



#NepalFlood2017

Media Monitoring, 16 August 2017

The rains, flood and landslide has created havoc and caused irreparable damage. The weather conditions have said to be improving and the water level has started to decrease. The roads are still damaged which has left hundreds people stranded. Many people have started living together in the makeshift tents. All the sources of drinking water has been damaged. The areas people have taken shelter in have started becoming polluted. Dead animals and rotten vegetables flooded with the water have started piling up. The health of the people have started deteriorating with many in need of treatment. Cases of diarrhoea, cholera, common cold, skin and respiratory problems among others have started affecting hundreds.

This media monitoring has gathered the news published in national and international news portals. This coverage has concentrated over the current scenario of the areas affected by flood.

Risk of epidemic

The flood has posed a substantial disease threat along the southern plains. According to health officials, hundreds of flood displaced people have been suffering from various infections due to contaminated drinking water and polluted environment caused by the floods. Diarrhoeal diseases, fever, common cold, gastritis, conjunctivitis and skin infection are common among the flood victims. In Banke, scores of flood victims at the Rapti Sonari Rural Municipality have been deprived of treatment after the floodwaters inundated the Phattepur-based Primary Health Centre, destroying all the medicines.

The Nepal Army (NA) airlifted six seriously-ill victims to Nepalgunj on August 15. Locals in Dudawa have also been deprived of treatment as the floods triggered by heavy rainfall over the past week flooded the local health facilities. Hundreds of flood victims have fallen ill at

Kamaiya Danda in Rapti Sonari-6, Tikulipur, Balapur, Phattepur, Baijapur, Kachanapur, among other places, according to the District Public Health Office (DPHO) in Banke. It said around 500 people from flood affected areas were receiving treatment in various health facilities. In Kailali, around 80 people were treated at Narayanpur Health Post in Tikapur-6 for diarrhoea, fever, headache and conjunctivitis.

According to the news published in [Naya Patrika](#), there is a risk of cholera epidemic in the flooded area of Morang district. The toilets have been flooded and the polluted water has spread everywhere. The area lacks pure drinking water. The dead animals in many parts of the districts have added to the problem. The risk of snakebite has increased in the places which has been inundated. The locals have complained that the snakes have entered the house in search of a dry land.

Ministry of Health has [deployed a team of health workers](#) in the flood-hit areas. The team will work in coordination with the district health worker, district hospital, health post and FCHVs. MoH has also sent water purifying medicine, ORS, antibiotics, tools for primary treatment and other necessary medicines. Health Minister has directed to provide free health facility for seven days to the affected.

Improving Scenarios

According to the news published in [Online Khabar](#), all airports in the country except those in Lukla and Biratnagar of eastern Nepal have resumed operation. Most airports across the country were unable to operate flights for last few days owing to unfavourable weather conditions. [Power supply has been restored in Morang and Sunsari districts](#) after five days of blackout. Electricity was cut off after the flood entered power substation building in Sunsari causing damages to the equipment. The water was drawn out of the building through six pumping sets August 13. The electric power was restored after tests were carried out on the equipment inundated by the floodwaters. Although the power supply resumed last night, many places faced power outage from 3 am onwards.

The flood victims in Saptari felt a [sense of relief](#) after the sun shone on August 16. The water level has started to dip in inundated houses, shops, roads and offices. Relief and rescue has picked up pace. The Nepali Army has stepped up work to repair damaged embankments in flood-hit areas.

Increasing challenges

[Three thousand families of Saptari](#) who have been displaced due to the flood have been having a hard time in lack of health facility, food, clean drinking water and shelter. Childrens and elder people are said to be the

most affected. The news published in [Myrepublica](#) has stated, locals of Birgunj have not been able to light their stoves for the past three days and so far the government has sent no relief for them. All their food grains and clothes were swept away by the floods, creating a mess in their houses. People of all ages jumped and snatched the food materials provided by Rauniyar who is a contractor by profession. Relief materials are yet to reach more than 50 villages in Parsa, though the rain has stopped. Most of the flood victims complained that [genuine victims were deprived](#) of government relief as party leaders had distributed relief to victims of their constituency, keeping in view the third phase of the civic polls.

Similarly, hundreds of flood-hit families have been taking shelter at public places and local schools and living on empty stomachs for want of relief and relocation in Rautahat. Those who could not find shelter are living under makeshift tents, risking snakebites and awaiting government's relief and relocation. According to the news published in [The Himalayan Times](#), one victim has blamed that the government has remained apathetic towards our woes at a time when they don't even have daily essentials. The flood-hit areas, meanwhile, reek of animal carcasses and rotten food. A large quantity of foodstuff, including rice, lentils and wheat stored in several godowns has gone rotten and floods have destroyed planted paddy and other crops. Shyam Chandra Jha, Nepali Congress mahasamiti member and a resident of Durga Bhagawati Rural Municipality of the district said "I feel ashamed that the government led by my party has failed to distribute relief to victims". He urged the government to speed up relief distribution at the earliest.

Around 2,500 flood-displaced families of Bhajani Municipality in Kailali district are [living on the Postal Highway](#) with their cattle for the last four days with little or nothing to eat. People have been stuck in the highway area as there is no high land nearby. Vehicular movement along the Bhajani-Tikapur road has been obstructed after the floodwaters swept away 2-km long stretch of the highway. The highway area is getting polluted due to poor sanitation. Flood victims of Bhajani complained that they have not received relief even 72 hours after the disaster.

In the flood caused last week, [Tilathi](#), on the south of Saptari district bordering India, was once again inundated for the fourth time in the last two months. There was no human casualty but the villagers are short of food and basic medicines. The government has said it has stepped up efforts

Photo: The [Kathmandu Post](#)



to distribute relief to flood-affected people. But Tilathi locals, who face such floods every year during monsoon, said they do not want relief from the government and have demanded permanent solution to the problem.

In the news published in [Myrepublica](#), UML Vice Chairman Bhim Rawal has said that 15 various Indian dams and embankments near the Nepal-India border, the Indian river-linking project and the exploitation of the Chure area and river banks have caused the flood disaster in the terai.

The flood has made an impact in other areas of the nation as well. As the flights are not being operated many people are having difficulty. A news published in [Annapurna Post](#) has shown the dilemma of a pregnant women who has not been able to reach the health facility in Nepalgunj for delivery. Many people have been visiting the airport hoping to get the flight ticket but are returning with disappointment. A case of a migrant worker who is likely to miss his flight to Malaysia as he is not being able to fly to Kathmandu has also been shown. The locals of Simakot have also blamed the airline companies for providing the ticket for Indian tourists as they pay more.

[Around 500 industries at Morang](#) Industrial Corridor that were inundated in the recent flooding in the plains have been shut down since three days. The shut down prompted by power cut after flood waters entered Duhabi grid of Nepal Electricity Authority has led to halt in production. The godown facilities holding machineries and offices of the industries have been inundated. With the shutdown, the industries at Morang Industrial Corridor will have to bear a loss of Rs20 million per day and around 300,000 workers will miss their pay.

Various places of Dharan have been reeling under [acute shortage of drinking water](#) for the past four days after the floods triggered by incessant rainfall swept away pipelines and water sources. Locals of Deurali, Panchakanya, Panbari and School Danda have been affected the most. It has been learnt that people are compelled to use contaminated waters from river, posing a threat of diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases.

According to the news published in [Nagarik Daily](#), damage caused by flood and landslide is in increasing trend as the government is failing to implement the guidelines and instructions provided by the various constituencies of the parliament. The Chairman of the state administration committee Dil Bahadur Gharti insists that if the government had implemented the instructions provided by different constituent committees then there would have been very less damage to life and property caused by the flood and landslides.

Efforts Made

Minister for Home Affairs Janardan Sharma [visited the storage depot area](#) at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) on August 15 and instructed the authorities to make the relief distribution effective and keep the daily goods in priority.

According to the news published by Rastriya Samachar Samitee, the Council of Ministers meeting on August 15 decided to provide an immediate relief assistance of Rs. 15,000 to the every poor family affected by the recent floods and landslides. The cabinet also decided to improve the effectiveness of ongoing relief, rescue and temporary settlement measures of the flood and landslide survivors, and set up auxiliary camps to monitor the distribution of rescue and relief efforts, and address shortcomings accordingly.

The Nepal Army (NA) has set up '[Natural Disaster Rescue and Relief Coordination Centre](#)' which is expected to ease the relief distribution process. The centre would be operated under the coordination of brigadier general Babu Krishna Karki of the Special Force Brigade.

Lawmakers urged the government to pay attention in immediate and effective rescue, relief distribution and rehabilitation of landslides and flood victims. They also demanded to [increase the amount](#) provided by the government for maintenance of the damaged houses to at least Rs 500,000 to each family of those killed in floods. CPN-UML lawmaker Bhim Bahadur Rawal presented a proposal of public importance for the long-term government policy and programmes on the [resolution of the flood and landslides caused disasters](#) on 15 August. He further asked the government to declare the inundated districts as flood-hit area and provide Rs 500,000 to the victim's families and provide Rs 100,000 to every survivor immediately.

[President Bidya Devi Bhandari](#) expressed grief and drew the government's attention towards preventing the shortage of food supplies and medicines to the flood and landslide-stricken areas. She appealed for mobilisation of the scout, national volunteers' corps, community based organisations including the private sector for effective rescue and relief operations. President Bhandari stressed formulating immediate and long-term planning for natural disaster management. She advised the PM on endorsing necessary options for alertness and prevention in course of natural calamities in future.

The Ministry of Home Affairs said it has [mobilised over 26,700 employees](#) in flood- and landslide-hit areas to carry out search, rescue and relief operations. Thirteen helicopters of the Nepali Army and private sector,

motor and rafting boats, among others, had been deployed. 40 families rendered homeless by floods have been evacuated and shifted to a safer place in Bhajani of Kailali. Similarly, 600 families of Dhanusa and 272 families of Banke have found safe shelter in public schools, community buildings and rest houses. Relief materials, including food and safe drinking water, were supplied to flood and landslide survivors. Likewise, health workers, community volunteers and paramedic teams with essential medicines have been providing service in the disaster-hit areas. Additionally, all chief district officers have been directed not to grant leave to district-based employees until the end of monsoon besides asking them to submit rapid assessment report to the ministry within 10 days.

Relief Efforts

CPN-UML Parliamentary Party meeting decided to [provide one month salary](#) of its lawmakers to raise funds for the families hit by flooding and landslides. [Nepal Students Union Lamjung](#) has launched a campaign to support the flood victims and has collected Rs 48,089 so far. As part of the campaign, the NSU held a rally from Shera of Besisahar to Ring Road via Manange Chautara on August 15. [Nepal Bar Association](#) decided to raise a fund of 1 lakh for the flood and landslide victims. Bar has also requested all to help the flood victims in such a period of grief and loss. [Lions Club of Begnastal](#) has collected Rs. 33,515 from the local people of the Begnastal buspark and from its member for the people affected from the flood and landslide.

The decision of distribution of relief aids only through the government channel has created confusion among many. Relief Collection Coordination Committee Coordinator Kedar Neupane informed that anyone can carry out the [relief work](#) but it should be recorded in the government report. Thirteen organisations have requested Kathmandu District Office to allow them to carry out the relief aid. The CDO office has given them permission after putting forward five conditions.

Distribution of relief to the flood victims have [started in Dhanusha district](#) rain stopped. Four helicopters were used to transport relief materials provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The team led by Chief District Officer (CDO) Gajendra Bahadur Shrestha [distributed relief packages](#) in Tulsipur sub metropolis - 13, Lamahi municipality - 8 and 9 along with various wards in Dangisharan rural municipality of Dang. According to the Jhapa-based Nepal Red Cross Society office, more than 800 flood victims have been provided with [relief materials](#). Organisations including the District Chamber of Commerce, Nepal Jaycees and Electricity Entrepreneur Association among others distributed the loss items.

This Media Monitoring report is produced by HERD INTERNATIONAL (www.herdint.com). HERD INTERNATIONAL team collected various stories by conducting media monitoring of national and international news portals. The collected stories were recorded in a spreadsheet i.e. Microsoft Excel detailing the date, title, sources and links to the story. This study involves a three step process i.e. information finding, information recording and analysis.

Media Monitoring Team:

Rajesh Ghimire, Kritagya Regmi, Sagar Pandit, Santosh Sharma

The rice distributed by District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC), Saptari to flood victims in Banarjhula, Kusha, and Rampura in the name of relief last Saturday was [found rotten](#). Rookmangud Katwal Trust had provided the rice to a local social organization called Shirishko Phul. The rice then had been handed over to DDMC on August 11. The Trust had distributed 180 packets of rice, each containing 5 kg. According to the source, the DDMC had not checked the quality of rice.

According to the news published in [Rajdhani Daily](#), 'Mayor Disaster Management Fund' set up under the chairmanship of the mayor of Tulsipur Sub-metropolitan city Ghanshyam Pandey has started distributing relief materials to the flood victims through the one-door policy mechanism. Local representatives, government officers and different organizations have been distributing relief materials to the flood victims in their own settlement areas.

Conclusion

According to media reports, there has been shortage of clean drinking water and medicines in the flood hit areas. The government has already sent the necessary human resource and medicines but reaching all the victims of the affected area remains the challenge. With the distribution of the relief materials including foods and makeshift tents, the government should also focus on providing clean drinking water and on spot health service so that no epidemic occurs. ■



हर्ड इन्टरनेशनल
HERD INTERNATIONAL

Post Box: 24144, Thapathi, Kathmandu, Nepal, Phone: +977- 4243839 / 4243753

Email: info@herdint.com Web: www.herdint.com

HERD INTERNATIONAL is a research company, promoting evidence informed policies and practices for sustainable development and contributing to improve quality of life of people.