

This situation report is based on information received from UN Agencies and humanitarian partners, government sources, and OCHA staff.

## Key Highlights

- **Camps A, B and C in Saptari vacated as Indian nationals receive the Government of Nepal's Return Package and head home**
- **Approximately 35% of Koshi flood-affected apply for the Government of Nepal's return package**
- **The Koshi Victim Struggle Committee (KVSC) declares a protest program**

## I. Situation in Sunsari and Saptari Districts, Eastern Nepal

1. Following the Government of Nepal's (GoN) recent Detailed Damage Assessment/verification process, approximately 42,807 Nepalis (7,572HH) are recorded as being affected by flooding in the Saptari and Sunsari Districts in August 2008, in addition to an estimated 11,000 Indian nationals (2,328HH).
2. The Return and Rehabilitation Unit (RRU) was established in Sunsari on 19 January, chaired by the Assistant Chief District Officer (A.CDO) to make recommendations on implementation of the GoN Return Strategy.
3. Following the release of the first public information notices for flood-affected Nepalese and Indian nationals, there has been an influx of applications. The District Administration Office (DAO) in Sunsari had recorded 2,670 applications of flood-affected Nepalese by 18 February (including 44H from Jhumka Camp), approximately 35% of the total displaced. The Government has subsequently extended the application period by 7 days.
4. In Sunsari, 431 Indian HH of 755 have received the GoN Return Package, with 1,356 of 1,805 Indian HH in Saptari.
5. In Saptari, Camp A and C have less than 10 shelters remaining, with Camp B completely vacated. Camp D is expected to be vacated on completion of the distribution of the Return Package in the coming week.
6. The KVSC launched a protest program on 18 February, staging a torch rally in Sunsari, against the alleged apathy of the Government towards their demands. A protest was held in front of the DAO in Sunsari on 19 February, where the protesters threw rocks at the APF, who resisted the protesters. Fifteen protesters were reportedly injured during the incident. All were consulted at Sunsari District Hospital and subsequently discharged, with no major injuries reported. The KVSC has also elected not to attend the RRU in the future as their demands have not been met.

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## II. Ongoing Humanitarian Response

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

**Sunsari** – No update available.

**Saptari** – CARE Nepal has completed the winter clothes distribution benefiting 28,121 individuals from 5,458 HHs in all camps. The few remaining winter clothes will be handed over to NRCS Sunsari. Mattresses have been distributed to 1,816 HHs, achieving 98% of the targeted beneficiaries.

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

**Sunsari** – The DAO has expressed concern that both IOM in Sunsari and Oxfam in Saptari are expected to finish their camp management programs by the end of March, with camps anticipated to be required for a further 6 – 12 months to accommodate flood-affected HHs who are unable to return to their original place of origin.

**Saptari** – Oxfam is planning Exit Strategy Orientation to Camp Management Committees (CMCs) from 1 February in every camp. Oxfam/KVS will update the data of each camp and finalise next week.

9. **Food and Nutrition:**

**Sunsari** – WVI and HOLDS Nepal continue to monitor the nutrition status of children aged under 5 in the camps. During the last distribution, WFP provided 4 kg of WSB take-home ration for children and pregnant and lactating women. Monitoring in areas of return has proved difficult due to recent movements of IDPs.

**Saptari** – The 8<sup>th</sup> round of 15-day food ration distribution was completed by DEPROSC/WFP to Nepalese IDPs. A total of 155,306 mt of ration was distributed benefiting 18,264 individuals from 3,511 HHs. WSB was distributed for 3,891 children and pregnant and lactating women for one month. There is no plan to conduct further distributions.

CARE Nepal has distributed Horlicks to 1,353 pregnant and lactating women.

#### 10. **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):**

**Sunsari** – Hygiene and sanitation promotion activities in the camps and areas of return are ongoing through the WSSDO/WEL/UNICEF and Plan Nepal. WEL is planning to establish a WASH information centre in Khatwe/Mehata tole in Shreepur 8 where people have returned closer to their place of origin, Khuniyadhar north (Mahendra highway-C Camp).

Decommissioning of WASH facilities from the IDP camps will be carried out based on information provided by CCCM/IOM. WSSDO will decommission WASH facilities after people leave camps having collected the Government's return package. Facilities will be handed over to the community organizations where they have been installed on their premises.

WVI supported ten tube wells to schools in areas of return as well as camps, of which 8 have been installed with the remaining two to be installed in Nahar Chowk Camp by WEL.

IOM will conduct care taker training of WASH facilities for the User's Committee, to be implemented by WEL Biratnagar.

**Saptari** – An additional 24 pit (rings) will be used to substitute the filled latrine pit in Camp G and L as the municipality sludge vacuum disposal van is not available and also not able to accommodate this.

Due to a local strike, the WSSDO was unable to fill the WASH gaps in Camp G, caused by the recent influx of IDPs from other camps. Decommissioning of latrines will commence this week with 183 to be decommissioned by the end of February 2009.

#### 11. **Health:**

**Sunsari** – No update available.

**Saptari** – No update available.

#### 12. **Education:**

**Sunsari** – Ten madarasas have been identified in the flood-affected areas but only six are currently registered with the DEO. Details of the damage sustained by the six registered madarasas has been provided to the DEO. The DEO/UNICEF will provide furniture and maintenance to the madarasas following damage assessments.

**Saptari** – UNICEF has highlighted a gap in school uniforms due to different sizes. Camps E-L in the spur areas are experiencing pressure to accommodate children of HHs that have recently moved from other camps in the ECD centres and TLCs.

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

**Sunsari** – Promotion of child rights and youth mobilization is ongoing in camps through Abhiyan Nepal with the support of UNICEF. The formation and mobilization of Watch Groups is underway which will address the protection issues of children and women.

IRC in collaboration with UNICEF will conduct an orientation program on child protection in emergency, tentatively scheduled for the last week of February.

WOREC with support from Plan Nepal is providing milk to children under two in the camps.

**Saptari** – CARE Nepal has provided psychological counselling to 553 women and 82 men through 5 community based psychosocial workers. TPO Nepal also continues to provide Psycho-Social Counselling in the camps.

Winter clothes and tool kits will be distributed to pregnant women. Training on Child Rights to youths in Bhardaha will be organized this week, supported by UNICEF. Transistor radios will be provided to youth groups and the remaining 1,100 mattresses will be provided to pregnant women in the coming week.

14. **Agriculture and Livestock:**

**Sunsari** – Seventy four tonnes of compounded feed out of 160 has been delivered and distributed. Rice straw and Urea Molasses block are also being distributed. The supply has been provided by FAO with the DLSO distributing it.

**Saptari** – No update available.

<b>Koshi Floods Sector/Cluster Meeting Schedule in Sunsari as of 19 February 2009</b>				
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>GCM</b>	1300 hrs Every Wednesday	25 February	DDC Meeting Hall, Inaruwa	
<b>Food/Nutrition</b>	1400 hrs, Every Sunday and Thursday		District Agriculture Office, Inaruwa	
<b>Health</b>			District Public Health Office, Inaruwa	
<b>Education</b>	1100 hrs Every Thursday	26 February	DEO Office	
<b>Protection/ Child Protection</b>	1300 hrs Monday (fortnightly)	2 March	Women Development Office, Inaruwa	
<b>Shelter/ Site Planning/ CCCM</b>	1100 hrs Wednesday (fortnightly)	4 March	DDC Office, Inaruwa	
<b>WASH</b>	1100 hrs Tuesday (fortnightly)	3 March	WSSDO, Itahari	
<b>Agriculture/ Livestock</b>			DLSO, Inaruwa	

<b>Koshi Flood Sector/Cluster Meeting Schedule in Saptari as of 17 February 2009</b>				
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>GCM</b>	Every Tuesday 0800 hrs	24 February	CDO's Residence, Rajbiraj, Saptari	
<b>Agriculture and Livestock</b>				
<b>Education</b>	Every Sunday 1100 hrs		Teacher's Union Office, Rajbiraj	
<b>Food/Nutrition</b>	Every Thursday 0800 hrs		District Agriculture Development Office, Rajbiraj	
<b>Health</b>	Every Monday 1100 hrs		District Public Health Office, Rajbiraj	
<b>Protection / Child Protection</b>			WDO	
<b>Shelter/NFI</b>	Every Tuesday (fortnightly) 1000 hrs			
<b>WASH</b>	Every Monday 0800 hrs		DWSSO Office, Saptari	

CCCM	Every Sunday 0800 hrs		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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