



<http://www.premiumpages.com/foreign/world-foreign/240383-120-killed-nepal-flood-landslide.html>

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The weather has started improving. With the decreasing level of water the damage of properties is becoming visible. Relief works have geared up, health workers have been mobilised and the medicines are being dispatched as numerous people are becoming ill. Efforts are underway to resume transportation in the affected areas as numerous people have been stranded for several days.

This media monitoring has gathered the news published in national and international news portals. This coverage has concentrated over the current scenario of the areas affected by flood.

Risk of epidemic

Scores of displaced flood victims have begun to fall [ill in Kailali](#). The health facilities have witnessed huge crowds of patients suffering from various diseases including jaundice, typhoid, diarrhoea, viral fever and common cold, among others. The health facilities are short of beds as well and the patients are being treated at the floor. The health facilities are also facing a drugs crunch. Elderly and children have been hit the worst after consuming contaminated water and sheltering in the open.

According to [Central Regional Health Directorate](#) there is lack of medicine in some health facilities of Chitwan, Bara, Parsa, Dhanusha, Rautahat and Sarlahi districts. Five health facilities in Sarlahi are closed and most of the health facilities in Rautahat are in difficulties to provide services to people. [Viral infections](#) are seen in the flood affected areas in Banke. According to the Public Health Office doctors and health workers are mobilized in the affected area and about 500 people are treated in the affected area. The [services in health facilities](#) in Parsa districts are affected by flood. Some

health facilities are inundated in flood and in some health facilities there are no health workers and lack of medicine. The Health facilities like Bhiswa, Jagarnathpur, Amarpatti, Basadilwa, Dhore and Mirjapur health facilities are inundated in Parsa districts.

As flood survivors struggle to come to terms with the disaster, they fear [disease outbreaks](#), for they lack proper shelter, food, clean water, sanitation and basic medicines. Around 400,000 people have been directly hit by floods since August 11 that inundated 80 percent of Rautahat. Around 300,000 people have been displaced. People are living in poor conditions sans basic facilities. There is a need to take immediate measures to provide the affected people with water and sanitation to prevent a public health crisis. In Biratnagar, scores of flood-affected people are also suffering from various diseases.

[Doctors have warned](#) the flood victims of possible outbreak of epidemic. They have advised people living in the flood-hit areas to eat healthy food and drink pure water. There is a risk of possible outbreak of dengue, chikungunya, and malaria in flood-affected areas. The District Public Health Office (DPHO), Siraha conducted a three-day (August 14-16) free [mobile health camp](#) for the flood-survivors in various hardest-hit places across the district. The medical team from Dhulikhel Hospital targeted Itari Prashahi at Kalyanpur Municipality-3 in the district as there were a huge number of flood-victims in need of medical care. As many as 248 flood-survivors were treated. The Dhulikhel Hospital team also handed over the relief materials such as utensils and clothes to the Kalyanpur Municipality to facilitate its distribution to the needy ones in the affected areas.

Photo: [Onlinekhabar](#)

Meanwhile, another medical team conducted health check-ups of 29 flood-victims at Karjanha Rural Municipality-2 in the district. Mobile health camp was also organised at Musahar Basti of Lahan Municipality-1, Gautari of Karjanha Rural Municipality and at Aurahi and Mirchaiya municipalities among other places ravaged by flood. Medical examinations of jaundice, diarrhoea, fever, cough, common cold and nausea among other infections and ailments were conducted. Medicines were also distributed for free of cost to help cure the infection and ailments as well as to prevent the outbreak of epidemic. Water purifying drops and materials were also distributed to 76 households in Itari Prashahi in the district



Increasing challenges

Around 300,000 people from over 30,000 flood-displaced households are living in the open in Rautahat now. They have [nothing to eat](#) and feed their family. [100,000 people of some 20,000 families](#) have been affected in Saptari district. They have been taking shelter at schools and are compelled to spend nights with empty stomach. Some 200 families have been taking shelter at the Koiladi school and have not yet got relief. A meeting of the District Natural Disaster Rescue and Relief Committee, Saptari, demanded that the government declare Saptari district as crisis-hit zone. Calling the donor agencies including World Food Programme for support, the Committee urged to make relief distribution systematic.

According to a news published in [Nagarik Daily](#), the distribution of relief materials has been concentrated in city areas and areas with access to roads. However, people living in villages are still waiting for the reliefs. The problem has further deepened after the government barred the private organizations from being involved in the distribution of relief materials.

The flood washed away a [few of the rhinos](#) of Chitwan National Park to India across the border. In one instance, a Chitwan rhino that was washed away has landed in Bagaha, India. Officials from CNP are working to bring the rhino back. Another rhino washed down by the flood has been roaming around the forest areas of the Balmiki Ashram in Nepal and India's Balmiki Tiger Reserve at Balmiki Nagar Bhaisalot. The guards at the reserve have been looking after the security to the rhino while CNP goes about gathering more information. The rhino could not be brought back so far as it is in a waterlogged area. Another rhino from Nepal has also been observed in the forests of Balmi Nagar. Apart from these three animals, two other rhinos from CNP have ended up at Keuleni and Narsahi within Nepal.

As per the [Ministry of Livestock Development \(MoLD\)](#), the monsoon disaster this year has claimed more than 66,156 chickens across different poultry farms in flood-affected Tarai districts. The floods swept away a number of poultry farms in Bardia, Sunsari, Morang, Saptari, Jhapa, Rasuwa, Bara and Kailali districts. Similarly, the recent floods also claimed more than 622 pigs, 26 buffaloes and 69 cows/oxen in the flood-hit districts. Likewise, more than 2,744 goats have been killed in the floods that have wreaked havoc in the Tarai districts since almost a week. The floods have also destroyed a huge amount of animal feed and a number of animal sheds in different Tarai districts.

Meanwhile, MoLD has deployed its regional and local level teams to all flood-affected districts to collect the livestock loss data and to rescue and rehabilitate affected livestock. MoLD is also gearing up to introduce different packages to facilitate livestock farmers affected by the recent

floods. Besides the loss in livestock, the disaster this year has also destroyed agriculture crops worth more than NRP eight billion, as per the preliminary estimate of Ministry of Agricultural Development.

The rain has badly affected [fish, banana and poultry farming](#) in Chitwan. Places famous for banana and fish farming such as Khairahani, Kumroj, Pithuwa, Ratnanagar, Jagatpur and Meghauri, among others, have been inundated due to continuous heavy rainfall. [Six hundred big and small industries](#), which have been shut due to incessant rainfall since August 11 are yet to open after floodwaters entered their premises in the Sunsari-Morang industrial corridor. Water from the swollen Tyangra Khola has damaged machines and raw materials in the industrial corridor, inflicting heavy loss to the owners and adversely affecting the daily wages due to the closure of industries. The owners are still undecided when to open the industries. Six industries in Hetauda Industrial Area in Makawanpur — Shikhar Chemicals, MM Polymers, Food Industry, Biscuit Industry, Shree Ganesh Plastic Industry and Samurai Steels — have remained shut since August 13 due to damage caused by incessant rainfall. Another reason for shutting down industries is the prolonged power outages, as electricity poles have been damaged in floods.

A large amount of [chemical fertilisers were damaged](#) by floodwaters that gushed into the godown of Agriculture Materials Company Limited regional office, Biratnagar, Morang. Likewise, chemical fertilisers stored by the company at a godown in Katahari Rural Municipality were also damaged. A total of 350 tonnes of potassium had been stored in the godown. The remaining stock of fertilisers has been sent to its branch offices in Birtamod and Lahan to avoid further loss. The company is said to have incurred a huge loss after the fertilisers were damaged.

The flood has [damaged over 30 bridges](#), two of them irreparably, along the major highways. According to the Department of Roads, two major bridges along the Mahendra Highway — Ratu Nadi bridge at Bardibas, Mahottari, and Dudhaura bridge in Bara — have suffered irreparable damage due to the floods.

Efforts Made

[Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba](#) on August 17 said that he will not let any flood victim in the country stay hungry. Visiting the victims recently displaced by floods in Kailali district of south western Nepal, he informed that government would not let the victims feel any shortcoming in relief distribution. He said the government would let the victims establish temporary camps in public lands till their permanent resettlement. He also thanked people and organisations involved in rescue and relief to the victims.

[Finance committee](#) of the Parliament on August 17 directed the government to provide a cash relief of NRP 5 lakh each to the kin of those who lost their lives in the recent floods in different parts of the country. Earlier, the government had announced NRP 2 lakh each for the kin of those killed in the natural disaster. A meeting of the committee presided over by Prakash Jwala also asked the government to announce immediate relief package in areas affected by adverse meteorological events. The committee also directed the government to table the Disaster Management Bill in the Parliament and to mobilise foreign assistance by maintaining coordination with development partners and the international community.

The [National Human Rights Commission](#) (NHRC) wrote letters to the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health requesting them to carry out relief and rescue operations more effectively in the flood-affected areas. It urged the government to mobilise Central Disaster Management Committee and District Management Committee to effectively carry out relief and rescue operations and to mitigate the risk of disaster.

According to the news published in Annapurna post, dozens of pictures of the flood victims and their pitiful situation is circulating around the [social media](#) which has created a lot of buzz among the people. These pictures are also collecting sentiments from around the world. These pictures have not only created a pressure in the government for rescue and relief but they have also created a pressure for the locals, politicians and artists to join in for help and support. If there had been no social sites, the rescue work would not have been much easy, sufficient help and support is being done through social media and networks.

In order to support the disaster management works in the affected areas, [Kathmandu Metropolitan](#) has provided 3.9 million to the Prime Minister disaster Management fund. According to [Nepal Telecom](#) around 11.2 million short messages have been sent and received within its network from August 13 to 15, as the company had announced that it would not charge any cost for the service during this period in a bid to give relief to flood victims and their relatives.

Relief Efforts

[Private firms are distributing relief materials](#) to flood victims in Rautahat district headquarters Gaur, Debahi, Basantapati, Laukaha, Rajpur and Garuda. Bishwokarma Cement Private Limited reached out to flood victims in a Dalit settlement in Gaur and provided relief. Representatives of the company visited households affected and provided them coupons in the morning for relief materials that they collected in the afternoon from local Mitra Memorial English Boarding School. Similarly, in Debahi,

This Media Monitoring report is produced by HERD INTERNATIONAL (www.herdint.com). HERD INTERNATIONAL team collected various stories by conducting media monitoring of national and international news portals. The collected stories were recorded in a spreadsheet i.e. Microsoft Excel detailing the date, title, sources and links to the story. This study involves a three step process i.e. information finding, information recording and analysis.

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representatives of Chaudhary Group and Plan Nepal, and organisations, provided relief to flood victims.

[Nepal Army](#) has started opening highways, blocked by the floods and landslides, in various parts of the country, by opening alternative tracks or reconstructing them. Reconstruction works of highways have been started in Saptari, Banke, Bardiya and Nawalparasi districts. NA has been working in coordination with the local administration in relief distribution, organising health camps and reconstruction in several districts. Temporary embankments are being built in Saptari, Siraha, Udayapur, Dhanusha, Rautahat and Nawalparasi districts. NA's special team was involved in rescue and relief distribution, both by road and air. Various hygienic kits, water purifying chemicals, medicines and food were distributed in Saptari, Nawalparasi and Bardiya district on August 17. Temporary medical camps have also been established in various flood-hit areas. NA has been mobilising 17,500 forces to carry out all these works in 27 flood and landslide-hit districts.

Conclusion

According to media reports, the health condition of the victims have been deteriorating. Although the water level has decreased getting back to normalcy might take a long time. Relief have reached the areas where vehicles are accessible but reaching the villages still remains a challenge. Health facilities have geared up as the patients flow have started increasing. Now it is a challenge for the government to ensure that everyone gets treated and those with severe illness gets referred to other hospitals. In addition, medicine should be deployed before any shortage occurs and hygiene and sanitation has to be put in the top priority. ■



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