HIGHLIGHTS

- Thirty districts across Nepal have been affected by floods and landslides triggered by heavy rainfall that started on 11 August 2017. They are: Baglung, Banke, Bara, Bardiya, Chitwan, Dang, Dhanusha, Jhapa, Ilam, Kailali, Kalikot, Kapilvastu, Lalitpur, Mahottari, Makawanpur, Morang, Nawalparasi, Palpa, Panchthar, Parsa, Rasuwa, Rautahat, Rupandehi, Salyan, Saptari, Sarlahi, Sindhuli, Siraha, Sunsari, and Surkhet.

- 39 public hospitals, 109 primary health care centres and 1,554 health posts have been affected. Ten Health Posts are fully and 64 health posts are partially damaged.

**Figure 1.1: Districts affected by floods and landslides (30)**

**Source:** MoH, 21 August 2017
Situation update

- Humanitarian and health response was immediately rolled out.
- Access to affected populations still remains an issue as some major transportation routes are damaged due to floods and landslides.
- Health Cluster has been activated and is working in coordination with Ministry of Health (MoH) and the District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs) and District Public Health Offices at district levels.
- 30 districts Rapid Response Teams (RRT) and 5 Regional RRTs have been mobilized. No significant outbreak-prone cases have been reported.

Public health concerns

- Diarrhoea, Acute Respiratory Infection, viral fever, fever and Influenza Like Illness and skin diseases have been reported from some of the districts, but the numbers are not significant.
- Shortage of essential medicines has been reported from some of the districts.
- Health services in Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps is a continuing issue.
- Syndromic surveillance system has been established to identify potential outbreaks.
- Long Lasting Insecticide Nets is in high demand.

MoH Response

Ministry of Health has activated the Central Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) for effective health sector response to the flood and landslide. A Central Coordination Committee under the chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Health and an Operation Committee under the chairpersonship of Deputy Director General, Department of Health Services has been formed. Five response coordination teams have been mobilized from the centre to the affected districts.

- EDCD has a hotline (01-4100187) operating from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.
- Surge Response Teams from centre have been deployed to the districts.
- High level MOH officials are in the affected districts to monitor the situation and the response.
- MOH has requested partners to support district outbreak preparedness and response.
- DoHS has projected the requirement of medicines and has directed Logistic Management Division to coordinate with partners for effective management of medical supplies and drugs.
- MOH has decided to distribute the Long Lasting Insecticide Nets in IDP camps in close coordination with DDRC at the affected.
- DoHS is monitoring the stock levels of essential medicines in the affected districts, Regional Medical Stores and with EDCD and LMD.
- RRTs are kept on high alert
- Health camps are being organized with support of Nepal Police and army in areas where access to Health Facilities (HFs) have been affected. Around 14 000 people have benefitted from the health camps.

WHO Responses

- WHO is providing technical support to the emergency health response, through:
  - Health Sector coordination
- WASH Sector coordination
- Information management
- HEOC functions
- WHO has supplied following commodities
  - Eight Inter-Agency Diarrhoeal Diseases Kits (3 for Regional Medical Store, Biratnagar; 3 for Central Warehouse, Pathlaiya and 2 for Regional Medical Store, Nepalgunj)
  - Ten community water filters
  - 17 Rapid Response Team (RRT) Personal Deployment Kits
  - 550,000 chlorine tablets (Aquatabs 33 mg suitable for 5 L water) to different RMSs.
  - Six life-straw community filters

- District level coordination and surveillance support (through WHO Emergency District Support (WEDS) officers, WHO Emergency Program Field Officers (EPFO) and Surveillance Medical Officers (SMO))
- Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS) has mobilized the Water Quality Testing Mobile Van (supported by WHO) to the flooded areas with water purifiers like chlorine tablets, chlorine solution and flocculants.
- WHO has trained 30 engineers from DWSS and WASH partners for cleaning of dug wells and hand pumps.
- A flyer on "method of treating turbid water in emergency" has been prepared in Nepali language and is being widely distributed through WASH and HEALTH cluster.
- WASH messages are being shared with the affected community through national radio and local FMs.
- To capture outbreaks early, all media reports on the health of the affected population are being closely monitored and followed-up, if needed. Case definitions of epidemic-prone diseases and health advisories have been developed and distributed WEDS from 5 districts, WHO Emergency Program Field Officers (EPFO) from 2 districts and SMOs in 10 districts are assisting DP/HOs in the field on an ongoing basis. In addition, WHO staff are assisting EDCD.

**Partners' Response:**

ADRA Nepal has distributed 500 hygiene kits and 1000 sanitary pads in Rautahat/Sarlahi, while 300 dignity kits has been distributed in Banke/Bardiya.

Americares Nepal is providing transport for the supply of medicine and supporting rapid assessment of health facilities in Jhapa district.

CARE Nepal is supporting rapid assessment in western Terai districts through its local project staff and partner agencies. CARE has distributed relief items, including hygiene kits, dignity kits, chlorine, mosquito nets and food items in Dang, Banke, Bardia and Kailali.

Family Planning Association has been providing reproductive health related services - mainly family planning and contraception - in four affected districts - Bardiya, Saptari, Dang and Sunsari.

Nepal Public Health Foundation has deployed seven volunteers in flood-affected areas, These volunteers were oriented on forms and formats to be used during field interventions by EDCD and WHO.
Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has deployed 200 First Aid Volunteers in all flood affected districts, and has 800 more volunteers on standby. NRCS is providing ambulance service in more than 15 districts with accessible roads. NRCS has deployed Rapid Assessment Volunteers in Morang, Sunsari, Saptari, Dang, Dhanusha and Mahottari.

Save the Children (SCI) is working in Banke, Saptari, Sarlahi and Mahottari in close coordination with DDRCs and cluster partners. SCI has been the District Lead Support Agency (DLSA in Banke has provided human resources for information management. The organization has also distributed hygiene kits, tarps, and aqua tab in Sarlahi, Saptari and Mahottari. They distributed fortified super flour and IEC materials in Banke and Bardiya.

UNFPA is has prepositioned 200 clean delivery kits for Dhanusa, Janakpur, Kailali and Dhangadi. All Reproductive Health Kits which aims to serve 300,000 population for three months are prepositioned at TU Teachning, Patan and Bhaktapur Hospital.

UNICEF has distributed water purifier, water floc/disinfectant, Long Lasting Insecticidal Net (LLIN), hygiene kits and ORS in 16 flood affected districts.

World Vision (WVIN):
The organization has distributed 278 mosquito nets in Morang district.

**Resource Mobilization:**

To mobilize financial resources to support MoH’s health sector response, on 18 August 2017, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a circular to Diplomatic Missions and International organizations stating that "The GoN would welcome assistance - both cash and kind- from friendly governments, organizations and interested individuals if they so desire to contribute”. On 22 August 2017, WHO submitted the CERF project proposal for the flood response to UNRCO.

Financial resources are being mobilized by MoH. Partner agencies are providing technical and logistics support. The Government has not declared the current flood and landslide situation as an emergency, however, it is mobilizing internal resources through annual budget and PM Disaster Relief Fund. The Department of Health Services is providing additional financial support to the district offices for emergency medicines as per demand.

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