



#NepalFlood2017

Media Monitoring, 17 August 2017

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The health of the victims of flood and landslide have started deteriorating. Hundreds of cases of fever, diarrhoea, cholera, skin and eye infection, respiratory problems among others have started being reported. Various health camps have been set up in many places but not all have received the treatment. The government has already dispatched the health workers and medicines and have declared of providing free treatment for a week. But the damaged roads and flood have made it difficult to reach the patients and provide services.

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 displaced flood victims of Sunsari and Morang districts sheltering in temporary camps have begun falling sick. The fever, cough, and skin and eye problems are common ailments. A health camp was set up in Musahar settlement in Biratnagar Metropolis-19 on August 16. Three of the patients treated there were in critical condition and were referred for advanced health care. A total of 25 flood victims have been admitted in Biratnagar-based Koshi Zonal Hospital and there has been a surge of patients in recent days. There are 36 camps set up for flood-displaced people in Morang district. BP Koirala Institute of Health and Sciences has also launched free mobile health camps in the flood-affected areas in Sunsari. The institute is planning to deploy teams in other flood-affected districts

as well. BPKIHS team ran a mobile camp in Sunsari's Bhokraha and provided service to over 200 patients.

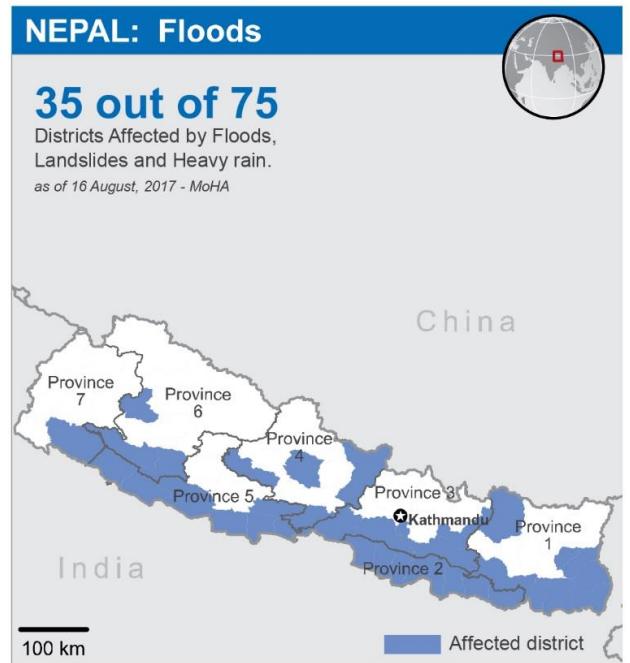
Similarly, the [victims of Saptari](#) have also started falling ill. Health problem has been detected mostly in the locals of Banarjhula, Kusaha, Sakarpura, Rampura Malhaniya, Koiladi and Tilathi areas. Victims of Rampura complained the shortage of clean drinking water, food and medicines. The number of patients visiting health posts and Gajendra Narayan Singh Hospital has increased sharply in the district. The patients were being treated on the floor for want of beds. DPHO had set up health camps at four places including Jir Hatiya, and Kunauli for treatment of patients.

The miseries of the locals of Ikrahi, Biratnagar have been further aggravated by health problems. There is not even a single family which has not been suffering from fever, common cold, diarrhoea and skin problems. Cold and damp rooms, contaminated water, stench of rotten food and dead bodies have given rise to various diseases. As many as 12 patients who were having serious health issues have been referred to Awadh Narayan Memorial Clinic, Biratnagar. Locals in Khap tole of Biratnagar-19 are struggling with similar health issues. A health camp was organized jointly by Life Guard Hospital and Gurans Bookstore, 300 victims were found having health problems. Amongst them, three seriously injured were referred to Biratnagar for further treatment.

Flood victims have started falling sick due to [viral fever in Jhapa district](#). Viral fever cases were particularly high among the people who lived in settlements near the Kankai and Biring rivers. There is a scarcity of clean drinking water. The health post, in partnership with a local NGO, ran a health camp in which 286 people were treated. According to Kumarkhod Health Post, said they were running out of medicines to treat viral fever patients. [Thirty-seven](#) people of Bhangaha, Mahottari suffered from diarrhoea after the floods. However, all affected people underwent medical check-up and no serious health complications were found.

According to the news published by Rastriya Samachar Samitee (state owned National News Agency), the Department of Health has ruled out the report of flood-hit districts facing a disease epidemic.

Source: un.org.np



Map Sources: UNCS, Nepal Survey Department, Nepal Ministry of Home Affairs
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 16 August, 2017

Ministry of Health has urged all to contact 01-4100187, 01-4262268 and 98510-96089 for any help related to the health sector.

According to the news published in [The Himalayan Times](#), the government is more than prepared to tackle such emergency situations. 25,000 chlorine tablets have already been distributed in Siraha, Saptari and Mahottari districts. Similarly, bleaching powder and Piyush (water purifying chlorine solution), was also distributed in Siraha, Saptari Mahottari and Rautahat districts. Water jars and chlorine tablets have been distributed in Musahar Tole in Janakpur.

Source: [onlinekhabar](#)

The doctors however have advised the flood victims to be extra careful as the floods had polluted all water sources. A rapid response team comprising 15 members, including health practitioners from Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) has already been deployed in Morang, Saptari, Janakpur, Rautahat and Banke districts. It also informed that health services from Fattepur Health Post, Banke, have resumed from a new location after the health post was inundated. The medicines in the health post have already been sent from Regional Medical Store, Nepalganj, and Central Medical Store, Pathlaiya, Bara. Information about the health condition of flood and landslide victims is being collected by information cell at EDCD.



Considering the possible epidemic outbreak in flood-hit areas, District Health Office of Rautahat started [dispatching basic medicines](#) to area health posts. DHO is planning to organize mobile health camps in the flood-affected areas from August 17. Earlier, floods had inundated area health posts of Dewahi, Ajagaibi, Badaharwa, Matsari, Karuniya, Inarwa, Tejapakad, Rajpur, Basantapati, Auraiya, Banjaraha, Garuda, damaging the stock of medicines among others.

Government officials affiliated to public health said that the flood-affected people would be provided with [pure drinking water and healthy food](#) to curb possible outbreak of water-borne diseases. They claimed that the possible outbreak of diseases will be controlled if these two things can be guaranteed. According to

EDCD Saying that 80 percent of the people in flood-affected 29 districts are at high risk of various kinds of diseases.

Increasing challenges

According to the [Ministry of Agricultural Development](#) (MoAD), floodwaters have wiped out Rs 8.11 billion worth of crops as the country suffered record floods following torrential rain from August 11-14 that inundated huge tracts of land in 31 districts. Government officials estimate further losses amounting to billions including livestock and private food stores swept away by the surging water. The deluge affected 31 districts, 19 of them severely. Experts and environmentalists have [blamed a host of man-made problems](#) including deforestation, sand and gravel mining along the Chure region for the devastating impacts of the monsoon-induced disaster in the terai. They said that such disaster is likely to recur more frequently if the authorities continue to turn a blind eye to the exploitation of the Chure region.

According to the news published in [The Kathmandu Post](#), the people in the eastern districts now are struggling to come to terms with the disaster. Most of the people cannot move in to their houses yet, as they have to clean the sludge and debris deposited by the floods. Though the government has said it has stepped up efforts to distribute relief materials, flood survivors say they were yet to receive anything from the state. The flood-affected people said they were increasingly worried about disease outbreaks. They have been forced to drink contaminated water as the water sources have been damaged.

[Residents of Baijanapur](#) in Rapti Sonari Rural Municipality, Banke district, have been trying to return to normal life after the floods receded. The vehicular movement, obstructed after the massive flood damaged a bridge, have resumed. The locals were seen salvaging their belongings from the destroyed houses, while students were cleaning their books and copies. The Rural Municipality office was collecting the relief materials, while the newly elected representatives have been having a hard time managing the distribution of the relief.

The flood victims of Dewagonahi of Rautahat District said that they reached the state of death [due to hunger](#). More than 300 victims had not eaten anything for the last 4 days. Although the locals provided bitten rice it was not enough for everyone and they don't have clean water to drink.

The [police force](#) mobilized for rescue and relief for the flood affected people have also been affected. The station, check post have been inundated and the equipments have been damaged in many flood hit districts.

According to the news published by Rastriya Samachar Samiti, with the death toll climbing to 123 and 35 still reported missing, and thousands of families rendered homeless, the scale of the damage has raised a serious question over the government's much-touted disaster preparedness plan. With Nepal being one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, floods and landslides and the subsequent damage has become an annual phenomena in the country. However, the state mechanism is yet to come up with a long-term plan and solution to address something that is so inevitable. It has pointed that disaster preparedness plan should seek a long-term solution to this perennial problem. Such plans should not only involve warning people of impending disaster but also provide them with options to avoid the tragedy.

Efforts Made

On August 16, entrepreneurs, political parties, and locals demanded that Rautahat be declared a [crisis-hit zone](#) as recent flood had wreaked colossal havoc in the district. They also urged the government to bring out special relief packages for flood-affected people.

[Ganesh Man Singh Adhyayan Pratisthan](#) held an emergency meeting of citizens to draw the government's attention to the plight of flood and landslide victims and to discuss ways to make rescue efforts and relief distribution more effective.

The [Humanitarian Country Team](#) has been activated in Nepal to support response efforts in the aftermath of severe floods that have hit the nation. Rapid assessments are being conducted in the impacted districts and initial reports show that power and internet connectivity has been disrupted in some areas and transport infrastructure has been damaged. The disaster comes at a time when Nepal is struggling to recover from the 2015 earthquakes. Some five of the 27 affected districts are also earthquake-affected, while four of them were hit by floods last year, informed UN Resident Coordinator's office.

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba visited Nepalganj to [observe the flood affected areas](#) of Banke, Bardiya and Kailai districts.

CPN-Maoist Centre Chairperson and former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal inspected various flood-hit areas of Saptari district on August 16. Dahal distributed relief materials to flood victims at a Dalit settlement in Inarwa of Hanumannagar Kankalani Municipality. Dahal was accompanied by Minister for Home Affairs Janardan Sharma and Minister for Supply Shiva Kumar Mandal, among others.

A meeting of the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund Committee has decided to release Rs 1 billion balance left in the fund to the flood and landslide victims hit hard across the nation. The committee is said to release Rs 500 million immediately to Central Disaster Rescue Fund (CDRF) to carry out rescue operations, distribute relief items and provide compensations to the flood and landslide victims. However, additional Rs 500 million would be released as per the request of the Home Affairs. The meeting also decided to terminate bank accounts with balance less than Rs 5 million opened under the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund in Banajiya Banks.

The Major opposition Party CPN UML has demanded the government to declare the flood affected districts as 'crisis hit areas' and bring special programmes for the rebuilding of damaged infrastructures in those districts. A five point memorandum which stated that the government should provide Rs. 1 lakhs as emergency relief to the flood affected families and Rs. 5 lakhs to the families of the deceased due to flood and landslide was also submitted to Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba.

Relief Efforts

District Administration Office, Morang, has provided relief materials to the flood victims of Saptari. The relief materials were taken by Nepali Army helicopter and distributed. Distribution of relief materials to flood victims has started in different places of Ruatahat from August 16. The relief materials were taken in tractors, jeeps, helicopters among other means of transport. Local politicians and various organisations provided relief materials to flood victims in Siraha.

Saptari-based Shreepurraj Community Development Centre with the help of Caritas Nepal distributed relief materials to 500 flood-affected families of Inaruwa of Hanumannagar Kankalani Municipality-11. Chaudhary Group distributed relief to 570 flood-

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.

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affected families of Sakardahi, Madhuwapur and Badnaha in ward number 2, 3 and 4 of Hanumannagar Kankalani municipality.

The [transportation committees of Dang](#) district has helped the flood affected people of Dang by providing cash 122,000 to the Mayor of Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan. [Rotary club of Newroad](#) distributed gas cylinder and stove to 13 family affected by flood in Machhapuchre rural municipality-5 of Kaski. SOS sister organization and others organization has distributed some relief materials.

Conclusion

According to media reports, the victims of this disaster have started having various health problems. The Ministry has said that they are well prepared to tackle the scenario. Although no epidemic has been reported with the increasing number of people suffering from various health problems there is a high chance of disease outbreak. The government should now focus on reaching all the ill victims so that the disease doesn't spread. All the serious patients have to be referred to the hospitals as soon as possible. Maintaining hygiene and sanitation is also a big step which will decrease the chances of epidemic. ■



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