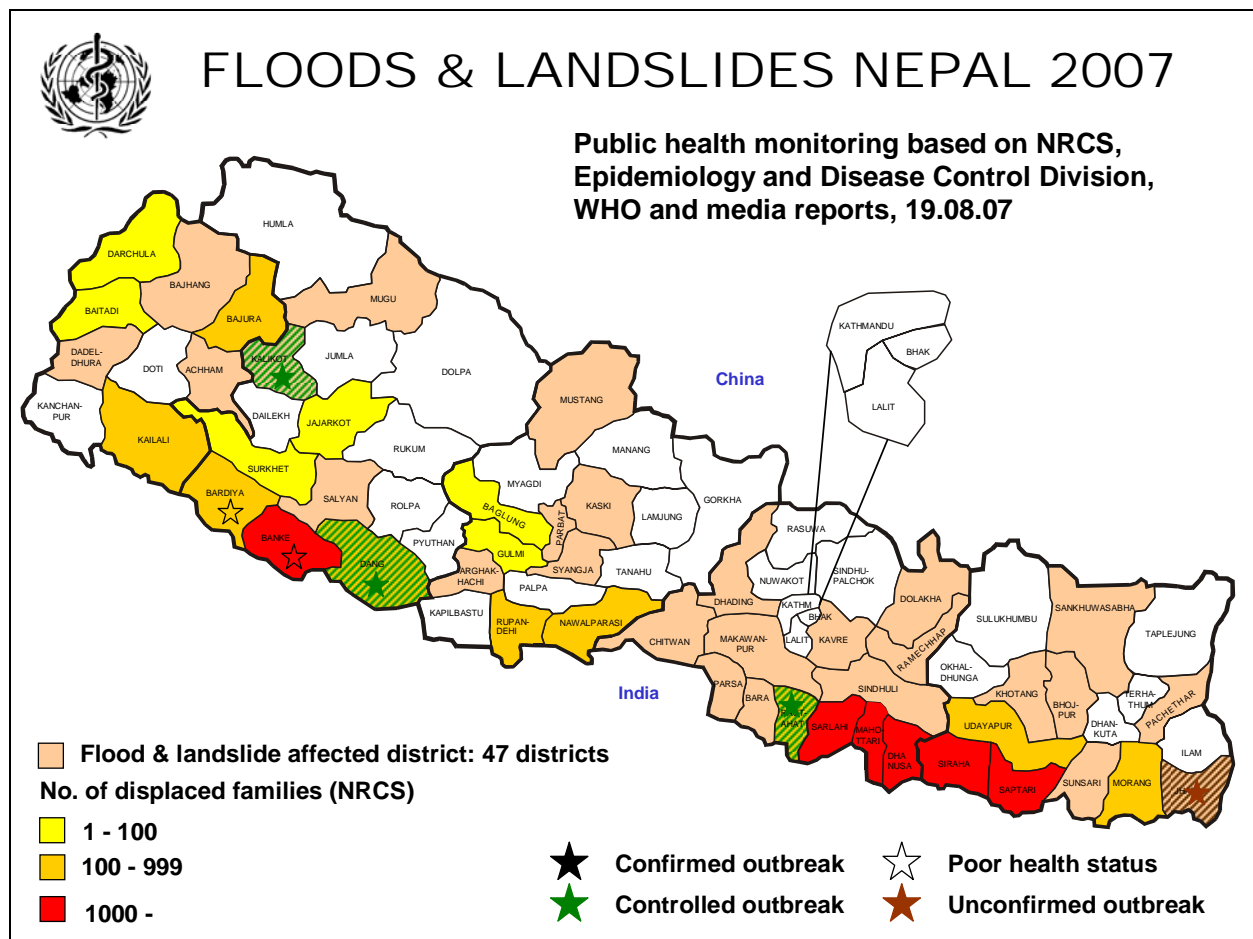


SITUATION REPORT No. 5: 19 August 2007

1. Situation Update

- During the past week new rains added to the woes of the already vulnerable population in the Terai and the hilly regions. In Kailali, Banke and Bardia districts, people were displaced or relocated, several villages and parts of Nepalgunj waterlogged and traffic on the East-West Highway disrupted. Also hilly districts from East to West and lowland districts in Central and Eastern region were affected by recent rainfall
- As of 17 August, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) reported 143 people dead, 6 missing, 64 injured, 19,353 displaced families, and 439,952 people (72,685 families) affected in 47 districts
- Emergency assistance at present focuses on renewed response, early recovery and detailed needs assessments
- Like other relief supplies, delivery of medicine was delayed by blockages of the Mahendra Highway in Sarlahi, Mahottari and Dhanusa districts
- Humanitarian agencies are concerned about unbalanced distribution of assistance
- The UN Humanitarian Coordinator and ICRC call for unhindered access to Central and Eastern Terai for humanitarian workers and delivery of relief supplies

The map below summarises the current emergency situation correlated with rumoured, confirmed and controlled outbreaks in the period 13 – 19 August:



2. Health Impact

- No major or unexpected outbreaks have been reported from any of the flood-affected areas since 27 July
- Common illnesses such as water-, food- and vector-borne diseases as well as skin, eye and ear infections are observed in the majority of the affected districts. Whether the main cause of these disease incidents is the floods, the season, or more vigilant surveillance remains to be analysed to identify emergency-related excess morbidity
- A possible renewed outbreak of cholera in remote Village Development Committees (VDCs) in Kalikot District prompted the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) and WHO to provide a second diarrhoeal kit to the district hospital in Manma and Siuna VDC. The airlift was done by UNMIN helicopter on 16 August with financial support from UNDP
- A detailed summary of reported health findings since 12 August are presented in the table below:

No.	District & VDC	Health Impact	Health Response	Source
1	EASTERN REGION	- No outbreaks reported in the region	- Rumour verification in Jhapa district	Health Directorate, Dhankuta, Eastern Region (19 August)
2	Jhapa District - Baluwary VDC - Sitagadhi VDC - Dharampur VDC (flood-affected)	- Increased number of diarrhoeal cases reported - Two JE deaths reported	- One health team sent to affected VDCs. 48 patients treated and critical cases referred to Mechi Zonal Hospital - Rapid Response Team dispatched for investigation and control	DPHO Jhapa (19 August) DPHO Jhapa (16 August)
3	Morang District (flood-affected)	- Koshi Zonal Hospital reported increased number of JE cases; seasonal phenomena unrelated to floods		EDCD (9 August)
4	Saptari District - Thopa VDC - Dumaria VDC - Sitapur VDC (flood-affected)	- Increased cases of viral fever, diarrhoeal diseases and worm infections	- Health team sent to Thopa VDC and 1,281 patients treated - Dumaria HP treated 15 diarrhoeal cases - Health team in Sitapur treated 21 diarrhoeal patients	DHO Saptari (17 August)
5	Udayapur District (landslide-affected)	- No major disease outbreak but cases of enteric fever, typhoid, suspected malaria, conjunctivitis and skin diseases	- ADRA health camp	ADRA (15 August)
6	Khotang District - Chasmitar VDC - Bahundanda VDC (landslide-affected)	- Nine cases of unknown disease reported; common symptoms are fever, headache and lack of appetite	- Chasmitar HP treated all cases	DHO Khotang (16 August)

	- Lalmathia VDC (flood-affected)	treatment - Four fever cases tested negative for malaria and JE - Increased number of diarrhoeal cases reported - Six cases of suspected typhoid, including three deaths	- Situation currently under control - Lalmathia, Lamahi PHC centres treated 48 cases	Lamahi PHC (15 August) DHO Dang (12 August)
14	Banke District (flood-affected)	- Children suffering from viral fever, pneumonia, diarrhoea, bacterial dysentery, infectious hepatitis, typhoid, malaria and eye infections - Cases of diarrhoea are increasing in densely populated areas (e.g. camps of ex-bonded kamaiyas) - One death due to diarrhoea across Rapti River reported - Suspected malaria cases identified	- Emergency medical services provided to 11,000 patients in the last few weeks - Local health workers complain about shortage of medicines at PHC centers - DHO collected slide samples and began investigation	Media report (16 August) DPHO Banke (14 August)
15	Bardia District - Manau VDC - Rajapur VDC (flood-affected)	- Increased number of diarrhoeal cases in densely populated communities; one death due to diarrhoea - Increased number of mosquitoes and suspected malaria cases - Poor sanitation and contaminated water	- PHC centre in shortage of medicine - Lack of ambulance	DHO Bardia (19 August) IRC / OCHA (13 August)
16	Bardia District - Sivapur VDC - Rajapur VDC (flood-affected)	- Increased number of ARI, diarrhoea and viral fever cases reported	- Health team from Nepalgunj Medical College and IRC sent to Rajapur VDC - Health team from Nepal Army and Merlin sent to Sivapur VDC. 496 patients treated	DHO Bardia (19 August) DHO Bardia (15 August)
17	Kailali District - Tikapur VDC - Joshipur VDC - Lalbhoji VDC - Naryanpur VDC - Dhansingpur VDC	- Increased number of diarrhoeal cases	NRCS together with SC-US, DHO, Zonal Hospital and Eye Hospital organized health check-up camps	DHO Kailali (19 August) NRCS (15 August)

- Thapapur VDC (flood-affected)			
------------------------------------	--	--	--

3. Immediate Priorities

- Immediate needs of the affected population remain shelter, food, water, sanitation and primary health care
- Emergency medical services and supplies have been deployed to respond to the anticipated increase in caseload of people suffering from communicable diseases
- Public health messages focussing on prevention of water-, food- and vector-borne diseases need to be disseminated to the affected population
- In view of endemic diseases it is essential to strengthen disease surveillance and outbreak control, particularly of diarrhoeal and vector-borne diseases
- Insecticide-treated bed-nets should be distributed to people at risk of acquiring vector-borne diseases; especially to displaced populations and *Mukta Kamaiyas* (landless people) in districts with water-logging

4. Health Sector Response

MOHP / DHS / EDCD Response

- After 27 July EDCD immediately deployed two public health teams to Birtnagar and Nepalgunj and the Department of Health Services (DHS) dispatched a team to Janakpur. These teams worked together with District Health Offices (DHOs) / District Public Health Offices (DPHOs) and Rapid Response Teams in the affected districts to provide public health guidance and epidemiological support
- From 26 July to 19 August EDCD dispatched 42 sets of emergency medicine to flood and landslides affected districts and regional medical stores
- End of July the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) formed a high-level committee for mitigation of health impacts of the floods and landslides chaired by the Minister of Health and Population, Mr G M Pokharel
- The high-level committee established six health teams to coordinate field response and provide emergency medical care and public health guidance. Each team consisted of a coordinator from MOHP / DHS, a medical doctor, a paramedic and a nursing staff. From 1 August onwards, the teams were dispatched to 17 districts
- On 4 August, the Minister of Health and Population inspected flood-affected areas in Saptari district
- The National Health Education and Information Centre has disseminated health messages through mass media
- EDCD has opened a hotline for Rapid Response Teams to call and inform urgent health updates. The hotline is open from 6 am till 9 pm on the following numbers: 4255796 (phone) and 4262268 (phone / fax)

Other Health Agencies:

- UNICEF, WFP and Save the Children are currently conducting a joint rapid needs assessment in the 13 most flood-affected districts: Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusa, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara, Parsa, Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, Banke, Bardiya and Kailali. The rapid assessment aims at enhancing the understanding of the impact of the flood on food security, nutritional status, and education
- UNICEF has provided 2,000 bednets to NRCS for distribution in malaria-prone areas in Banke and Bardiya districts; additional 20,000 ITNs are in the pipeline

- 15,000 hygiene kits including plastic buckets and mugs are being delivered to UNICEF field offices for distribution to flood-affected areas
- UNICEF has produced and disseminated radio spots in four regional languages about water purification for prevention of water-borne diseases. Spots are being aired on 10 FM stations across the country. More prevention messages are being developed to address breastfeeding protection and mosquito net utilization
- UNFPA has relocated funds for flood relief in Saptari and Mahottari districts
- From 9 to 15 August, Oxfam conducted a multi-sector assessment in Mahottari and Dhanusa districts. Oxfam plans to strengthen health promotion in 14 VDCs in Saptari and 5 VDCs in Mahottari by broadcasting public health messages, promoting community cleanliness and raising awareness on best practice
- Till 9 August, ADRA health camps treated 1,119 patients in Banke district. Scheer Memorial Hospital, Banepa, assisted ADRA with two doctors, one pharmacist and one staff nurse. From 14 to 18 August, ADRA / Merlin jointly conducted four health camps in Nawalpur and Rajapur VDCs, Bardia district in coordination with DPHO
- PLAN Nepal is supporting DPHO Banke to broadcast health messages

5. WHO's Response

- Prior to the flood, WHO pre-positioned diarrhoeal and emergency health kits in Kathmandu, Nepalgunj and Birtnagar
- After 27 July, WHO mobilized the IPD Surveillance Medical Officers in the field to conduct assessments, assist DHOs / DPHOs and provide public health guidance
- On 2 August, WHO called an Emergency Health and Nutrition Working Group meeting to discuss the flood situation in the country. The meeting provided a forum for exchange of information and operational planning
- On 3 August, WHO delivered emergency medicine to five MOHP teams. Three sets of medicine have been dispatched to teams in Nepalgunj, Bhairahawa and Biratnagar
- Disease surveillance is being strengthened in several districts in collaboration with epidemiologists, EDCD and DHOs / DPHOs. Based on feedback from the field, surveillance tools are being modified to suit ground realities
- On 12 August, the Health Secretary launched a new publication 'Communicable Disease Risk Assessment and Interventions – Flooding Disaster: Nepal' based on collaboration between WHO Geneva, WHO SEARO and WHO Nepal
- On 14 August, two additional diarrhoeal kits were pre-positioned in Banke district
- On 16 August, an additional diarrhoeal kit was airlifted to Kalikot district to contain the surge in diarrhoeal cases
- On 19 August EDCD and WHO sent a joint team of malaria and dengue experts and an epidemiologist to Banke and Bardia to strengthen vector-control and surveillance

6. Contact Information

Dr Kan Tun
WHO Representative
World Health Organization
UN House, PO Box 108
Pulchowk, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: +977 1 5523200 extension: 1300
E-mail KanTun@searo.who.int