

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

- **The Government continues its Detailed Damage Assessment**
- **Discrimination of Indian nationals continues**
- **In the face of substantial returns and several artificial camps designed to attract services, the Sunsari GCM resolves to provide essential services wherever people have actually settled**

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 Indian nationals. Many of these Indians have crossed back to India in recent weeks.
2. A meeting on December 2nd between the UN Humanitarian Coordinator and the Ministry of Home Affairs agreed that Indian nationals would continue to receive distributions until a procedure for the payment of the 4,500 return grant was established.
3. The Government's Detailed Damage Assessment/verification process is ongoing. The Sunsari CDO reported at the last GCM that teams have faced some pressure to register locals as having been flood affected and lost property. Monitoring teams were also encouraged to physically attend the process at the verification points.
4. Due to confusion as to where to provide services such as WASH facilities with the constant movement of IDPs, it was resolved that services should be provided to people where they have actually settled. Providing services in uninhabited artificial camps should be avoided.

II. Ongoing Humanitarian Response

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

Sunsari – Gap analysis of NFI distribution has found that most of the Koshi Flood victims living in Jhumka camp have received relief materials in greater quantities than those living elsewhere. There is a need everywhere for winter clothing. UNICEF, UNFPA, NRCS are all distributing clothing but it needs to be suitable for cold weather. There has also been some duplication of relief materials noted suggesting that there needs to be better coordination amongst the various agencies providing NFI.

Saptari – IFRC has handed over responsibility of the Shelter Cluster to UN Habitat.

Caritas finished their distribution program on 1 December of blankets and sleeping bags to pregnant women in Camp A. RRN has provided approximately 900 packs to be stored with the Government to be distributed to the shelter box camp. Oxfam has started to distribute Heavy Duty Tarpaulins and will commence distributing winter cloths next week. NRCS are distributing 4,989 blankets and are working with Oxfam to coordinate Heavy Duty Tarpaulin distributions.

Due to the bandhs, materials have not been received on time.

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

IOM will conduct Camp Management training from 9-11 December in Sunsari and 14-16 December in Lahan.

Sunsari – Three main areas of return have been identified: Partitole, Khatbe tole and Mehata tole in Paschim Kushaha. While people are still erecting shelters in camps, they are not necessarily living in them as they think that without them they will no longer be eligible for relief. Almost half of the shelters are not occupied so concrete strategies are needed to assist people in areas of return. Draft strategies are under consideration at the Ministry level.

Saptari - Oxfam reported that current figures collated by CMCs on IDPs living in camp total 5,655 HH and 27,485 individuals. CMC training is ongoing with training in 8 camps complete.

7. **Food and Nutrition:**

WFP has confirmed that it will conduct one more food distribution commencing on 7 December but on condition that the Government defines and presents a clear strategy concerning victims of the Koshi flood in the next week. The distribution will be based on the red cards distributed during the detailed damage assessment/verification process. Wheat Soya Blend (WSB) will not be provided, however, there is sufficient till 3 Dec. Following this, WVI will procure it.

Sunsari – No flour distribution (as a part of supplementary feeding) is done in Camp “B”- Kumiya as the number of children is small, but WVI has committed to providing feeding during the next round of distribution. WVI will purchase materials for one week's distribution. UNICEF and WVI will jointly conduct nutrition monitoring training.

Saptari – DEPROSC Nepal advised that 23 Feeding Centres closed yesterday, though the centre at Nehru Park may continue for a further 4-5 days as they have additional stock.

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

Sunsari – Water purification software and distribution of tablets continues concurrently as WASH facilities are installed and awareness campaigns continue in all of the camps. Some issues noted include:

- Once garbage pits are filled up, they are difficult to remove;
- There is not enough distance between tents and latrines;
- In some shelter sites, the constructed toilets are redundant as people are not actually living there to use the toilets; and
- Toilet pipes and tanks are broken in some camps.

It was agreed during the GCM that WASH facilities will be provided where people have settled.

Save the Children plan to distribute 10 water tanks with a 500 litre capacity.

Saptari – On construction of facilities, agencies/NGOs are encouraged to handover the facilities to the CMCs to manage. A handover paper will be prepared for commissioning and will be finalized at the next WASH cluster meeting. This paper will be signed by agencies, received by the Camp Management Committee (CMC) and witnessed by WSSDO. The handover process will only be conducted with functioning facilities. Damaged and non-completed facilities will not be included.

The WASH cluster monitoring team commenced verification activities on 2 December 2008. Caritas has overseen the maintenance of hand pumps and tarpaulin-covered latrines. WSSDO is working on establishing bamboo mats to cover the latrines and bathing spaces and are aiming to complete them in the next week.

Oxfam/UNICEF have been working together on latrine usage and hygiene promotion. Activities have included:

- Formation of 56 committees,
- Orientation to PHP (7), CMS (8), and 44 hand washing promotions,
- 26 water treatment orientation,
- Diarrhoea management (8) and excreta disposal (8) and 33 toilet usage sessions,
- Distribution of washing soap (1981), bathing soap (10,644), tooth paste (2,561), sanitary pad (3,033).

The theft of hand pumps and toilet pans in Camp E has been reported.

9. **Health:**

DPHO will commence a measles campaign from 6 December for children in camps aged 9 months to 5 years, supported by UNICEF and WHO.

Sunsari – ADRA is working in Ra. Ni. School (Laukahi custom camp) providing the following services:

- General health services;
- Video shows / street dramas;
- Psycho social counselling etc.

One health post in each VDC (Sripur, Haripur, Paschim Kusaha) has re-opened and resumed services. Family planning will be done by DPHO in every camp, supported by USAID.

Saptari – There is a lack of an ambulance at the 24 hour health centre in Bharadaha to facilitate referrals and emergency cases is still an outstanding issue. Toilets have also still not been constructed at the facility. Two toilets have been sent but a plan on where the toilets will be located is yet to be finalised between the DPHO and the WSSDO. Stretchers have also been identified as a gap.

ADRA reported that the number of patients is decreasing but that there are more patients in Camp D, thus ADRA is considering shifting its operation. Oxfam continues to run ORT corners in 12 camps and reported one neo-natal death of a 22-day-old baby in Camp C caused by tetanus. The CDO's office has advised that deaths in camp should be reported to the closest police post to the respective camp.

10. **Education:**

Sunsari – The District Education Office (DEO) has provided funding for schools/madarasas to be cleaned/repared where IDPs were housed immediately following the flood. The following funds have been allocated to schools/madarasas for this purpose:

- Rs. 20,000/- to Secondary Schools;
- Rs. 15,000/- to Lower Secondary Schools;
- Rs. 10,000/- to Primary Schools.

School has resumed in Laukahi School and there are 11 shelters under construction. WEL/NGO did a survey regarding supporting school reparations. Sweater distribution for school children has been completed in Jhumka camp. WVI is providing furniture support to temporary learning centres (11 centres) as well as nearby schools.

Saptari – 33 huts have been completed for primary education across the camps, supported by UNICEF, with the exception of Camp L, where locals have obstructed construction. The distribution of clothes for children from year 3 – 10 is being organized in by UNICEF in collaboration with CARE Nepal.

An inter-agency meeting is planned for 9 December on how to mobilize scholarships, books and other materials for flood-affected communities. The Sunsari DEO will also be requested to release funds to the Saptari DEO for the provision of text books as the budget has only been provided to Sunsari.

11. **Protection/child protection:**

Sunsari - Clothing has been distributed by the cluster leads. A total of 1,757 families have received different sized clothing (4,776 individuals), covering children aged from 0-18 years. Save the Children, UNICEF and Development centre have supported seasonal clothes distribution. There appears to be a communication gap among agencies distributing clothing as there has been duplication noted. Different sizing and quality of the relief materials has also been found from different partners. There is a lack of uniformity in relief materials

Saptari – UNICEF is considering mobilizing some of the designated members of the Protection cluster for the Promotion of Child Rights and Youth Mobilization, and Family Tracing and Reunification activities in camps in the near future. No proper mechanism has been set up by the CMCs or the local administration to monitor potential trafficking activities from or around the camps and there isn't a monitoring or referral mechanism to check on any activities to curb attempts of armed groups targeting youths from the camps for recruitment.

Distribution of relief materials provided by UNICEF and UNFPA (clothing etc) to children aged 5-18 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers in camps A, B, F1, F2, G1, G2, I, J, K and L has been completed. Distribution to other camps will commence soon.

UNICEF has noted that the distribution of NFI to the elderly, marginalized, physically or mentally challenged persons and children under 5 has not been addressed in any agency's plans to date. Single-headed households have also not received support. Vulnerable groups have received a lot of NFI assistance while people aged 18 – 60 have received very little and have not had their needs considered.

Psychosocial workers mobilized through the Protection cluster have reported that the camp residents are facing problems such as "insomnia, loss of appetite" and an increased level of tension among couples has also been reported due to the lack of privacy for male-female interactions in camps.

There is a plan to establish a viable monitoring and referral mechanism in camps through Protection Watch Groups where they have been formed in camps A, B, C1, C2 and G.

Agriculture and Livestock:

Sunsari – No update available.

Saptari - Oxfam has cancelled plans to distribute fodder for cattle due to the Government having availability of funds for the same.

12. **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.

Koshi Floods				
Sector/Cluster Meeting Schedule in Sunsari as of 3 December				
Meeting	Day	Next Meeting	Where	Remarks
GCM	1300 hrs Every Wednesday	Wednesday 10 Dec 2008	DDC Meeting Hall, Inaruwa	
Food/Nutrition	1400 hrs, Every Sunday and Thursday	Thursday 4 Dec 2008	District Agriculture Office, Inaruwa	
Health	1400 hrs Every Monday	Monday 8 Dec 2008	District Public Health Office, Inaruwa	
Education	1300 hrs Every Thursday	Thursday 4 Dec 2008	District Education Office, Inaruwa	
Protection/ Child Protection	1300 hrs Every Monday	Monday 8 Dec 2008	Women Development Office, Inaruwa	
Shelter/ Site Planning/ CCCM	1100 hrs Every Wednesday	Wednesday 10 Dec 2008	DDC Office, Inaruwa	
WASH	0830 hrs Every Wednesday	Wednesday 10 Dec 2008	OCHA Satellite Office, Inaruwa	
Agriculture/ Livestock	1400 hrs Every Friday	Not available	DLSO, Inaruwa	

Koshi Flood				
Sector/Cluster Meeting Schedule in Saptari as of 2 December				
Meeting	Day	Next Meeting	Where	Remarks
GCM	Every Tuesday 0800 hrs	Tuesday 9 Dec 2008	OCHA Satellite Office, NRCS Building, Rajbiraj, Saptari	
Agriculture and Livestock		Not available		
Education	Every Sunday 1100 hrs	Sunday 7 Dec 2008	District Education Office, Rajbiraj	
Food/Nutrition	Every Thursday 0800 hrs	Thursday 4 Dec 2008	District Agriculture Development Office, Rajbiraj	
Health	Every Monday 1100 hrs	Monday 8 Dec 2008	District Public Health Office, Rajbiraj	
Protection / Child Protection		Not available	WDO	
Shelter/NFI	Every Tuesday 1000 hrs	Tuesday 9 Dec 2008	OCHA Satellite Office, NRCS building, Rajbiraj	This meeting is conducted following the GCM
WASH	Every Monday 0800 hrs	Monday 8 Dec 2008	DWSSO Office, Saptari	

CCCM	Every Sunday 0800 hrs	Sunday 7 Dec 2008	OCHA Satellite Office, NRCS building, Rajbiraj	
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For more detailed and updated information please visit the Nepal Information Platform (<http://www.un.org.np>) or contact:

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