



**Nepal Floods, Koshi river,
Saptari OCHA/UNDAC Field Situation Report No. 15
14 September 2008**

To: All actors in the field (contact list Saptari dd. 13 sept.)

Chair of coordination meeting: Sander Van Dijk – UNDAC Team Leader

Co-Chair of coordination meeting: Gyananendra Parajuli, CDO liaison

Date: 14 September 2008

This is the 15th situation report from the OCHA and UNDAC team activities within the Saptari region, Eastern Nepal.



Background

On 18 August, the Koshi River broke through an Eastern retaining wall roughly 10 kilometers north of the Koshi barrage. Shreepurjaldi 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 Hariipur from Sunsari District.

Upcoming Coordination meetings at UNDAC/OCHA mobile office:

Saturday 13th September

Monday 15th September

Wednesday 17th September

Assessments

- Various agencies were trained on an inter-sectoral assessment that will be carried out for next 5 days starting from 13th of September

Displacement

- 3365 families (NRCS, as of 27 Aug)
- The total no. of displaced families as per DDRRC 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 flood affected people within 5 days (“white card” distributed by NRCS).
- ❑ Card distributing authorities as well as humanitarian agencies found out that more than one members of the same family had temporary white cards, there by receiving more relief packages.
- ❑ To control duplication of white (temporary) cards, registration of new permanent cards (“yellow card”) initiated. For this, one has to go through series of time consuming verification processes.
- ❑ Joint Secretary/CDO along with humanitarian communities agreed to distribute temporary cards under the leadership of OXFAM in parallel to rather slow permanent registration process.
- ❑ However, CDO stressed to continue with humanitarian assistances to all affected population, even if the cards are used as the means of identification while distributing relief materials.

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.

Minutes from MoHA Joint Secretary, CDO and Cluster Member meeting at CDO residence, Saptari dd. 12/09/2008

1. Pace of registration

- ❑ NRCS will continue to lead issuing permanent registration cards. The government will raise their capacity from 1 up to 4 teams. Permanent cards will be issued in camps E B C D, approximately 2000 cards in total. The proposed approach will be evaluated after 2 days and appropriate measures will be taken accordingly.
- ❑ Oxfam will lead the distribution of temporary cards within the shelter camps E, F, G, H, I, approximately 2000 cards in total. The temporary registration should be completed within 7 days.

2. Interlink between government and humanitarian community

The Joint Secretary re-evaluated governmental representatives in various existing clusters. He also appointed government cluster leads to the clusters that lacked focal points from government side. All of whom will be leading the cluster and conducting cluster level meetings.



Meeting at CDO residence: CDO (standing)/ MoHA Joint Secretary (first from the right)

Cluster Updates

UNDAC leader facilitating coordination Meeting at Saptari with CDO liaison



On every alternative day, coordination meetings are held in the UNDAC/OCHA Satellite Office, Saptari. The meeting is co-chaired by UNDAC team leader and CDO liaison officer. There is a wide range of participants including government line agencies, UN, I/NGOs and NRCS. There is a clear agenda that is followed during each meeting, which includes a situation update, update from the taskforce leads (including gaps), cross-cutting issues and next steps. The meeting addresses outstanding issues and attempts to reach a solution. Specific or technical issues that are raised are referred to the cluster meetings.

Major issues/gaps discussed on 13 September are discussed below:

Health (GoN focal point: DPHO; Active members: WHO, CONCERN, MSF, SC Alliance, UNFPA, UNICEF, Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital)

Overview

Current Situation, Response and Needs

- Overall health situation appears to be improving. E.g. comparatively diarrhoea cases have decreased.
- The overall capacity and health services meet all the needs except for additional paramedics.
- GoN approved to add 50 more beds in Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital to meet operational need of sick patients. Now, the zonal hospital is providing health services 2 times its original capacity
- There are 5 mobile health teams and additional 2 static 24 hours health checkpoints. There is a need of doctors and paramedics on these service sites.
- Enough medicinal stocks available till 16 September. Additional medicines have been requested from the headquarters.
- UNICEF/UNFPA continues supporting on monitoring and providing feedback to health cluster.

Future Plans or Developments

- GoN agreed to establish 15-20 bed temporary Hospital at Bhardah and is currently trying to arrange a site for construction
- UNFPA agreed to provide rickshaw ambulance and OXFAM committed to use the camp management committee volunteers to operate it in and out of the camp.
- To reduce the gap of health workers, UNFPA agreed to provide 4 additional ANM

Constraints and Relevant Remarks

- Medicine available for Hospital and for DPHO until 16th September.
- Shortage of medical staff after doctors that arrived from Kathmandu went back. Need for at least 4 additional doctors, nurses and, paramedics; and medical equipment such as x-ray machines.
- Need Rickshaw Ambulance as soon as possible.
- Health infrastructures need to be improved.
- ANM at the clinic site need to deliver service on a 24 basis. UNFPA on the process to hire local skilled labours.

Daily Updates:

- UNFPA reported that no death cases reported after 8th September; no death reports in health delivery site from displaced people till 12 September.
- From 13 Sept, DPHO/WHO started measles campaign (campaign package Measles, Polio and Vitamin A). The campaign will be completed by 16th of September.
- DPHO started integrated services started like ANC/PNC, Family planning services and additional plans to include services like regular immunization and DOTS etc are to be included
- UNICEF fulfilled the gap of zinc tablet & jeevanjal, distribution will be done through Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital and DPHO.
- UNICEF agreed to provide 500 litre phenols to Sagarmatha Zonal hospital for infection prevention as well as cleaning purpose because the patient load of hospital has been out of control in terms of logistics management. They are also distributing 3000 medicated mosquito nets (to be completed by 20th sep 08)
- UNICEF arranged to transport Zinc tablets and handed over to Sagarmatha Zonal hospital. Measles, Polio and Vitamin A campaign for children in the camps started on spur site.
- 2 Ambulance on the ground 1 from UNFPA stand by 24 hour service and 1 from Namuna Hospital.

- About 532 pregnant women in shelter camps; UNFPA to provide 250 CHDK kit to DPHO for distribution.

Shelter (GoN focal point: Urban Development, Active members: Oxfam, NRCS, KVS)

Overview

Current Situation, Response and Needs

- The displaced are living in 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.
- Oxfam updated that all together shelters for 3,505 families (575 under construction) in seven different camps have been completed. Oxfam predicted that a total of 6000 shelters are required where as current raw material stocks allow for up to 4000 shelters only, leaving gap 2000 family shelters to be obtained and constructed. However, CDO questioned the authenticity of the shelter gap.
- 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.

Constraints and Relevant Remarks

- According to Oxfam, 2000 families are in need of shelter. Save the Children has shown their interest to provide tarpaulin but nobody is interested to support bamboo and skilled labors
- Some families are occupying multiple shelters and people who are not affected by floods are also in the shelter camps.

Daily Updates:

- Camp management committees have been formed in Camp A and B C and D. These committees have also taken responsibility to assist in relief distribution and security.
- OXFAM updated that all shelter camps are on the process of forming similar committees. The list of management committees will be shared in upcoming coordination meeting.

Food and Nutrition (GoN focal point:DADO,LDO, Active members: WFP, NRCS, DEPROSC, CONCERN worldwide Nepal)

Overview

Current situation, response and needs

- It has been decided that GoN will feed the flood victims in schools and WFP will feed people in various camps.
- The distribution system is set up; no problems reported during distribution.
- WFP distributed 15 days food ration to around 5,649 families out of initial target of 4,300 families. Distribution is continuing on demand in some specific areas.
- WFP is continuously replenishing their stock. With this, WFP will have enough food available for another 3 months.
- WFP has capacity to distribute food ration to 800 families per day. According to WFP food cluster focal point, the total distribution in the shelter camps can take up to 7 days. If need be, they are also ready to increase the manpower to meet the required speed of distribution to flood affected population.
- Provided that the registration problems are solved, WFP is ready for the next round of distribution. Distributions are based on number of heads per family.

Future plans or developments

- CONCERN worldwide Nepal is providing technical supports in 3 schools and 3 camps namely B C and D. Six child feeding centres coordinated by CONCERN Worldwide will be expanded to all camp sites. UNICEF is providing support of cooking utensils and equipments.

Constraints and relevant remarks

- WFP again reiterated that it will be difficult for the agency to start another round of 15 days ration distribution in camps unless issues regarding permanent and temporary card distribution are resolved on time.

Daily Updates:

- WFP shared that new round of food ration distribution will start from camp A on 14 Sept. (last distribution on 30 August)
- Respecting concerns regarding quality of the dal in WFP food package, it has been changed to red lentils (mshoor dal) from the next round of distribution.

- A local humanitarian agency from Kathmandu has brought 5400 'Champion' food packets packs of food targeting 6 month to 2 years children.

NFI (GoN focal point: DAO, Active members: NRCS, CARITAS, Save the Sasptri)

Overview

Current situation, response and needs

- The current stock meets the estimated total need for NFI for another three months. The only concern is whether already provided trampolines are durable enough to withstand for the given period.
- As of 11 September, NRCS distributed 2399 NFI sets in various camps. Target to distribute another 1400 packages.
- Save the Children has 1000 NFI sets in stock
- Caritas distributed NFI sets to 172 families and further plans to distribute 326 more in camp A. Caritas has 8000 NFI stocks.

Future plans or developments

- Firewood distributed in camp A, B, C and D.
- 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

NA

Daily Updates:

- As of 12 September, NRCS distributed additional 50 NFI packs in places where distribution had already taken place.
- Participating agencies were requested to make use of camp management committee members to get a good understanding of the provided assistance.

WASH (GoN focal point: DWSS, Active members: CONCERN worldwide International, UNICEF, WSSDO, RRN, SABAL, CARITAS, Save the Saptari)

Overview

Current situation, response and needs

- Water testing team who has arrived from Kathmandu started collecting water samples starting from camp B. Overall testing might take upto 7 days.
- 100 hand pumps need to be obtained to meet the estimated needs of 300 hand pumps.
 - CARITAS committed to provide 99 hand pumps (except in Rotary village area) whereby the needs will be met
- 600 more toilets need to be constructed to meet the estimated total need of 1288.
 - UNICEF has already committed to build 200 latrines, Concern Worldwide 200 latrines, CARITAS 400 latrines.
- The total capacity and material for hygiene promotion meets the total need.

Constraints and relevant remarks

- Some agencies complained lack of hand pumps in spurs number 2, 3 and 4.
- A proper dumping site is required to dispose waste materials collected from various camps. To come up with durable solution, cluster members will discuss the matter with CDO.
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Daily Updates:

- UNICEF will support installation of additional 10-20 hand pumps at spurs 3 and 4.
- Oxfam trained 13 female volunteers from shelter camps for WASH.
- 3,000 WASH posters arriving. 80 streets dramas with 3-4 episodes on WASH issues planned.
- Females in shelter camps are not using constructed toilets and bathing space. So, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities with focus on women will be conducted to ensure increased use and maintenance of latrines built at camp sites.
- Total 197 hand pump installed till date. Out of them 99 supported by UNICEF and 97 by Concern Nepal.
- 76 bathing space completed. Out of them 46 constructed by Concern worldwide Nepal and 21 by UNICEF.

- ❑ 120 toilets constructed. Out of them 76 constructed by Concern worldwide Nepal and 44 by UNICEF.
- ❑ Audio cassettes with information and jingles on hygiene promotion have arrived from Kathmandu. It's being used for miking in various camps.

EDUCATION (GoN focal point:DEO, Active members: Save the Children, UNICEF, TUN)

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 will be assessed from 14 September.

Issues:

- ❑ In order to start the school, the affected people occupying the school buildings should be relocated to other sites.
- ❑ Establishment of Safe Learning Space needs to be completed at earliest possible to cater the needs of children below 5 years of age in the camp.

Future plan or developments:

- ❑ Assessment will be conducted by the education cluster groups to identify the number of children of school going age to make decision on primary school package support(non-formal education or mainstreaming support to formal schools in the camp areas). For this, clusters members are assigned the following camps:
 - Camp A&D – Save the Children; camp B&C – PABSON; Spurs area – UNICEF

Daily Updates:

- ❑ UNICEF plans to train 40 facilitators for 20 Safe Learning Space to be established at spur area.
- ❑ Ten Safe Space started in camp A with the support of Save the Children.
- ❑ Teacher union and UNICEF made visit to spurs area on 12 September and identified 28 facilitators from the flood affected families to run the Safe learning Space.
- ❑ PABSON has agreed to provide Primary School Package support to all children (number 220) in the camps B and C.
- ❑ As of 11 September:
 - Safe space agreement made with DEO by SCUS and UNICEF in 10 and 20 schools respectively.
 - DEO plans to reopen 9 schools and to start education in camp B and C from 14th of September.

Protection (GoN focal point:WDO, Active memers: 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;
- ❑ WDO also updated the meeting members about the possibility of human trafficking. However, no such reports received yet.
- ❑ The district administration deputed unit of 10 women police to provide security in the spur area of Camp E. The administration has also informed that the number of women police is to increase soon to meet the need for security during night time.

Future plan or developments:

- ❑ UNFPA reaffirmed interest to provide health related support inline with protection issues.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ There are also plans to increase psychosocial workers in the camps.

Constraints and relevant remarks:

- ❑ Participating agencies requested the cluster lead to give update on situation of women in shelter camps.

Daily updates:

- ❑ Child protection posters distributed in camp A, B, C and D.
- ❑ The cases of missing or separated children will be followed up by volunteers of Youth Empowerment, an NGO in the Protection cluster and WDO is to take the lead.
- ❑ As of 11 September, total count of missing or separated children are 30, among them 30 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.



Livestock government cluster lead DLSO consulting with UNDAC colleagues

Agriculture and livestock (GoN focal Point:DLSO):

Considering the request from Joint Secretary - Home Ministry, the given cluster was formed under DLSO as the government focal point. The first meeting for this cluster will be held on 14 September at DLSO office. **Relevant supporting agencies like WFP, FAO and other are requested to join the meeting.**

According to DLSO:

Current situation, response and needs:

- ❑ In order to take care of animal carcass, Saptari DDRC authorized DLSO to provide with Rs 500 per dead animal for its systematic/proper disposal.
- ❑ KTM sent 4 doctors, 4 final year students to support the current livestock relief activities. 16 village animal health workers are also used.
- ❑ Out of 15,000 vaccines provided by the headquarters, only 4,000 left with DLSO.
- ❑ There is a shortage of fodder for the animals (land to graze)
- ❑ Continued vaccination carried out – 11389 animals vaccinated.
- ❑ DLSO also updated that about 987 animals were treated.

Future plan or developments:

- ❑ According to DLSO, epidemic outbreak is expected.

Daily Updates:

- ❑ DLSO updated on progress of all five mobile teams. Detailed meeting minutes with UNDAC/OCHA.