

This report was issued by UN OCHA Nepal. It covers the period from October 13 - 25 2009.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Floods and landslides kill 62 persons in mid and far-west regions, destroying 228 houses and partially damaging 408 in the hill and mountain districts
- In the Terai, localized crop damage has been significant in heavily affected VDCs;
- Distribution of food packages and NFIs is complete or underway in affected districts;
- DDRC assessments are being completed with challenges including lack of training for volunteers, varying definitions of need, and pressure to include additional people in relief distributions;
- Immediate needs of flood and landslide affected people are being met by the DDRC, regional organizations, and people's own capacity in most districts;
- Mid and long-term needs need to be prioritized, especially livelihood and agricultural support, recovery, and reconstruction.

I. Situation Overview

Heavy rainfall from October 4-6 2009 caused severe landslides and floods in Far-West Region (FWR) and, to a lesser extent, in the Mid-West Region (MWR). According to initial estimates, between 18,000 and 20,000 families were affected in the districts of Kailali, Kanchanpur, Bardiya, Banke, Dang, Dadheldhura, Doti, Achham, Baitadi, Bajhang. The heavy rainfall came just before the rice harvesting time, and took people by surprise as the monsoon season was thought to be finished. At least 2,500 families were displaced in the immediate aftermath of the floods. The flood waters remained in most places for at least 48 hours, but receded fairly quickly when the rainfall stopped, allowing most families to return to their place of origin over the course of the next week. Many families displaced by landslides in the hill and mountain districts have not been able to return as their homes have been destroyed.



Local Woman collecting the flood-affected crops in Lalbhaji VDC in Kailali (Photo Credit: FAO)

Many of those affected by the floods are already vulnerable populations, such as the landless and freed Kamaiyas resettled on government land alongside rivers. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), thousands of acres of crops were damaged by sedimentation, the submergence of crops for over 48 hours, and river land-cutting. Compared to last year's flash floods, during which the heavy rainfall occurred in all regions simultaneously, the impact of this year's rainfall was somewhat mitigated by the fact that it moved from West to East and North to South, thereby reaching different areas at different times. In addition, early warning systems and preparedness efforts in some districts seem to have enabled people

to reach secure land on time, although many returned to find much of their property and/or crop lands damaged or washed away.

Following the first response by flood and landslide affected people and local organizations, the DDRC activated clusters to coordinate response in specific sectors. Initial distribution of Ready to Eat Food (RTEF) and Non-Food Items (NFIs) took place in the first weeks in most of the Terai districts, as well as in accessible mountain and hill districts, based on initial rapid assessments. More thorough assessments are still underway in most districts, and data collection as well as verification has been a challenge to the relief allocation and distribution, as in some districts provisions of immediate relief have been delayed pending assessment results and local pressure to include non flood-affected families on relief distribution lists.

District overview

District	Disaster Event	People			Displaced Families	Affected Families	House Damage
		Dead	Missing	Injured			
Kanchanpur	Flood	3	1			2,500 - 4,000	
Kailali	Flood	2		1		12,214	380
Doti	Landslide	6		15	226	295	140 totally 246 partially
Achham	Landslide	17			314	436	118 damaged
Dadeldhura	Landslide	12		2	35	35	2 totally 13 partially
Baitadi	Landslide	4		9	65	108	65 totally 31 partially
Bhajang	Landslide	11			58	58+	
Bardiya	Flood	2				390	
Banke	Flood	2				2,683	
Dang	Flood	3	2	2			
Jumla	Flood		2				
Total		62	5	29	698	18,719-20,219	228 – totally 408 - partially

Source: DDRC, NRCS and other NGO sources. Not all reported deaths have had official police reports filed.

Kailali – Terai district hardest hit by the floods, with Kandra, Karnali, Pathariya, Manhara and Mohana Rivers causing most of the damage. The most affected VDCs are: Lalbojhi, Narayanpur, Dhansinghpur, Thapapur, Joshipur, Hasauliya, Fulbari, and Krishnapur. The District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) expects a 10-15% yield reduction in the district. During the reporting period, health workers reported that the incidence of conjunctivitis, skin diseases, and pneumonia is increasing in the flood affected VDCs.

Kanchanpur – The most affected VDCs are Baisebichuwa, Tribhuwanbasti, Parasan, Kalika, Rampur Bilaspur, and Beldandi.

Accham – Four schools were damaged by landslides. Around 84 affected families from Patalkot VDC are currently taking shelter in the temporary camp in Bhashkun.

Dadeldhura – The most affected VDC is Masthamandu. Other affected VDCs are Devaldivpur (ten displaced families), Amargadhi, Ashigram, Bhageshowar, Belapur, Manilekh, and Jogbudha. The roads were repaired and vehicle movement resumed on 14 October.

Baitadi – According to NRCS, although 14 VDCs have been affected, the worst hit of which are Shivanath and Maldehi VDCs.

Bardiya – The most affected VDCs are: Rajapur, Neulapur, Bhimapur, Suriyapatawa, KhailiChandrapur, Manau, Dhodhari, Patabhar, and Dhadawar. Almost all of them are in the Rajapur delta along the Karnali River in western Bardiya.

Banke – According to the DADO, 70 acres of croplands were damaged in the district due to the floods.

Bajura – The rainfall affected many of the district's VDCs, in particular: Gudukhati, Barhabis, Kuldevmandau, Kailas Mandau, Aatichaur, Jugada, Chhatara, Toli, Kanda and Jaya Bageshwari. Paddy crops have been badly damaged and the rain has washed away the agricultural land.

Kalikot – The road from Tunibagar to Kalikot DHQ has been damaged, and it will reportedly take about one month to fix.

II. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Note: The following information is based on what has been collected to date, and is not intended to be an exhaustive list of assistance provided or gaps.

Cluster/Sector Overview

Food

• Response

- NRCS distributed RTEF to the most affected families in Kailali, Banke, Bardiya and Achham;
- SC has provided 15-day food support to the landslide affected people 78 displaced families in Patalkot, Achham and the Kailali DDRC is providing food packets to 8,250 families for 7 days. CARE-Nepal has

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made plans for food assistance to 50 families in Dadeldhura, and has provided 30,000NRs to NRCS for immediate relief needs in Achham.

- CARE will provide relief food support for the flood-affected households in Kailali (and potentially Kanchanpur), for which the food security cluster expects clarification in the coming days.
- WFP anticipates updated information on the food security situation and crop damage, based on data collected by field monitors. Depending on the results, WFP will determine with the government if additional support in the form of early recovery assistance (food for assets) is required. WFP is currently operating in all flood-affected districts.
- **Gaps**
 - In Achham, there is a need for immediate food assistance need for IDPs in temporary camps, especially for the 78 families in Patalkot VDC;
 - The DDRC in Kailali has requested WFP and local/international organizations working in the region to provide food assistance to 8,025 families following the 7 days' rations currently being provided.

Agriculture

• **Response:**

- Assessments by the District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) and the District Livestock Services Office (DLSO) are still ongoing;
- FAO conducted a rapid flood assessment in the four affected Terai districts;
- Through FAYA, FAO is distributing wheat seeds and composite vegetable seeds to 3000 families in Kailali and Kanchanpur who were affected by last year's floods, many of whom are reportedly the same as those affected by this year's floods.
- **Gaps**
 - Immediate need for wheat seeds for the families not receiving FAO's current seed distribution;
 - Need for other crop and vegetable seeds, and fertilizers;
 - Technical and preparedness trainings for land rehabilitation for silted lands in the Terai districts, and technical advice on sand-resistant crops (i.e. sugar cane);

Health and Nutrition

• **Response:**

- WHO, UNICEF, and INGOs such as Save the Children and Care-Nepal are coordinating with the DHOs for response to health needs in flood affected areas;
- In Kailali, the Public Health Association of Nepal organized a mobile health clinic in Dhansingpur and Narayanpur VDCs during Tihar;
- In Achham DHO organized a mobile health clinic from 9-16 October in Patalkot IDP camp. One pregnant woman in the camp was referred for further treatment. On 11 October, one child died of pneumonia in the IDP camp. The DHO has deployed two health staff to be on stand-by Patalkot, as the nearest health post is a 3-hour walk. The DHO assessed his current medicine stock to be sufficient to cover the needs;
- In Doti, local health institutions are monitoring the health situation in the landslide affected area, and have reported that as no significant health problem has been seen among the landslide affected people they currently see no need for mobile health clinics;
- In Kailali, the situation has reportedly normalized, and they are not requesting further support at this time.
- The EDCD/DOHS/MoHP has sent a team from the central level to Kanchanpur to assess the situation. The team left yesterday.
- WHO has provided 8 diarrhoeal disease kits to EDCD for use among the flood affected people
- **Gaps:** There are no reports of any health gaps at this time.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

• **Response:**

- In coordination with district WASH clusters, UNICEF, IRD, Save the Children and CARE has been providing hygiene and health kits, water purifiers, and washing materials in Kailali, Kanchanpur, Bardiya, Dadeldhura, Doti, Achham, Baitadi and Bajhang districts;
- UNICEF/IRD distributed hygiene and water purification materials in Achham (Patalkot and Markhu VDCs); Doti (Gagari, Dauda, and Lalkedarashower VDCs, Dipayal Municipality); Kanchanpur (Krishnapur, Shreepur, and Tribhuanbasti VDCs); and Kailali (Lalbhoji, Bhajni Khailad, Thapapur, Ratanpur, Pavera, Hasuliya, Basauti, Nayaranpur, Dhansinghpur VDCs, and Tikapur Municipality). It also provided oral rehydration salts to the 78 displaced families in the Patalkot IDP camp in Achham;
- Following the next WASH cluster and DDRC meeting, IRD will distribute WASH materials to the rest of the affected VDCs in Kanchanpur district.

- **Gaps:** There are no reports of any WASH gaps.

Education

• **Response:**

- Assessments are underway on the mid- to long-term needs of flood and landslide affected school children, and UNICEF, Save the Children and BASE (in Kailali) are working with the District Education Office (DEO) to identify needs and gaps;
- The Nepal Christian Relief Services have donated 3,200 school kits in Kailali and 2,000 school bags for Kanchanpur;
- Save the Children has committed 5000 education kits for Kailali, which will be distributed once the assessment information comes in.

- **Gaps:** Reconstruction of partially or completely damaged schools (figures are still being collected).

Shelter/NFIs

• **Response:**

- CARE-Nepal, NRCS, Save the Children, Mercy Corps and other organizations are coordinating for the distribution of NFIs (in the form of tarpaulins and NFI kits) in the flood and landslide affected districts;
- The Regional Warehouse in Mahendranagar has provided 200 NFI sets to NRCS Dadeldhura to cover a previously-identified gap;
- NNSWA in Kanchanpur (with the joint support of the Nepal Christian Relief Services and Save the Children) is providing NFI support to 250 families in the district;
- The Nepal Christian Relief Services provided 6,000 blankets, 1,900 bed sheets and 450 sets cooking utensils in Kailali and 1008 blankets, and 497 buckets in Kanchanpur district. World Vision provided 200 tarpaulins in Kailali.



*NFI distribution in Kanchanpur
(Photo Credit: Save the Children)*

• **Gaps**

- According to NRCS Kailali, they need 2,330 more NFI sets for distribution (in addition to the 3,100 already distributed);
- Of the 314 displaced families in Achham, 187 have reportedly not received NFI support. The IDPs living in the Patalkot temporary camp need winter clothes in addition to the NFIs;
- Early recovery support for reconstruction of destroyed houses.

Protection

• **Response:**

- UNFPA is supporting WOREC in Kailali to distribute clothing and food to pregnant and lactating mothers as well as newborn babies. Three Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and six psychosocial counselors have been mobilized for the duration of two and a half months. The WDO will also be distributing mattresses and blankets. Worec is currently carrying out an assessment on lactating and pregnant women, and to date nine flood affected VDCs have been assessed;
- UNFPA is on standby for support required in other districts as well with pre-positioned hygiene kits and contingency funds for WDOs. According to initial estimates by the WDO in Doti, 15-20 lactating and pregnant women may need support. The CDO in Baitadi projected that 80-100 lactating and pregnant women may need support, and according to the Achham CDO, 125 children and more than 100 lactating and pregnant women may;
- In Doti assessment on pregnant and lactating women is ongoing.

• **Gaps**

- Reliable numbers of pregnant and lactating women and newborn babies have not yet been obtained from most districts;
- Little information has been obtained about other protection needs.

Challenges

- Difficulties in getting clear information about needs and gaps has delayed the relief assistance in certain districts;
- Lack of vehicle access to hill districts such as Achham, Bajhang and Bajura;
- Although the assessment lists the different types of damage and losses flood affected people might have suffered, how to categorize affected families and distribute need accordingly is still unclear;
- Pressure by non flood-affected families to receive assistance, and political party involvement.

III. Coordination

The DDRC is taking the lead in coordination of response to floods. In the following weeks, further coordination will be needed for an assessment of what recovery assistance is needed.

- The Education Cluster Meeting in Kanchanpur took place at 1300 hrs on 23 October.
- The next DDRC meeting in Kanchanpur is scheduled for 26 October in DAO, Mahendranagar
- The next WASH meeting in Kanchanpur is scheduled for 25 October in DWSSO, Mahendranagar



VDC secretary chairing the Flood Response Coordination meeting in Thapapur VDC in Kailali

IV. Funding

All humanitarian partners are encouraged to inform OCHA Nepal of cash and in-kind contributions for the response by sending an email to Jenny Brav in the Nepalgunj Sub-office, brav@un.org

V. Contact

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For more information, please visit <http://www.un.org.np>

***Please note this is the last situation report for this Disaster. Further reporting will be included in OCHA Nepal's monthly Situation Overview.*