HIGHLIGHTS

- Heavy rainfall that started from 11 August 2017 Friday has resulted in floods and landslides affecting 36 districts across the country
- A total of 39 public hospitals, 109 primary health care centres and 1,554 health posts are affected. 10 health posts are fully damaged and 64 health posts are partially damaged while others were inundated for a period.

Figure 1.1: Districts affected by floods and landslides (36)

Source: Ministry of Health (MoH), 28 August 2017
Situation update

- Humanitarian and health response activities were initiated immediately following the floods.
- Access to affected populations still remains an issue as some major transportation routes are damaged.
- Health Cluster has been activated and working in coordination with Ministry of Health (MoH) at central level and with the District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs) and District Public Health Offices at district levels.
- 36 districts Rapid Response Teams (RRT) and 5 Regional RRTs have been mobilized.
- Health cluster meetings were conducted on 14, 15, 17, 21 and 25 August.
- No significant outbreak-prone cases have been reported.
- Daily SITREP have been produced by MoH.

Public health concerns

- No significant outbreaks have been observed. Syndromic surveillance in affected districts includes the following: diarrhoea, Acute respiratory infection, acute fever of unknown origin, IILI, and skin disease.
- Shortage of essential medicines has been reported from some of the districts, which are being addressed by the Department of Health (DoHS) with partners’ support.
- Provision of health services in IDP camps is a continuing issue.
- Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLIN) is in high demand.

MoH Response

Ministry of Health has activated the Central Health Emergency Operation Centre (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 is continuously operating a telephone hotline (01-4100187) in day time (7:00 am to 7:00 pm).
- Surge Response Teams from centre are deployed to the districts.
- High level MoH monitoring visits to the affected districts are ongoing.
- MoH has requested partners to support district outbreak preparedness and response plan.
- DoHS has projected quantity of medicines needed now and in near future for preparedness. It has directed LMD to manage those in coordination of partners for effective management of medical supplies and drugs.
- MOH has decided to distribute the LLIN 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 to the extent possible replenishing stocks as needed.
- RRTs are kept on high alert.
- Health camps are organized in the communities as access to some Health Facilities (HFs) is limited. Nepal police and army are supporting the camps. Around 14 000 people are served through health camps.
WHO Responses

- WHO has been continuously providing technical support in
  - Health Sector coordination
  - Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector coordination
  - Information management
  - Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC) functions
- WHO has supplied the 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)
  - 1 Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK)
  - 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 Regional Medical Stores (RMS).
  - Six life-straw community filters

- District level coordination and surveillance support (through WEDS officers and SMOs)
- DWSS has mobilized the Water Quality Testing Mobile Van (supported by WHO) to the flood area with water purifiers like chlorine tablets, chlorine solution and flocculants.
- About 30 engineers from DWSS and WASH partners have been trained by WHO for the cleaning of dug wells and hand pumps.
- 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 broadcasted through national radio and local FM.
- Media monitoring is done on a daily basis. Two staff based in EDCD are following up districts on a daily basis to timely detect outbreaks.
- 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:
The organization has distributed 500 hygiene kits and 1000 sanitary pads in Rautahat/Sarlahi, while 300 dignity kits has been distributed in Banke/Bardiya.

Americares Nepal:
The organization has provided transportation for medical supply. A rapid assessment of health facilities was conducted in Jhapa district.

Family Planning Association:
FPAN has been working in 4 of the flood affected districts (Bardiya, Saptari, Dang and Sunsari) on Reproductive Health (RH) related activities, mainly family planning contraception.

Nepal Public Health Foundation:
7 volunteers were deployed to flood-affected areas (after training by EDCD and WHO)

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS):
NRCS has mobilized 200 First Aid Volunteers in all flood affected districts as well as 800 first aid volunteers are standby in the affected district. Ambulance services are operating in more than 15
districts. Six Rapid Assessment Volunteers are deployed in Morang, Sunsari, Saptari, Dang, Dhanusha and Mahottari. Four health camps with >1000 displaced population were set up in Jhapa district. Distribution of free medicine and free check-ups were done by a team of General Physician, Dermatology, Obstetrics and gynecology, and Orthopedics.

UNFPA:
UNFPA has mobilized 1,400 dignity kits have been distributed to pregnant and lactating mothers in Sunsari, Saptari, Udayapur, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Dang, Banke, Bardiya and Kailali districts. The organization has planned numbers of comprehensive reproductive health camps in Rautahat, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Saptari, Sunsari, Dang and Bardiya districtis in coordination with DoHS and D/PHOs.

UNICEF:
UNICEF has mobilized 19 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) in Kachanapur and Odharapur health posts of Banke district and supported in LLIN distribution to pregnant/lactating mother and baby. The focus was on disease prevention and distribution of chlorine tab, ORS and zinc. UNICEF has also distributed 5,600 LLIN in the affected districts, assessed health facilities, birthing centers (affected BCs, pregnant mothers, lactating mothers and newborns) and services (maternal and child health services) and also supported to resume basic health services from health facilities.

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

Resource Mobilization:
The emergency has not been declared by the Government of Nepal for Nepal Flood 2017. On 18 August 2017, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a circular to Diplomatic Missions and International organizations that ‘The GoN would welcome assistance - both cash and kind- from friendly governments, organizations and interested individuals if they so desire to contribute’. This opens an avenue to mobilize the financial resources to support MoH for health sector response.

Through the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, fundraising activities are being coordinated for all clusters, including Health. Individual agencies are also fundraising for their specific needs.

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