

Situation Update 1: Sunsari Flooding August 19, 2008 10am

Events

On August 18th the Koshi River broke through an eastern retaining wall roughly 10 Km north of the East West Highway. The waters have flooded significant portions of the following VDCs of Sunsari District: Haripur, Shripur, Laukihi, Paschhim Kushaha, Ghuski, Narshing and Madhuwan VDCs are also affected, but to a lesser extent. The East West Highway is currently impassable due to flood waters at the entrance of Koshi Tapu National Park and the NTC mobile phone network is down in the Eastern Region.

Displacement:

It is estimated that 15,000 people are displaced due to the flooding. The majority were displaced quickly and moved with limited belongings and supplies. Displaced people are congregated on high ground, including the main east west highway and other embankments. Security forces are in the process of relocating people to 12 shelters identified in Sunsari. This morning two helicopters are airlifting people isolated by flood waters.

This population may be displaced for several days. The repair of the embankment is not possible with current water levels and the majority of flooded land will remain flooded until the embankment is repaired.

Needs:

There is a need for food and NFIs. Site assessments for the 12 shelters in Inaruwa is happening today and there may be a need for water, sanitation, and camp management support at these locations.

Current needs will not be met by resources within the district and the CDO has appealed for assistance from outside the district and outside the region. The Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs has also requested for assistance from the central level.

Response:

A Sunsari DDRC meeting was held on August 19th. The DDRC took the following decisions based immediately available resources:

- □ □ □ □ WVI-Sunsari is providing 4000 kg. beaten rice, 150 kg puffed rice, 100 tarpaulin;
- □ □ □ □ UPCA Nepal is providing the emergency food of Rs. 50,000;
- □ □ □ □ NRCS-Sunsari is providing 50 tarpaulin;
- □ □ □ □ DDRC identified 12 temporary shelters for displaced people.
- □ □ □ □ CDO opened the request to all for support in such flooding case;