



Koshi River Floods in Sunsari and Saptari OCHA Situation Report No. 9

Kathmandu, 15 September 2008

This situation report is based on information received from UN Agencies and humanitarian partners, government sources, and OCHA and UNDAC team members based in Sunsari and Saptari Districts.

I. Situation in Sunsari and Saptari Districts, Eastern Nepal

- 1) The breach of the Koshi River of its eastern embankment on 18 August continues to affect an estimated 70,000 people in 12 Village Development Committees in eastern Nepal.
- 2) The East-West Highway remains impassable. However, there are displaced families living along the non-flooded portion of the highway.



Photo Source: OCHA

- 3) The current response priorities include resolving the registration and resettlement issues, in close collaboration with relevant government authorities, so that total number of displaced population and those in need of resettlement/rehabilitation assistance becomes clear.

II. Ongoing Humanitarian Response

- 4) An interagency assessment is being carried out in all 12 flood-affected VDCs in both Sunsari and Saptari districts at the household and community levels, which is expected to be completed by 17 September. Preliminary results and analysis are expected from 22 September onwards, and will guide the strategic humanitarian response plan in support of the government's relief plan.
- 5) **Actors on the ground:** The Government continues to take the lead in flood response. At the central level, the Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee oversees the process. The CNDRC is supported by a Regional Disaster Relief Committee as well as District Disaster Relief Committees in both Sunsari and Saptari. At the regional level, a "Saptakoshi Disaster Management Coordination Cell" monitors the process and directs the DDRCs accordingly. UN Agencies and I/NGOs are supporting the government in overall relief response.
- 6) NRCS will continue to lead the process of issuing permanent registration cards to the flood affected people. So far, a total of 27,378 displaced people of 4,634 families have been registered in various temporary camps in

Sunsari district. Out of these, some 200 are post partum, 333 are pregnant, 131 are with disability and 581 are elderly people.

- 7) A total of 22,751 affected people of 3,365 families displaced from the western part of Sunsari are taking refuge in Bhardaha area of Saptari district.
- 8) OXFAM will lead the process of distributing temporary cards in the shelter camps while the registration process and issues of permanent cards continue.
- 9) **Emergency Shelter:**
- 10) **Saptari** - The displaced are living in a total of 23 shelter locations/settlements in 9 schools, 2 public buildings and 12 temporary settlements. Map of camp locations available at www.un.org.np
- 11) Altogether shelters for 2,726 families were erected by Oxfam. There is a total estimated need of 6,000 shelters. The current stocks allow for up to 4,000 shelters, leaving a gap of 2,000 family shelters that need to be set up.
- 12) The number of displaced people living with host families remains unknown.
- 13) **Sunsari** - Two permanent camps are under construction, and 100 Security Forces personnel were mobilized for the bamboo and tent work.
- 14) In Jhumka, 500 tents will be set up to accommodate 5,000 people. LWF is supporting the Department of Urban Development in the Jhumka Shelter site.
- 15) In Laukihi site 1,000 shelters will be constructed to accommodate 8,000 people.
- 16) NRCS will support the provision of 1,000 tents. Action Aid, WVI, RRN and UNICEF will provide sanitary and other supplementary facilities.
- 17) IFRC has deployed an emergency shelter coordination team to the affected areas. The emergency coordinator and information management personnel are already in the country.
- 18) **Camp management:** The Government indicated the need for camps to be set up to host 12,000 families in the next 21 days. IOM, along with IFRC is meeting with relevant government departments to discuss and agree on issues with regard to shelter and camp management.
- 19) **Food:** WFP is ready for the next round of distribution provided registration of beneficiaries is completed.
- 20) **Saptari** – It has been decided that the government will feed the flood victims in the schools and WFP will feed people in the camps.

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- 21) A 15 day food ration was distributed by WFP to 34,000 people.
 - 22) **Sunsari** – A 15 day food ration was distributed to 13,000 people.
 - 23) The Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) has directed that supplementary food of 200 gram nutrimix (WSP) be provided per day per individual.
 - 24) Shortages of firewood observed in all camp sites.
 - 25) **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**
 - 26) Women in shelters and camps are not using the newly constructed toilets and bathing facilities. Sanitation and hygiene promotion activities that focus on women will be conducted to ensure increased use and maintenance of sanitary facilities.
 - 27) **Saptari** - 100 hand pumps and 600 toilets need to be set up to meet the estimated needs.
 - 28) **Sunsari** - 282 toilets, 100 bathrooms, 40 hand pumps, and 68 garbage kits have been constructed in the temporary camps.
 - 29) In all 26 camps three mobilisers comprising one female, one male and one helper are deployed to provide WASH support.
 - 30) Tractors are mobilised for garbage collection and cleaning of safety tanks. Awareness on the use of the water purification tablets is ongoing, shortly Water and Sanitation Division Office (WSSDO) will carry out the water quality test in each tube well in the camps.
 - 31) **Health:**
 - 32) **Saptari** - The number of beds in Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital was increased to meet the needs.
 - 33) Overall health situation appears to be improving day by day – reported cases of diarrhoea have decreased over the past few days.
 - 34) However, with the return of doctors to Kathmandu on 11 September, there is a need for additional doctors, nurses and paramedics, as well as medical equipment such as x-ray machines.
 - 35) Monitoring of health services are being carried out by UNICEF and UNFPA.
 - 36) 5 mobile health teams and additional 2 static 24-hour health checkpoints are in place.
 - 37) The Government plans to set up a 15-20 bed temporary hospital in Bhardaha.
 - 38) **Sunsari** - 31 health camps are being supported by the District Public Health Office (DPHO).
 - 39) Save the Children (SC) has provided cash support to procure medicines.
 - 40) To date 2,000 patients were treated in the hospital. The number of patients in hospital and camps is decreasing. Epidemiology and Disease Control Department (EDCD) is supporting the provision of medication. WHO is conducting overall cluster coordination at the central level.
 - 41) Awareness on sanitation, hygiene, family planning and immunization (measles, polio) to children < 5, Vitamin-A, distribution, pregnant women health check up and psychosocial counselling services is reported to be ongoing in each camp.
 - 42) UNICEF fulfilled the gap for zinc tablets and ORS (jeevanjal).
 - 43) UNFPA will provide 250 CHD kits to DPHO for distribution.
 - 44) **Nutrition:** All camps in Sunsari are covered by supplementary feeding programmes, which are being expanded to all camps in Saptari as well. WVI and CONCERN are actively engaged.
 - 45) Infant Feeding during Emergency training for health workers and nutrition facilitators is expected to start by the end of next week in Sunsari and by the beginning of the week after in Saptari.
 - 46) **Education:**
 - 47) **Saptari** - The total number of children that are in need of education and the total capacity of safe places and teachers is currently being assessed.
 - 48) In order to re-start school programmes, the affected people occupying the school buildings are being encouraged to relocate to other sites. A number of schools are already vacated.
 - 49) Education cluster is requested to brief the contact group with the total number of children in need of education.
 - 50) **Sunsari** - The flooding affected an estimated 29,000 students who are demanding resumption of classes.
 - 51) Political Parties and other stakeholders are also requesting for resumption of education in at least four (4) high schools in Inaruwa, the District Headquarters (DHQ) of Sunsari.
 - 52) **Protection/child protection:**
 - 53) **Saptari** - There are five psychosocial counsellors from three different agencies available - this meets the current need.
 - 54) The district administration deputed a unit of 10 women police to provide security in the spur area of camp E.
 - 55) A team of thirteen people might be hired to monitor the protection of children in camp sites. UNICEF, Save the Children and WDO will be following up on this.
 - 56) **Sunsari** - The protection working group is meeting regularly. Plan-Nepal and WOREC have mobilised protection expertise and Women Alliance are dealing with women specific issues.
 - 57) Nutritious food and blankets are required for pregnant women and children < 5yrs.
 - 58) Peers Education has been initiated in the camps.

59) NRCS, UNICEF and WVI are working on tracing missing people, including children.

60) **Agriculture and Livestock:** The cluster working group has been newly established in both districts, and is being led by the DSLO. FAO, WFP and other partners will participate. According to the DSLO, there is a shortage of vaccines and medicines. Disposal of dead animals is also an issue of concern.

61) **Security and Logistics:** Both Sunsari and Saptari remain Phase-III districts in terms of security.

62) There have been cases of looting of relief supplies in some of the temporary shelters.

63) A recent UNDAC / UNDSS assessment of the road wash out in Laukihi has identified that it is now safe to use local boats to cross the short (10m) break in the embankment. This will allow assessment teams to access previously isolated communities.

III. Appeals and Additional Funding Needs

64) An appeal letter was circulated by the Humanitarian Coordinator on August 29th, outlining a request by 7 humanitarian organizations for a total of \$10 million to support response operations. ECHO responded by pledging \$1 million to WFP for food distribution to the affected population. AusAID has committed to provide Aus\$ 1 million for the appeal - \$ 500,000 to WFP and \$ 500,000 to UNICEF.

65) Using the cluster modality, efforts are underway to coordinate a Flash Appeal to respond to urgent relief needs in the flood affected areas. The Flash Appeal will include a broad strategic plan for the flood response, and is expected to be launched by the third week of September.

66) A cluster leads meeting will be organized in Kathmandu on Thursday, 18 September to discuss Flash Appeal and associated funding issues.

67) Updates on contributions to this disaster may be found in the Financial Tracking section on the OCHA Internet Website (<http://www.reliefweb.int/fts>). Donors are requested to verify this table and inform OCHA Geneva of corrections/additions/values. Donors are encouraged to notify OCHA Geneva of their contributions to this disaster using the OCHA Standardized Contributions Recording

Format, available electronically in the above mentioned Financial Tracking System Website.

IV. Coordination

68) On 9 September, the cluster system was formalized in Nepal. Clusters established include health (WHO), nutrition, (UNICEF), WASH (UNICEF), food (WFP), education (UNICEF/SC), protection (OHCHR), camp coordination and camp management (IOM) and emergency shelter (IFRC). To complement this initiative, the government (Ministry of Home Affairs) has appointed government cluster focal points who will be working closely with the cluster leads in conducting cluster meetings and related activities.

69) Cluster lead contacts:

Food: WFP, Kimberly Deni, kimberly.deni@wfp.org

WASH: UNICEF, Larry Robertson, lrobertson@unicef.org

Health: WHO, Damodar Adhikari, AdhikariD@searo.who.int

Nutrition: UNICEF, Monique Beun, mbeun@unicef.org

Protection: OHCHR, Annette Lyth, alyth@ohchr.org

Child Protection: UNICEF, Amra Lee, alee@unicef.org

Education: UNICEF, Melinda Smith, msmith@unicef.org

and Save the Children, Gopini Pandey,

g.pandey@savechildren-norway.org.np

Emergency Shelter: Gregg McDonald,

esc.coord.nepal@gmail.com

Camp Coordination and Management: Christopher Hoffman,

CHOFFMAN@iom.int

70) An UNDAC team has been in country since 5 September, to support ongoing response operations, strengthening coordination structures and supporting information management.

71) Every alternate day, coordination meetings are held in the UNDAC/OCHA satellite office in Saptari. There is a general coordination meeting in Sunsari at the CDO's Residence every Monday Wednesday and Friday as well.

72) All available assessments, reports, photos and tools can be accessed at the FLOODS section on the Nepal Information Platform <http://www.un.org.np/floods/index.php>

For more detailed and updated information please visit the Nepal Information Platform (<http://www.un.org.np>) or contact:

OCHA New York

Carmen van Heese, Asia Pacific Section, Desk Officer Nepal
Tel. (+001) 917 367 2898, email: vanheese@un.org
▪ Pia Hussein, 9173679899, email: hussainp@un.org

OCHA Office in Kathmandu

Wendy Cue, Head of Office, OCHA Nepal
Tel. (+977) 98510 87520, (01) 55 48 553, email: cue@un.org and ocha-nepal@un.org
▪ Aditee Maskey, 98510 72938, email: maskeya@un.org

OCHA Office in Biratnagar

Leith Baker, Humanitarian Affairs Officer
Tel. (+977) 9804069034, SATphone: 8821643338874, email: bakerl@un.org
▪ Yadav K.C. (+977) 9803649141, email: kcy@un.org
▪ Bitu Babu Shreevastav (+977) (0)21/537357, 9806815955, email: shreevastav@un.org
SAT BRT: +88 216 8334 1163, SAT vehicle: +88 216 4333 8868

UNDAC Team

Sander Van Dijk, Team Leader
Tel: (+977) 9803930814 email: undac.nepal@gmail.com