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**Nepal Floods, Koshi river,
Saptari OCHA/UNDAC Field Situation Report No. 12**

11 September 2008

To: All actors in the field (contact list Saptari dd. 11 sept.)

From: Sander Van Dijk – UNDAC Team Leader

Date: 11 September 2008

This is the 12th situation report from the OCHA and UNDAC team activities within the Sunsari Region, Eastern Nepal.

Background

On 18 August, the Koshi River broke through an Eastern retaining wall roughly 10 kilometers north of the Koshi barrage. Shreepurjavdi and Shreeharipur, and portions of Lohaki and Kusahapaschim VDCs in Sunsari District have been completely flooded. The East-West Highway is currently impassable and there are displaced families living along the non-flooded portion of the highway, along the embankment wall and in Neighboring VDCs in Saptari District. Temporary settlements along the Western side of the highway and the embankment are only accessible from Saptari district.

Affected Population

People from Paschim Kausha, Shreepur, Laukhani and Haripur from Sunsari District.

Assessments

- Joint IRA by Oxfam, Caritas and partners.
- Rapid assessment by NRCS completed on 27 August.
- Joint household survey by Oxfam, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP and their partners. Draft results were shared on 31 August. The assessment covers details on disaggregated population by age and sex, place of origin, PLW and special needs, and livestock.

Displacement

- 3365 families (NRCS, as of 27 Aug)
- The total no. of displaced families as per DDRC record is 3260 and the total population affected is 21,140.
- A recent household level survey carried out by Oxfam, UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA puts the total number of displaced at 4,022 families (31 August) composed of 27,812 persons
- It is difficult to access the total displaced households as there is a large influx of affected people from Birpur, Lalpur and Fatehpur in India, whose actual number is unknown. The new registration to be done by NRCS and camp management volunteers is likely to give a more accurate figure.

Registration of the Displaced

Overview

For the first response a temporary registration card was used that was distributed to all the affected people within 5 days (“white card” distributed by NRCS). Because of abuse of the card it was abandoned and replaced by a permanent registration card (“yellow card”). The permanent registration is time consuming. The CDO decided not to wait with any humanitarian assistance and parallel to the registration temporary cards will be used for those not registered yet. The current human resources do not meet the needs of both registration processes and the cards can not be distributed in a timely manner to continue the current standards of relief.

Relevant details

Issues:

- NRCS said that the registration work is not the NRCS task only it should be completed by involving more and more manpower and continuous presence of administration personnel throughout the distribution work.
- Lack of proper transportation to drop and pick up the registration team at campsites.
- Continues security support is required from administration side.
- Government’s monitoring team is doing monitoring only. It is analyzed that this team should be actively mobilized in campsites to function there.

Suggestions:

- Oxfam will take the lead on issuing temporary cards which will be distributed on a one-card-per-shelter basis. WFP will provide 4 persons to assist in issuing temporary cards.
- CDO committed to support the security to the registration team.
- Oxfam suggest that the involvement of camp management committee members in registration work may be the helpful as manpower support. It is requested to I/NGOs to overview their budget and provide such supports from the organization side to make easy and quick registration.

Assistance to people from India

The current policy of the government is not to issue official beneficiary cards to Indian nationals. However the CDO supports the approach of the UN and I/NGOs to assisting the displaced from India on humanitarian grounds based on a temporary beneficiary card.

Updates from central level-Kathmandu dd. 11/09/2008

- The training for the inter-agency assessment mission takes place today, starting at nine in the conference room of the OCHA/UNDAC office (NRCS building) in Rajbiraj. Assessment to start on Sept 13th and to run for 5 days.
- OCHA public situation report no. 8 on Koshi floods to be disseminated globally today

A humanitarian strategy session was held in Kathmandu today, chaired by the Humanitarian Coordinator, with wide participation from the GoN Ministries, INGOs, UN Agencies and Red Cross movement to discuss the strategy for the humanitarian community in 2009. The participants agreed for the need of a strong collaborative push to implement and operationalise the GoN policies and Acts related to disaster management; an enhanced humanitarian focus and advocacy on disaster preparedness, risk reduction and mitigation, which requires the support of the development community to reduce future humanitarian caseloads; and a collaborative push to enhance national capacity.

Cluster Updates

Health (WHO, CONCERN, MSF, SC Alliance, UNFPA, UNICEF)

Overview

Current Situation, Response and Needs

- The number of beds in Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital has been increased to meet the need.
- Overall health situation appears to be improving day by day. E.g. diarrhea cases are decreased for last days.
- Additional doctors that had arrived from Kathmandu will be returning on 11 September, which will create a gap in the provision of health services.
- Monitoring of health services are being carried out by UNICEF and UNFPA.

Future Plans or Developments

- Government plans to set up a 15-20 bed temporary hospital in Bhardaha

Constraints and Relevant Remarks

- Shortage of medical staff after doctors that arrived from Kathmandu go back. Need additional doctors, nurses and paramedics; and medical equipment such as x-ray machine.
- Infrastructure at the health camps need to be improved.
- Issues of easy access to health camps from the temporary shelters – possibly run a rickshaw ambulance service.

Relevant health details

- Surveillance is done by WHO and DPHO. Where as monitoring is done by jointly UNICEF and UNFPA.
- There will be measles campaign very soon in camp areas;
- MSF is setting up cholera treatment unit in spur side.
- It is observed that WASH cluster should do work in depth in cholera found areas for not further spreading. Up to now 4 cholera positive cases found in Koshi Barrage health unit.
- Disinfectant needed at the hospital and 2 medical camps. UNICEF will discuss to address this issue.

Shelter (Oxfam)

Overview

- The displaced are living in a total of 23 shelter locations/settlements in 9 schools, 2 public buildings and 12 temporary settlements. A map of the camp locations is available by OCHA/UNDAC office.
- All together shelters for 2,726 families have been completed by Oxfam whereas a total of 6000 is estimated to be needed. The current stocks allow for up to 4000 shelters, leaving a gap 2000 family shelters to be obtained.
- The number of the displaced living with host families remains unknown.
- According to the Chief District Officer (CDO), possible relocation of replaced from the spur areas to a new location is no longer a priority and will be considered only once there is a need.

Relevant shelter details

- Camp management committees have been formed in Camp A and B and in under process in Camp C, D and E. Management committee is taking responsibility for relief distribution and security.

Issues :

- In western canal, bamboo frames are constructed but tarpaulins are not available and required to finish the shelters.
- Some families are occupying multiple shelters and non affected people are occupying shelters.

Food and Nutrition (WFP, NRCS, DEPROSC, CONCERN)

Overview

Current situation, response and needs

- WFP is currently replenishing their stocks and with that has enough food available for another 3 months as on the official request of the government..
- The distribution system is set up and recently there where no concerns with the distribution.
- A 15 days food ration has been distributed to around 5,423 families out of initial target of 4,300 families. Distribution is continuing on demand of specific areas.
- WFP is ready and able for the next round of distribution if registration has been done. Distribution will be based on heads per family.

Future plans or developments

- CONCERN is monitoring the situation in schools.

Constraints and relevant remarks

- Double distribution is not confirmed by WFP.

Relevant food and nutrition details

- WFP has food in stock for another 250 households..
- There is a plan to distribute the food in East Canal today

NFI (Non Food Items)

Overview

Current situation, response and needs

- NRCS distributed 2399 NFI sets in various camps. And the target is to distribute another 1400 packages.
- Save the Children has 1000 NFI sets in stock
- The current stock meets the estimated total need for NFI.

Future plans or developments

- Mobilization of a new staff will take place tomorrow.(22 staff member will be replaced by 27)
- Oxfam is distributing firewood in Camps A and B
- Monitoring the situation and planning of the distribution is ongoing.
- 5000 shelter boxes are supposed to be provided by the appeal of NRCS HQ in coordination with IFRC for both regions (Saptari and Sunsari) soon (to be confirmed).

Constraints and relevant remarks

Relevant NFI details

Issues :

- The relief distribution is in full swing but victims keep complaining by government officials if asked for there opinion on the relief.

Suggestion :

- Camp management committee members could be involved in the relief distribution to get a good understanding of the provided assistance.

WASH (Participation from Oxfam, CONCERN, UNICEF, WSSDO, RRN, SABAL, DWSS, CARITAS, Save the Saptari)

Overview

- 100 hand pumps need to be obtained to meet the estimated needs
- 600 toilets need to be constructed
- The total capacity and material for hygiene promotion meets the total need.

Relevant WASH details

- Total 193 hand pump installed till date. Out of them 99 supported by UNICEF and 94 by Concern Nepal.
- 68 bathing space completed. Out of them 44 constructed by Concern and 21 by UNICEF.
- 106 toilets constructed. Out of them 64 constructed by Concern and 42 by UNICEF.
- 17 garbage Pits constructed by UNICEF.
- UNICEF distributed aqua tablet in camps B, C and Spur 1 & 2; also distributed 120 buckets (2set) and 150 hygiene kts.
- In terms of sanitation promotion, Concern completed 355 house hold level first round visits..
- Nets, lights, mats are distributed for 42 families by Save the Saptari / local NGO supported by CARITAS. Its next target is to install 100 tube well and 400 toilet..

- Continuing miking of the life saving hygiene and sanitation message in local language. UNICEF also aided in the process and used village facilitators and volunteers in camp B, D and spurs areas
- Additional requirement of 100 hand pumps, for which Cartias showed interest but formal response awaited.
- There is a need for 1300 toilets, Care and caritas have agreed to support which reduced the gap to 600
- Concerns raised the need of hygiene promotion in shelter camps, details on who will lead the process will be shared in the next contact group meeting.
- Participants in the contact group meeting shared that there was a need of washing soaps in the camps. Oxfam partner agency from Butwal is willing to help.
- Hand pump not available in spur number 2, C and D. UNICEF shared that they installed 21 out of total 28 hand pumps in the region.
- Since water quality of some hand pumps have not been tested, they are not sealed at the moment.
- Administration advised for not to distribute old cloths and suggested WASH cluster to arrange for collection of scattered old clothes and burn it at safe place.
- Alternative pit lining instead of rings need to be introduce to speed-up the latrine coverage.
- Buckets need to be distributed to flush toilet properly in the toilets.
- Incentive would better consequent to health/sanitation education such as distribution of soap.

EDUCATION (Participation from DEO, Save the Children, UNICEF)

Overview

Current situation, response and needs:

- The total number of children that are in need of education and the total capacity of safe places and teachers is currently being assessed.

Issues :

- In order to start the school, the affected people occupying the school buildings should be relocated to other sites.

Future plan or developments:

- Education cluster is requested to brief the contact group with the total number of children in need of education.

Relevant details

- Safe space agreement made with DEO by SCUS and UNICEF in 10 and 20 schools respectively.
- Training of Trainers for Safe Space conducted from 9- 11 September with mainly female participants from the camps.
- DEO plans to reopen 9 schools and to start education in camp B an C from 14th of September.
- Clothes are still stockpiled in two classrooms in Bhardah Secondary school.

Issues:

- PABSON, Saptari has to coordinate with DEO to avoid the duplication of works in the camp site.

Protection (WDO, UNICEF, UNFPA, Save the Children Alliance, CARE)

Overview

Current situation, response and needs:

- Total 5 psychosocial counselors from 3 different agencies are available and this meets the current need
- Female police is required;
- CDO commits to increase the number of female police officers.

Future plan or developments:

- A team of 13 persons might be hired to monitor the protection of children in camp sites. UNICEF, Save the children and WDO will take this up.

Constraints and relevant remarks:

- Partners do give little priority to study locations.

Relevant details

- As of 10 September, total count of missing or separated children are 29, among them 12 are Indians.
- As an outcome of the Protection meeting held in DWO, it has been decided to form a “Child Protection Watch Group” in all the camps. Oxfam, however, asked the cluster members to lease with already in place camp coordination committee to avoid the formation of parallel groups.
- As of 10 September:
 - 7 rape case information received so far but all are found as falls during cross checking;
 - Ladies police is required in protection cluster meeting;
 - CDO agrees to increase the female police in patrolling of camps.
 - UNICEF has released certain budget from central level for supporting the child monitoring team which works for the victim children.
- Considering complains of lack of women police in the camps, CDO liaison confirmed that the GoN have set plan in motion to send extra women police.
- As of 10 September:
 - Child protection monitoring team formation having 13 persons hired from community. UNICEF, Save the children and WDO will support for this.
 - More coordination required to avoid duplication amongst psychosocial workers.
- As of 10 Sept:
 - No place for safe space programme.
 - Standard area for safe space is 12’ X 18’ which is likely to be available at every 10-20 camps where 30 children can do study.
 - Less priority is given to the safe space by working partners.

Agriculture and livestock (DLSO):

Current situation, response and needs:

No new overview received from Koshi Floods affected Animal Relief Camp Committee

Issues remarks:

- There is a shortage of vaccines and medicines
- There is a shortage of food for the animals (land to graze)
- A epidemic outbreak is expected.

- More detailed information available in hardcopy at the OCHA/UNDAC office.