, (6 supported by World Vision and 20 supported by UNICEF) will be established in areas of return. UNICEF has also committed to support renovation of Madarsas.

The poverty alleviation programme has also shown interest to support adult literacy classes and income generation programmes for IDPs.

There is gap in funding to support schooling and educational material IDP children in years 11-12.

**Saptari** – All nine schools previously occupied by IDPs have been vacated, cleaned and reopened. Refurbishment and renovation of tube-wells and toilets have been completed in 6 of the schools. 20 safe spaces for children aged 3-5 have been opened in the Spur area and Camp B by the Teacher's Union, supported by UNICEF, covering 1,768 children. An additional 30 safe spaces are required to achieve complete coverage. One temporary learning centre for primary and secondary levels is under construction by the Teacher's Union in the Spur area, with support from UNICEF. Four more temporary learning centres are being planned.

UNICEF, in coordination with the Teacher's Union and Save the Children, has conducted training for 40 facilitators and 6 supervisors for 20 safe spaces. UNICEF has supplied 200 tarpaulins, and ECD kits to 20 safe spaces, and plans to supply 54 School-in-a-Box, 54 School Kits, 3,300 Child Kits and 54 Tin Trunk Libraries to temporary learning centers. Due to language and curriculum differences as well as the mobile nature of the displaced population, it has been difficult to open safe learning spaces in camp D, where the majority of the children are Indian.

#### 11. **Protection/child protection:**

**Sunsari** - SC and UPCA have been providing regular support to the peer group in Jhumka Camp. Forty peer group members are involved in raising awareness on child rights/protection by visiting each and every household of the camp. They have also organized street drama.

WOREC/Women Alliance has established safe spaces in Jhumka and Lauki Camps for lactating mothers where 28 and 30 lactating mothers respectively are getting nutritious food. Awareness-raising on reproductive health, sanitation and nutrition is also carried out in these safe spaces.

To provide support to the working mothers of the camp, SOS Children Village has established a Day Care Centre in Jhumka where 125 children of age 1 to 5 years are getting care and support eg. food, bathing, rest and playtime. The service is being provided by 12 women facilitators.

Packaging is underway to distribute clothes (supported by UNICEF) for 6-18 years (7500 pieces) and 1500 bedding material and clothes for pregnant and lactating mothers. 3500 warm clothes have been received from UNFPA. 1578 warm clothes for under-five children have been received from Development centre. More sets of clothing for children under 5 is still needed.

GBV orientation has been provided to 150 police personnel by WHR, funded by UNFPA. UNFPA have also provided funding to the WDO Sunsari to support the transport and referral cost of pregnant and lactating mothers (PLM) who are admitted to hospital. Saris and sanitary cloth has also been provided alongwith flash lights with batteries, undergarments for adolescents, bed mattress, shawls for adolescents, and soap to the WDO.

Counselling and psycho social support has commenced provided by CVICT, supported by UNFPA.

**Saptari** – A total of 32 cases of missing children have been identified. Thus far, 8 children have been reunited with their families. OCHA has identified 14 police posts/stations near the IDP camps and along the highway where IDPs and persons in need of police assistance can contact them for assistance.

A team including an UNFPA doctor, the UNICEF health focal point and a psychosocial counsellor from TPO were mobilized in response to reports of alleged rape cases in camps. None of the reported cases were confirmed.

IEC materials carrying messages related to the separation of children, trafficking and GBV have been disseminated in all camps in the form of posters, leaflets and recorded messages. An orientation program on child rights, child protection and GBV was conducted for 30 cluster members and 40 village facilitators. GBV orientation was provided for 350 police personnel by WHR with funding from UNFPA, with ten female police officers deployed to the shelters and camps. Two WDOs have been contracted to do a rapid assessment of GBV in Sunsari and Saptari on behalf of UNFPA. UNFPA will also deploy a junior gender advisor to Saptari.

Two TPO counsellors, supported by UNICEF, have been mobilized for psychosocial counselling and support to the flood victims. Focus group discussions, and individual and group counselling have been conducted. To date, 219 individuals have received psychosocial care. Nineteen candidates have been selected for upcoming Community Psychosocial Workers training by TPO, supported by UNICEF. UNFPA will support medical and psychosocial referral services for SGBV survivors if requests are received from WDO/DPHO or protection cluster.

One round of clothing distribution has been conducted with a second planned for November 12-16 distributing clothes for pregnant and lactating women, new-borns and children aged 5-18. The Protection Cluster, however, decided to postpone the distribution of clothes to camp C scheduled for 12 November due to the strike called by the Peechhadajati Organization till a later date. The distribution plan for Camp G remains unchanged for 16 November and Camp A, on 18 November. The distribution will continue to Camp A next and to other camps on the following dates agreed by the cluster and the CMC.

Watch Groups have been formed in Camps A, B, C1 & C2 and G. Orientation to these Watch Groups members is planned for November 15-18, to be carried out by UNICEF and UNFPA. Formation of Watch Groups and distribution of relief materials in the rest of the camps is underway in coordination with the protection cluster, OXFAM-KVS and the Camp Management Committees.

12. **Agriculture and Livestock:**

**Sunsari** – No update available.

**Saptari** - No update available.

13. **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.

<b>Koshi Floods Sector/Cluster Meeting Schedule in Sunsari as of 12 November</b>				
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>GCM</b>	1300 hrs, Every Wednesday	Wednesday , 18 Nov 2008	DDC Meeting Hall, Inaruwa	Meeting will be rescheduled to 1300 hrs instead of 0900 hrs
<b>Food, Nutrition</b>	1400 hrs, Every Sunday and Thursday	Thursday, 16 Nov 2008	District Agriculture Office, Inaruwa	
<b>Health</b>	1400 hrs, Every Monday	Monday, 17 Nov 2008	District Public Health Office, Inaruwa	
<b>Education</b>	1300 hrs, Every Thursday	Thursday, 20 Nov 2008	District Education Office, Inaruwa	
<b>Protection/ Child Protection</b>	1300 hrs, Every Monday	Monday, 17 Nov 2008	Women Development Office, Inaruwa	
<b>Shelter/ Site Planning/ CCCM</b>	1100 hrs, Every Wednesday	Wednesday, 19 Nov 2008	DDC Office, Inaruwa	
<b>WASH</b>	0830 hrs, Every Wednesday	Wednesday, 19 Nov 2008	OCHA Satellite Office, Inaruwa	
<b>Agriculture/ Livestock</b>	1400 hrs, Every Friday	Not available	DLSO, Inaruwa	

<b>Koshi Flood Sector/Cluster Meeting Schedule in Saptari as of 11 November</b>				
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>GCM</b>	Every Tuesday, 0730 hrs	Tuesday 18 Nov 2008	OCHA Satellite Office, NRCS Building, Rajbiraj, Saptari	
<b>Agriculture and Livestock</b>		Not available		
<b>Education</b>		Not available	District Education Office, Rajbiraj	
<b>Food/Nutrition</b>	Every Thursday, 0830 hrs	Thursday 13 Nov 2008	District Agriculture Office, Rajbiraj	
<b>Health</b>	Every Monday at 1100 hrs	Monday 17 Nov 2008	District Public Health Office, Rajbiraj	
<b>Protection / Child Protection</b>	Every Wednesday, at 1000 hrs			
<b>Shelter/NFI</b>	Every Tuesday, 0900 hrs	Tuesday 18 Nov 2008	OCHA Satellite Office, NRCS building, Rajbiraj	
<b>WASH</b>	Every Monday, 0800 hrs	Monday 17 Nov 2008	DWSSO Office, Saptari	Meeting will be held on Monday once a week from hereon.
<b>CCCM</b>	Every Sunday at 0800 hrs	Sunday 16 Nov 2008	OCHA Satellite Office, NRCS building, Rajbiraj	
<b>DDRC</b>	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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